

TOWN OF COTTESLOE



MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL ELECTORS' MEETING

**HELD IN THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR
COTTESLOE CIVIC CENTRE
WEDNESDAY, 26 NOVEMBER, 2008**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS'
26 NOVEMBER, 2008**

(1) MAYOR'S WELCOME

Mayor Morgan declared the Meeting open at 7.02pm and welcomed all present.

PRESENT

Mayor Kevin Morgan
Cr Greg Boland
Cr Patricia Carmichael
Cr Jo Dawkins
Cr Bryan Miller
Cr Jack Walsh
Cr Ian Woodhill

Mr Laurie Vicary	Acting Chief Executive Officer
Mr Geoff Trigg	Manager Engineering Services
Mr Andrew Jackson	Manager Development Services (from 7.10pm)
Mr Wayne Richards	Accountant
Ms Krystal Shenton	Executive Assistant
Ms Georgina Cooper	Administration Assistant

Mr Carl Askew	Chief Executive Officer (from 5 January 2009)
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Electors:

Chris Wiggins	SOS Cottesloe
Jennifer Gardiner	
Gabor Bedo	

Louise Bettison (Media)	Western Suburbs Weekly
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(2) SUBMISSION OF APOLOGIES

Cr Jay Birnbrauer	
Cr Daniel Cunningham	
Cr Bryan Miller	
Cr Victor Strzina	
Mr Graham Pattrick	Manager Corporate Services/Deputy CEO

Leave of Absence (previous approved)

Cr John Utting

(3) DISCUSSION OF THE CONTENTS OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

Mayor's Report

The Mayor addressed the following points from his report:

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- As part of the conditions imposed by the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure with regard to finalizing the Town's Local Planning Scheme the Minister required some changes to be made before approval to advertise was given, including increased density and the removal of pre-determined height zones at the beach hotels".
- The Town has continued to implement its asset management programs for the upkeep of the Town's assets, including the integration of underground water sumps; resurfacing of several roads; new car parking facilities; new stainless steel bins to the foreshore and upgrades to three playgrounds.

Mr. Andrew Jackson entered the meeting at 7.10pm.

- The construction of the new joint library remains high on the agenda and work is continuing in relation to a tender that matches the available finance for the project.
- The year ahead will hopefully: finalize the local planning scheme as well as the Enquiry by Design with the State Government; see a continuing effort on addressing the town centre parking facilities and participation in the Western Suburbs Regional Organization of Councils.

Mayor Morgan thanked the Councillors and staff of Cottesloe for their efforts over the last year and introduced the acting Chief Executive Officer, Mr Laurie Vicary.

The report of the Mayor was received.

Other Reports

Laurie Vicary commented on his experiences with the Town of Cottesloe and thanked Council for the opportunity to be here in the role of Acting Chief Executive Officer. He also thanked the staff for making his time with the Town very pleasant. He then opened the floor to the Public for questions.

On a motion proposed by the Mayor, the Mayor's Report, Officers Reports, Financial Statements and Auditor's Report listed in the Annual Report were all received and carried.

(4) GENERAL BUSINESS:

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

Chris Wiggins

Q: Has the Cottesloe Council carried out a review of its current investment portfolio due to the recent financial turmoil around the world?

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A: Mayor Morgan referred the question to Mr Wayne Richards, the Town's Accountant who advised that the Town is not exposed to the recent troubles. The Town's investments are with major Australian Banks and Building Societies and has no products which do not have capital guarantee's.

Q: Will the Town consider improvements to its community consultation process?

A: The Mayor advised that the Town's consultation process was continually under review and improvement, and this is an action item in our Future Plan. He referred to the recent Enquiry by Design as an example of how the Town had provided adequate opportunity for community consultation.

Q: Council's website could be improved along with the information that is available on the website to the make the community more aware of what is happening. Will this be improved?

A: Mr Laurie Vicary acknowledged the comments and agreed that the website could be improved and this will be investigated in 2009.

Q: The area that seems to be a bit slow in response is the issue of disabled access to the beach. There are 1,400 disabled people in Cottesloe, this is equal to 23% of the population; a third of which are severe. They represent a very important part of the electorate. A ramp which provides access to the beach has been a high priority for years and needs to be actioned. A ramp in the shape of an S that followed the terraces would accommodate this access. Does Council know when this ramp will be installed?

A: Mr Laurie Vicary advised that he expected to hear from the Western Australian Planning Commission by the end of the week into relation to the North Cottesloe disability access ramp which he anticipated will be approved.

The Mayor advised that not every beach will be suitable for a ramp to the beach. Between the Surf Club and Indiana's any such ramp would have to be transversed at least three times and a lot of earth moving and significant cost in order to facilitate getting people to the beach via such a ramp. However, within the Enquiry by Design process it is recommended that these ideas be considered.

Q: A general observation that there seems to be a lot of Committee meetings in Cottesloe. Perhaps it might be better to develop executive leadership that has good judgement to allow staff to go ahead and follow through on their decisions, rather than address a Committee?

A: Mayor Morgan referred to the three Standing Committees of the Town and advised that he would be reluctant to change them at this time.

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They drive the decisions and report Council with the officer’s advice and general community feedback. If we can reduce them we will and the suggestion will not fall on deaf ears.

Mayor Morgan thanked Mr Wiggins and SOS for keeping the Council on their toes.

Mr Wiggins thanked Council for listening to SOS.

Jennifer Gardiner

Q: SOS picked up on the issue of Curtin Avenue and Railway Street and its realignment. The issue is not just the amenity, but the connectivity. Also due to the Leighton Development it has become a lot busier in the south of Cottesloe. There is a noise problem that needs to be reduced in the clanging of the bells from the train which begins with the first train at 5.10am. What are the plans for this?

A: Mayor Morgan advised that there are plans for the Victoria Street crossing to be moved further south with the possibility of it going under the railway. A plan is currently being drawn up.

Q: The other issue is the landscaping along Curtin Avenue. There has been a clearing out of all the undergrowth with all the thick shrubs and undergrowth been removed and we are vulnerable now due to nothing else being planted to replace. This increases visibility and a hedge needs to be planted to regain the privacy and reduce the noise. Will there be new plantings along this area?

A: Mayor Morgan requested that this matter be noted and followed up by Council officers.

Gabor Bedo

Q: There seems to be a lot of young people that hang around drinking under two or three trees on the railway land from Forrest Street to Curtin Avenue. The surrounding vegetation needs to be cleared and the trees checked as they could be quite dangerous to the youths. A tree branch has already fallen. Can Council clean this area up?

A: The Mayor requested that the Manager Engineering Services write to the PTA to address the issue and noted that Council staff will also investigate.

(5) CLOSURE

The Mayor extended his appreciation to all those in attendance and declared the meeting closed at 7:45 pm.