

FEBRUARY 2016 MINUTES

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING & ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Chair Person, Shire President Cr Megan Tuffley, declared the meeting opened at 5.05pm.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES & APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Members

Cr M Tuffley	Member
Cr R Jury	Member
Cr G Browne	Member
Cr A Smith	Member
Cr S Crosby	Member
Cr G Collins	Member
Cr T Borgward	Member
Cr M Stephens	Member

Staff

JP Bentley	Chief Executive Officer
M Bamess	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
DW Long	Works Manager

Members of the Public

Apologies

Members on Leave of Absence

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

- **Financial Interest:**
Nil
- **Members Impartiality Interest**
Nil
- **Proximity Interest:**
Nil

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

5. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

4544 - COUNCIL RESOLUTION (Officer Recommendation)

MOVED Cr M Stephens / Cr G Browne

That Leave of Absence be granted to Cr M Tuffley for the 16 March 2016 Council Meeting.

**CARRIED 7/0
By Simple Majority**

6. CONFIRMATION and RECEIVING OF MINUTES/BUSINESS ARISING:

6.1 Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Thursday 17 December 2015

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Shire of Kent held on Thursday 17 December, 2015 in the Shire of Kent Council Chambers be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings and duly signed.

4545- COUNCIL RESOLUTION (Officer Recommendation)

MOVED Cr G Collins / Cr G Browne

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Shire of Kent held on Thursday 17 December, 2015 in the Shire of Kent Council Chambers be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings and duly signed.

**CARRIED 8/0
By Simple Majority**

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION:

8. PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS:

9. OFFICERS REPORTS:

9.1.1 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS TO 31 JANUARY 2016

DATE:	8 February 2016
SUBJECT:	Monthly Financial Reports to 31 January 2016
PROPONENT:	N/A
LOCATION:	Whole of the Shire
AUTHOR:	Michelle Bamess –Deputy Chief Executive Officer
REPORTING OFFICER:	Michelle Bamess –Deputy Chief Executive Officer
FILE NO:	FIN30.20
ASSESSMENT NO:	N/A

PURPOSE

In accordance with the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, to follow is the presentation of the Monthly Financial Reports to Council.

BACKGROUND

Monthly Financial Reports are to be presented to Council and are to be received by Council resolution.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Act 1995 – Section 6.4

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 – Clause 34 and 35

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Policy 4.1 Accounting Policies

Objective: To provide the basis for Council's accounting concepts and reporting guidelines.

To maintain accounting reporting procedures which comply with Statutory Requirements and to demonstrate Council's financial position.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Ongoing management of Council funds

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

This matter is not dealt with in the Shire of Kent Community Strategic Plan.

COMMENT

The Monthly Financial Reports as presented indicate that Council continues to be in a sound financial position.

ATTACHMENTS

- Monthly Financial Reports to 31 December, 2015 (including Statement of Financial Activities, Notes 3-11 and Budget Variances to 31 December, 2015)
- Monthly Financial Reports to 31 January, 2017 (including Statement of Financial Activities, Notes 3-11 and Budget Variances to 31 January, 2016)

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

RECOMMENDATION

That the following Monthly Financial Reports be received by Council:

- Monthly Financial Reports to 31 December, 2015
- Monthly Financial Reports to 31 January, 2016

4546- COUNCIL RESOLUTION (Officer Recommendation)
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MOVED Cr M Stephens / Cr S Crosby

That the following Monthly Financial Reports be received by Council:

- **Monthly Financial Reports to 31 December, 2015**
- **Monthly Financial Reports to 31 January, 2016**

**CARRIED 8/0
By Simple Majority**

9.1.2 SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS PAID TO 30 DECEMBER 2015

DATE:	2 February 2016
SUBJECT:	Schedule of Accounts Paid
PROPONENT:	N/A
LOCATION:	Whole of the Shire
AUTHOR:	Jill Kent – Senior Administration Officer
REPORTING OFFICER:	Michelle Bamess – Deputy Chief Executive Officer
FILE NO:	N/A
ASSESSMENT NO:	N/A

FUND VOUCHERS AMOUNT

Municipal Fund	\$149,535.63
Trust Fund	\$0
Direct Debits	\$370,194.23
Spoiled Cheques	
Cancelled Cheques	

ATTACHMENTS

Schedule of Accounts submitted 17 January 2016.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

RECOMMENDATION

That vouchers from the Municipal Fund and Trust Fund as detailed, be approved by Council:

Municipal Fund	\$149,535.63
Trust Fund	\$0
Direct Debits	\$370,194.23
TOTAL	<u>\$519,729.86</u>

4547- COUNCIL RESOLUTION (Officer Recommendation)

MOVED Cr S Crosby / Cr M Stephens

That vouchers from the Municipal Fund and Trust Fund as detailed, be approved by Council:

Municipal Fund	\$149,535.63
Trust Fund	\$0
Direct Debits	\$370,194.23
TOTAL	<u>\$519,729.86</u>

**CARRIED 8/0
By Simple Majority**

9.1.3 SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS PAID TO 31 JANUARY 2016

DATE:	2 February 2016
SUBJECT:	Schedule of Accounts Paid
PROPONENT:	N/A
LOCATION:	Whole of the Shire
AUTHOR:	Jill Kent – Senior Administration Officer
REPORTING OFFICER:	Michelle Bamess – Deputy Chief Executive Officer
FILE NO:	N/A
ASSESSMENT NO:	N/A

FUND VOUCHERS AMOUNT

Municipal Fund	\$101,417.50
Trust Fund	\$0
Direct Debits	\$128,661.88
Spoiled Cheques	
Cancelled Cheques	

ATTACHMENTS

Schedule of Accounts submitted 17 January 2016.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

RECOMMENDATION

That vouchers from the Municipal Fund and Trust Fund as detailed, be approved by Council:

Municipal Fund	\$101,417.50
Trust Fund	\$0
Direct Debits	\$128,661.88
TOTAL	<u>\$230,079.38</u>

4548- COUNCIL RESOLUTION (Officer Recommendation)

MOVED Cr A Smith / Cr G Browne

That vouchers from the Municipal Fund and Trust Fund as detailed, be approved by Council:

Municipal Fund	\$101,417.50
Trust Fund	\$0
Direct Debits	\$128,661.88
TOTAL	<u>\$230,079.38</u>

**CARRIED 8/0
By Simple Majority**

9.1.4 DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S VEHICLE REPLACEMENT

DATE: PROPONENT: LOCATION: SUBJECT: AUTHOR: REPORTING OFFICER: FILE NO: ASSESSMENT NO:	2 February 2016 Whole of Shire Deputy Chief Executive Officer's Vehicle Replacement Michelle Bamess – Deputy Chief Executive Officer Peter Bentley – Chief Executive Officer
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PURPOSE

Council to consider a proposal for the future replacement of the Deputy Chief Executive Officer's (DCEO) Vehicle.

BACKGROUND

The Council adopted its 2015/16 Budget which contained provision for the replacement of the Deputy Chief Executive Officer vehicle. The vehicle was listed for a changeover price of \$3,000 and was changed over in January 2016. Council has received a proposal from Great Southern Toyota in Katanning for the future replacement of this vehicle at 9,000kms for \$2,000.

The proposal also makes provision for two options to include a light bar that would increase the total cost by \$900 (\$2,900) for a new light bar, or by \$300 (\$2,300) for transferring the light bar from the replacement vehicle to the new one, subject to there being no changes to the model/grille.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Act (1995)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Council has in the past changed the DCEO vehicle at 50,000kms.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council would not be required to make as large an allocation in future budgets for the provision of the DCEO vehicle.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

This matter is not dealt with in the Shire of Kent Community Strategic Plan.

COMMENT

Provision of between \$20,000 and \$25,000 has been included in the budget for the replacement of the DCEO's vehicle in previous years. The time taken for the DCEO vehicle to reach 50,000km has historically been approximately 2.5 years. The time taken to replace the

DCEO vehicle at 9,000km would be approximately eight to nine months. The replacement cost of a new vehicle at 50,000, based on historical information, would be in the vicinity of \$23,000 to \$25,000.

If Council chose to replace the vehicle at 9,000km, the replacement cost would be \$2,000 to \$2,900 and would save Council approximately \$16,000 over the same period.

ATTACHMENTS

Proposal from Great Southern Toyota

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Absolute Majority

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

Endorse the purchase of the Deputy Chief Executive Officer's replacement vehicle at 9,000kms for a net GST free price of:

- Option 1 \$2,000, includes a set of car mats;**
- Option 2 \$2,900, includes a new light bar fitted on each new RAV4**
- Option 3 \$2,300, includes swapping light bar from old vehicle to new vehicle, subject to there being no model/grille changes**

4549- COUNCIL RESOLUTION (Officer Recommendation)
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MOVED Cr S Crosby / Cr G Browne

That the Council:

Endorse the purchase of the Deputy Chief Executive Officer's replacement vehicle at 9,000kms for a net GST free price of with a preference for:

- Option 3 \$2,300, includes swapping light bar from old vehicle to new vehicle, subject to there being no model/grille changes**

If this option is not available then the preference is

- Option 2 \$2,900, includes a new light bar fitted on each new RAV4**

**CARRIED 8/0
By Absolute Majority**

9.1.5 ADDITION OF A NEW FEE TO THE SCHEDULE OF FEES & CHARGES – 2015/2016

DATE:	2 February 2016
SUBJECT:	Inclusion of a New Fee to the Schedule of Fees & Charges – 2015/2016
PROPONENT:	N/A
LOCATION:	Whole of the Shire
AUTHOR:	Michelle Bamess - Deputy Chief Executive Officer
REPORTING OFFICER:	Peter Bentley - Chief Executive Officer
FILE NO:	FIN15.5
ASSESSMENT NO:	N/A

PURPOSE

For Council to consider and adopt a fee for providing secretarial services to community members into the Schedule of Fees & Charges – 2015/2016.

BACKGROUND

There have been a number of occasions recently where admin staff have received personal emails with documents attached from members of the community on their work stations and have then been requested to download and print these documents. Staff have then be requested to scan these documents back to their work email and then forwarded on behalf of the community member. Staff also receive requests from community members to download information from personal usb's to be photocopied.

Whilst there is no issue with admin staff photocopying or faxing documents or other simple tasks for community members, as these requests have little impact on staff workloads, the increase in receiving of these types of requests mentioned is having a noticeable impact on workloads. The requests for these services are almost always without prior notice and are required in a very short timeframe.

The current Schedule of Fees & Charges does not include a fee for these types of secretarial services.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Act 1995 – Section 6.16 and 6.17
Local Government Act (Financial Management) Regulations 1996

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Council has no set policy on this matter.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed fee will not impact materially on Council's revenue stream.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Nil

COMMENT

While all staff endeavour to accommodate the community with their requests for faxing and photocopying etc it is not always possible to provide this service with little or no prior notice, particularly during the busier times of each month, ie preparing Reports and Agendas for meetings, etc. This increase in staff receiving emails and USB's from outside sources also increases the risk of virus's entering our computer system and causing major disruptions and delays. Council is asked to consider the addition of a new fee to the Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2015/2016 for the secretarial services.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

Consider and adopt a fee of \$45.00 per hour for the secretarial services, with a minimum fee of \$22.50, to be included in the Schedule of Fees & Charges – 2015/2016. These fees are to be in addition to the cost of photocopying, faxing etc.

4550- COUNCIL RESOLUTION (Officer Recommendation)
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MOVED Cr R Jury / Cr M Stephens

That the Council:

Adopt a fee of \$45.00 per hour for the secretarial services, with a minimum fee of \$22.50, to be included in the Schedule of Fees & Charges – 2015/2016. These fees are to be in addition to the cost of photocopying, faxing etc.

**CARRIED 8/0
By Simple Majority**

9.1.6 REQUEST FOR REDUCTION OF FEE FOR NYABING HALL BOOKING

DATE:	10 February 2016
SUBJECT:	Request for concessional hire of Nyabing Hall
PROPONENT:	Ms Winnie Melville
LOCATION:	Nyabing Hall
AUTHOR:	Michelle Bamess – Deputy Chief Executive Officer
REPORTING OFFICER:	Peter Bentley – Chief Executive Officer
FILE NO:	N/A
ASSESSMENT NO:	N/A

PURPOSE

Council to consider a request received from Ms Winnie Melville to use the Nyabing Hall for non-denominational Gospel Services at a concessional fee.

BACKGROUND

Ms Winnie Melville has written to the Council seeking a concessional hire rate for the Nyabing Hall to conduct non-denominational Gospel Services each Sunday for several weeks, beginning 21 February to the end of April 2016, from 4.30 – 5.30pm.

The services are non-profit and open to all the community. There will be no food or drink served and, according to the request, approximately 50 chairs and the possible use of the piano are all that will be required.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Act 1995

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

No known policy implications.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications will be minor

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

There are no known strategic implications

COMMENT

The group has used Shire of Kent facilities in the past and Council consented to a Low Impact Charge of \$12.00 per hour.

ATTACHMENTS

Copy of Ms Melville's email

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Absolute Majority

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

Consent to charge \$12.00 per hour (Low Impact Charge) for the use of the Nyabing Hall for the non-denominational Gospel Services to be held each Sunday.

4551- COUNCIL RESOLUTION (Officer Recommendation)

MOVED Cr G Browne / Cr R Jury

That the Council:

Consent to charge \$12.00 per hour (Low Impact Charge) for the use of the Nyabing Hall for the non-denominational Gospel Services to be held each Sunday.

**CARRIED 8/0
By Simple Majority**

9.1.7 LIONS COMMUNITY BUS

DATE: PROPONENT: LOCATION: SUBJECT: AUTHOR: REPORTING OFFICER: FILE NO: ASSESSMENT NO:	12 th February 2016 Shire of Kent Whole of Shire Lions Community Bus Peter Bentley – Chief Executive Officer Peter Bentley – Chief Executive Officer
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PURPOSE

Council to consider a request from the Pingrup Lions Club to purchase a community bus on its behalf continuing the practice of the bus being in Council's name.

BACKGROUND

Max Hawley of the Pingrup Lions Club has contacted the CEO with regard to the replacement of the Community Bus. Historically the bus has been licensed in the Council's name and Council has provided regular servicing and inspections for licensing purposes. Any major repairs have been covered by the Lions Club in the past.

This arrangement has been in place for seventeen years now and the club is seeking to continue this relationship with the Council.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Act (1995)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

There is reference to provision of these services within the Community Strategic Plan

COMMENT

The Lions Club advises that it has sufficient funds to cover the purchase of the vehicle and Council's initial contribution would only be to arrange the purchase of the vehicle.

ATTACHMENTS

Email Max Hawley

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Absolute Majority

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

Agree to continue the existing arrangements for the Lions Club Community Bus and arrange for the purchase of the vehicle following a contribution equal to the cost by the Lions Club.

4552- COUNCIL RESOLUTION (Officer Recommendation)
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MOVED Cr G Browne / Cr T Borgward

That the Council:

Agree to continue the existing arrangements for the Lions Club Community Bus and arrange for the purchase of the vehicle following a contribution equal to the cost by the Lions Club.

**CARRIED 8/0
By Simple Majority**

9.1.8 LCDC/NRM OFFICER

DATE: PROPONENT: LOCATION: SUBJECT: AUTHOR: REPORTING OFFICER: FILE NO: ASSESSMENT NO:	12 th February 2016 Shire of Kent Whole of Shire NRM/LCDC Officer Peter Bentley – Chief Executive Officer Peter Bentley – Chief Executive Officer
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PURPOSE

Council to consider actions to date attempting to secure the NRM Officer's position.

BACKGROUND

For eighteen months now Council has employed a part time NRM officer with the assistance of grant funding of \$40,000 per year from Wheatbelt NRM and \$20,000 per year from the LCDC.

Wheatbelt NRM has recently advised that it will no longer support the position and it may well be the case the LCDC will not be in a position to provide ongoing support for the role as well.

Over recent months with this being a distinct possibility, the NRM Officer and the CEO have been investigating other methodologies to fund the position into the future. At this stage the position will be funded for a few months into the new financial year but unless there are other funding sources identified, given Councils previous directions regarding the position, the position will lapse. A funding application has been put forward for State NRM funding for the position to become a capacity building one over several shires including Lake Grace and the CEO has had preliminary discussions with regard to the possibility of sharing the position with Lake Grace as a stand-alone position and through the State NRM grant process.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Act (1995)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

At this stage the Council has a budgeted financial commitment with regard to this financial year.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

There is reference to provision of these services within the Community Strategic Plan

COMMENT

Given that the LCDC may no longer have a significant role to play with the positions management it will be an easier prospect to attempt to introduce a fee for service or user pays system of operation for the development of grants or on ground support for landholders with regard to NRM issues.

The intent is to make the position self-supporting to the greater degree and to share the costs with other interested bodies prepared to use the skills available through the officer. The funding from State NRM will not be announced for a few months yet and this could bring some problems to light over timing for the officer.

ATTACHMENTS

Email Wheatbelt NRM

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

Endorse the actions of the CEO in;

- 1. seeking ongoing funding for the NRM position,**
- 2. the continuation of negotiations with any other interested parties in securing the future of the position**

and

- 3. the application to the State NRM office for ongoing capacity building funding to sustain the position.**

4553 - COUNCIL RESOLUTION (Officer Recommendation)

MOVED Cr M Stephens / Cr T Borgward

That the Council:

Endorse the actions of the CEO in;

1. seeking ongoing funding for the NRM position,
- 2 the continuation of negotiations with any other interested parties in securing the future of the position

and

- 3 the application to the State NRM office for ongoing capacity building funding to sustain the position.

CARRIED 8/0
By Simple Majority

9.1.9 PINGRUP PAVILION – REGIONAL GRANTS SCHEME

DATE: PROPONENT: LOCATION: SUBJECT: AUTHOR: REPORTING OFFICER: FILE NO: ASSESSMENT NO:	12 th February 2016 Shire of Kent Whole of Shire Pingrup Pavilion – Grant Funding Peter Bentley – Chief Executive Officer Peter Bentley – Chief Executive Officer
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PURPOSE

Council to consider submitting a joint grant application to the GSDC for funding for the Pingrup Pavilion redevelopment project from the Regional Grant Scheme.

BACKGROUND

At the community meeting regarding the Pingrup Pavilion redevelopment it became clear that some community members were concerned at the potential \$250,000 exposure for the Council to the project. Cr Crosby commented during the meeting that there were other funding sources that were available and that perhaps these should be approached.

Given that the building is Council owned any application for funding will need to be either from Council or as a joint application from the Council and the PGIC. It is proposed that the Council approach the PGIC with view to lodging a joint application to the GSDC for funds through the Regional Grants Scheme to supplement existing funding for the project and that Council also is a co applicant for the Lotterywest grant as well in keeping with the convention as the owner.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Act (1995)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funds obtained and associated expenditure are unbudgeted.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Nil

COMMENT

The project fits within the guidelines of both Lotterywest and RGS funding and as Council is the owner of the building it is accepted that it should be associated with the PGIC in the application.

ATTACHMENTS

RGS announcement

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Absolute Majority

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

Agree to be a co-applicant with the PGIC in funding applications to Lotterywest and the Great Southern Development Commission.

4554 COUNCIL RESOLUTION (Officer Recommendation)

MOVED Cr R Jury / Cr A Smith

That the Council:

Agree to be a co-applicant with the PGIC in funding applications to Lotterywest and the Great Southern Development Commission.

**CARRIED 8/0
By Absolute Majority**

9.1.10 REVISED PINGRUP PAVILION DRAWING AND COSTINGS

DATE:	12 th December 2015
PROPONENT:	Shire of Kent
LOCATION:	Whole of Shire
SUBJECT:	Draft Regulations
AUTHOR:	Peter Bentley – Chief Executive Officer
REPORTING OFFICER:	Peter Bentley – Chief Executive Officer
FILE NO:	
ASSESSMENT NO:	

PURPOSE

Council to review the attached costs and drawings for the proposed upgrade of the Pingrup Pavilion prior to seeking further public comment.

BACKGROUND

The Council at its last meeting considered some suggestions that came from a previous public meeting held in Pingrup regarding the proposed redevelopment/renovations for the Pingrup Pavilion.

The Council directed the CEO to obtain updated costs and a revised drawing for the project.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Act (1995)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

At this stage the Council has committed in its 2015/16 budget to borrow \$160,000 as an interim measure and this is coupled with an expected community contribution of approximately \$100,000. The project as presented at this stage will be in the vicinity of \$420,000 excluding GST. This would also include a new oven and other appliances. Council would need to identify a further \$160,000 in funding to undertake the project in its current form.

The Architect has suggested that this costing would be reduced quite significantly through the use of local contractors and through the Council contributing to some of the works.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

There is no direct reference to the Pingrup Pavilion in the Community Strategic Plan however under Building a Sense of Community Council clearly supports increased participation in social events and the strengthening of sporting and community groups. This project would work toward this end.

COMMENT

Council has the opportunity to again go to public comment and possibly to another community meeting to further discuss the proposal. Following further community discussion and perhaps a firm commitment from community groups as to what other funding sources can be accessed such as Lotterywest or other community groups Council can then make a more informed decision of what form the project will finally take..

ATTACHMENTS

Revised Drawing
Revised Costing
Costing split kitchen and extensions

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Absolute Majority

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

Advise the Pingrup Ground Improvement Committee that the Council will engage in a further period of public comment (6 weeks) in relation to the Pingrup Pavilion proposal and that the committee should seek firm commitments from the Pingrup community and sporting groups as to what level of financial contribution will be forthcoming to assist with the project.

4555 COUNCIL RESOLUTION (Officer Recommendation)

MOVED Cr M Stephens/ Cr G Browne

That the motion lay on the table until further information can be provided.

**CARRIED 8/0
By Absolute Majority**

9.1.11 RAVENSTHORPE DECLARED SPECIES GROUP

DATE: PROPONENT: LOCATION: SUBJECT: AUTHOR: REPORTING OFFICER: FILE NO: ASSESSMENT NO:	12 th February 2016 Shire of Kent Whole of Shire Ravensthorpe Declared Species Group Peter Bentley – Chief Executive Officer Peter Bentley – Chief Executive Officer
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PURPOSE

Council to consider an offer to be involved in the Ravensthorpe Declared Species Group – Wild Dog Program.

BACKGROUND

Jessica Wright, Executive Officer of the Ravensthorpe Declared Species Group has contacted the CEO with regard to any interest from the Council in becoming involved the groups wild dog program. The letter states that Keith Hams had recently lost about 100 sheep from a wild dog attack and Keith believed that the dog resided in the Lake Magenta reserve.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Act (1995)
 Biodiversity and Agriculture Management Act (2007)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

At this stage the Council has no financial commitment with regard to this issue, however any contributions to the group would be unbudgeted.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

There is no direct reference to declared species within the Community Strategic Plan

COMMENT

The group has explained its existence and aims as follows;

“The Ravensthorpe Declared Species Group (RDSG) was established in 2003 after a number of wild dog attacks caused large sheep losses across the Ravensthorpe Shire. It currently operates as a subcommittee of the Ravensthorpe Agriculture Initiative Network (RAIN). The RDSG is playing a key role in assisting land managers to manage and control high risk animal pests in the shire. Having a community coordinated approach helps ensure resources are directed where they can be most effective. This also takes the pressure off individual landholders who are already time poor to undertake wild dog control works on their own properties regularly.

The RDSG currently undertakes a maintenance program to ensure wild dog numbers remain reduced in the area. The group is also in the process of transitioning to a Regional Biosecurity Group. Currently we are proposing that the group's area of responsibility be restricted to the Ravensthorpe Shire. However there may be value in your Shire utilising our services as required to ensure wild dog control is maintained on

a landscape scale. Wild dogs and pests of course do not respect shire boundaries and without this control work would have the ability to infiltrate wider areas with impacts beyond properties near the state barrier fence.

The Ravensthorpe Shire and Department of Parks and Wildlife have continually provided a yearly contribution to the group. DAFWA has also previously provided funding to the group however future funding will be restricted to Treasury raised through an annual declared pest rate to all impacted landholders within the group's area of responsibility. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter. The RDSG request a response to this letter at your earliest convenience."

The group is seeking registration as a Regional Biosecurity Group under the Biodiversity and Agriculture Management Act (2007) (BAM Act) and this provides for a regional funding model which can be problematic to say the least. Under this model the State will contribute on a dollar for dollar basis to the operations of the group for funding raised. The model relies on an annual rate on the affected landholders within a group however any monies contributed to the group via a local government do not qualify for matching funding.

Further the group has the power to direct its funding into any particular biodiversity project that it deems to be fit however the State has the power to override this and commit funding from each group to any other biodiversity project that it deems to be more urgent or of significant importance. It is unclear what safeguards would be in place to ensure that locally important biodiversity projects are completed and not left in a partially completed state. I am quite sure that if the State did take up this option that it would only have a single opportunity to do so and pretty much every biodiversity group would de-register. The Ravensthorpe group and the Eastern Wheatbelt group have both registered their concerns with the Minister over this issue.

Clearly the Group has the best of intentions at heart and the cause is a worthy one but whether it is in the best interests of the Council to be involved on a contributory basis or perhaps to have our landholders made aware of a fee for service arrangement with the group or some sort of hybrid arrangement is probably unclear at this stage. I am not aware at this time of any significant landholder push for involvement with the group.

ATTACHMENTS

Letter – Ravensthorpe Declared Species Group

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Absolute Majority

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

Consider what relationship or support if any it wishes to undertake with the Ravensthorpe Declared Species Group.

4556 COUNCIL RESOLUTION (Officer Recommendation)

MOVED Cr G Collins / Cr A Smith

That the Council:

Decline the offer to be involved with the Ravensthorpe Declared Species Group, but would consider a fee for service option if required.

CARRIED 8/0
By Absolute Majority

10. ELECTED MEMBERS MOTION OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN
11. NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE AGREED TO BY RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL

4557 COUNCIL RESOLUTION (Officer Recommendation)

MOVED Cr R Jury/ Cr M Stephens

That the council:

Consider the new business of urgent nature as presented.

CARRIED 8/0
By Simple Majority

11.1.1 ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING

<p>DATE: PROPONENT: LOCATION: SUBJECT: AUTHOR: REPORTING OFFICER: FILE NO: ASSESSMENT NO:</p>	<p>15th February 2016 Peter Bentley – Chief Executive Officer Whole of Shire Annual Electors Meeting Michelle Bamess – Deputy Chief Executive Officer Peter Bentley – Chief Executive Officer COU30.5</p>
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PURPOSE

Receive the minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting.

BACKGROUND

The Council is required to hold an annual electors meeting to consider various reports and the audited financial reports. As per Councils December meeting directive the Electors meeting was held on Monday 8th February and a copy of the minutes of that meeting is enclosed.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Act (1995)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Council has no specific policy regarding this matter.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

This matter is not dealt with in the Shire of Kent Community Strategic Plan

COMMENT

The council must receive the minutes of the meeting and consider any recommendations that were made by motion. There were no recommendations or adverse comment coming from the meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

Minutes – Electors Meeting held 8th February 2016

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

Receive the minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held 8th February 2016 and discuss any recommendations arising from that meeting.

4558 COUNCIL RESOLUTION (Officer Recommendation)

MOVED Cr R Jury / Cr G Collins

That the council:

Receive the minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held 8th February 2016 and discuss any recommendations arising from that meeting.

**CARRIED 8/0
By Simple Majority**

11.1.2 2015 COMPLIANCE RETURN

DATE:	1 February 2016
SUBJECT:	2015 Compliance Return
PROPONENT:	Department of Local Government
LOCATION:	N/A
AUTHOR:	Peter Bentley – Chief Executive Officer
REPORTING OFFICER:	Peter Bentley - Chief Executive Officer
FILE NO:	FIN5.15
ASSESSMENT NO:	N/A

PURPOSE

In accordance with statutory requirements, Council is to consider the adoption of the 2015 Compliance Audit Return.

BACKGROUND

The Compliance Audit Return is one of the tools that allow Councils to monitor how the organization is functioning. This year's return again places emphasis on the need to bring to

Council's attention, cases of non-compliance, or where full compliance was not achieved. In addition to explaining or qualifying cases of non-compliance, the return also requires Council to endorse any remedial action taken or proposed to be taken in regard to instances of non-compliance.

Council is required to carry out a compliance audit for the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015 against the requirements included in the 2015 Compliance Audit Return. On completion of the compliance audit the council is to complete the Compliance Audit Return.

The Compliance Audit Return is required to be:

- (a) presented to Council at a meeting of the Council
- (b) adopted by Council; and
- (c) the adoption recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which period it is adopted.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Act 1995

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Nil

COMMENT

A comprehensive Compliance Audit has been undertaken by the Chief Executive Officer with the assistance of the Deputy Chief Executive Officer. There were no areas within the report that were shown as non-compliant.

Certification by the President and Chief Executive Officer requires the following

- a) The information contained in the return is true and correct to the best of their knowledge
- b) The return was included in the agenda papers and considered by Council at the Ordinary meeting held on 17 February 2016
- c) The particulars of any matters of concern were recorded in the minutes of the meeting
- d) The extract of the minutes attached to this return is a true and correct copy of the relevant section of the minutes held on 17 February 2016
- e) Council adopted the Compliance Audit Return as the official return for the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015
- f) The resolution of adoption was carried (state vote detail eg 8/0)

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment - Shire of Kent Compliance Audit Return 2014

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority (all votes to be recorded)

RECOMMENDATION (officers recommendation)

Subject to any matters of concern raised by Councillors and recorded in the minutes, that Council adopt the Return as the official Compliance Audit Return of the Shire of Kent for the period 1st January 2015 to 31 December 2015.

4559 COUNCIL RESOLUTION (Officer Recommendation)

MOVED Cr G Collins / Cr S Crosby

That the council:

Adopt the Return as the official Compliance Audit Return of the Shire of Kent for the period 1st January 2015 to 31 December 2015.

**CARRIED 8/0
By Simple Majority**

12. INFORMATION BULLETIN

4560 COUNCIL RESOLUTION (Officer Recommendation)

MOVED Cr R Jury / Cr S Crosby

That the Information Bulletin be received by Council.

**CARRIED 8/0
By Simple Majority**

13. MATTERS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

That the meeting be closed to the public in accordance with section 5.23 Local Government Act 1995, 5.5.23(2))

- Matters affecting employee(s)
- Personal affairs of any person(s), including financial and/or commercial Contracts
- Commercial Confidentiality
- Legal advice/matters
- Public safety/security matters where public knowledge may be prejudicial.

14. MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business the Shire President Cr Megan Tuffley, closed the meeting at 6.18pm.