

Town of
Port Hedland



TOWN OF PORT HEDLAND

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS MINUTES

**WEDNESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2015 AT
7:30PM**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MCGREGOR
STREET, PORT HEDLAND**

**“A nationally significant, friendly city, where
people are proud to call home”**

*M.J. (Mal) Osborne
Chief Executive Officer*

ITEM 1	OPENING OF MEETING	4
ITEM 2	ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS	4
ITEM 3	RECORDING OF ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES	4
3.1	Attendance	4
3.2	Apologies	4
3.3	Approved Leave of Absence	4
ITEM 4	RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE	4
4.1	Questions from the Annual General Meeting of Electors held on Wednesday 19 November 2014	4
4.2	Questions from the Special Electors Meeting held on Wednesday 16 September 2015	5
ITEM 5	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	5
5.1	Confirmation of Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Electors held on Wednesday 19 November 2014	5
5.2	Confirmation of Minutes of the Special Electors Meeting held on Wednesday 16 September 2015	5
ITEM 6	ANNUAL ERPORT	5
6.1	Mayor's Report	5
6.2	Chief Executive Officer's Report	5
6.3	Annual Report	6
ITEM 7	GENERAL BUSINESS	6
7.1	Councillor Blanco	6
7.2	Mr Ron Attwood	6
7.3	Ms Mary Attwood	7
7.4	Councillor Hooper	7
7.5	Ms Mary Attwood	7
7.6	Ms Jacque Rykers	7
7.7	Ms Ines Bozuric	8
7.8	Councillor Blanco	8
7.9	Ms Ines Bozuric	9
7.10	Ms Mary Attwood	10
7.11	Ms Ines Bozuric	10
7.12	Councillor Gillingham	11
7.13	Mr Ron Attwood	11
ITEM 7	CLOSURE	11

ITEM 1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor declared the meeting open at 7:40pm.

ITEM 2 ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The Mayor acknowledged the traditional owners, the Kariyarra people.

ITEM 3 RECORDING OF ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**3.1 Attendance**

Elected Members
Mayor Kelly Howlett
Councillor Camilo Blanco
Councillor Jan Gillingham
Councillor David Hooper
Councillor Julie Hunt
Councillor Lorraine Butson
Councillor Louise Newbery
Councillor Richard Whitwell

Officers

Mal Osborne	Chief Executive Officer
Anna Duffield	Acting Director Corporate Services
Brendan Smith	Director Works and Services
Peter Kocian	Executive Officer
Chris Linnell	Director Community and Development Services
Grace Waugh	Minute Taker/ Governance Officer

Electors	8
Media	3
Observers	2

3.2 Apologies

Councillor Troy Melville

3.3 Approved Leave of Absence

Nil

ITEM 4 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**4.1 Questions from the Annual General Meeting of Electors held on Wednesday 19 November 2014**

Nil

- 4.2 Questions from the Special Electors Meeting held on Wednesday 16 September 2015**

Nil

ITEM 5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 5.1 Confirmation of Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Electors held on Wednesday 19 November 2014**

RECOMMENDATION/ DECISION

MOVED: CR ARIF

SECONDED: CR BLANCO

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Electors held on Wednesday 19 November 2014 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- 5.2 Confirmation of Minutes of the Special Electors Meeting held on Wednesday 16 September 2015**

RECOMMENDATION/ DECISION

MOVED: CR HOOPER

SECONDED: CR ARIF

That the Minutes of the Special Electors Meeting held on Wednesday 16 September 2015 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM 6 ANNUAL ERPORT

- 6.1 Mayor's Report**

RECOMMENDATION/ DECISION

MOVED: CR HOOPER

SECONDED: CR GILLINGHAM

That the Town of Port Hedland Mayor's Report for the 2014/15 Financial Year be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- 6.2 Chief Executive Officer's Report**

RECOMMENDATION/ DECISION

MOVED: CR ARIF

SECONDED: MS PANGAHAS

That the Town of Port Hedland Chief Executive Officer's Report for the 2014/15 Financial Year be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.3 Annual Report

RECOMMENDATION/ DECISION

MOVED: CR HOOPER

SECONDED: CR ARIF

That the Town of Port Hedland Annual Report for the 2014/15 Financial Year be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM 7 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Councillor Blanco

What is the Town doing about a dedicated truck stop for the prime movers to break up? We have spoken about it a few times but nothing is happening. The trucks are using the land on Wilson Street which is clearly unsafe for them.

Chief Executive Officer advised that the Town has been discussing this with Main Roads WA recently as the Town believes it is a Main Roads responsibility to provide that sort of facility in the community. In most other communities if the truck stops are not a privately owned facility then they are provided by Main Roads. The Town has been working with Main roads looking at various sites not only for a break down assembly area but also a truck stop on the main highway. Most recently the Town discussed with Landcorp releasing unsold land behind the new refueling and amenity facility going onto Pinga Street. The Town has also discussed with Main Roads and with the Department of State Development that it is a lacking amenity for truck drivers. The Town takes on board that Councillor Blanco has raised this issue before and the Town hasn't gotten too far with it at this stage.

7.2 Mr Ron Attwood

Is there any chance of getting a solar lights at Finucane Island boat ramp as it is hard to maneuver boats after dark? Is something going to be done about the drop off at the end of the boat ramp?

Mayor advised that that Town has gone out to tender for the Finucane Island boat ramp project which will be presented to Council so there is a limit on what can be discussed.

Director Works and Services advised that the tender is currently out at the moment and will be looking at what treatment options the Town can put in place at Finucane Island.

Will the boat ramp extend out more as there is a big drop off at the end of the ramp?

Director Works and Services advised that the extension of the boat ramp will be part of the report from the consultants.

7.3 Ms Mary Attwood

The lights at the barbeque area of Cemetery Beach ark don't work and there are a lot of families that use the facility.

Chief Executive Officer advised that some of the lights might be turned off for turtle season.

Mayor advised that they are meant to be turtle friendly and white lights in the barbeque area and that there are historic wiring issues.

Chief Executive Officer advised that the Town would take these comments into consideration.

7.4 Councillor Hooper

Solar lights could be used for the tables at the barbeque area at Cemetery Beach park with the solar panel on top of the shelter and the light underneath.

Mayor advised that Councillor Hooper's comments would be taken on board.

7.5 Ms Mary Attwood

There should be lights at the cooking areas at the Cemetery Beach park as people go at night.

7.6 Ms Jacque Rykers

Is there an amount in the Town's budget for new street lighting? I ride my bike around South Hedland and there are some spots on main roads like North Circular and Hamilton Road that have no streetlights. There are rocks on the paths and kids throwing rocks and it doesn't take much to come off a bike.

Chief Executive Officer advised that street lighting is provided by Horizon Power not by the Town. The Town pays for the operating accounts for the streetlights and if the Town wanted to upgrade lighting it would be the Town's responsibility. At this stage there may not be a lighting study.

Director Works and Services advised that the Town will be undertaking a road safety audit in the first quarter of the New Year which should include identifying lighting issues.

Will the general public be invited to participate in the road safety audit?

Director Works and Services advised that there will be an audit and the Town can invite feedback from the community where there are issues through the engagement HQ process.

7.7 Ms Ines Bozuric

There is rubbish and camps on both sides of the road leading out to Bosna. Every few months the Town is there with a tip truck and a bobcat cleaning up the rubbish however the camp is just moved somewhere else. At the moment there is an outdoor kitchen with fridges and lots of cans on the side of the road.

Mayor asked the Chief Executive Officer whether the Town's environmental team and rangers can investigate the issue.

Chief Executive Officer advised that the Town is out there quite regularly for the clean ups which is not what the Town would prefer to have to spend resources on.

The people are there camping and drinking so isn't it up to the Police to move them on since it is public drinking?

Chief Executive Officer advised that sometimes the Police do deal with the issue which may be why they move to a different location. It is a difficult situation and ongoing problem. The Town has been working hard to find an appropriate camping facility or short term stay facility for visitors to the town and hasn't had the assistance that the Town believes it should be getting from the Department of Housing and Department of Aboriginal Affairs. It is an ongoing issue and something that the Town spends quite a bit of resources on addressing and tidying up on a regular basis.

It is quite dangerous as 12 months ago there was that huge fire that was started at one of those small camps which resulted in houses being lost.

Chief Executive Officer advised that the Town has raised safety as being one of the Town's key concerns especially for the people at the camps.

Mayor advised that the Town will ensure that the outdoor kitchen is investigated.

7.8 Councillor Blanco

What is happening with the South Hedland Aquatic Centre?

Director Community and Development Services advised that work was undertaken to try and mitigate the issues that surround the equipment. The Town has had experts from across Australia provide advice and on Monday morning at 4am undertook water testing with the results being received today. Unfortunately there were about five filters that failed the test however the pool water was passing.

Has the Town done the work that it was going to do to the filters at the South Hedland Aquatic Centre?

Mayor advised that the work has only just been implemented.

Has the testing failed after the work to the filters?

Director Community and Development Services advised that it was a two stage interim process. One stage was to provide direct insertion of chlorine into the bottom of the filters to bring it up through the filter. During the process of injecting the chlorine the sand medium was checked. It was thought that the sand medium could potentially have organic material build up however the sand was quite clean. Through the backwash processes that were undertaken the water levels in the filter dropped which provided better aeration and cleaned out the medium. There is no need to go to stage two which was to replace the sand since the sand medium is working fine. The reason the Town is doing a second test is because through the backwashing process there is sometimes a film that sets around the bacteria and when the first process of super chlorination and backwashing occurs it removes the film and releases the bacteria. The second water testing process will occur tomorrow afternoon which will hopefully clear out the exposed bacteria material and hopefully clean up the filters.

7.9 Ms Ines Bozuric

What bugs are in the testing results for the South Hedland Aquatic Centre?

Chief Executive Officer advised that it was coliforms.

I spoke to the Department of Health when my children got cryptosporidium from Marquee Park who advised that the chlorine levels are checked daily but bacteria like cryptosporidium are tested for once a month and sent away for the results. Is cryptosporidium getting tested for more than once a month?

Director Community and Development Services advised that as part of the process the Town brought the Department of Health to Port Hedland. The representative from the Department of Health double checked the YMCA process to undertake water testing and was very happy with the procedure. Another expert in water management provided some critiques in the process to allow for dropping the water in the filter slightly which was included in the process. All of the processes are followed as per the processes and procedures set out by the filter manufacturers.

Chief Executive Officer advised that public pools are usually tested once a month across Australia and the reason the Town does that is if there is clean water it is only required once a month unless there is an environmental event or something that would make you consider retesting it.

Bacteria like cryptosporidium are chlorine resistant, have to be super shocked and can still survive in sand filters.

Chief Executive Officer advised that the temperatures in Port Hedland don't help as it keeps the water temperature at an ideal breeding environment.

I read somewhere that there is something you can buy that does on site testing for cryptosporidium but it is probably costly.

Chief Executive Officer asked that Ms Bozuric provide the information to the Town.

7.10 Ms Mary Attwood

Does the Town still plan maintenance work to the South Hedland Aquatic Centre during the winter period?

Director Community and Development Services advised that South Hedland Aquatic Centre is an all season pool however there is a down time during the winter months where upgrades and general maintenance occurs without interrupting the normal patronage. There is always planned maintenance work over the winter period.

If you were planning maintenance during the winter time then you wouldn't have a situation like there is now where it is summer and the kids have no where to go. It is like changing a filter in your car, if you don't do it on a regular basis then the engine is ruined.

Director Community and Development Services advised that the filters are meant to last for big periods of time. The Town is engaging with a wide variety of water experts and pool experts to try to provide a quick resolution. The reason for the second test being done straight away was just in case it was a failure with the loosening up of the film and releasing some of the bacteria into the filter. Even if the filters did pass the first test the Town was planning on doing a second test to provide reassurance that there was a double pass. The second test will be happening tomorrow afternoon and the Town will have results back early next week.

7.11 Ms Ines Bozuric

Are the filters at the South Hedland Aquatic Centre big enough to do what they are supposed to do?

Director Community and Development Services advised that the filters for the pool are more than adequate for the water bodies, there are just issues with the design which has been an ongoing issue with the filters.

Chief Executive Officer advised that the South Hedland Aquatic Centre made it through last summer without a problem. The South Hedland Aquatic Centre was closed once during the last summer season for cryptosporidium which was a precautionary measure. The filters operated effectively last summer and the Town has never had an issue. This year the Town is not getting the results that it needs from the filters which is why the rectification works have been done. The Town is not going to open the facility if there is any risk to the public.

If the pool is opened and a person with an immune deficiency went there and contracted cryptosporidium, which cannot be combated by drugs, they could die.

Chief Executive Officer advised that the Town will not open the South Hedland Aquatic Centre until the Town has received absolute clear water samples sufficient for the Department of Health to provide comfort that the Town can open the pool.

7.12 Councillor Gillingham

Who looks after the Marquee Park water?

Chief Executive Officer advised that Marquee Park is also regularly sampled and the YMCA, through a contract, do the water quality management.

What is happening to the floor matting at Marquee Park as it is a disgrace?

Chief Executive Officer advised that the Town is looking at some interim fixes as the Town can buy soft fall in a pack. The Town is looking at putting in interim repair works as part of a maintenance shut down for winter 2016. There is a project for repair and replacement of the soft fall.

Director Works and Services advised that the project is for the new financial year and will wait for the right time of year when the park has lower utilisation.

7.13 Mr Ron Attwood

My bin was dropped after being collected and the lid was broken. Do I contact the Town of Port Hedland about the complaint or the subcontractor?

Mayor advised that the Town of Port Hedland does the bin collection.

Chief Executive Officer advised that if there is an issue with how staff are dealing with rubbish collection to let the Town know. Chief Executive Officer asked that Mr Attwood provide his address so the Town can make sure the broken bin can be repaired.

ITEM 7 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8:13pm.