



**MINUTES**

**FOR THE**

**ANNUAL GENERAL ELECTORS**  
**MEETING**

**HELD ON**

**TUESDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2011**

I certify that this copy of the Minutes is a true and correct record of the Annual General Meeting held on 22 November 2011

Signed: .....  
Presiding Elected Member

Date:.....



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL  
ELECTORS MEETING HELD IN OCEAN ROOM,  
IRWIN RECREATION CENTRE ON  
TUESDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2011  
COMMENCING AT 5.30PM**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	President	Cr S C Chandler (Presiding Member)
	Councillors	Cr J B Fitzhardinge Cr K J Hepworth Cr J A R Porteus Cr B C Scott Cr M T Smith Cr I F West
	Staff	Mr D J Simmons – Chief Executive Officer Mr G M Peddie – Director, Corporate Services Mr F A Neuweiler – Manager, Community Development Mr A S Wootton – Works Manager Mrs C M Palmer - Executive Assistant (EA) (Minute Taker)
<b>ELECTORS:</b>		Mr John Rossiter, Mrs Jan Broad, Mr Bevan Broad and Mrs Lyn Broad
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		Cr R T McClurg (Deputy President) Mr G F Coaker – Town Planner Mrs Liz West
<b>LEAVE OF ABSENCE:</b>		-

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**1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS**

The Shire President, Cr Stuart Chandler, declared the meeting open at 5.30pm and welcomed all those in attendance to the meeting.

**2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Cr R T McClurg (Deputy President), Mr G F Coaker – Town Planner and Mrs Liz West

### 3. ANNUAL REPORT

**Recommendation:**

That the Annual Report for the Shire of Irwin for the financial year ended 30 June 2011 be accepted.

**COUNCIL MOTION:**

**MOVED:** Mr John Rossiter

**SECONDED:** Mr Felix Neuweiler

*That the Annual Report for the Shire of Irwin for the financial year ended 30 June 2011 be accepted.*

**CARRIED**

### 4. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY ELECTORS

Mr John Rossiter

Summary of Question One

Why become a Shire Councillor when input into Council affairs and decisions are minimal?

ANSWER. Whilst it is an individual's decision whether to seek office as a Council, fulfilling the statutory role of a Councillor as outlined within Section 2.10 of the Local Government Act 1995 is considered a significant, important and valuable community service.

Summary of Question Two

Why are there no Standing Committees where Councillors have input into financial, works, recreation and other decisions?

ANSWER: When Council operated under a Committee System, it was found to be inefficient in the sense that there was a level of duplication in dealing with issues. The current system provides for Councillors to consider the relevant matter once and be involved in the decision making at the same time.

Summary of Question Three

Why is there no General Business at Ordinary Meetings where Councillors can take part in concerns that the ratepayers and residents have and are brought to the notice of all members?

ANSWER: In accord with local government best practice, the Shire's Standing Orders Local Law does not provide for General Business as this is considered to be at odds with evidence-based and informed decision making. However, the Standing Orders Local Law does provide for Urgent Business should the need arise.

#### Summary of Question Four

Why are meetings conducted under a Standing Orders environment where Councillors are limited to just voting on recommendations by staff, unless Standing Orders are suspended under the Chairman's discretion?

ANSWER: Meetings are conducted in accordance with the Shire's Standing Orders Local Law which is delegated legislation under the Local Government Act 1995.

#### Summary of Question Five

Why are most recommendations made purely by staff who's time in the Shire is much less than that of our elected members, who have more knowledge of situations and residents concerns?

ANSWER: Under the Local Government Act 1995, it is the statutory function of the Shire's staff to provide Council with advice and information to the Council so that informed decisions can be made. The professional advice provided by staff is based on the significant skills, knowledge and experience each officer brings to their role at the Shire of Irwin.

#### Summary of Question Six

Why are Councillors not informed of all Building Permits issued and minutes to meetings of community organisations sent to the Shire, so that Councillors are fully informed on developments within the community?

ANSWER: Following Department of Local Government best practice guidelines, information items that do not require a Council decision are provided to Councillors in various ways such as the monthly information Bulletin, Councillor Documents of interest file, Council Forums, and through email and Shire memoranda.

#### Summary of Question Seven

Why is it that most decisions by Councillors are made to recommendations by staff and are Town Planning issues?

ANSWER: It is standard local government practice that items requiring a Council decision are presented to Council through an Officer's report in line with the statutory function of staff outlined in the answer to question #5 above.

As the local planning authority under the Planning and Development Act 2005, it is to be expected that a number of Council items will be of a planning nature however Council considers a wide range of issues at various times.

#### Summary of Question Eight

Why is it that the only time that Councillors seem to have a group discussion is after an Ordinary Meeting has finished?

ANSWER: This is not the case as Council Forums, which are held on the second Tuesday of the month between February and November, allow Councillors to receive and exchange information as well as discuss issues on a conceptual basis in a group environment.

**5. GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil

**6. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

There being no further business, the Shire President thanked all those in attendance and declared the meeting closed at 5:40pm.

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