

SHIRE OF MOORA
ELECTORS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
23 NOVEMBER 2016
HELD IN THE MOORA PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

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I. **DECLARATION OF OPENING**

The Shire President declared the meeting open at 7.30pm and welcomed those in attendance.

DISCLAIMER READING

No responsibility whatsoever is implied or accepted by the Shire of Moora for any act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during this meeting.

It is strongly advised that persons do not act on what is heard at this meeting and should only rely on written confirmation of Council's decision, which will be provided within fourteen (14) days of this meeting.

2. ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

ATTENDANCE

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| Cr Ken Seymour | - | Shire President / Presiding Member |
| Cr Merrel Pond | - | Deputy Shire President |
| Cr Colin Gardiner | - | Councillor |
| Cr Tracy Humphry | - | Councillor |
| Cr Denise Clydesdale-Gebert- | - | Councillor |
| Cr Marcus Holliday | - | Councillor |
| Cr Peter Nixon | - | Councillor |
| Cr Lyn Hamilton | - | Councillor |
| Cr Louise House | - | Councillor |
| Mr Alan Leeson | - | Chief Executive Officer |
| Mr David Trevaskis | - | Deputy Chief Executive Officer |
| Mr John Greay | - | Manager Engineering Services |
| Mr Peter Williams | - | Manager Development Services |
| Mrs Michelle Murray | - | Executive Support Officer (minute taker) |

PUBLIC

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Mrs Wendy Dunn | Ms Zoe Morrison | Mr David Stribley |
| Mr Peter Van der Ende | Mr Joe McKinley | Mrs Wendy McKinley |
| Ms Millie Milligan | Ms Courtney Keeris | Mr Brent Keeris |
| Mr Tim Polglase | Mr Joe Fitzpatrick | |

APOLOGIES

Mr Michael Prunster

Mrs Wendy Dunn advised those present she would be recording the meeting due to hearing problems.

3. ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

The Annual Report was projected on to a screen for ease of viewing for all at the meeting.

RESOLUTION

159/16 Moved Cr Humphry, seconded Cr Clydesdale-Gebert that the Annual Report comprising of;

- **Shire President's Report for the 2015/2016 year;**
- **Chief Executive Officers Report for the 2015/2016 year;**
- **Deputy Chief Executive Officers Report for the 2015/2016 year;**
- **Report on the Strategic Community Plan for the 2015/2016 year;**
- **Financial Report for the 2015/2016 year;**
- **Independent Audit Report for the 2015/2016 year**

be received.

CARRIED

The Shire President read aloud his report.

The Chief Executive Officer read aloud his report and also noted a special thanks to Nicole Beard, Community Development Officer for the work she had done in helping acquire funding for the CCTV and Mens Shed projects.

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer presented an overview of his report along with the Financial Report, and read aloud the Independent Audit Report.

4. GENERAL BUSINESS AS PERMITTED BY PRESIDING OFFICE

All questions submitted on notice, along with the Council responses were projected on to a screen for ease of viewing for all at the meeting.

4a. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions in writing received on the 21st November 2016 from Peter Van der Ende, Moora Chamber of Commerce and Industry (reproduced verbatim from letter);
(CEO response on behalf of Council follows each question.)

- **What is the current position in regards to the installation/upgrade to the CCTV camera system in Moora following the gaining of grant funding for a significant upgrade?**

The project is currently in the final stages of being scoped out, preparation of specifications in readiness for tender.

This has been a very time consuming, difficult and tedious process, which has been done in close consultation with the WA Police – State CCTV Strategy Office. It is expected to go to tender in the next month with the project being implemented / constructed between February – May of 2017.

- **What is the current position with respect to signage for the Industrial Park entrances?**

We met with a number of local businesses a couple of months ago. Currently trying to finalise a design for the frame on which the signs will be placed with a local engineering company.

- **Can the Shire outline the budgeted footpath schedule for the coming year?**

Not currently in a position to. I would expect the footpath program for 2017/2018 to be considered by Council in March / April of 2017 in preparation for the annual budget. As always there is more to be done than can be fitted into the annual budget. Council does try and address connectivity issues within the footpath network. Council is also well aware of the submission from the owners of the Junction Hotel whom has requested an upgrade to the footpath adjacent to the hotel. This submission will be under consideration in the 2017/2018 budget deliberations.

- **What is the scope of works required to be undertaken by Main Roads on the Roberts Street Bridge?**

Response from Main Roads;

Works include the demolition of the existing deteriorated structural components and timber/concrete overlay and construction of a new reinforced concrete structural deck. Minor works will include wing wall repairs and extensions, pile repairs, stringers replacement and corrosion protection.

The bridge has been identified to have structural deficiencies so it is critical that the works are undertaken. If the works were not to go ahead now it may lead to the bridge being down rated (weight of the vehicles crossing may need to be limited) or closed indefinitely whilst emergency works are undertaken at some point soon.

- **Is the Shire aware of when Main Roads will make a decision on the course of action in regards to this bridge upgrade?**

Response from Main Roads;

Main Roads consulted with the Shire of Moora in April 2016. Main Roads recommended that the works were undertaken with a full road closure. The main reason was to eliminate safety hazards to road users and works (under a half road closure the lanes would be extremely narrow at 2.8m). Constructing the bridge in this way would also improve the quality and durability of the structure. The duration of the works would also be 6 weeks shorter which would result in cost savings of over \$400,000. The Shire of Moora confirmed support for the shorter option of the full road closure in June 2016. Ultimately, the decision to move forward with works based on the full road closure was made by Main Roads however it was based on information supplied from the Shire. There was an expectation that the Shire would liaise with Council and the community when responding to the request. Main Roads commenced designs based on a full road closure. To make any changes now would involve a full redesign with an additional significant expense and would significantly delay the project by approximately a year.

- **Can the business community have access/input into the options available by Main Roads for these works?**

Response from Main Roads;

The works are currently out to tender.

Questions in writing received on the 21st November 2016 from Wendy J Dunn, Checkpoint Café (reproduced verbatim from the letter);
(CEO response on behalf of Council follows each question.)

1. Why did the CEO/councillors deem secrecy and confidentiality to all ratepayers especially businesses that are directly impacted, of their knowledge of the bridge works to be undertaken on Roberts Street, Moora?

There was no secrecy / confidentiality from either Council or Main Roads. Main Roads have advised the Shire on the 22 November 2016 that Stakeholder Engagement from their perspective usually starts once they have confirmed timeframes for construction.

2. When exactly was the Shire informed by Main Roads of the proposed bridge works to be undertaken?

Approximately April 2016

3. When were the Councillors informed of the proposed bridgeworks?

Approximately May/ June of 2016. Council up until last week had not received any information from Main Roads as to when the project might be going to tender.

4. Was a Council meeting held regarding the bridgeworks, and/or any further meetings held, when and in what form did they take?

No, the matter had not been raised at a formal meeting of Council. Raised at a briefing session.

5. When and by whom, did the decision to keep the proposed works secret and confidential to all ratepayers?

There was and has been no secrecy.

6. Did the Council at any time consider the full impact on the businesses directly involved?

It was obviously a broad consideration given previous experience with the Tootra Street crossing closure.

7. What steps did Council take regarding the financial implications on the businesses, when no consultation was ever made?

That is a matter for Main Roads as the “Authority” over the project.

8. The Council, with absolutely no knowledge of those businesses finances, percentages of income from through traffic necessary to the viability of those businesses, the proportion of local trade and historical trading figures just to list a few.

How did the Shire of Moora come to the decision, not main roads, to a complete shut down of the bridge and detouring all traffic to Gardiner Street, effectively cutting off trade to the affected businesses?

Council was consulted by Main Roads as to a “preferable option”, which went back to Main Roads supporting their preference of a full closure on the basis of closure / shorter timeframe / elimination of safety hazards in the workplace for the contractor due to narrowness of bridge lanes under a partial closure, 2.8 metres as advised by Main Roads/ better quality and durability of bridge as an outcome of construction/ significant cost savings approx. \$400,000 to the State.

9. Is it true the Shire of Moora sent an email to main roads giving them the Shire's decision and approval to completely shutting down the whole bridge for the duration of the works, approximately 16 weeks?

Sent by email in June 2016 on basis of those points detailed in question 8.

10. On what basis was this decision made with absolutely no knowledge of the businesses concerned?

The decision as to final strategy / option is one that rests with Main Roads as the “Authority” over the Roberts Street Bridge. Matters of financial compensation around business losses are a matter for individual business's and Main Roads.

11. Is it true the Shire of Moora had other options to consider including a half shut down on each side of the bridge to allow through traffic north and south, a temporary bridge installed if it was deemed necessary to shut the whole bridge down, among others I am yet to determine?

There were two options, full or partial closure, presented by Main Roads to Council, asking Council to indicate its preferred option. Main Roads has indicated the full closure was their preference, refer to points in question 8.

12. Has the shire considered the possible/ probable financial compensation to those affected businesses, due to the secrecy/ confidentiality /accountability, due to having no notice for the planning /implementation of these works necessary to the viability to those businesses?

Any matter of compensation is a matter for Main Roads, as the “Authority”. It is a State Asset / State Project.

13. Why has notification to the ratepayers, businesses still not been released as of today?

This is a matter for Main Roads, as the “Authority”. Bridgeworks notification is a matter for Main Roads.

14. Did the Council consider that these businesses needed to know well in advance i.e. back in Feb. or April, 9 months ago to avert this crisis, when it was possible these businesses and checkpoint in my case could have made decisions around future planning to weather this period?

Formal notification, planning, project logistics is a matter for Main Roads, the “Authority”. It is fair to expect consultation with businesses earlier than has actually occurred, regrettably this did not occur. Council expects some sort of information/statement of works from Main Roads over the coming few days.

15. I state publicly and to the Council, that due to their total disregard. Lack of disclosure, secrecy and confidentiality the I will, checkpoint cafe be effectively bankrupted by your actions, and I consider the Shire of Moora totally liable for this debacle.

There is a mechanism administered by Main Roads which assesses claimed “loss of profit” by respective businesses. Details of the specifics can be obtained from Main Roads.

16. I ask the Shire of Moora to postpone/ delay the proposed shut down of the bridge until such time full disclosure and consultation is taken with all businesses and ratepayers?

This was put to Main Roads, they have responded outlining they intend to proceed with full closure.

4b. OTHER GENERAL BUSINESS

Wendy Dunn

Why did Main Roads take the Great Northern Hwy to Council but not the closure of the Roberts Street Bridge?

Chief Executive Officer responded outlining that the Miling Bypass was a completely different issue in terms of strategy of consultation, given the Miling Bypass is a permanent outcome involving the Great Northern Highway.

Wendy Dunn

Reiterated that due to there being no consultation with the business community that the project should be put off.

5. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Shire President thanked the members of the public for their attendance and input into the meeting and declared the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

CONFIRMED

PRESIDING MEMBER