



MINUTES

General Meeting of Electors

Wednesday 29 March 2023, 6:00 pm

in the Council Chamber,
Administration Building

48 Old Perth Road, Bassendean WA 6054

Table of Contents

1	Welcome.....	3
2	Attendances and Apologies	3
3	Mayor's Address.....	3
4	CEO'S Address	5
5	Director Corporate Services Address.....	6
6	Receiving of the 2020/21 Annual Report, Financial Statements and Auditor's Report	7
7	General Business	7
8	Motions.....	12
9	Closure	12

1 Welcome

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open, welcomed all those in attendance and acknowledged the past and present traditional owners and custodians of the land on which the meeting was held.

2 Attendances and Apologies

Councillors

Cr Kathryn Hamilton, Mayor
Cr Renee McLennan, Deputy Mayor
Cr Hilary MacWilliam
Cr Emily Wilding
Cr Paul Poliwka
Cr Tallan Ames

Apology

Cr Carter – Leave of Absence

Officers

Mr Luke Gibson, Interim Chief Executive Officer
Mr Paul White, Director Corporate Services
Mr Phil Adams, Executive Manager Infrastructure
Ms **Error! Bookmark not defined.**Nicole Davey, Executive Manager Sustainability & Environment
Ms Donna Shaw, Acting Director Community Planning
Mr Matthew Monkhouse, Manager Governance & Strategy
Mr Raj Malde, Manager Finance

Public

Approximately 28 members of the public were in attendance.

3 Mayor's Address

Hello everyone,

I am so pleased to present to you the Town of Bassendean 2021/22 Annual Report. As you know it was a year of extremes that began with the global and national pressures of ongoing COVID-19 restrictions gradually easing as the year progressed.

Our community handled the pandemic restrictions with good humour and patience, whilst wholeheartedly answering the call to support local businesses. Council continued to implement programs to support residents with an emphasis on providing services to our most vulnerable and isolated community members. Looking back now, it's remarkable how swiftly we all adapted, and what a difference a year has made.

We steadily continued to invest in our infrastructure and services, and have made great progress in the area of environmental sustainability significantly reducing the amount of waste going to landfill. We could not have achieved such incredible results without the overall support of our residents embracing the waste service changes.

On a per capita analysis the Town continue to plant a significant number of trees as we endeavour to provide future generations with shady streetscapes and parks. These planting programs go hand in hand with growing community awareness of the need to retain mature trees as our summer temperatures increase.

Significant community consultation and planning produced a contemporary roadmap for future development in the district including adoption of the Town Centre Masterplan in November 2021, as well as progressing a new Local Planning Strategy and Scheme. The value of this work cannot be underestimated.

With so many capital projects progressing during the year it is difficult to select just a few to highlight. The transformation of Mary Crescent Reserve via the "Our Park, Our Place" project was a collaboration between the community, the Town and so many wonderful organisations resulting in a stormwater basin becoming a micro wetland that attracts birds and provides habitat for multiple animals.

The Underground Power Project undertaken by Western Power has completely transformed Eden Hill streetscapes with the removal of power lines and the installation of new street lighting. Subsequent extensive winter verge tree planting programs will further enhance the area particularly in years to come as those trees mature to provide shady streets. Council continues to advocate for underground power across the entire district.

Great progress was made in the construction of the Sandy Beach Nature Based Playground that opened to the public in July 2022. It is an indication of the careful planning associated with this project that existing mature trees were not impacted during the construction phase. The new ablution block is a most welcome addition to the park replacing what were very old facilities.

Community engagement and participation in local events and activities has rebounded to pre-Covid levels. An example was the wonderful turnout at the inaugural Celebrating Birak event that showcased Nyoongar culture whilst welcoming our newest Australian Citizens on the 26th of January 2022.

This Annual Report highlights the successes, challenges, and outcomes achieved during the 2021/22 year; reflecting the hard work and dedication of our staff, elected members, and community volunteers who have worked tirelessly to ensure that the Town remains vibrant and welcoming. Thank you one and all.

4 CEO'S Address

The Chief Executive Officer (Interim), Mr Luke Gibson, provided the following report on the 2021/22 financial year:

The Town, as an organisation, carried on its internal reform efforts; continuing to mature and improve its performance particularly in the areas of asset management, financial management, ICT, procurement and organisational governance. Whilst capacity within the organisation was routinely challenged by COVID-19, and efforts and progress were somewhat hampered by those staffing impacts, the Town sought to minimise any adverse impacts on the provision of services to the community.

The year saw the finalisation of the community-led Town Centre Masterplan which was subsequently endorsed by Council in November 2021. This key achievement was developed with in-depth public consultation over 18 months and supports our community's vision for town centre development and vibrancy. This Council-adopted Masterplan was a key consideration and informing element of both the draft Local Planning Strategy and draft Local Planning Scheme No. 11. Both of those documents were progressed during the year, with a major milestone being achieved in May 2022, when the state government deemed it as acceptable for the purposes of public consultation. This was work supported by other improvements to the Town's suite of local planning policies that seek to support future land use and development in the district.

Several years of work came to fruition in the construction of a regional-level playground at Sandy Beach. It is one of the Town's most prominent natural open spaces and attracts many people from within and outside the Town. The \$1.62m playground was made possible by the Town securing funding through the Commonwealth Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Grant, Lotterywest and the State Government.

In a major change to the Town's service offerings, the close of the 21/22 financial year saw the Town conclude its involvement in the aged care sector, ending over 40 years involvement in the direct delivery of services to senior residents via the Commonwealth Home Support Programme. In recent years, the regulatory landscape for service providers has significantly changed with many local governments across the nation realising they are now not equipped to respond to the increasing demands being made on the sector. For the Town, the decision was not taken lightly, and serious consideration was given to the potential impact on clients, staff and volunteers. As part of the transition, the Federal Department of Health selected Amana Living as the new provider of home support services for seniors, with the Town and Amana Living working closely on the project. I would like to take this opportunity to single out our Director Corporate Services, Mr Paul White, for his significant contribution to this project to ensure a smooth transition for clients and staff.

It must be acknowledged that those highlights are just a small sample from a full and productive year and do not include all the typical business as usual tasks that occur every day by way of the Town's dedicated staff. Many of these functions are legislated and must be performed by a local government, whilst others are optional, but are undertaken to meet the increasing desires and aspirations of the community.

Looking back on what was, at times, a challenging year, the organisation should be proud of what it has achieved in 2021/22 and I would especially like to recognise all the staff and Councillors for making this possible.

5 Director Corporate Services Address

The Director Corporate Services, Mr Paul White, provided the following financial overview:

The 2021-22 Annual Financial Statements are included in the Annual Report. The Financial Statements occupy the second part of the Annual Report, commencing on page 45.

The Town's overall financial result continued to improve in 2021/22, despite modest rates revenue growth resulting from a rate increase of only 1.4%.

Statement of Comprehensive Income

Operating revenue was as budgeted, up by \$979,476, or 4.6% from the previous year. This was due to:

- The introduction of differential rates to impose a 50% premium on vacant land
- Higher than expected operating grants, subsidies and contributions of \$853,120
- An increase in other revenue of \$290,183

Operating expenses were slightly higher than the previous year, at \$243,067, or 1.1%. This was largely due to information technology licensing and maintenance costs.

However, operating expenses were again significantly below budget, by \$2.4 million, or 4.9%. As with last year, this was due to lower material and contracts expenditure.

There were 7,388 rateable properties in the Town (an increase of 80), generating \$13.8 million in rates revenue. The Town increased efforts at reducing outstanding rates debt from those who could afford to pay, with rates and charges debt falling 13% during the year. At the same time, the Town continued to assist those experiencing genuine financial hardship, under the Town's Financial Hardship Policy.

Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)

There was a reduction in value of Infrastructure assets of \$10.7m. This was due to a reduction in value of the Town's road and drainage assets, following a revaluation.

Auditor General

The Town received an unqualified Audit Report for 2021-22. The Independent Auditor's Opinion from the Auditor General is at the end of the Financial Statements.

6 Receiving of the 2020/21 Annual Report, Financial Statements and Auditor's Report

RESOLUTION

MOVED Gerry Pule, Seconded Carol Seidel, that the 2021/22 Annual Report for the Town of Bassendean be accepted.

CARRIED 6/3

7 General Business

The Mayor advised that a number of questions had been provided in writing, prior to the meeting. Staff will provide a written response to these questions following the meeting.

The following questions were asked in person, at the meeting.

Gerry Pule – 1 Kenmure Avenue, Ashfield

Complimented the Council on how the river reserve looks and the Sandy Beach Reserve playground.

Spoke on the volunteer bus service and that there was a Thursday fortnightly shopping bus service which was a great community initiative for seniors.

Question: Is there a possible way that this could be introduced using the bus and the volunteer drivers?

The Mayor advised that discussions will be held with the interim CEO and new CEO.

Phillip Watson – 15 Parnell Parade, Bassendean

Commented that with regards to Ashfield Reserve, the trees behind the stand at the Club have disappeared and the rear of the stand is open and looks unsightly.

Question: With regards to the fencing at the Ashfield Reserve, why the fence was reduced in height, as this creates a security issue?

The Mayor advised that the works were undertaken in consultation with the Ashfield Soccer Club before work commenced. The back panels of the stand were removed due to reports of anti-social behaviour.

The Executive Manager Infrastructure advised that the 3m high fence behind the goals is currently being installed. The works were undertaken in discussions with the Club who wanted the fences removed as they were getting continually vandalised.

Question: What was the cost to remove the fencing at the reserve?

The question was taken on notice.

RESOLUTION

MOVED Ben Woodward, Seconded Paul Bridges, that public question time be extended, the time being 6.35pm.

CARRIED

Carol Seidel – 55 Broadway, Bassendean

Question: why the Council is not replacing the Manager Library Services, what are the plans to relocate the Customer Services Centre to the Library, the impact of the reduction of space and the costing to accommodate this service? Will it impact on the Library Services?

The Interim CEO advised that with the resignation of the former Manager, there was an opportunity to do a minor restructure. The Library still has a manager, being the Manager Community Development. Council has not made any decision on other staff moving to the Library.

Mr Ian Maluish – 3/22 Elsfield Way, Bassendean

Question: could consider revoking its decision to change Australia Day to a Birak Ceremony, given we are all Australians and should celebrate on Australia Day.

The Mayor advised that Celebrating Birak is a well-attended event which was inclusive of all Australians. The Government announced recently that local government can now host citizenship ceremonies a number of days before or after 26 January.

Mr Paul Bridges – 150 West Road, Bassendean

Question: In terms of the community bus, given that the Council is elected by the community to represent our interests and its Council is the decision-making body, why is Council deferring making a decision on the community bus before the new CEO arrives?

The Mayor advised that no decision can be made until a formal meeting is held. The petitions were received at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28 March, and will be discussed and a report brought back to Council for a decision.

Anne Brinkworth – 19 Ida Street, Bassendean

Mrs Brinkworth stated that many years ago a lot of money and volunteers worked on the Broadway Arboretum.

Question: can Council please carry out maintenance in this area?

The Executive Manager Sustainability and Environment advised that there is a 10-year management plan for Reserve and each stage will be considered by Council in future budgets.

RESOLUTION

MOVED Jack Fox, Seconded Carol Seidel, that public question time be extended, the time being 6.52pm.

CARRIED

Ben Woodward – 77 Watson Street, Bassendean

Question: What improvements were identified regarding the Communications Framework review mentioned on page 35 of the 2021/22 annual report to be implemented over the coming year?

The Mayor responded that the Town's draft Strategic Communications Plans was finalised in October 2021. Since that time, the Town has actioned a number of the recommendations of the plan, including the human resourcing element (by creating and filling the Senior Communications Officer role), undertaking a review of the Town's corporate branding, implementing a broad aesthetic refresh of the Town's website and launching digital Thrive. In the coming months, the Town will be preparing a corporate guideline/protocol to dictate use of, and processes around, social media, scoping a more comprehensive, functional review of the Town's website and looking to further progress the roll-out of the Town's corporate branding refresh.

In addition, the proposed reform of the Local Government Act will require local governments to establish a charter which sets out how it will engage with ratepayers and the community about the local government's proposed policies, initiatives, and projects. More information on this matter will be released by the State Government later in the year and the Town will consider its resultant approach in due course.

Carol Seidel – 55 Broadway, Bassendean

Question: how effective the Council can be on providing tree preservation orders on properties? Can staff calculate how much tree canopy a single tree can provide using dashboard?

The Executive Manager Sustainability and Environment advised that measuring the individual canopy of a tree, the dashboard does not go into that level of detail.

The Acting Director Community Planning advised that under the original draft LPS 11, removal of a significant tree would have constituted an offence. The WAPC, when considering the draft document, required the Town to remove that provision prior to advertising. It is not an offence for an owner/occupier to trim or remove a tree where there is no tree protection order in place.

The Mayor stated that the draft Local Planning Scheme No. 11 will be advertised for a three-month period and encouraged people to make submissions.

Mr Paul Bridges – 150 West Road, Bassendean

Complemented the Council on the planting of street trees.

Question: Is there a plan publicly available of each of those new street trees have been planted over the last three years and how many of those continue to thrive?

The Executive Manager Infrastructure advised that there is map that shows where all the trees are in the Town are, and those that are proposed to be planted There is a loss of approximately 3% of the newly planted trees. There is not a plan available for the public to view.

Stephen Hovitch - 26 Wilson Street, Bassendean

Question: what is the status of the application for the proposed brewery in Old Perth Road?

The Interim CEO advised that a large number of submissions have been received, generally in support of the proposal. Due to the land use and the location, near residential housing, more detail has been requested from the applicant.

The Interim CEO also commented on a previous question regarding Australia Day and advised that Citizenship Ceremonies can be held up to three days either side of 26 January.

Don Yates – 10 Thompson Road, Bassendean

Question: In referring to his questions submitted in writing, asked if he would be receiving a response?

The Mayor advised that the 17 questions will be answered by email and that she was happy to take a small number of questions at the meeting.

Question: What is the current balance of five reserve accounts?

The Director Corporate Services advised that this information is detailed in Note 30 of the Annual Report and is also included in the Annual Budget which is the expected position up to June 2023.

Question: how can the community have some say on how that money is used in the five reserve accounts?

The Mayor advised that there is a budget process and funding is allocated to various accounts. Budget deliberations commence in February/March and the adoption of the Budget in June each year. There is a significant amount of information provided to Councillors as part of the process.

RESOLUTION

MOVED Bill Busby, Seconded Phillip Watson, that public question time be extended, the time being 7.12pm.

CARRIED

Bill Busby

Question: why were nine trees were removed near the John van Hoek grandstand?

The Executive Manager Infrastructure advised that they were Bottlebrush trees that had a fungus which currently is a problem in the metropolitan area. The trees were requested to be removed by the Club in association with opening the rear of the grandstand.

Carol Seidel – 55 Broadway, Bassendean

Question: when will Council order that the outside eating structure at the Lemon Myrtle Café in Old Perth Road be removed as the café has been closed for some 18 months.

The Acting Director Community Planning advised that Council had issued an approval for the parklet with a permit and conditions associated with the parklet. When the business originally closed and changed hands, Council contacted the new owners to maintain the structure. Contact will be made with the owners to address the issue, to either remove the structure or maintain the structure, including the vegetation.

Phillip Watson – 15 Parnell Parade, Bassendean

Question: Is the water supply at Ashfield Reserve from scheme or bore water?

The Mayor advised that it is scheme water.

Paul Bridges – 150 West Road, Bassendean

Commented that the letterbox at 27 Hyland Street should be removed, as it is getting filled with junk mail.

8 Motions

Motion 1

MOVED Nikki Rodgers, Seconded Tracey Allanson, that Council consider providing a 24/7 security patrol service, similar to what is provided by the City of Bayswater.

CARRIED 11/5

Motion 2

MOVED Jane Bremmer, Seconded Carol Seidel, that the Town of Bassendean suspends the use of Fusilade Forte, on the basis that this class 6 herbicide now meets the classification of a PFAS chemical and, as such, it is not safe to use anywhere in the Town of Bassendean.

CARRIED 20/0

Motion 3

MOVED Jane Bremmer, Seconded Carol Seidel, that the Town of Bassendean publishes a weekly update on the website of exactly where pesticides are being applied in garden beds and landscaped areas (particularly if they include areas in or close to children's playgrounds) and any other area in the Town, so that residents can avoid exposure.

CARRIED 18/0

Motion 4

MOVED Jane Bremmer, Seconded Gerry Pule, that the Town of Bassendean stops using herbicides and pesticides in children's playgrounds.

CARRIED 20/0

Motion 5

MOVED Carol Seidel, Seconded Jane Bremmer, that the Bassendean Volunteer Bus Service be reinstated and operating again within the Town of Bassendean.

CARRIED 25/0

9 Closure

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7.38pm.