

SHIRE OF MURCHISON

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON FRIDAY, 19 MARCH, 2004 AT 9:50 AM

ATTENDANCE

President	Cr S A Broad
Deputy President	Cr K L Keynes
Councillors	Cr W McL Mitchell
	Cr H R Foulkes-Taylor
	Cr H Pollock
	Cr P M Walsh
	Cr M W Halleen
Staff	
Chief Executive Officer	J N Warne
Deputy CEO	D J Sellenger (1.48 pm)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED

All Councillors in attendance

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME –Section 5.24 of the Act refers

No members of the public were in attendance

PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Nil

APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Moved Cr Keynes seconded Cr HR Foulkes-Taylor that leave of absence be granted to Cr Mitchell for the meeting 29th April, 2004.

Motion put and CARRIED 7-0

MAY MEETING OF COUNCIL

Resolved that the May meeting be held on the scheduled date of the third Friday being 21st May, 2004.

Motion put and CARRIED 7-0

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - Minutes of Meeting held 20th February, 2004

Moved Cr W McL Mitchell seconded Cr MW Halleen that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 20 February, 2004 as printed and circulated to Councillors be confirmed subject to the following alterations-

the record of voting in relation to Item 400 on page 4 be altered from 7-0 to 6-0 to reflect the fact that only six Councillors were present in the Council Chambers at that time

and

on page 3 line 4 of the third paragraph in the MidWest Development Commission section the word 'lodge' be replaced with the word 'lodging'

Motion put and CARRIED 7-0

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT

The President announced that he had extended an invitation to Mr Barry Court, State President of the P & G and his staff member Edgar to join Council for lunch. The P & G AGM would be held at about 3.00 pm after the Council meeting today.

The President congratulated Cr Pollock on her contribution to the landcare gazebo with the painting and installation of the mural and words of welcome. A very professional job.

The MidWest Development Commission had met in Perth on 27th February, 04. The intention was to meet three Ministers during the day but in the end none were available. One of the items discussed of special interest to Murchison was the LOFAR project which is still looking very positive for the Mileura site. Another was the winding up of the GMS project. It seems the MWDC may take over the residue of the project.

Following the MWDC Board Meeting a delegation (including himself) met John Love who represented the agency which had rejected funding for the CSIRO/MWDC/MURCHISON COMMUNITY Path Makers funding application. A couple of issues were identified as an impediment to funding. The history of the project was discussed. Possible funding from another source was canvassed if the current source is still unable to fund the project following a revised application.

The Walkaway windfarm is up and running.

The MWDC CEO Graeme Baesjou is leaving the Commission also Executive Assistant Anne Bradley. Graeme will be taking up a position with the Bunbury-Wellington Economic Alliance.

The President commented on the new lunch arrangements in the atrium area which, with the new appointments, looks very smart. Cr Pollock had worked with Louise and Dirk of the Shire staff to achieve this excellent result.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION WITHOUT NOTICE

Cr Pollock said there were still a few things to do in the atrium area including the cabinet/food serving bench. An additional feature could include static metal 'cut out' 'roos in the shrubbery outside the northern double doors.

Cr Pollock had been involved in selecting a site for the cemetery.

In relation to the landcare gazebo a further sign in relation to the river project was still needed.

On 17th April the MidWest area launch of the Wool Wagon tourist pathway would take place at Wooleen Station.

Cr Pollock reported having, with Crs Halleen and Keynes, attended the Northern Zone Conference of WALGA to attend the training/information segment of the conference. This was very informative.

Cr Keynes left the meeting 10.30 am.

Cr Pollock advised that as a member of the Museum Committee she would be attending the Museum Chapter meeting in Greenough over this weekend.

Cr Keynes returned to the meeting. 10.36 pm.

At this stage the Shire President read a letter he had received from SOTA Meekatharra student Kate Tunstill who was the recipient of the Meekatharra SOTA Award for 2003 which had been made possible by a donation from the Shire of Murchison.

Cr Halleen gave a resume' of the Northern Zone Conference.

The Roderick River Project Committee were advertising for a project manager. Brett Pollock and Andy Kay plus consultant Hugh Pringle were the interview panel.

Cr Halleen provided a resume' of matters affecting Council from the recent State Conference of WAFF including some charges exempt if in an EC declared area and meat for wild dog baiting.

Cr Halleen reported the corner of the Sanford River crossing being undermined. Needs attention.

Cr Walsh reported on the very satisfactory grading in the north-east part of the Shire since the previous meeting.

MAINTENANCE GRADING

The need for a catch up in maintenance grading was discussed by Council. The CEO reported that both maintenance graders were now operating as a result of the appointment of a new grader operator.

Moved Cr H Pollock seconded Cr HR Foulkes-Taylor that the staff be authorised to appoint a suitable grader contractor for a maintenance catch up for a period of up to one month – possibly around 240 hours.

Motion put and CARRIED 7-0

Cr Keynes reported on the MRWA address at the Northern Zone WALGA Conference at Geraldton. The Geraldton – Mullewa Road is to be upgraded plus \$100 000 for lights. There were no plans for an upgrade of the Morawa – Mullewa Road although it seems the Shires in the area have asked that this be given consideration. The value of a job where a safety audit is required to support a 'black spot' application has been raised from \$20 000 to \$40 000.

Cr Keynes gave a report on matters of interest to Council from the recent P & G conference. There was a level of confidence in the world economic scene, rural production and for an increase in the State Ag West budget. The new Muchea sale yards were expected to be completed in 2006. \$500 000 is being invested by the State Government into climate forecasting. The P & G response to the economic workshops was very professional. Reference was made at the conference to a world shortage of water.

Cr Mitchell brought Council up to date with issues being progressed by WALGA. WALGA was facing some difficulty negotiating the 04/05 WALGA – State Government Road Funding Agreement. The Government was pushing the idea that additional funds for Local Government might have to be at the expense of MRWA.

In relation to the control of animals and plants NRM might take over ZCA's. There was concern at the expenditure of \$ raised locally within that ZCA area. A comment was that FESA seems much more efficient in terms of administration of funds raised locally.

AIR BROOM FOR MAINTENANCE OF BUILDING SURROUNDS

Moved Cr HR Foulkes-Taylor seconded Cr MW Halleen that a BG 85 STIHL air broom be purchased for use in connection with the maintenance of the surrounds of buildings and the tennis courts at a cost of \$459.60.

Motion put and CARRIED with an Absolute Majority 7-0

PLANT – AUTO GREASE SYSTEM

Resolved that the specifications for the supply of future loaders and graders include an auto grease system.

Motion put and CARRIED 7-0

CEMETERY SITE

Resolved that to assist in selecting and marking the site for the proposed cemetery the GPS coordinates be obtained for the extremities of the western extension of the Murchison Settlement.

Motion put and CARRIED 7-0

INTERVIEW ARRANGEMENTS – APPOINTMENT OF CEO

Resolved that the applications received be referred to the Workplace Solutions section of WALGA for assistance in selecting up to six applicants for interview and that these names be made available to the panel of three Councillors to reduce this list to no more than four and that these applicants be invited to attend an interview at WALGA Offices in Perth on Tuesday 13th April and the interview panel consist of the Shire President and Cr Mitchell or Cr Keynes, Workplace Solutions Officer Lydia Highfield and the CEO as an observer.

Motion put and CARRIED 7-0

LUNCHEON ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned for lunch 12.46 pm

Council resumed at 1.48 pm

The Deputy CEO Dirk Sellenger attended the meeting.

The Shire President, on behalf of Council, congratulated Dirk ..and Louise.. on their recent engagement and extended the best wishes of Council. Dirk thank the President for his remarks

413 WA LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Notification of the call for nominations 2004 Association Honours

WALGA annually seeks nominations for Association Honours.

Over the past three years this Council has been successful in having the Local Government services of Kim Keogh, Bill Mitchell and Michael Foulkes-Taylor recognised in this way.

Resolved that the information from WALGA be received.

Motion put and CARRIED 7-0

414 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES PLAN

PO-PAP

Consideration of Principal Activities Plan 2004/05 - 2007/08

The 2004/05 - 2007/08 Principal Activities Plan has been prepared and is available at the meeting.

It may be amended by Council now but any amendments are usually made at the time consideration of submissions by the public are considered by Council prior to its adoption at the first meeting after the expiration of the advertising period.

Council is required to receive the plan at this meeting.

The advertisement in relation to the PAP will appear in the Geraldton Guardian on Friday 26th March with the public advertising period expiring on Friday 7th May 2004.

Moved Cr K L Keynes, seconded Cr M W Halleen That Council receive the Principal Activities Plan 2004/05 - 2007/08 and notes that the public advertising period expires on Friday 7th May, 2004

Motion put and CARRIED 7-0

415 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY BOARD

AD-LGD

Review of Ward/Councillor Representation

The Local Government Act 1995 requires all Councils to complete a review of the Ward/Councillor Representation set up in each council and submit this by 1st July 2004.

A lot of Councils have completed this exercise in recent years. This was discussed by Council at the meetings of 21st February '03 (at which meeting it was decided that a review would take place) and 18th July '03.

To commence the formal review Council is required by Clause 7 of Schedule 2.2 of the Act

to give local public notice that the review is to be carried out and that submissions may be made and received by the CEO within 6 weeks of the notice being first published. To get this project moving it is proposed to publish the required notice in the Geraldton Guardian on Friday 26th March 04 with a closing of the advertising/receipt of submission period of Friday 7th May, 2004. This can then be progressed at the May 04 meeting of Council.

Moved Cr W.McL Mitchell, seconded Cr H R Foulkes-Taylor That Council act on the previously made decision to carry out a review of the existing Ward/Councillor arrangements and to this end the notice of Council's intention to do this and inviting submissions be published forthwith with the close of the submission period being 7th May, 2004.

Motion put and CARRIED 7-0

416 WALGA - 2004 BANNERS IN THE TERRACE

CR-WAMA

Invitation to participate in 2004 banners in the Terrace
In 2002 Council's 'Year of the outback' theme banner was judged best in the non-professional/community groups section.
In 2003 Council invited the Pia Wadjarri School to prepare a banner for the schools section which they were pleased to do, this banner was quite impressive and was donated back to the school for display at any event the school might have. It was first displayed at Pia at the school's end of year awards function.
Should Council decide to participate again this year perhaps the Arts Council should be invited to make the banner. The theme would be up to the Arts Council but a suggestion could be a multicultural theme with emphasis on outback life and school of the air.

Moved Cr M W Halleen, seconded Cr P M Walsh That the Murchison Arts Council be invited to prepare a banner for display in the non-professional /community groups section of WALGA's Banners in the Terrace display on the basis of Council meeting all expenses associated with the production of the banner.

Motion put and CARRIED 7-0

417 TV ADVERTISING - DRIVE SAFELY DURING EASTER

CO-HEAC

Financial support for a TV Drive Safely this Easter' campaign being sponsored by Barry Hasse MHR Member for Kalgoorlie Barry Hasse MHR is sponsoring this campaign in his electorate. It will cost about \$4 500 for 60 X 30 second advertisements. The advertisement includes appropriate footage which brings home the message of the result of road crashes with the message spoken by Mr Hasse with shots of him speaking.
It's an excellent concept and is apparently supported by WALGA's 'Road Wise'.
The financial support Mr Hasse seeks in only \$100.

Moved Cr M W Halleen, seconded Cr H Pollock That Council contribute \$100 to the 'Drive Safely this Easter' TV campaign being sponsored by the Member for Kalgoorlie Barry Hasse MHR.

Motion put and CARRIED 7-0

Power Supply Generators

A bit of recent history on the power supply.

During the year 2001 deficiencies at the power supply were identified. At that time the power supply consisted of a fairly old 110KVA generator and a fairly new (February 1997) 70 KVA generator. The mystery was with this amount of generation capacity why on big occasions the power supply failed. Investigations found the switch board was only wired for 35 KVA. In any case the 110 KVA was near the end of its life. Bruce Blackburn advised that 2 X 70 KVA would produce sufficient power for all occasions with just one of the generators operating most of the time. The existing 70 KVA was deemed to have some years life to go and it was time to replace the old 110 KVA forthwith.

This was done with the purchase and installation of a new 70 KVA in December 2001- this generator has done 8151 hours . As it turns out there has been a slight increase in power usage since that time but on most occasions one of the 70 KVA generators can handle the power usage with both generators in use on big occasions or extreme conditions. The older of the two is less reliable. During the hot first 6 weeks of the year the No 2 (the older generator) couldn't keep up on its own and would simply stop due to overheating. This is not unexpected as being older it is less efficient especially in hot conditions and when electricity use is high. It became obvious that when a maximum temperature of in excess of about 41o was expected both generators need to operate from about 11.00 am to 8.00 pm. This includes the more efficient No 1 (the newer of the two) generator. This has worked very successfully.

These generators are designed to work in reasonable conditions of say 30o - that is why the new power supplies in all the east Murchison towns have generators in air conditioned ex sea containers thus operating at maximum efficiency. Our generators work pretty hard at certain times in very hot conditions and because of this become less efficient.

At 20,350 hours the No 2 generator purchased in 1997 is nearing the end of its trouble free life and should be replaced. Based on the 2002 purchase this would cost about \$28 000.

Recommendation

That the replacement of the No 2, 70 KVA power supply generator be included in Council's 2004/05 budget at an estimated cost of \$28 000 less the trade - value of the existing.

The recommendation not adopted as Council decided to budget for a better quality set up.

Motion

Moved Cr W McL Mitchell seconded Cr MW Halleen That the replacement of the No 2, KVA power supply generator complete within an enclosed air conditioned 'cabin' plus heavier switch board wiring be included in Council's 2004/05 budget at an estimated cost of \$40 000.

Motion put and CARRIED 7-0

419 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY BOARD

PO-BOUN

Progress Boundaries Alteration Mullewa, Northampton and Murchison

This matter is moving ahead with correspondence with Advisory Board endeavouring to get the exact boundaries correct with odd pieces of some Stations jutting into the adjoining Shire etc. The Department is assisting with this. Next week we hope to be able to get this rates comparison off the ground.

To satisfy the Advisory Board Council should pass the recommended motion in relation to making a formal proposal to the Local Government Advisory Board and also endorse the plan of the proposal.

The Shire of Northampton has written advising of support for the proposed boundary alteration as per the plan provided.

Moved Cr K L Keynes, seconded Cr M W Halleen That pursuant to Clause 2 of Schedule 2.1 of the Local Government Act 1995 Council prepare a formal submission to the Local Government Advisory Board seeking boundary alterations between the Mullewa and Murchison Shire and between Northampton and Murchison Shire as per the plan endorsed by Council and supported by the Shires of Mullewa and Northampton.

Motion put and CARRIED 7-0

Note: Letter from Mullewa Shire received since this meeting.

420 TABLED ITEMS THIS MEETING

PO-ADM

Sundry correspondence, circulars and information.
Items to be received by Council

Moved Cr M W Halleen, seconded Cr P M Walsh That Council receive correspondence and circulars Items 1234 to 1252

Motion put and CARRIED 7-0

FINANCE

137 LEVEL OF RATES 2004/05

FI-RATG

Council to consider the level of rates for 04/05

Although it could be said to be early days yet the opportunity should be taken to discuss the level of rates which will be imposed in 2004/05.

At the 2003 budget meeting (2003/04 financial year) decisions on the level of rates, which had not been previously discussed, were made at the meeting. These included a lower pastoral areas rate and a differential rate to enable a higher rate to be imposed on mining tenements. The differential rate is required to be advertised before being imposed. This was not possible last year as was highlighted recently in the Compliance Audit Return.

In relation to the level of rates for 04/05 it seems that the recent rain will have little impact on seasonal conditions unless there is more rain soon plus winter rain. If it 'rains tomorrow' it will not be until some time next year that the benefit shows through in terms of improvements to the local economy.

Given this, there is strong case for the rates to be exactly the same in 04/05 as was adopted by Council for the 03/04 financial year. This would include the differential rate in relation to mining tenements.

There is an increasing possibility that the budget will be able to be adopted at the July meeting this year.

Moved Cr H Pollock, seconded Cr W.McL Mitchell That taking into consideration local economic conditions, the rainfall over the past three years, current stocking rates on pastoral properties and the uncertain seasonal outlook Council direct the staff to prepare the 2004/05 budget based on the same level of rates as was adopted in 2003/04 which incorporates a differential rate in relation to mining tenements and that the advertisement in relation to the differential rates be placed at the appropriate time pursuant to Section 6.36 of the Act.

Motion put and CARRIED 7-0

138 FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION BY CALM

FI-RATG

Arrangements with CALM in relation to a financial contribution in respect to Muggon Station which was acquired by CALM about 5 years ago and is no longer subject to rating. Negotiations with CALM have continued over the last 6 months or so in relation to CALM making a financial contribution in lieu of rates in relation to Muggon Station. David Blood from CALM has been in the area a couple of times recently and has spoken to the staff about an MOU between CALM and Council which would deliver an amount equal to the rates had Muggon been a station rated in the normal way. In return Council undertakes to carry out services in the area of Muggon to the same level had Muggon still been an operating station. Apparently David has spoken to some Councillors about this also. For 2003/04 this would provide for a payment of \$494 this being the concession rate which would apply had Muggon been rated in the normal way.

Moved Cr H Pollock, seconded Cr M W Halleen That Council approve of the proposed MOU between CALM and Council which would determine the level of financial contribution offered by CALM in relation to Muggon Station being an amount equal to the rates had Muggon been rated as an operating station in the usual way and in return Council undertakes to carry out services in the vicinity of Muggon to the same standard had Muggon been an operating station.

Motion put and CARRIED 7-0

139 LIST OF CREDITORS PRESENTED TO 19 MARCH '04 MEETING OF COUNCIL

FI-APAY

List of creditors for payment All accounts for payment at this meeting.

Moved Cr M W Halleen, seconded Cr H Pollock That the list of creditors Municipal Fund \$74 381.48 (cheques 5340 to 5377 and 5430 to 5433), Trust Fund \$2 312.75 (cheques 1452 to 1454), CEO's Advance Account \$13 281.01 (cheques 1911 to 1919) totalling \$89 975.24 including emergency and previously approved payments, be passed for payment.

Motion put and CARRIED 7-0

140 MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

PO-ACC

Financial Update to 17th February, 2004

Update based on cash, sundry debtors, sundry creditors and stock.

Moved Cr P M Walsh, seconded Cr M W Halleen That the monthly financial update to 12th March, '04 showing an estimated current position of the Municipal Fund including the CEO's Advance Account (assuming all cheques for signature today had been presented) to be \$483 119.73 and Plant and LSL/AL Reserve \$371 919.81 invested at 5.39% due 5th April, Enviro Funds Reserve \$49 546.00 invested @5.39% for 30 days, be received and adopted.

Motion put and CARRIED 7-0

141 TRI-ANNUAL FULL FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 29TH FEBRUARY, 2004

PO-FIN

Financial Statement - all operations to 29th February, 2004

Council is required to receive three full statements each year - the second being for the 8 months to 29th February, 2004.

Moved Cr P M Walsh, seconded Cr W McL Mitchell That the tri-Annual Financial Statement of all Council operations to 29th February, 2004, as presented be received and adopted.

Motion put and CARRIED 7-0

WORKS

163 KOMATSU BULLDOZER

EN-PLA

Dozer Tracks Replacement

Council had planned to replace the tracks on the Komatsu Bulldozer early in the new (04/05) financial year. These tracks have not made the distance, have given out, first with a broken pin then on further examination cracks and breaks and no oil left in the bush between segments.

An option was to fit the pin, put the tracks back together and continue working the dozer until the inevitable happened with Westrac having the new tracks etc available when this occurred.

Ross Mc Donald and another Westrac Officer inspected the dozer and the tracks etc in Murchison last week and has reported that the tracks definitely need immediate replacement but other work such as new sprocket teeth and attention to at least one idler (work in Geraldton workshop) is not necessary at this time. He recommends fitting Westrac tracks (perfect fit) in Murchison forthwith with the dozer being brought to Geraldton in January 05 for new sprocket teeth (Komatsu parts) and attention to idlers.

The tracks will cost about \$18 000 plus fitting which could be \$800 plus travel from/to Geraldton.

The time scale is about 2 weeks from Monday 15th ie should be fully operational before the end of the month.

Westrac are sending us a written report confirming all this.

Moved Cr W McL Mitchell, seconded Cr M W Halleen That in relation to the Komatsu Bulldozer arrangements be made to have new Westrac tracks (perfect fit) fitted in Murchison as soon as possible and the dozer be 'booked in' for January '05 at Westrac Geraldton for new sprocket teeth (Komatsu parts) and any attention to idlers.

Motion put and CARRIED 7-0

Note: Komatsu dozer fully operational 28th March '04

164 BERINGARRA-PINDAR ROAD

PO-WORKS

Consideration of Straightening S bends south Nookawarra. Letter of objection from Mr and Mrs Tomkins of Nookawarra.

This job has been before Council for at least the past 12 months. The proposal was looked at again during the January 04 road inspection. At the February meeting this job was listed as a high priority. The recent attempt to have Mr and Mrs Tomkins of Nookawarra meet representatives of Council on site to discuss the proposal failed to eventuate.

Instead of agreeing to meet representatives of Council on site Mr and Mrs Tomkins have sent a letter objecting to the project.

Should the decision be made to proceed with the project work associated with the re-alignment of the road will need to be strictly in accordance with the correct procedure with all procedures in place before the job is carried out.

Moved Cr H R Foulkes-Taylor, seconded Cr H Pollock That the staff research the necessary preliminary procedures where a road is required to be built on a new alignment through a pastoral property.

Motion put and CARRIED 7-0

Cr Foulkes-Taylor left the meeting 3.16 pm

165 COOLCALALYA ROAD WEST OF YALLALONG STATION

PO-RCM

Closing off abandoned sections of Coolcalalya Road

Council asked that Mr Vaughan Barndon of Yallalong be asked to close off the abandoned sections of road that have resulted from his involvement in making some new alignments on higher ground. These sections are actually in the Shire of Mullewa. This request was preliminary to Council arranging a sign indicating 'To Nor' West Coastal Hwy' at the T junction of the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road and the New Forrest-Yallalong Road.

Mr Barndon writes advising he has done this and also refers to the mention in the February minutes of the closing off of the 'tourist entrance' into Tallering Peak. Mr Barndon says this was done with the Shire of Mullewa and Mt Gibson approval. The thrust was to eliminate gates being left open by the public, sheep escaping and people finding their way into restricted areas where mine operations and blasting take place.

Moved Cr W.McL Mitchell, seconded Cr K L Keynes That the information from Mr Vaughan Barndon of Yallalong in relation to closing off abandoned sections of Coolcalalya Road and also the 'tourist entrance' into Tallering Peak be received and the sign indicating 'To Nor' West Coastal Hwy' for the T junction Carnarvon-Mullewa Road and New Forrest-Yallalong Road be proceeded with.

Motion put and CARRIED 6-0

166 CEO's REORT TO THIS MEETING

EN-PLA

CEO's General and Plant Report

Report on important activities of Council and plant since February meeting of Council.

Moved Cr K L Keynes, seconded Cr P M Walsh That the CEO's Works and Plant Report as presented to this meeting be received and adopted

Motion put and CARRIED 6-0

NOTICE OF MOTION -Nil

NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE -Nil

CLOSURE

There being no further business the President declared the meeting closed at 3:25 PM

Confirmed this day of

PRESIDENT