



Shire of  
**Collie**

# MINUTES

for the

## ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING

held on

Thursday 4 May 2023



## Our Vision

**Collie** - *A progressive community, rich in opportunities and as diverse as its heritage and landscape.*

## Our Values

The core values at the heart of the Council's commitment to the community are:

*Integrity*

*Transparency*

*Accountability*

*Collaboration*

*Respect*

## Our Commitment to Community

**We will** lead the delivery of our vision

**We will** support local business wherever possible

**We will** consult and engage with our community on issues that affect them

**We will** encourage, welcome and value feedback

**We will** encourage, support and advocate for our community

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors held at the Margaretta Wilson Centre, Forrest Street Collie, on Thursday 4 May 2023 which commenced at 5.33pm.

## **1. ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES & LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Sarah Stanley	Councillor (Presiding Member)
	Stuart Devenish	Chief Executive Officer
	Ian Miffling OAM JP	
	Joe Italiano	
	John Kearney	
	Leonie Scoffern	
	Michelle Smith	
	Simone Fraser	
	Geoff Wilks	
	Leigh Smith	
	Tom Reardon	
	Mick Murray	
	Martin Kovacs - Press	
	Nola Green – Press	
	Matt Young	Director Development Services
	Craig Yardley	Director Technical Services
	Nicole Wasmann	Director Corporate Services
	Hasreen Mandry	Finance Manager
	Sue Mearns	Executive Assistant/HR

### **APOLOGIES:**

Elysia Harverson  
Rebecca Woods

## **2. DISCLAIMER**

All decisions made at the meeting tonight will be considered at the next practicable Ordinary meeting of Council. As such, any decisions made at the meeting tonight could be revoked pursuant to the Local Government Act. Therefore, no person should rely on, or act on, the basis of any advice by an Elected Member or officer, or on the content of any discussion occurring during the course of the meeting. No person should rely on any decisions until formal notification in writing by Council has been received.

## **3. CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS MINUTES**

Cr Stanley asked attendees if they had any questions in relation to the minutes for the Annual Meeting of Electors held 12 April 2022. In response, no questions were raised.

### **Motion**

*That the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors held on 12 April 2022 be accepted.*

**Moved:** Ian Miffling

**Seconded:** Leonie Scoffern

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**4. ACCEPTANCE OF 2021/22 ANNUAL REPORT**

Cr Stanley provided an outline of the Shire of Collie 2021/22 Annual Report to Electors and asked attendees if they had any questions relating to the document. In response, no questions were raised.

**Motion**

*That the Shire of Collie Annual Report for the 2021/22 financial year be accepted.*

**Moved:** Geoff Wilks

**Seconded:** Michelle Smith

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**5. GENERAL BUSINESS****5.1 Questions*****Geoff Wilks, 17 Regent Street, Collie***

Mr Wilks opened by thanking the Shire for the good works around town currently happening.

Mr Wilks then asked the following questions:

- 1. Will works be undertaken to deter drivers from driving over the islands on Forrest Street which is damaging the islands and could potentially cause an accident?*

Response: Stuart Devenish (CEO) confirmed that the issues with the 'islands', including the root growth of trees (which has made matters more complicated), are a priority for the works team.

Craig Yardley, Director Technical Services provided additional input and stated that a master plan would need to be established for Forrest Street which would include the:

- restriction of vehicles to be able to cross the islands;
- sinking of parts of the median strip; and
- contracting of an Arborist to provide advice on the management or removal of trees.

- 2. Would it be possible to install a footpath on Hodgson Terrace between Atkinson Street and Harris River Road as there is currently no way for walkers to access town if walking along Harris River Road.*

Response: Cr Sarah Stanley confirmed that this project was on the list of items for 2023/24 budget considerations.

- 3. Can the Shire contact Main Roads WA and request that the allocated 'walk time' be extended for people crossing the Forrest/Princep Street intersection as it currently has been timed at 8 seconds which is inefficient. Mr Wilks asked whether the Shire could also request that a 'flashing green man' light also be installed.*

Response: Craig Yardley, Director Technical Services advised that he would contact Main Roads WA and advise Mr Wilks of outcome.

***Simone Fraser, 63 Rowe Street, Collie***

Ms Fraser asked the following questions:

1. *When will the (Box) trees on View Street which were removed several years ago be replaced?*

Response: Sarah Stanley confirmed that additional tree planting was on the list of items for 2023/24 budget considerations.

2. *Are there any subsidies provided to ratepayers for trees planted on front verges?*

Response: Craig Yardley, Director Technical Services confirmed that the Shire would be looking at establishing a plan for street trees and this matter would be taken into consideration in preparation of a plan.

***Leigh Smith, 506 Baird Street, Collie***

Mr Smith questioned whether the Shire would consider planting colourful flowers along Throssell Street.

Response: Craig Yardley, Director Technical Services confirmed that discussions had been held just days previously to the Annual Electors Meeting on that exact matter, and that the Shire was investigating ways to add colour to Throssell Street by way of colourful native flowers/plants and do so within budgetary constraints.

***Mick Murray, 2 Laurie Street, Collie***

Mr Murray asked the following questions:

1. *What is the difference between the staffing numbers this year, compared to last year?*

Response: Stuart Devenish (CEO) informed Mr Murray that there had been no changes to FTE in the past year with the Shire currently having (approximately) 72 FTEs consisting of around 94 staff members.

2. *What is the breakdown of the \$500,00 received for Minningup Pool?*

Response: Stuart Devenish (CEO) advised that approximately \$438,000 had been spent to date and that the breakdown of this expenditure was available.

3. *Can the Shire review the condition of the Velodrome.*

Response: The Director Technical Services undertook to investigate the condition of the infield of the velodrome.

4. *Are the Shire of Collie pre-meetings (sic) open to the Public?*

Response: Cr Sarah Stanley informed Mr Murray that the meetings to which he refers are not pre-meetings (to Ordinary Council Meetings) but are Council Forums at which:

- Councillors and executive staff discussed issues/matters of concern within the community;
- Councillors were informed of what items would be on the Agenda for the upcoming OCM; and
- No decisions were made.

Cr Stanley further commented that members of the public were not invited to Council Forums and no minutes were produced.

***Tom Reardon, 26 Coverley Street, Collie***

Mr Reardon asked the following questions:

1. *Whether the Shire could investigate the status of what he thought was Shire owned vacant land, on Coverley Street. He thought that it may be a designated park/playground, which required upkeep to deter children from playing on the road.*

Response: Question taken on notice. Director Technical Services to investigate and advise.

2. *Could the Shire investigate whether a public toilet could be budgeted for and installed on the (North) side of town – eg Atkinson Street.*

Response: Sarah Stanley advised that this could be investigated and considered in future budget considerations.

***Danielle McKay, address not provided***

Ms McKay emailed the Shire on Thursday 4 May, 4.33pm with the following questions:

1. *How much has the shire spent on electricity costs this season compared to last season and don't use an increase in tariffs as an excuse.*

Response: Question taken on notice.

2. *How much have they spent on obtaining a labour hire person from Royal life saving society to keep the pool open. Which included around 5.5k ratepayers money paid to Black Diamond lodge.*

Response: Question taken on notice.

At this point Cr Sarah Stanley raised a Declaration of Financial Interest (as an owner of the Black Diamond Lodge).

3. *Being that it cost 5.5k for his accommodation, were there quotes provided for that accommodation according to Shire policy.*

Response: Stuart Devenish (CEO) responded that yes, quotes were received for accommodation.

4. *Why was Worksafe brought in to investigate breaches of WHS regulations for both the Pool and Works Depot.*

Response: Stuart Devenish (CEO) confirmed that Worksafe had not been bought in by the Shire to investigate breaches of WHS regulations but had elected to attend the Shire to conduct inspections. During these inspections, a number of issues were raised with regards to matters such as hazard signage and paperwork. These issues have now been addressed.

5. *How much has the Shire spent on operating the pool this season compared to previous recent seasons.*

Response: Stuart Devenish (CEO) advised the question on actual costs would be taken on notice.

It was commented that there has been considerable disruption to the operation of the pool this season which has led to increased costs. Notwithstanding, cost management in the organisation will see an end of year surplus well in excess of budget surplus of \$13,700. The surplus is presently forecast to be \$265,000.

6. *Will you be increasing OUR rates to pay for THEIR stuff ups.*

Response: Stuart Devenish (CEO) commented the reference to 'stuff ups' is not understood. The reference to the forecast surplus well in excess of budget was repeated and therefore there is no implication for rates.

***Nola Green, 87 Jones Street, Collie***

Mrs Green questioned whether consultation had been completed in relation to the Collie River Revitalisation Strategy Review (Strategy).

Response: Cr Sarah Stanley advised that the Strategy was currently being finalised by the Consultants, after which time it will go to Council for consideration. Then following this presentation, further community engagement will be undertaken.

Matthew Young (Director Development Services) also responded that the Consultants had undertaken a series of meetings with key stakeholders in February and a community workshop in March, in order to obtain the necessary project background and community views to inform the drafting to the strategy review.

## **5.2 Statements**

***Nola Green, 87 Jones Street, Collie***

Stated that she had received feedback from persons in the Community that notice given by the Shire on matters which required Community input was inadequate, and that the Shire should consider:

- Providing a broader range of times and days for community consultation;
- Advertising community consultation events more broadly/frequently; and
- Conducting more consultation with the community in general.

## **5.3 Motions**

Nil

## **6. CLOSE OF MEETING**

Cr Sarah Stanley thanked all for attending and declared the meeting closed at 6.03pm.