

TOWN OF COTTESLOE



MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL ELECTORS' MEETING

HELD IN THE WAR MEMORIAL TOWN HALL
COTTESLOE CIVIC CENTRE
WEDNESDAY, 8 DECEMBER, 2010

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(1) MAYOR'S WELCOME

Mayor Morgan declared the Meeting open at 7.00pm and welcomed all present.

PRESENT

Mayor Kevin Morgan
Cr Patricia Carmichael
Cr Jack Walsh
Cr Jay Birnbrauer
Cr Daniel Cunningham
Cr Davina Goldthorpe

Mr Carl Askew	Chief Executive Officer
Mr Geoff Trigg	Manager Engineering Services
Mr Andrew Jackson	Manager Development Services
Mr Graham Pattrick	Manager Corporate Services
Mrs Lydia Giles	Executive Assistant

Electors:

Chris Wiggins
Phillipa Wiggins
Betty McGeever
Sue Freeth
Peter Goldthorpe
Damien Stilwell

(2) SUBMISSION OF APOLOGIES

Cr Ian Woodhill
Cr Jo Dawkins
Cr Greg Boland
Cr Rob Rowell
Cr Victor Strzina

Leave of Absence (previous approved)

(3) THE MAYOR'S WELCOME

The Mayor opened the meeting at 7.00pm and welcomed all those present.

(4) DISCUSSION OF THE CONTENTS OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

Mayor's Report

The Mayor addressed the following points from his report:

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- Local Government reform and potential amalgamation with our neighbours has consumed significant time and resources this year. Council has conditionally supported entering a Regional Transition Group (RTG) process in order to develop a Business Plan which can demonstrate the benefits of reform and provide information to our community however to date our immediate neighbours in Mosman Park and Peppermint Grove have indicated no interest in being part of this process to date.
- Local Planning Scheme – There has been no advancement since last year and we are awaiting the Ministers approval. The new scheme is intended to last for five years so it is now almost due for another review.
- Other changes in Planning including the State Governments latest Planning Bill, Development Assessment Panels and Directions 2031 will also impact upon us in the coming years.
- Our new Library and Community Centre is now complete and represents an outstanding example of resource sharing between Councils, a physical demonstration of excellent local planning and a welcome resource for our community now and into the future.
- Sustainability continues to be a significant feature of the Town’s operations and providing opportunities to reduce our ecological footprint whilst supporting our community with activities such as living smart courses, anti littering campaign, the Cott Catt shuttle bus service and our “think water” campaign.
- In October 2009 the Council elections saw the retirement of Brian Miller and John Utting and I note with sadness of the recent news of the passing of Brian’s wife. Returning Councillors have included Jo Dawkins, Patricia Carmichael and Ian Woodhill and we have welcomed newly elected Councillors Rob Rowell and Davina Goldthorpe.
- In looking forward to the year ahead we will need to address the recent poor publicity in relation to our draft beach local law and its impact upon the reputation of Cottesloe as well as prepare for the finalization of our Planning Scheme.

Chief Executive Officer’s Report

The CEO addressed the following points from his report:

- Two major capital projects were finalized this year including;
 - the National Water Initiative – a 4 year project supported by both the Federal and State Governments.
 - The Grove Library and Community Centre – a \$14m project between Cottesloe, Mosman Park and Peppermint Grove.
- Our Local Planning Scheme No. 3 is with the Minister for approval and we are hopeful of a response soon.
- State Government planning reforms will cause changes in relation to local planning and planning approvals from 2011
- Work to relocate the Council Depot has taken significant officer time and resources and whilst the Town of Mosman Park has responded that they are not interested in a joint depot at this time we will be investigating alternative sites next year.

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- Council has initiated a review of ward boundaries and elected member numbers with a view to reducing the number if elected members prior to the next elections in October 2011.
- Quality staff is critical to success and excellent customer service and we have, during the year, welcomed new staff to the team at Cottesloe. Sadly we also experienced the loss of our Sustainability Officer Ms Petra Zele. The administration continue to provide a smiling face at the front counter and are always willing to help residents and ratepayers with their enquiries.
- In addition to our daily work Council has a number of significant projects planned for 2011 including the re-roofing of the Civic Centre, finalization of LPS 3, the relocation of the depot, finalisation and implementation of plans for the foreshore, a review of our Strategic Plan and Council elections in October 2011.
- The CEO thanked the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors for their support, leadership and hard work during the year and also thanked the staff for their professionalism and commitment to providing quality customer services to our local community.

Moved by Mr Jay Birnbrauer, seconded by Mr Chris Wiggins

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

**Carried
No dissent**

(5) GENERAL BUSINESS:

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

Ms Betty McGeever

Q: Did the community consultation regarding amalgamation in favour of Mosman Park and Peppermint Grove include Claremont and other councils?

A: Mayor Morgan confirmed that the most recent resolution by Council included a proposal to enter the RTG process with all three Council’s and that we would proceed if at least two of the three Council’s indicated a willingness to participate. The intent of the RTG would be the prepare a business plan in order to confirm the benefits of amalgamation so that an informed decision can be made by Council and the community.

Q: In relation to waste recycling there has been recent advertising about contamination of waste going to landfill. Can you please confirm how widespread the problem is?

A: The CEO responded that a recent audit and spot testing was conducted by our Waste Contractor in relation to contamination of material in

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yellow-top bins and that overall Cottesloe had fared very well with compliance in excess of 90%. He confirmed that contaminated waste does have to go to landfill and that the Contractor has engaged a recycling Education Officer to improve information to residents. The most common contaminants found included plastic bags, plastic wrapping, and cellophane. Further trials and audits will be carried out in 2011. Cr Cunningham also advised that Council's current putrescible waste is taken to the WMRC Resource Recovery Facility (DiCom Project) where it is sorted and converted to mulch as part of an innovative partnership with Anaeco.

Ms McGeever thanked all Elected Members for the wonderful new Library and Community Centre (the Grove) and congratulated everyone involved for a brave decision to commit significant funds and a remarkable achievement for a small council.

Mayor Morgan acknowledged that there had been challenges to overcome in delivering such a significant project overseen by three separate Councils and that it had taken significant work and effort by all involved. He was pleased to report that the facility had been delivered on time and on budget.

Mr Chris Wiggins

Q: Mr Wiggins asked about future plans and priorities for Council in relation to Cottesloe main beach and in particular disability footpath access and improvements to the terraces and lawns near Indiana. He asked that these be considered as priority in the next budget.

A: The Mayor responded that the access path is still a priority and has been included as part of the Foreshore Improvement Plan. He indicated that funding for the implementation of this plan from both the State and Federal Governments would be critical.

Mr Trigg responded that in recent times Water Corp has cut back on water allocations and there has also been some reticulation system problems which have required upgrade. In addition this year we have experienced one of the driest winters on record and an ongoing problem exists with sand blown on to the lawns. Mr Patrick also commented that the Town has been in discussion with the Peoples Beach Concept as part of improving disability access at the beachfront and that a proposal will come to Council during 2011 in relation to footpath access.

Q: Mr Wiggins referred to the \$150,000 expenditure for the pylon restoration and asked how much will the disability footpath access cost?

A: Mr Trigg responded that an estimate of \$200,000 for disability access was made in a recent grant submission for the footpath. The Mayor advised that no Council funds have been set aside for the pylon works

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(stage 2) and these will need to be found through grants and benefactors. He also confirmed that the Foreshore Improvement Plan was the best opportunity to secure funds for the disability access at the beachfront.

Q: Mr Wiggins expressed concern that there may be a significant time lag in delivering certain aspects of the Foreshore Plan and that wheelchair access to the beach should be considered as a priority. He also referred to the recent newspaper articles about the provision of the beach wheelchair at North Cottesloe Surf Club.

A: The Mayor advised that Council had a number of priorities and requests for funds and that this matter will be considered in the context of those competing priorities.

A: Mr Pattrick also confirmed that the North Cottesloe beach wheelchair has now been repaired and it has been returned to the Club and is available for use.

Q: Mr Wiggins asked about a resident in John Street who has recently sought compensation from Council in relation to damage caused from a falling branch and what the Council position was on this matter?

A: The Mayor advised that this was a matter for Council’s Insurers and the matter had been referred to them for assessment of liability. This was a matter that elected members should not get involved in and it was more appropriately addressed by our Insurers. Council will abide by the decision of our Insurer. The Mayor also confirmed that Council has an ongoing tree assessment and maintenance program in place.

Q: Mr Wiggins asked about the size of the Town’s borrowings and its ability to increase that debt?

A: The Mayor confirmed that the Town has undertaken significant borrowings in recent times for the Civic centre refurbishment and the new Library and Community Centre. This put our borrowings near their capacity but manageable. He confirmed that the overall cost of the roof restoration has been reduced due to a successful grant from LotteryWest and lower than expected tenders. The Town will undertake its usual 6 monthly review of the budget in the New Year and we will be assessing our need to borrow. The loan for the Library was as a result of not placing sufficient funds into our reserves in previous years and we will need to ensure that this does not occur this time. Our loan is for 20 years and the life expectancy of the building is 40 years so we should be able to set aside future reserves for this purpose.

Mr Wiggins, on behalf of the SOS, complimented the Council and staff for a very good year with very few comments or complaints received by SOS. He was of the opinion that our community consultation was good and that we should continue to keep the community informed. Overall he was of the opinion that things were running very smoothly.

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Mayor Morgan thanked Mr Wiggins for his questions and comments and asked that SOS continue to provide us with early notice of potential difficulties that we might encounter. He confirmed that community consultation will be maintained and that we will continue to operate with open and transparent governance.

Ms Sue Freeth

Ms Freeth thanked the Council and Administration for its ongoing support of Cottesloe CoastCare and specifically mentioned the work of Ms Kate Sputore, Mr Trigg and the depot staff.

The Mayor responded that it was the Council who must thank Coastcare for all their hard work in assisting with the implementation of our Natural Areas Management Plan and in particular the recent planting of natives along our foreshore. The work of Coastcare is a significant benefit to Council and this voluntary work supports and assists Council's own efforts and for that the Mayor congratulated and acknowledged all Coastcare volunteers past and present.

(6) 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 7:45 pm.