



# Electors General Meeting Minutes

**Date: 14 December 2011**

**Please Note: These minutes and the decisions recorded therein have not as yet been confirmed by Council as a true and accurate record of the meeting.**

## **The Shire of Moora Vision and Mission Statement**

### **Vision**

Our vision is that:

*The Moora region will be a place of brilliant opportunity over the next twenty years. Sustainable growth will result in a vibrant, healthy, wealthy and diverse community.*

### **Mission**

Our mission is:

*To identify and stimulate growth through creative leadership and a willingness to get things done.*



**Minutes  
Electors General Meeting  
Held on  
Wednesday 14 December 2011  
At the Moora Performing Arts Centre**

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**1. OPENING**

The Shire President opened the meeting at 7.34pm and welcomed those in attendance.

**2. ATTENDANCE**

Cr Colin Gardiner	-	Shire President
Cr Arthur Tonkin	-	Deputy President
Cr Sheryl Bryan	-	Councillor
Cr Chris Hawkins	-	Councillor
Cr Denise Clydesdale-Gebert-	-	Councillor
Cr James McLagan	-	Councillor
Cr Owen Cocking	-	Councillor
Cr Tracy Humphry	-	Councillor
Mr Allan Middleton	-	Acting Chief Executive Officer
Mr John Greay	-	Manager Engineering Services
Mrs Leanne Parola	-	Manager Finance & Corporate Services
Mrs Rebecca McCall	-	Manager Community & Economic Development
Mr Peter Williams	-	Manager Health, Building & Planning Services

**PUBLIC**

Mr David Stribley	Mr Joe McKinley	Mrs Wendy McKinley
Mr Peter Van der Ende	Mrs Chris Van der Ende	Mr Ross Adams
Mrs Diana Adams	Mr Jeremy Lefroy (from 7.44 pm)	

**APOLOGIES**

Mr Aiden Bryan	Mrs Robbie Gardiner
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**3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS HELD 8 DECEMBER 2010**

*178/11 Moved Cr Bryan, seconded Cr Cocking that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Electors held on 8 December 2010 be confirmed.*

**CARRIED**

**4. SHIRE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*179/11 Moved Cr Gardiner, seconded Cr Tonkin that the Shire President's Annual Report for the 2010/2011 year, as printed be received and a vote of thanks be given to Councillor Bryan.*

**CARRIED**

**5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

*180/11 Moved Cr Gardiner, seconded Cr Tonkin that the Chief Executive Officer's Annual Report for the 2010/2011 year, as printed be received.*

**CARRIED**

Mr Jeremy Lefroy entered the meeting at 7.44 pm

**6. 2010/2011 REPORT ON PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND HIGHLIGHTS**

*181/11 Moved Cr Gardiner, seconded Cr Bryan that the 2010/2011 Report on Principal Activities and Highlights as printed be received.*

**CARRIED**

**7. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011**

*182/11 Moved Cr Gardiner, seconded Cr Hawkins that the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2011 be received.*

**CARRIED**

**8. INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE ELECTORS OF THE SHIRE OF MOORA**

*183/11 Moved Cr Gardiner, seconded Cr Tonkin that the Independent Audit Report to the Electors of the Shire of Moora for the year ended 30 June 2011 be received.*

**CARRIED**

**9. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**9a. QUESTIONS IN WRITING**

There were no questions received in writing.

**9b. OTHER GENERAL BUSINESS**

Mr Lefroy commended Councillors for the hours they put into a thankless job. He noted that the Shire had been right about how much the Round Hill Hall could be sold for, and said that its sale was sign of the times in all wheatbelt areas with diminishing populations.

Mr Lefroy stated that the Moora Swimming Pool is a feather in the Shire's cap, but noted it was an under utilised resource. He said that it was a rich resource, and if it was closed would never be rebuilt as a 50m pool again, he acknowledged that it was not a cheap asset to maintain.

Mr Lefroy noted that it is currently the peak harvest time and that it was one of the most difficult seasons in the past thirty years. He asked why Council was holding the Electors' Meeting at this time. Mr Lefroy stated that it flies in the face of good governance, and that it was poorly advertised, saying that he couldn't find it on the Shire's web page. He noted that there were few people in attendance, even townspeople. Mr Lefroy said that the meeting should be held at a time that was suitable for the majority of ratepayers, being farmers.

Mr Lefroy reiterated his comments from last year regarding rates and that farming is not very profitable with high costs and risks. He advised that rates are going up double the inflation rate which was not acceptable. He said that Councillors should look closely at the Shire's costs, including employment costs. Mr Lefroy stated that he liked the sound of the new Chief Executive Officer, if the Advocate had reported him accurately.

President Gardiner apologised for the timing of the meeting, and said that by the time the Auditor's Report was received, Council had to have the meeting now or in February which would have been nine months after the year the meeting was talking about.

President Gardiner acknowledged that financial management was a focus for the Councillors and that the situation had been improving. He stated that the Swimming Pool was a touchy subject, and that Council was trying to keep costs down.

President Gardiner also stated that the Shire was trying to acquire funding for the Moora-Miling Road and had put in a traffic counter to provide data to bolster a funding claim.

President Gardiner noted that in March, staff conducted a rates review which compared Moora against other Shires for different types of rates and that the Moora rates were mostly in the middle of the range. He said that the review had also considered the ratio of UV/GRV income and a copy of the review was available on the Shire's website. The President encouraged people to look at the review and assured those present that the Councillors try to keep rates down.

President Gardiner raised the \$6.1M Community Resource Centre project and noted that while it was being driven by the Moora Community Resource Centre Committee, the Shire had resolved to support it in principle and is now a formal partner, but not the driver. He said that the Shire is very supportive of the project and that decisions need to be made about its financial input including the level and source of funds.

Mr Lefroy asked what the benefits of the building would be, and the President invited Mr David Stribley, the Chairman of the Moora Community Resource Centre Committee to address the meeting.

Mr Stribley advised that the collocation project would include the Community Resource Centre, Library, an expanded Visitors Centre, Fine Arts Gallery, Arts and Crafts Exhibits, Internet Café, commercial space and meeting rooms set up with the latest technology. He noted that it was being built to Eco Architectural standards with PV cells and reuse of grey water. The building would be green rated and the operating costs were currently being prepared.

Mr Stribley advised that the building will cost over \$6M and that the committee would find out if the project had passed the first round of the RDA grant process. He noted that copies of the plans were available for viewing at the Community Resource Centre and the Wheatbelt Gallery & Coffee Shop.

Mr Lefroy asked what the Shire's contribution would be. President Gardiner advised that the feedback was that the current Resource Centre had outgrown its current location. He said that the State Government currently has a big push for this type of facility so the timing of the proposal is good.

President Gardiner advised that the Shire's contribution had yet to be decided, but it was likely to be around \$500,000 plus the land. He noted that in a building worth \$5.5M it was a good investment. The President said that it could be funded by the sale of assets or by raising a loan. He stated that the building would provide long term benefits to the town and would enhance Moora's status as a regional centre which will help the Shire attract grants in the future. He noted that the Dalwallinu Discovery Centre had cost approximately \$4M and that the Dalwallinu Shire had contributed \$1M.

Mr Lefroy asked if funding through Royalties for Regions for Resource Centres was likely to continue after the next election and President Gardiner advised him that at a recent meeting with the Deputy Commissioner of the Development Commission that both political parties support the continuation of the program.

#### **10. 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 8.15 pm.*

#### **CONFIRMED**

#### **PRESIDING MEMBER**

Refreshments were provided following the meeting.