



TOWN OF

Bassendean

MINUTES

Special Meeting of Electors

Tuesday 18 April 2023, 5:30 pm

in the Council Chamber,

Administration Building

48 Old Perth Road, Bassendean WA 6054

1 Declaration Of Opening; Acknowledgment of Country; Acknowledgment of Visitors; Disclaimer

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 Jennie Carter
Cr Emily Wilding
Cr Tallan Ames

Apology

Cr Hilary MacWilliam – Leave of Absence
Cr Paul Poliwka

Officers

Mr Cameron Woods, Chief Executive Officer
Mr Luke Gibson, Director Community Development
Mr Paul White, Director Corporate Services
Mr Phil Adams, Executive Manager Infrastructure
Ms Nicole Davey, Executive Manager Sustainability and Environment
Mr Matthew Monkhouse, Manager Governance & Strategy
Mr Tristan Loney, Manager Information and Technology

Public

Approximately 44 members of the public were in attendance.

Apologies

Bev Johnson of 46 Eileen Street, Bassendean
Dalys Wright – Unit 6/72 Ivanhoe Street, Bassendean
Nonie Jekabsons 6 Barton Parade, Bassendean
Emma Darby
Anne Begg
Susan and Leslie Johnston - 303/85 Old Perth Road, Bassendean

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

4 Statements by Members of the Public

Carol Seidel – 55 Broadway, Bassendean

Mrs Seidel stated that there were a number of apologies submitted for tonight's meeting.

The CEO advised that the apologies will be recorded in the minutes.

Mrs Seidel raised a number of concerns, including poor communication with the community prior to ceasing the Volunteer Bus Service, the impact on the elderly and other users who feel that they have been let down, the inconvenience and cost of using a taxi service, training of volunteer bus drivers etc.

Sue Conway – 119 Guildford Road, Bassendean

Why was the community not involved in the decision to cease the service? People rely on the bus service to take them to appointments on time.

The Director Community Development responded that a report was presented to Council in November and December 2022 and it was ceased due to occupational health and safety concerns. It remains open to Council to make a decision on the service.

What is the reason for the decision after a long service? Ratepayers are happy with the service and could it not continue?

The Mayor advised that new legislation came into effect in March 2022 and raised issues with liability. Staff investigated the affect on the service and found there were some shortcomings identified – training of volunteers on first aid and other matters of concern. It needed to be shut down until these issues could be addressed.

The Mayor added that the 55 Plus Group was approached to take over the service which did not progress and further consideration to be made next month once Officers have made further investigations. Motions that are successful tonight will give some guidance on the direction on how the community would like to proceed.

Lorretta Lyons – Unit 22/15 James Street, Bassendean

Ms Lyons expressed her gratitude for the Volunteer Bus Service that she used as she had no other means of transport. When the service ceased, she had no assistance and missed the people associated with the service.

Kath Keays – 39 Cumberland Way, Bassendean

Ms Keays has lived in the Town over 50 years. Her husband has lost his sight and Ms Keays does not drive, so they both relied on the service immensely and made good friends with people in the service. Their aged care provider cannot assist and taxi services are unreliable, and she would like the service reinstated.

MOVED Carol Seidel, Seconded Loretta Lyons, that Public Question Time be extended, the time being 5.51pm.

CARRIED

Anne Brinkworth – 19 Ida Street, Bassendean

Mrs Brinkworth stated that she recently went to a medical appointment and the volunteer driver was very caring and contacted her the next day for assistance. During COVID the volunteer bus services contacted her to see if she needed any assistance. The taxi services are unreliable and are not caring.

Ann Copleston – 81 Parker Street, Bassendean

Mrs Copleston stated that her neighbour managed to stay living in her own home well into her 90's and this could not have happened without the volunteer bus service.

5 Questions from Members of the Public

Pat Karpewycz – 6 Hobley Place, Eden Hill

Ms Karpewycz asked what was it that 55 Plus could do what the Council could not do?

The Mayor responded that the 55 Plus had expressed an interest in running the service but had not fully explored the proposal. A CEO with employees is held liable for any harm or death from a workplace accident, whereas a volunteer run service is not. There were some risks associated with the running of the service and if continued, there would need to be minor changes, including training of volunteers etc.

The next stage from tonight's meeting will be a report to Council. The Administration are exploring different options, which will be considered by Council.

The CEO advised that the reason they are here tonight is to receive any notices of motions and if successful, Administration will provide a detailed report for Council to consider at the next available Ordinary Council meeting.

Don Yates – 12 Thompson Road, Bassendean

Mr Yates referred to a meeting in 2017 relating to the Community Strategic Plan that identified 7 priorities and asked if Council and staff could think about these priorities?

Clive Brown – 2 Surrey Street, Bassendean

Mr Brown asked does the Council employ people who drive vehicles as part of their job? Does the Council provide all of those things to those people who drive for the Council that were included in the report that have to be provided to volunteer drivers and if not why not? Why is it such a problem to provide training to volunteers?

The CEO advised that there is a range of services that require staff to drive vehicles and machinery as part of core business. New legislation means it is incumbent on the CEO who is personally liable through lack of training etc for any incidence that may occur.

The Director Community Development advised the report presented to Council in November and December 2022 provided a risk assessment undertaken by staff and mitigation measures. To continue the service in a safe manner and in accordance with legislation, will be at a cost and it is up to Council to consider that cost. The service was ceased on recommendation by staff and the risk imposed personally on the CEO.

Do you provide all of the things that were required to volunteers, do you provide that to paid staff and if you do, why cannot you provide that to volunteers?

The Mayor advised that this will be considered as part of further report to Council.

Ann MacBeth – 27 Maley Street, Ashfield

Ms MacBeth asked how have the Cities of Swan and Bayswater mitigated their risk and funding of their community transport services and not Bassendean?

The Mayor advised that she is aware of the service of the City of Bayswater which is hired out to community groups and does not operate the same as the Bassendean service. That service is currently under review also.

Robert Giersch - 47 Fifth Avenue, Bassendean

Has the bus been disposed of?

The Director Community Development advised that it had not.

MOVED Sue Conway, Seconded Bill Busby that Public Question Time be extended, the time being 6.15pm.

CARRIED

Bill Busby - 53 Haig Street, Ashfield

Mr Busby asked why the previous budget did not include funds for risk mitigation? How was risk management paid for previously? Had the Volunteer Bus Service alerted any risk associated with the service.

The CEO advised that risk mitigation is a general approach taken at every level. We have taken advice from LGIS and alerted staff on the risk involved with the new legislation.

The Director Community Services advised that a review was done and concerns raised which were addressed as best as possible and provided in the report to Council.

Mr Busby asked if there were minutes taken of the 55 Plus meeting, who chaired the meeting and did Councillors attend?

The Mayor advised that no Councillors attended the meeting as it was a direction for administration to engage with the group. The Director Community Services took the question on notice and will provide a response to Council on the outcome of that meeting.

Ann Copelston – 81 Parker Street, Bassendean

The old Act and the new Act treated volunteers in the same way, has Council contacted the Worksafe Commission on clarification? Do staff stand by the budget figures provided to install a wheelchair lift that was not required?

The Director Community Services advised that Worksafe Commission had not been contacted but LGIS has been contacted, as advised by the CEO previously in the meeting. The amount of \$10,000 was an estimate only and if Council re-establishes the service, further quotes will be obtained.

6 Motions

The following motions were tabled and put to the vote:

Motion 1
SEM-1/4/23

MOVED Alan Copelston, Seconded Carol Seidel, that the Town of Bassendean reinstate and run the volunteer transport service within the Town of Bassendean.
CARRIED 43/0

Motion 2
SEM-2/4/23

MOVED Alan Copelston, Seconded Bill Busby, that the Council/Administration proactively and constructively assist in the establishment of a new community transport service.
CARRIED 41/0

7 Closure

There being no further business, the Mayor closed the meeting at 6.30pm.