

# TOWN OF COTTESLOE



## MINUTES

### ANNUAL GENERAL ELECTORS' MEETING

HELD IN THE WAR MEMORIAL TOWN HALL  
COTTESLOE CIVIC CENTRE  
WEDNESDAY, 5 December 2012

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS'**  
**5 December 2012**

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**(1) MAYOR'S WELCOME**

Mayor Morgan declared the Meeting open at 7.04pm and welcomed all present.

**PRESENT**

Mayor Kevin Morgan  
Cr Jack Walsh  
Cr Greg Boland  
Cr Katrina Downes  
Cr Peter Jeanes  
Cr Yvonne Hart  
Cr Sally Pyvis

**Officers:**

Mr Carl Askew	Chief Executive Officer
Mr Mat Humfrey	Manager Corporate & Community Services
Mr Geoff Trigg	Manager Engineering Services
Mr Andrew Jackson	Manager Development Services
Mrs Lydia Giles	Executive Officer

**Electors:**

Patricia Carmichael  
Jay Birnbrauer  
Chris Wiggins  
Phillipa Wiggins  
Paul Wilkes  
Margaret Wilkes  
Margaret Chant  
Peter Chant  
Phil Patterson  
Ruth Greble  
John Adrewartha  
Carolien Giele

**Media:**

David Cohen (POST)  
Jon Bassett (Western Suburb Weekly)

**(2) SUBMISSION OF APOLOGIES**

Cr Victor Strzina  
Cr Rob Rowell

**Leave of Absence (previous approved)**

Nil

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**(3) DISCUSSION OF THE CONTENTS OF THE ANNUAL REPORT**

**Mayor’s Report**

The Mayor commenced by thanking the CEO and senior staff present for their work during the past year and proceeded to address a number of points raised both from the prior SOS AGM (at which he was the guest speaker) and his report.

- Local Planning Scheme 3 continues to follow its approval path and is currently pending a decision in the Supreme Court before final determination by the Minister for Planning.
- Our plan for the revitalisation of the Foreshore continues to take shape with projects commencing. There is a need for State funding to assist the Town in its redevelopment.
- Town Centre improvements are also planned and changes, increases, to parking are now approved and scheduled.
- Redevelopment and conservation at the WANSLEA site by the National Trust is now part of a broader community project which will see changes and upgrades for the North Cottesloe Primary School, Cottesloe Child Care Centre and Cottesloe Toy Library at Marmion Street and Scouts, Cottesloe Playgroup and North Cottesloe Surf Club at Eric Street.
- In relation to the issue of Local Government Reform, the Mayor stated that we, the community, need to challenge it now. It is likely that there will be forced changes in the near future and significant ramifications for Cottesloe. The recent Productivity Commission report highlighted that there has been increased cost shifting and added responsibility passed on to local governments. It is likely that the proposed structure of 10 – 12 Councils in metropolitan Perth will increase the probability of party politics in local government.

**Chief Executive Officer’s Report**

The CEO addressed the following points from his report:

- The CEO drew attention to the busy year and specifically the financial statements and Auditors report within the Annual Report which showed clean bill of health for the Town, together with other officer reports which show that Council is managing its finances well by reducing debt and increasing reserves. In addition Council has continued to provide rate increases that are below average in comparison to other Metropolitan Councils.
- The Mayor referred to several significant projects and the Town has been fortunate this year to have been successful with a number of grant applications to assist those projects including the geophysical study along the foreshore, refurbishment works at TAPSS, and thanks to LotteryWest restoration and retiling of the Civic Centre roof and the proposed disability access ramp at the beachfront.

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- Both the Metropolitan Local Government Review process and LPS 3 have taken a significant amount of officer time, work and research, as well as a number of Council reports and community consultation.
- In addition the Town has reviewed a number of its Local Laws including Standing Orders, Dogs and Beaches/Beach Reserves during the course of last year.
- In the Engineering area, the Town’s Manager of Engineering Services is continuing to implement our 5 Year Plans across all asset areas including drainage, roads, footpaths, buildings, reticulation and parks.
- The future of Cottesloe in relation to the Local Government Reform agenda will form the biggest issue for this Council going forward.
- Council will continue with the Local Government Department’s requirement for strategic planning including the development of a community plan, financial plan and asset management plan. A community survey is currently being conducted which will form the starting point for our planning. .

The CEO thanked the Mayor and Elected Members for their direction and support and also thanked the Town’s staff, especially the Executive staff for their hard work and professionalism. The CEO also wished everyone best wishes for a safe and happy Christmas and New Year and reminded everyone present that the St Phillips Carols by Candlelight at the Civic Centre will take place on on 23 December 2012.

**Moved by Katrina Downes, seconded by Yvonne Hart**

**That the Mayor’s report, Chief Executive Officer’s report, Annual Financial Statements and Auditors report be received.**

**Carried  
No dissent**

**(4) GENERAL BUSINESS:**

The Mayor opened the meeting to General Business and questions from the floor.

**Mr Phil Patterson**

Q1: Mr Patterson asked about the depot relocation to Fremantle and the related issues of Council amalgamations and sharing of services with the Town of Mosman Park.

A1: The Mayor confirmed that the Town is only leasing the property in Fremantle for short term, with options to extend if needed, instead of purchasing the site. Negotiations are still ongoing with the Town of Mosman Park in relation to their depot, which is located on a Crown Reserve for that purpose, however the Town needed to make an interim move in order to free up other land within the Town.

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**Mr Chris Wiggins**

Q1: Mr Wiggins asked in relation to Constitutional recognition of Local Government. Is that something that the Council will pursue?

A1: The Mayor responded that it is something that has been pushed for quite some time by WALGA and other State Associations and is being debated at the National level, especially in relation to direct funding of local government. The Mayor further indicated that the more local issues of self determination and the Dadour provisions may be more pertinent at the moment for WA.

**Cr Greg Boland**

Cr Boland advised that he had recently attended the WALGA Central Metropolitan Zone meeting where the issue of Constitutional Recognition was discussed. He indicated that there was support by WALGA for this matter but that not all States were as supportive of it and that there needs to be majority support and a significant funding allocation for such an initiative if it is to be successful. The view of the WALGA President at the meeting was that this issue was more likely to be put at the 2016 election rather than 2013.

**Mrs Philippa Wiggins**

Q1: Mrs Wiggins asked about the potential privatization of the Civic Centre as a consequence of local government reform.

A1: The Mayor stated that it is not about privatizing but the Civic Centre is a significant and valuable asset and once local governments are abolished as part of the amalgamation process, all the assets of the former authorities will initially revert to the Crown who could decide not to reallocate them to the new entity. In an amalgamated Council it is likely that the new Civic and Administration premises will be located in Cambridge or Claremont and the Cottesloe Civic Centre could be sold or turned into a boutique hotel or similar. The Mayor indicated that he had also heard about the potential proposal for development/sale of the Napier Street reserve.

In a previous report all Councils were requested by the State Government to list all of their individual land assets which could be realised. This process could have significant repercussions for a number of western suburbs councils including the City of Subiaco and its significant reserve funds.

**Ms Ruth Greble**

Q1: Could this also happen to the SeaView Golf Course even though it is an A Class Reserve ?.

A1: The Mayor suggested that the State Government did have the power to make such changes if it wanted to and that the golf course represented a significant and valuable asset which could fund and defray costs for

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the reform process and thus reduce the need for State debt for such an initiative.

**John Adrewartha**

Q1: Mr. Adrewartha asked about the solar panel on roof of the Civic Centre.  
A1: The Manager for Development Services responded that they were approved by Council in December and will be installed early in the New Year.

**Ms Patricia Carmichael**

Ms Carmichael commented on the issue of forced mergers of councils and that what WA needs to do is follow what has happened to the Eastern states and assets stripping.

The Mayor responded by agreeing with Ms Carmichael and suggesting that any change must have the support of the community. He referred to a recent meeting of the WESROC Mayors where there was broad agreement with the following key principles;

1. If there is to be any change there must be broad support from our communities for such change
2. Any change arrangements must include representation from existing elected members in the integration process to ensure our communities are represented in reform decisions
3. All existing local government assets are to be retained by the existing communities within any merged entity
4. All costs of amalgamation must be funded in their entirety by the State government.

**(5) CLOSURE**

The Mayor extended his appreciation to all those in attendance, wished everyone a happy Christmas and safe New Year and declared the meeting closed at 7:30 pm.