



MINUTES

Annual Electors Meeting

1 Longhurst Street,
Narembeen WA 6369

T (08) 9064 7308
F (08) 9064 7037

www.narembeen.wa.gov.au



NOTICE OF MEETING

Dear Elected Members and Members of the Public,

In accordance with the provisions of Section 5.5 of the Local Government Act, you are hereby notified that the Annual Elector's Meeting has been convened for:

Date: Tuesday 6 February 2024
At: Shire of Narembeen Council Chambers
1 Longhurst Street, Narembeen
Commencing: 6.00pm

Rebecca McCall
Chief Executive Officer

31 January 2024

DISCLAIMER

No responsibility whatsoever is implied or accepted by the Shire of Narembeen for any act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council/Committee meetings or during formal/informal conversations with staff. The Shire of Narembeen disclaims any liability for any loss whatsoever caused arising out of reliance by any person or legal entity on any such act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council/Committee meetings or discussions. Any person or legal entity who acts or fails to act in reliance upon any statement does so at that person's and or legal entity's own risk.

In particular and without derogating in any way from the broad disclaimer above, in any discussion regarding any planning application or application for license, any statement or limitation or approval made by a member or officer of the Shire of Narembeen during the course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not taken as notice of approval from the Shire of Narembeen. The Shire of Narembeen warns that anyone who has an application lodged with the Shire of Narembeen must obtain and only should rely on WRITTEN CONFIRMATION of the outcome of the application and any conditions attaching to the decision made by the Shire of Narembeen in respect of the application.

Table of Contents



1.	Official Opening and Welcome
2.	Record of Attendance / Apologies / Leave of Absence
3.	Public Question Time
4.	Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous Meetings
4.1	Annual Electors Meeting held on 20 June 2023
5.	Business Arising from Previous Minutes
6.	Officer's Reports – Corporate Services
6.1	Annual Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2023
7.	General Business
7.1	Questions of which prior notice has been given and from the floor as accepted by the President
8.	Closure

1. Official Opening and Welcome

Presiding Person Cr Scott Stirrat welcomed Councillors, staff and members of the public to the meeting, and declared it open at 6.00pm.

2. Record of Attendance / Apologies / Leave of Absence

Councillors:

Cr SW Scott	President
Cr HA Cusack	Deputy President
Cr TW Cole	
Cr HJ Bald	
Cr CD Bray	
Cr AM Hardham	

Staff:

Ms R McCall	Chief Executive Officer
Mr B Forbes	Executive Manager Corporate Services
Ms K Conopo	Senior Administration Officer

Member of Public:

Mr Luke Smoker
Mr Michael Smoker
Mr Warren Milner
Ms Lorraine Lethlean
Mr Brian Cusack
Mrs Joan Cusack
Mr Ray Smoker
Mrs Sharon Smoker

Apologies:

Cr MJ Currie
Freeman Stephen Padfield
Freeman Halley Cowan
Ms Rhonda Hickey

3. Public Question Time

Nil

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

4.1 Annual Electors Meeting held on 20 June 2023

Attachment 4.1A

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority Absolute Majority

Officer's Recommendation – 4.1

That the minutes of the Shire of Narembeen Annual Electors' Meeting held on Tuesday 20 June 2023, as presented, be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

MIN 7720/24 MOTION - Moved Cr. Cole Seconded Cr. Hardham

CARRIED 6 / 0

For: Cr Stirrat, Cr Cusack, Cr Bray, Cr Hardham, Cr Cole, Cr Bald - Against: Nil

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Business Arising from the Minutes of the Shire of Narembeen Annual Electors' Meeting held on Tuesday 20 June 2023.

Cr Bray noted that the Annual Electors Meeting was back on schedule after the previous year.

6. OFFICER'S REPORTS – CORPORATE SERVICES

6.1 Annual Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Date	25 January 2024
Location	Not Applicable
Responsible Officer	Ben Forbes, Executive Manager Corporate Services
Author	Ben Forbes, Executive Manager Corporate Services
File Reference	ADM477
Previous Meeting Reference	Min 7620/23
Disclosure of Interest	Nil
Attachments	Shire of Narembeen Annual Report 2022/2023

Purpose of Report

- Executive Decision Legislative Requirement

Summary

In accordance with statutory requirements, the annual report is presented to the Electors for review and comment.

Background

A Local Government is to prepare an annual report each financial year containing such information as prescribed by the Local Government Act 1995 Section 5.53(2) and Part 5, Division 2 of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996.

Throughout the audit process each year, areas of non-compliance or matters of concern are raised by the Shire's auditors, which is conducted by the Office of the Auditor General and their contract auditors. Each year there are two audits (interim and final) that focus on different aspects of the accounting records, administrative practices and pertinent areas of risk, the findings for which are noted in the attached management letter.

Comment

The 2023 Annual Report consists of the following:

1. Financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023
2. Statutory Reports
3. Independent Auditor's Report
4. President's Report
5. CEO's Report.

In addition, reports on the activities and events undertaken by the Shire for the financial year are included.

Consultation

Shire President
 Chief Executive Officer
 Office of Auditor General
 Dry Kirkness (contract auditors)

Statutory Implications

Section 5.27 of the Local Government Act 1995 requires a general meeting of Electors to be held once every financial year on a day selected by the Local Government that is not more than 56 days after the adoption of the annual report.

Section 5.29 of the Local Government Act 1995 requires a general meeting of Electors to be held once every financial year on a day selected by the Local Government that is not more than 56 days after the adoption of the annual report.

Regulation 15 of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 state that matters to be discussed at an Annual Electors Meeting are the contents of the annual report for the previous financial year and then any other general business.

Policy Implications

Nil

Strategic Implications

Strategic Community Plan

Priority: 4. Civic Leadership
 Objective: Well governed and efficiently managed local government
 Strategy: 4.2 Compliant and resourced local government

Asset Management Plan

Nil

Long Term Financial Plan

Nil

Risk Implications

Risk Profiling Theme	Failure to Fulfill Statutory, Regulatory or Compliance Requirements
Risk Category	Compliance
Consequence Description	No noticeable regulatory or statutory impact
Consequence Rating	Insignificant (1)
Likelihood Rating	Rare (1)
Risk Matrix Rating	Low (1)
Key Controls in Place	Governance Calendar, Financial Management Framework and Legislation
Action / Treatment	Nil
Risk Rating After Treatment	Adequate

Financial Implications

Nil

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority Absolute Majority

Officer's Recommendation

That the 2023 Annual Report, as attached, be received.

MIN 7721/24

MOTION - Moved Cr. Cusack

Seconded Cr. Bray

CARRIED 6 / 0

For: Cr Stirrat, Cr Cusack, Cr Bray, Cr Hardham, Cr Cole, Cr Bald

Against: Nil

7. General Business

The President will address questions received on prior notice and accept questions from the floor.

At the time of the release of this Agenda no prior notice of questions had been received.

Any questions raised from the floor at the meeting will be addressed in the Minutes.

R Smoker questioned why council intends to return Mt Arrowsmith Road to gravel once the hauling from Tampia mine ceases, citing concerns for safety, particularly considering it forms part of a school bus route, and the cost of ongoing maintenance. R Smoker noted that in response to concerns raised last year he received a letter from the Acting CEO that he feels did not sufficiently address his concerns.

Cr Stirrat provided some background information, noting that Mt Arrowsmith Road has never been earmarked as a road that should be sealed. It was sealed by Ramelius Resources for their own use, and it was agreed that the road should be returned to the Shire in a similar or better state upon the cessation of mining activities.

R McCall further explained that since the Council resolved to revert the road back to gravel, there have been significant disruptions within the Shire, including important staff changes. With the recent appointment of the Acting Executive Manager Infrastructure Services, the Shire is now reassessing the decision and will calculate the cost benefit for both options - returning to gravel or maintaining the sealed section. These cost estimates will then be presented to the Council for consideration and expected to occur within the next 8 weeks.

L Smoker queried the time horizon for the proposed cost analysis.

R McCall advised that the costings would be on a whole of lifecycle basis.

M Smoker noted that the road was one of the best in the Shire and queried whether the road had been inspected by Council before decisions were made.

R McCall informed that in December 2024 Council had undertaken a tour of the road network and the route included Mt Arrowsmith Road. The Acting Executive Manager Infrastructure Services inspects the road network almost every day and inspected Mt Arrowsmith road just the week prior.

Cr Stirrat added additional context to the discussion, in that Council's assumption has to be that with the continued haulage by Tampia the road will deteriorate further.

M Smoker advised that there was significant deterioration in the first six months of the road being constructed and in his opinion the road has been fit for purpose since this time.

Cr Hardham queried M Smoker, as a regular user of the road, what amount of rainfall was necessary for drainage to become an issue on Mt Arrowsmith Road.

M Smoker advised that average rainfall was not a problem and that there are only two spots where water pools. The problem with the water coincided with two years of record rainfall.

W Milner enquired as to the progress of the beatification of Churchill Street and sealing of Savage Lane projects, which were due to commence in mid-January.

R McCall advised there had been issues with design and survey which has delayed the projects. To date these issues have not been satisfactorily resolved. If there is an additional cost to resolve the issues, then a variation will be presented to Council for consideration.

B Cusack queried if any progress has been made regarding the future of Avoca Farm after the Shire considered community submissions. Particularly, if there was any intent to sell, as the cropping program has been very successful for a lot of clubs in the town.

Cr Stirrat advised that there is no intent amongst Councillors or the Community, so far as he was aware, to sell the land.

R McCall added that feedback received was provided to Council in October, and since that time, there has not been the staff resources to investigate and cost the options identified based on submissions received. It would likely be another 12 months before the project was re-visited.

J Cusack enquired about plans from years ago to offer small blocks of land to be purchased around Avoca.

Cr Hardham agreed that this was planned for at one stage, but that this was several years ago.

Cr Stirrat reiterated that there was no intention of disposing of Avoca Farm, however safety concerns do need to be addressed, and that would be Council's focus.

L Lethlean thanked the Shire for their prompt response during the recent extended power disruptions, and enquired as to the extent, if any, of liaison between the Shire and Western Power. The communications from Western Power were inadequate during the event.

R McCall informed that the Shire is collaborating with other agencies and shires across the Wheatbelt facing similar challenges. A report regarding the inadequate preparedness for the prolonged power outages will be presented to Council in February. Communities in the affected regions encountered issues such as inconsistent, delayed, or inadequate messaging.

Cr Stirrat added that addressing and resolving the loss of communications was a high priority for all emergency situations and has been raised with Mia Davies not only by Narembreen, by many other communities.

R McCall advised that a response plan will be developed to enhance preparedness, focusing on strategies to address the high risk of prolonged communication and power outages. The community response plan aims to serve as a resource for both businesses and residents, within the townsite and throughout the broader community.

L Smoker questioned whether the plan included information on how residents could improve their self-sufficiency and what measures they can take?

R McCall advised that report does recommend encouraging business and household self-sufficiency.

Cr Stirrat expressed his thanks to the many farmers who used their own machinery to assist with clearing trees and noted how well the community responded.

J Cusack enquired as to whether there was a way to access any plans showing planned road maintenance or improvements. In particular, various roads that require maintenance to the edges.

R McCall advised that this level of planning does not exist at present, though that it should. Staff are aiming to have annual maintenance plans documented by 1 July 2024. The budgeted road construction program is publicly available due to its inclusion in the budget and it is planned to communicate to the community the construction schedule in advance once the plans are prepared.

Cr Stirrat advised that the Councillors are available to bring concerns raised by the community to the monthly Council Meeting in the form of work requests, and encouraged the public to connect with Councillors so that Councillors can ensure that information is passed along to staff.

S Smoker queried if emphasis is given to roads that formed part of the school bus routes.

R McCall advised this should be happening and will follow up with the Acting Executive Manager Infrastructure Services but noted that it will still take some time to improve the timing and delivery of the road maintenance program.

B Cusack thanked the Council for the excellent job they are doing, and noted particularly how good the town is looking with the sporting facilities and the tidiness of the town.

8. Closure

The presiding person thanked everyone for their attendance.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.42pm.