

TOWN OF COTTESLOE



MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL ELECTORS' MEETING

HELD IN THE WAR MEMORIAL TOWN HALL
COTTESLOE CIVIC CENTRE
WEDNESDAY, 29 January 2014

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(1) MAYOR'S WELCOME

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

PRESENT

Mayor Jo Dawkins
Cr Peter Jeanes
Cr Jack Walsh
Cr Philip Angers
Cr Katrina Downes
Cr Helen Burke
Cr Sally Pyvis
Cr Rob Rowell

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:

Chris Wiggins
Philippa Wiggins
Rosalin Sadler
Elizabeth Spoor
Barbara Campbell
Keith Campbell
Greg Boland
Brett Christian
Betty McGeever
Hillary Rumley
Dennis Rumley
Peter Robert
Sue Freeth
Robert Freeth
Gene Matthews
Robyn Benken
Yvonne Hart
Ruth Greble
Robert Morrison
Roger Weston
Margaret Wilkes
Chilla Bulbeck

Media:

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

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(2) SUBMISSION OF APOLOGIES

Cr Jay Birnbrauer

Leave of Absence (previous approved)

Nil

(3) DISCUSSION OF THE CONTENTS OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

Mayor’s Report

The Mayor commenced by acknowledging and thanking the previous Mayor, Kevin Morgan, and former Councillors Greg Boland, Yvonne Hart, and Victor Strzina, for their work during the past year. She then proceeded to address a number of points raised in the annual report.

- She drew attention to the error on the last page of the annual report in relation to Council membership, printed as 2012 which should read 2013.
- Local Government Reform and amalgamation. From the Community Perceptions Survey conducted last year 48% of the community were in favour of a small scale amalgamation with the Town of Mosman Park, Shire of Peppermint Grove and Town of Claremont. A further 9% were in support of a larger scale amalgamation. She also referred to the December 2013 Council meeting, which resolved:

“THAT Council;

- 1. Not support the Minister for Local Government’s single local government amalgamation proposal for the Councils of the western suburbs (G7).*
- 2. Reaffirm Council’s previously resolved position, including a preparedness to consider an amalgamation with the Towns of Claremont and Mosman Park and the Shire of Peppermint Grove (plus associated boundary adjustments) and subject to community endorsement.*
- 3. Authorise the Mayor and CEO to continue to discuss and explore amalgamation options with the Councils of the western suburbs.*
- 4. Provide in principle support for a “two Council” model for the western suburbs in preference to the Minister’s G7 model, should the proposal for a G4 (preferred) not be accepted.*
- 5. Notify the Minister for Local Government and Local Government Advisory Board of Council’s position”*

- She reported that the former Depot site has now been sold. The \$9 million funds from the sale will be used to develop strategic projects within the Town such as the foreshore, including improvements to public toilets and change rooms, at Indiana. She also acknowledged the ongoing concerns with Indiana’s and referred to the new proposed public toilets and the recent public consultation.
- She commented on the previous Council’s finalization of LPS 3 which should be gazetted by March 2014.

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- She also highlighted other projects that have been completed by the previous Council including the Disability Access Path and confirmed that the 2014 Sculpture by the Sea exhibition will commence on 7 March 2014.

Chief Executive Officer’s Report

The CEO addressed the following points from his report:

- The CEO drew attention to both the full and abridged versions of the annual report document and indicated he was happy to take questions from the floor.
- He stated that the administration had experienced a busy year, referring to projects that had been stated by the Mayor. As indicated by the Financial Statements the Town is in sound financial position, with a 3.8% rate increase considered below average in comparison to most other Metropolitan Councils. In addition the Town has once again received “clean” audit as listed in the statements.
- He stated that the Metropolitan Local Government Review process has taken a significant amount of officer time, work and research.
- He highlighted a few significant projects that have been successfully completed including the Disability Access Path, and he thanked Lotterywest for their grant assistance. He also noted some community projects such as the Scout Hall on Eric Street, Child Care Centre and Toy Library in Marmion Street and the ongoing work on WANSLEA site by the National Trust and Education Department.
- The former depot site has also involved a significant amount of work in preparation for the sale and the community will also benefit from this sale.
- In relation to the Community Perception Survey, the results were outstanding and a good reflection on the work of the administration and the Council. This process assisted in the formulation of Council’s Strategic Plan.
- Council also continued with its sustainability focus including recent improvements within the Civic Centre building, whilst also maintaining its water wise accreditation.

The CEO closed his report by thanking both the past Council and current Council for their leadership and support and all the administration team, especially the Executive, for their hard work during the past year.

The Mayor brought to the attention of those present the Annual Financial Statements and Auditors report as printed and asked the floor for any questions prior to adoption of the reports.

Chris Wiggins

Q: Mr Wiggins inquired the valuation of \$2.5million of Council assets.

A: Mr Humfrey responded that the asset was related to the fair value of Sea View Golf Course

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Moved by Cr Rob Rowell, seconded by Chris Wiggins

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.

Ms Chilla Bulbeck

Q1: Ms Bulbeck spoke to her tabled questions and drew everyone attention to two broken sprinklers on the verge of Salvado Street which caused water to run down the street. She asked whether council provided a fund for transformation of verges to native plants which saves water.

A1: Mr Trigg stated that a few years ago pamphlets containing information on saving water were circulated throughout the Town of Cottesloe, with suggestions for the reduction of mains water use on the watering of verge lawns. He stated that Council also provided a subsidy for the purchase of native shrubs for the replacement of lawns and non native plants. As water gets more expensive a financial saving will be made. Mr Trigg also stated that there is no budget allocated for re-vegetation of the verge.

The Mayor added that Council encourages home owners to use water wise planting on their verges.

Mr Bret Christian

Q1: Mr Christian asked about the results of Community Perception Survey and specifically the percentage of preference from the community in favour of being part of a bigger council.

A1: The Mayor advised that :

- 48% of the community were in favour of a small scale amalgamation with the Town of Mosman Park, Shire of Peppermint Grove and Town of Claremont
- 9% were in support of a larger scale amalgamation.
- 1% were unsure
- 42% prefer no change to Cottesloe

Cr Pyvis commented that the survey was not targeted to get community perspective on Council amalgamation but rather the questions asked were part of a larger survey about Council services.

A1: Mr Askew responded that in the survey conducted was a statistically valid survey of residents and that the result generally reflected a previous Council run survey in 2009/10.

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Cr Pyvis

S: Cr Pyvis stated that its not enough and re-stated that Council's position on the 16 December 2013 on the issue of Local Government Reform where council resolved to vote 8/0 to progress with a G4 or G5 was without sufficient community consultation/endorsement.

She believed that the Town should not negotiate for what the Barnett government wants without further community consultation. She suggested that Mr Barnett had changed the legislation in order to enable the state government to proceed with their amalgamation plans and asked why are we wasting time discussing the matter which is against the community wishes.

Mr Chris Wiggins

S2: Mr Wiggins brought to Council's attention the problem with Indiana's Public toilet and change rooms, especially the ladies toilet. He observed over Christmas there was a long queue of people and he indicated that the toilet flushing mechanism did not work properly. In his opinion there appear to be no problems with the piping system and suggested that Indiana needed to improve.

Mrs Yvonne Hart

Q1: Mrs Hart inquired as to whether there is staff member who regularly checks the cleanliness of these toilets, especially during big events like Sculpture by the Sea.

A1: The Mayor confirmed that there is staff who monitors this, and in fact it is a requirement, especially for any major events, for the organizers to provide additional toilets

A2: Mr Askew confirmed that the Environmental Health Officers frequently inspect these toilets and report the findings back to Indiana management where there are problems. However it is the responsibility of Indiana's management to fix the problems.

Ms Ruth Greble

Q1: Ms Greble stated that there is lack of signage at the Cottesloe Train station to indicate the beach location from the station. She also raised the Cott Cat bus sign was not obvious for public to recognize its availability. She recommended the Council to place larger Cott Cat bus signage and map of beach location on the station's railings platform.

A1: The Mayor stated that she will take the recommendation on notice and advised that this issue has also been raised with her by another resident.

Bret Christian

Q1: Mr. Christian congratulated the Council on the work that has been done in the Civic Centre. He stated that it represents evidence how small councils can work efficiently and effectively in comparison to much bigger councils. He stated that we are living in historic times before the amalgamation of the councils happen and he specifically asked in regards to the council amalgamation: What evidence does Council

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have that supports the proposed amalgamation, including the economic and social benefits?

A1: The Mayor took the question on notice.

Ms Rosalyn Sadlier

Ms Sadlier refer to her tabled statement and questions relating to the cleanliness of the Indiana's public toilets. Her investigation primarily cover the recurring blocked toilets, plumbing problems and broken flushing mechanism. She stated that there is nothing wrong with the plumbing. She stated that the failure rests with the Indiana's management to maintain the toilet flushing mechanism.

In order to resolved the matter she proposed three motions as follows:

Moved by Rosalyn Sadlier, Seconded by Greg Boland

1. **That Council immediately cause the flushing mechanism in the Indiana women's toilets to be renewed.**
2. **All work and expenditure on the proposal (as part of the foreshore development plan) for a new toilet block on the grass anywhere west of Marine Parade be suspended.**
3. **Council Environmental Officer to inspect the Indiana's toilet daily during peak times, providing a report on health and cleanliness conditions.**

Carried
No dissent

Mr Greg Boland

Mr Boland refered to the discussions regarding the Indiana's public toilets and stated that the issue has been ongoing since 1998. He suggested the Town go back and renegotiate with the management in order for Council to have the ability to fully maintain the toilet. Mr Boland proposed a motion to read:

Moved by Greg Boland, Seconded by Sue Freeth

As the problem of the state of the Indiana toilets has been ongoing for many years under current lease agreements, the Town of Cottesloe is to take action by the end of March 2014 for a change to the lease agreement, so that the Town of Cottesloe has full responsibility for the toilet maintenance and the Indiana pays a greater rental as a result .

Carried
No dissent

The Mayor advised that she had met with Indiana Management about the issues raised and that she would meet again with Indiana to follow up on these issues

Ms Hillary Rumley

Q1: Ms Rumley expressed her concern over the design of the new Disability Access Path including the width and gradient of the path. She stated that the ramp is inconvenient to be used by wheelchair and pram users.

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What can Council do to resolve the issue with the money having now been spent?

- A1: Mr Jackson advised that the design process had evolved from the original Enquiry by Design and met several considerations including universal access, heritage and planning. The Heritage Council supported the design and engineering consultants have been involved. The WAPC also considered and approved what has been achieved.
- A1 Mr Trigg advised that the construction project had been thoroughly considered by Lotterywest, Council and Council’s Disability Services Advisory Committee, while GHD consultants ensured that the project complied with the Australian Standards. The width had originally been designed at 2.5m but Council reduced it to 1.8m for planning and aesthetic reasons. Both Council and the Disability Services Advisory Committee had agreed to the original plans and changes to those plans. Funds had also been included in the draft Engineering provisions for the next budget to upgrade the sealed access road to the beach and make it better for disability access.

The Mayor took the suggestions on board and thanked Ms Rumley for her comments.

Ms Sue Freeth

- Q1: Ms Freeth inquired about John Black Dune Park. What is going to happen there and what is the planning process for the Park.
- Q2: Ms Freeth also asked about the plan for the Civic Centre in the event of the Council amalgamations.
- A: The Mayor confirmed that John Black Dune Park will form part of discussion with the Foreshore Working Group. She concurred that it is an integral part of the Foreshore Plan and will continue to include Cottesloe Coast Care as plans progress.

In regards to the Civic Centre she mentioned that the building and gardens are heritage listed so its future use will need to be considered in that regard. The Town considers the Civic Centre to be a high value asset for the community.

Mr Askew added that there has been a previous Council resolution related to conservation of the Civic Centre to protect the building and grounds. Officers are currently in the process of how to preserve the building with the Heritage Council WA.

Cr Jack Walsh

Cr Walsh moved a motion from the floor:

Moved by Cr Walsh, Seconded by Cr Downes

That Council express a vote of thanks to Ms Rosalyn Sadler and Mrs Philippa Wiggins for taking time to do daily inspections of the Indiana’s public Toilet.

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Carried
No dissent

The Mayor agreed and thanked Ms Sadlier and Mrs Wiggins.

Local Government Reform/Council Amalgamation

There was a general discussion by members of the public regarding the Council amalgamation.

- The Local Government Advisory Board will make recommendations to the Minister in relation to reform. They are currently open for public submissions and have advertised in the West Australian across the metropolitan area. Closing date is 13 February 2014.
- Members suggested that this matter be printed in next edition of the Cottesloe Page and the Post wire an article about the matter.
- Cr Sally Pyvis recommended that there be a referendum to ask whether the community supports any council amalgamation before progressing further negotiation with neighboring councils or the state government.
- In relation to a referendum the CEO advised that this could be conducted by the Administration of the Electoral Commission but there needs to be consideration of the cost and time involved for Council and the Administration which will be significant. He believed that the time for referendum has passed. There was discussion about the conduct of a Poll via the Town's website or the use of email as an alternative to a direct mail out. The CEO responded that this can be done but it still requires people to voluntarily to go to website to read and submit. Not everyone will respond to this. It was suggested that as Mosman Park had done a referendum recently and that Cottesloe can copy the questions.
- The CEO also advised that a phone survey can be used as a quick way to run a local survey.
- Cr Pyvis disagreed with the survey approach and indicated that a referendum will provide the community with an opportunity to vote on the issue.
- The CEO also advised that, under current legislation, the community will get the opportunity for a poll once the LGAB makes its recommendation to the Minister via the "Dadour" provisions. The Minister will then be bound by the decision of the community via the Poll.

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Moved by Cr Pyvis, Seconded by Yvonne Hart

That through a referendum, Council ask the Cottesloe residents and ratepayers whether they support any council amalgamation before progressing further negotiations with neighbouring Councils or the State Government, with the exception of the scheduled Local Government Advisory Board meetings.

Carried

Mr Philipa Wiggins

Mrs Wiggins wished to congratulate the Councils' gardener for the excellent work of to the Cottesloe Civic Centre.

Mr Robert Morrison

Mr Morrison inquired re. the new carpark drainage on Station Street, because during a thunder storm, the pipe on Stirling Highway will still put water into the sump, which is a small hole on the western side and not capable of taking this water.

Mr Trigg stated that the open sump had been replaced with an underground facility capable of taking the incoming drainage water and that the small open sump on the western end was designed to taking a minimum of 50 cubic metres of sewage overflow from the adjacent Water Corporation sewer pump station, rather than have that overflow go onto the street if the pumps fail.

(5) CLOSURE

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9:00 pm.