



## SHIRE OF NORTHAMPTON MINUTES

**2023/24 Annual Electors Meeting held in the Horrocks Community Centre, Horrocks  
5:00pm 6 February 2025**

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### **1. OPENING**

The Shire President declared the meeting open at 5.00pm.

### **2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The President read the "Acknowledgement of Country"

*We would like to respectfully acknowledge the Yamatji People who are the Traditional Owners and First People of the land on which we meet. We would like to pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of the Yamatji People.*

### **3. PRESENT**

#### Shire

Cr Liz Sudlow

Shire President

Cr Rob Horstman

Deputy Shire President

Cr Roslyn Suckling

Cr Tim Hay

Mr Andrew Campbell

Chief Executive Officer

Mr Brian Robinson

Executive Manager Community, Development and Regulation

Mrs Leanne Rowe

Manager Financial Services

#### Public

Murray Criddle

Ross Drage

Elana Trow-Kennedy

Maree Hasleby

Kerry Hasleby

Jamie Glass

Karen Bailey

### **4. APOLOGIES**

Cr Richard Burgess, Cr Des Pike, Cr Trevor Gibb, Cr Karl Suckling, Rick Hasleby

### **5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES – 8 February 2024**

**MOVED: Cr R. SUCKLING**

**SECONDED: Cr T. HAY**

**"The minutes of the 2022/23 Annual Electors Meeting held on 8 February 2024 be confirmed as true and correct record."**

**CARRIED**

### **6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 8 FEBRUARY 2024**

Nil.

## **7. RECEIVAL OF ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023/24**

**MOVED: Cr T. HAY**

**SECONDED: Cr R. HORSTMAN**

**“That the Annual Report for the year ended 30th June 2024 be received.”**

**CARRIED**

## **8. QUESTIONS WITH PRIOR NOTICE**

### **Questions on Notice from Murray Criddle**

#### **1. When will the Whiting Pool stairs be completed?**

##### **CEO Response:**

Purchase Orders for the materials and contractor have been issued and the project is required to be completed by 30 June 2025 in accordance with the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program funding requirements.

#### **2. When will the lookout structure on the 4<sup>th</sup> green of the Horrocks Golf Course be installed?**

##### **CEO Response:**

This is not a programmed/budgeted Shire project. It is understood that the conversation that was had between Mr Criddle and Mr Brian Robinson (Executive Manager Community, Development and Regulation) discussed the process for the volunteer group to obtain necessary approvals from the Shire and if they wanted to they could proceed themselves, or if an existing shelter structure became available from the Kalbarri Foreshore redevelopment it was possible that may be made available to support the request.

#### **3. Has the alternate Dongara – Geraldton – Northampton (DGN) including the Northampton bypass road project, involving roads through the Shire of Chapman Valley, been presented to Council for consideration?**

##### **CEO Response:**

This is an unfunded Main Roads Western Australia (MRWA) project, not a project of the Shire of Northampton. Council will take on board the feedback of Mr Criddle, and if deemed appropriate, raise the matter with MRWA at a future meeting. The information provided by Mr Criddle to the Shire of Northampton was not considered a formal request of Council however if that was the intent, Mr Criddle is encouraged to further discuss the matter with the CEO and provide a detailed formal request for Council's consideration.

### **Question on Notice from Maree Hasleby**

- 1. Is the Shire able to prioritise the cleanup of rubble (including asbestos) on the Horrocks beach particularly around the popular swimming areas near the jetty?**

#### **CEO Response:**

The Shire of Northampton has clearly identified portion of the beach at Horrocks to be prone to coastal erosion through climate change. To this point, preliminary Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Planning (CHRMAP) work has commenced with a view to identifying suitable strategies and funding mechanisms/opportunities. It is expected that coastal erosion at Horrocks will continue, exposing the Shire and the community to ongoing impacts.

The rubble that has been identified is likely to be coming from contaminated fill used in the area once buildings were removed from the foreshore many years ago. As coastal erosion occurs, the rubble is relocated to the beach and ocean via coastal processes. Practices of the past to use contaminated fill in a fragile ecosystem is considered a high-risk strategy and the outcome of that decision is now impacting current use and will have a substantive cost attached to eliminate. Management of the issue is considered a more cost-effective mechanism until such time as the frontal dune system can be stabilised and fortified against coastal erosion processes.

Asbestos fragments found in the rubble are considered to have minimal risk if they are disposed of correctly as from observation, they are consistently not friable and are wet. Options for appropriate disposal mechanisms should be further considered by the Shire.

It is recommended that Council consider the management of rubble at Horrocks beach as part of the 2025/26 budget.

### **Question on Notice from Jamie Glass and Karen Bailey**

- 1. School's gone back as of Wednesday 5th February. As well as school buses there are parents driving their children to school/school buses on unsealed roads. Why is it not a Shire priority to have ALL school transport unsealed roads graded prior to the resumption of each school term?**

#### **CEO Response:**

The Shire of Northampton (Shire) has 928km of unsealed local roads in the Shire district that are subject to regular, and complaint driven, inspection and maintenance programs. Diverting resources toward unsealed roads considered "fit for use" at any given time does not make for good use of Shire resources. School Bus companies, along with every other driver, must drive to existing road conditions at all times and the Shire will immediately assess any condition complaints that are made.

The Shire has a program of inspecting roads associated with School Bus Routes but often changes to routes are not advised by the School Bus companies or the

Department of Transport so often we are reliant on feedback if any issues arise on new School Bus Routes.

**2. Did the Shire receive the rain damage road funding money last year?  
Because this winter is not far away and so far, in the Yallabatharra region**

- **No drains have been cleaned out**
- **No culverts fixed or cleaned out**
- **The big washouts have not been filled in.**

**Is there a plan or timeline to do these works?**

**CEO Response:**

The Shire undertook emergency repairs to local roads following rainfall events in 2024 utilising its own funds. The rainfall events have since been declared a “Natural Disaster” and are subject to Commonwealth funding relief through the Disaster Recovery Fund (WA) program. DRFWA is a complex program that requires significant work to prove damage and negotiate appropriate levels of funding for repair. The Shire has commenced this process using consultants GHD with the Preliminary Event Notification submitted and endorsed by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. It is expected that any funding approved under this program could take months to be approved and if approved the Shire will undertake a procurement process to deliver approved works in accordance with legislation and policy.

The Shire is also in the process of establishing a Strategic Road and Plant Infrastructure Advisory Committee to provide strategic direction for budget, project and operational purposes.

**3. Further to the conversation I had with Brian Robinson (Community Development and Regulation), with all the works and funding going on in Kalbarri, why doesn't the Shire have a more rigid and strict local content policy?**

**Could the Shire possibly make a register of all contractors in the Shire, whether it be a builder, plumber, trucking contractor, etc., and with this register you can have an alert system similar to the Harvest Ban/Road closure software?**

**Case in point – Raubex roadworks in Kalbarri, not one local contractor, person or employee, the only money that went to the community was for accommodation and food, and we are left with a road that can never be maintainable.**

**CEO Response:**

The Shire has the following policies that guide procurement:

- Corporate Policy 2.3 – Purchasing
- Corporate Policy 2.4 – Tendering
- Corporate Policy 2.5 – Regional Price Preference

The policies are subject to legislation and are regularly tested in the annual independent audit, Financial Management System Review and Compliance Audit Return.

A register of local contractors is not supported as it is inherently difficult to obtain, maintain and efficiently apply a register of this nature. There are many other factors other than price that form the basis of procurement decisions, and this is why policies exist at the Shire.

The question raises the Kalbarri-Ajana Road roadworks as an example of the absence of local contractors. Under the *Local Government Act 1995*, as the project cost exceeded \$250,000, a public tender was required. This public tender was advertised under Statewide Public Notice in accordance with statutory obligations and two submissions were received, assessed and determined by Council. No local submissions were made however it is understood that the contractor engaged local contractors and services to support their works.

**4. Would the CEO and Executive Manager of Community Development and Regulation, be interested in coming out for a drive with us so we can show them, first hand, what the unsealed road issues are?**

**CEO Response:**

**CEO Response:**

Roads are not in the area of responsibility of the Executive Manager Community, Development and Regulation. The primary responsibility and contact for roads at the Shire is Mr Neil Broadhurst, Executive Manager Works and Technical Services. In the first instance any request for on-site road inspections should be via Mr Broadhurst and a site visit including the CEO can be arranged.

**9. OTHER BUSINESS WITH APPROVAL OF SHIRE PRESIDENT**

Murray Criddle

Thank the Shire for cooperation and look forward to outcomes from questions.

Maree Hasleby

Horrocks Road edge was graded before Xmas and is washed out again. Something needs to be done.

Kerry Hasleby

Concern about deterioration of heritage buildings in Northampton. Cr Sudlow: Please raise issue at Strategic Community Plan workshops if you can attend.

**10. CLOSURE**

There being no further business, the Shire President thanked all present for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 5.41pm

THESE MINUTES WERE CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD ON FRIDAY  
20<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2025.

PRESIDING MEMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_ \_\_\_\_\_