

TOWN OF BASSENDEAN

MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS

HELD IN THE BASSENDEAN COMMUNITY HALL
48 OLD PERTH ROAD, BASSENDEAN

ON TUESDAY 5 DECEMBER 2017 AT 7.00PM

1.0 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Mayor 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 being held.

2.0 ATTENDANCES, APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Present

Councillors

Cr Renee McLennan, Mayor
Cr Bob Brown, Deputy Mayor
Cr John Gangell
Cr Kathryn Hamilton
Cr Melissa Mykytiuk
Cr Sarah Quinton
Cr Jai Wilson

Officers

Mr Bob Jarvis, Chief Executive Officer
Mr Mike Costarella, Director Corporate Services
Mr Simon Stewart-Dawkins, Director Operational Services
Mr Anthony Dowling, Director Strategic Planning
Mr Salvatore Siciliano, A/Director Community Development
Mr Brian Reed, Manager Development Services
Mrs Amy Holmes, Minute Secretary

Public

Approximately 35 members of the public were in attendance.

3.0 RECEIVING OF THE 2016/17 ANNUAL REPORT, INCLUDING THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITOR'S REPORT

RESOLUTION – ITEM 3.0

MOVED Mr Peter Pearson, Seconded Mr John Sutherland, that the 2016 /17 Annual Report including the Audited Annual Financial Statements and Auditor's Report, be received.

CARRIED

4.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Electors were invited to take the opportunity to raise questions with the Mayor.

Mr Graeme King, 15 North Road, Bassendean

Mr King asked that the Mayor outline the Council's position on community consultation.

The Mayor responded that a review of the committee structure has been undertaken in an attempt to better engage with community members. The Town will also be developing a Community Engagement Strategy.

Mr King asked the Mayor to comment on the priorities of Council.

The Mayor listed the following priorities:

- Governance Committee - to look at things such as transparency and communication and with the community.
- Procurement - Tenders and Contracts. The Local Government Act has been amended for the Office of the Auditor General to audit all local governments. The Town has selected to have a procurement audit undertaken to improve economy efficiency and effectiveness of its operations.
- Design Bassendean Committee.
- Sustainability Committee
- 2017-2027 The Strategic Community Plan the 2017-2021 Corporate Business Plan were adopted by Council in the year under review. The projects listed in the Corporate Business Plan have been endorsed and have been included in the Instrument of Appointments of the new Committees.

Mr King asked the Mayor to comment on policies and the Mayor advised that the Town is currently reviewing its policies and the community will have the opportunity to provide comment.

Mr Peter Pearson, 14 River Street, Bassendean

Mr Pearson commented on the proposed audio system upgrade and asked that the Town consider including an induction for people with hearing aids.

Mr Craig Lucanus 186 West Road, Bassendean

Mr Lucanus referred to the three bin survey and asked that any introduction of a green waste bin not be accompanied by the reduction of the size of the normal waste bin.

The Mayor commented that Council intends to review its waste management plan as that is the environmentally responsible thing to do. The Town's Strategic Community Plan identifies the need to reduce waste and should be encouraging the community to do the same. The third bin will be specifically for green waste, to divert it away from landfill.

Mr Tony Wood, Unit A 12 Nurstead Avenue Bassendean

Mr Wood asked what size the green waste bin would be.

The Mayor advised that the bin would be the same size as the current bin.

Mr Lucanus moved a motion. Electors were invited to speak for and against the motion.

MOTION 1.

MOVED Mr Craig Lucanus, Seconded Mr Tony Wood, that the introduction of a green waste bin not be accompanied by a reduction in size of the residual waste bin.

CARRIED 14/11

14 voted in favour of the motion. 11 voted against the motion.

Mr William Bosworth, 136A West Road, Bassendean

Mr Bosworth commented on the 4.6% rate rise from the last financial year (2016/2017) and asked that Council show some degree of moderation when setting the rates for the 2018/2019 financial year.

The Mayor commented that the current financial year (2017/2018) rate rise was only 2% which was significantly lower than other local governments.

Mr Bosworth queried the increase in employee costs.

The CEO stated that the increase in costs relates to the Town's two very large staff establishments in Seniors and Disability Services and Children's Services.

The Director Corporate Services added that the increase also includes a provision for annual leave and long service leave.

Mr Bosworth referred to the local planning schedule and commented on the expectation by the State government to increase density in the Town of Bassendean. Mr Bosworth asked that Councillors be ready to stand up and resist this pressure.

The Mayor commented that state planning policies do have a lot of influence over what we do. The Town needs to take into consideration its location on the train line, which is one of the reasons why there is an expectation from the state government to increase density in the Town.

The Director Strategic Planning commented that the key issue is to decide where this high density will be placed and this requires the Town to plan very carefully.

Mr Bosworth queried the current situation on the LandCorp development.

The Mayor advised that Council rejected any development on the BIC Reserve which meant development was no longer financially viable to LandCorp.

Ms Bev Johnson, 46 Eileen Street, Bassendean

Mrs Johnson commented on the amount of traffic going from the shopping centre down Bridson and Shackleton, to avoid the traffic lights and asked that the Town give some serious consideration to the traffic flow down Shackleton Street.

The Director Operational Services responded, stating that Council considered this issue last year and resolved to allocate funding in this year's budget to introduce passive traffic calming methods including an island down the centre of the street with tree planting and resurfacing of the road.

Mrs Johnson commented that there has been a lot of objection from the local residents to that plan. There needs to be some more consultation about other possible solutions.

The Director Operational Services advised that Shackleton is designed as a local distributor road, however, Council can consider options to reduce the traffic speed in that road.

Mr Kevin Prior, 15 Bridson Street, Bassendean

Mr Prior asked that the Council publish the speed figures which came out of the traffic survey. Bridson Street is being used as a rat run with traffic speeding down that road. Mr Prior asked that Council consider improving signage.

The Mayor responded that the Town is considering options to reduce traffic speed.

The Director Operational Services advised that a transport study will be undertaken in early February - it will look at speeding issues in the Town.

Mr Mike Lewis, Morley Drive, Eden Hill

Mr Lewis referred to the 1 Surrey Street project and asked if the project is not of interest to the Council.

The Mayor responded that Council has concerns around the cost and complexity of the project and is not comfortable to proceed with such uncertainty. There is concern that the current plans are not the best way forward for the community.

Mr Lewis asked for a breakdown of the funds being allocated to the project.

The Director Corporate Services advised that money is allocated in the Reserve Fund but not the money coming from rates which is about \$210,000.

Mr Lewis commented that the Council should go back to the original plan and asked if the Council is prepared to hand back a \$375,000 grant.

The Mayor responded that the grant is for a previous version of the plan for which the Town has received letters of support from four organisations. When the plan changed, one of the organisations was not willing to support it.

The CEO commented that the Heritage Council has asked to see the plans before they give their opinion. The Royal West Australian Historical Society has said it does not support the change in plans.

The Mayor stated that Council wants to be sure that a decision to spend \$680,000 is made wisely before it commits to a \$375,000 grant. The Director Community Development prepared a management plan for the site, however, this plan did not take into consideration the ongoing costs associated with the maintenance of the building.

Mr Lewis moved a motion. Electors were invited to speak for and against the motion.

MOTION 2.

MOVED Mr Mike Lewis, Seconded Mr Craig Lucanus, that this meeting calls on the Council to re-engage on the 1 Surrey Street project to ensure that the \$375,000 LotteryWest grant is not lost to the ratepayers of the Town of Bassendean.

LOST

Mr Paul Bridges, 150 West Road, Bassendean

Mr Bridges referred to Item 10.10 of the November Ordinary Council Meeting (RFQ 351 2017-18 Appointment of a Heritage Architect to Project Manage the Consultation, Design and Construction Process at 1 Surrey Street, Bassendean) and asked why the CEO allowed Mr Stewart-Dawkins to ignore the resolution of Council to Tender separately for those items; and why did the Mayor not question why this was allowed to happen.

The CEO advised that the quotes were for separable portions.

The Director Operational Services stated that the RFQ was put out as separable portions for community consultation, design, and management. A recommendation was made to Council to allocate an additional \$15,000 to be able to proceed with the quote, due to insufficient funds.

Mr Bridges asked what figure was quoted by TPG.

The Director Operational Services advised that the quote was for approximately \$114,000.

Mr Don Yates, 10 Thompson Road, Bassendean

Mr Yates asked for Council to keep pressure on Main Roads to install a pedestrian sanctuary at the corner of Thompson Road and Guildford Road. Mr Yates also requested that lighting be improved in Thompson Road.

The CEO advised that the lighting study undertaken was for a 200 metre radius, which took in more than just Thompson Road.

Mr Yates asked that Council address the issue of incorrect parking signage at the shopping centre.

The Director Operational Services advised that the Town has been in conversation with Hawaiian (management of Bassendean Shopping Centre) and it has been notified that its signage is not compliant with the Town's Parking Local Law. Hawaiian has advised that it will be removing the signage.

Mr Yates commented on a number of other issues at the shopping centre, including the inadequate entry ramp width and gradient and the lack of a suitable safe loading area for trucks. Mr Yates asked that the Town recognise that the main entrance to the shopping centre and parking problems be addressed.

Ms Jane Bremmer, 47 Seventh Avenue, Bassendean

Ms Bremmer asked who will be undertaking the analysis of the steam weed trial at Success Hill.

The Director Operational Services responded that all bush areas are assessed on an annual basis with regard to the density of weeds regenerating. This is undertaken by an independent contractor. Data will be collated and reported back to Council on the benefits of the treatment.

Ms Bremmer asked that Council consider better engagement with the Friends groups at reserves.

The Mayor stated that the Council is committed to engaging with the community better than it has done previously.

The Director Operational Services commented that the bushcare groups are very important to the Town and it will be working with them through the Senior Environmental Officer.

Ms Bremmer asked if Council will uphold the community's desire to not spray poisons regularly in the community and consider alternative options.

The Mayor responded that Council is keen to find a balance between community satisfaction and the need to implement solutions that are financially sustainable.

Mrs Anne Brinkworth, 19 Ida Street, Bassendean

Mrs Brinkworth commented on the lack of community consultation in relation to the flying of the Rainbow flag - members of the community are disappointed at the way it has been done, with very little consultation. Mrs Brinkworth also commented that the rainbow flag may not actually be legal.

The CEO stated that flag protocols are being adhered to and the Town is not breaching any protocols. As a matter of Council resolution the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island flag is still there. The Town flag has been removed for a period of three months.

The Mayor commented that the flag is to show belonging and inclusivity in this community in line with the same sex marriage survey. The CEO will make further enquiries to ensure it is legal and we are following protocol.

Mrs Brinkworth asked for an update on the Men's Shed.

The Mayor stated that Council is supportive of the Men's Shed. Plans have been approved and we are waiting to hear confirmation from Lotterywest on funding. It is expected to proceed this financial year.

Mr Bruce Keay, 11 Earlsferry Court, Bassendean

Mr Keay asked on the current status of Town Planning Scheme 4A.

The Manager Development Services advised that the Planning Commission have requested some modifications which are expected to be finalised in the next three to four weeks.

Mr Keay asked for comment on the option to sell lots.

The Manager Development Services advised that the Town has not commenced the process of selling the land. There is no budget allocation to market the land and do the remediation works required. Council would need a budget allocation to get the lots ready for selling.

Mr Keay asked about the current status of Scheme Amendment 10.

The Manager Development Services advised that it has been submitted to the WAPC and should be signed off in the next six to seven weeks.

Ms Nonie Jekabsons, 6 Barton Parade, Bassendean

Ms Jekabsons commented that the bulk kerbside collection map was reversed this time which has caused a degree of confusion on collection dates.

The Director Operational Services responded that every year the Town has to deal with people putting materials out too early or too late. There is a follow up programme - Rangers will contact residents to let them know they have put their materials out at the incorrect time and there are also regular postings on Facebook.

Ms Jekabsons suggested that a user pays bin system may discourage people from creating so much waste.

The Director Operational Services agreed that this is potentially something that could be considered.

Ms Natalie Marshall-Brown, 18 Parnell Road, Bassendean

Ms Marshall Brown commented that businesses at the train station end of Old Perth Road are struggling as it is very quiet and asked that Council give consideration to ways in which people can be drawn to the area.

The Mayor stated that, Council are aware that the top end of Old Perth Road struggles, particularly with the shopping centre located at the other end of Town. The Mayor suggested that Ms Marshall Brown may like to consider nominating to be a part of the Town's Economic Development Committee and also to contact the Bassendean Business Association and the Town's Senior Economic Development Officer.

Mr Mike Lewis, Morley Drive, Eden Hill

Mr Lewis requested that Council consider redeveloping this site (48 Old Perth Road) as a multi-use building to bring more people to this end of Old Perth Road.

Mr Lewis moved a motion. Electors were invited to speak for and against the motion.

MOTION 3.

MOVED Mr Mike Lewis, Seconded Mr Craig Lucanus, that Council agrees to sell the Anstey Road blocks in order to fund and finalise Town Planning Scheme 4A.

LOST 8/12

8 voted in favour of the motion. 12 voted against the motion.

Mr Lewis asked if weed management will be undertaken between now and Christmas.

The Director Operational Services responded that Council allocated \$170,000 for steam weed treatment. This has gone out to tender recently and it is intended that the contractor will commence work in the New Year.

The Mayor advised that other options will be considered by Council, however, the current tender is for steam weeding, in line with Council's resolution.

Cr Gangell requested that the Town address weed management in the main street as soon as possible as it is looking untidy.

Mr Lewis moved a motion. Electors were invited to speak for and against the motion.

MOTION 4.

MOVED Mr Mike Lewis, Seconded Mr Craig Lucanus, that the meeting calls on Council to implement cost effective management on weed control, immediately.

LOST 7/12

7 voted in favour of the motion. 12 voted against the motion.

Mr Ian Veale, 33 Bassendean Parade, Bassendean

Mr Veale asked for an explanation of the Councillors meeting fees of \$105,000 (page 96 Members Remuneration).

The Mayor responded that the \$105,000 is divided equally between the Councillors.

5.0 **CLOSURE**

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting closed, the time being 9.50pm.