



SHIRE OF JERRAMUNGUP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS

Held at the Council Chambers,
Jerramungup
Wednesday, 8 February 2023

MINUTES

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Shire of Jerramungup
Table of Contents
Annual General Meeting of Electors
Wednesday 8 February 2023

1.0	DECLARATION OF OPENING, ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS	4
2.0	RECORD OF ATTENDANCE	4
2.1	ATTENDANCE.....	4
2.2	APOLOGIES	4
2.3	ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.....	5
3.0	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS	5
4.0	PRESENTATION OF THE 2021/2022 ANNUAL REPORT.....	5
5.0	GENERAL BUSINESS	5
6.0	CLOSURE OF MEETING	13

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS AGENDA

1.0 DECLARATION OF OPENING, ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The meeting was opened at 8.30am by the Presiding Member.

2.0 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

2.1 ATTENDANCE

ELECTED MEMBERS:

Cr Joanne Iffla	Shire President (Chair)
Cr Julie Leenhouders	Deputy Shire President
Cr Robert Lester	Councillor
Cr Andrew Price	Councillor
Cr Neil Foreman	Councillor
Cr Rex Parsons	Councillor
Cr Drew Dawson	Councillor

STAFF:

Martin Cuthbert	Chief Executive Officer
Charmaine Solomon	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Noel Myers	Manager of Development
Glenda Gray	Executive Assistant

VISITORS:

Nil.

GALLERY:

Astrid Kernan	Barry Atkins
Ken Dowdell	Veronica Thomas
Mike Southern	Melissa Joy
Dorthe Fleitmann	Tara Pittard
Bindy Datson	Katrina Wellstead
Ruth Reader	Corinne Hobbs
Graeme Drew	Anthony White
Janet Roberts	Michael Lance
Leonie McMahan	

2.2 APOLOGIES

Nil

2.3 ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Annual General Meeting of Electors of the Shire of Jerramungup held 2 February 2022.

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Electors of the Shire of Jerramungup held at the Town Hall, Bremer Bay on 2 February 2022 be CONFIRMED.

Noted by Mrs Tara Pittard – The Minutes state that she ‘felt intimidated at the Council Meeting’ but not why. Mrs Pittard requested that the minutes note that she believed Councillors were overly aggressive in providing their response to the question raised.

MOVED: Cr Leenhouders

SECONDED: Cr Lester

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Electors of the Shire of Jerramungup held at the Town Hall, Bremer Bay on 2 February 2022 be CONFIRMED.

CARRIED: 7/0

4.0 PRESENTATION OF THE 2021/2022 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2021/2022 Annual Report was provided under separate cover.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That the Annual Report for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 as presented, be received.

MOVED: Cr Price

SECONDED: Cr Dawson

That the Annual Report for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 as presented, be received.

CARRIED: 7/0

5.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Corinne Hobbs – 1 Hakea Close, Bremer Bay

Summary of key points:

- Mrs Hobbs asked whether there would be public consultation in relation to the fence installed at the mouth of the Wellstead Estuary.

Officer Response:

Manager of Development Noel Myers advised that Council, at its December meeting, resolved to install fencing as a temporary measure to protect the birdlife while community consultation was occurring in relation to a more permanent solution.

Consultation will commence in February/March 2023, by way of public invitation to comment.

Ruth Reader – 111 Black Rocks Road, Bremer Bay

Summary of key points:

- Mrs Reader tabled the Minutes of a meeting of residents and ratepayers from Bremer Bay held on 6 February 2023.
- She expressed concern about inadequate toilet and rubbish facilities in Bremer Bay and its beaches, then advised that bins at the skatepark are being used by visitors to town.
- Mrs Reader asked whether the Council is planning to install a dump point at Bremer Bay, and if not, why not.
- Mrs Reader also queried where she could find the future/strategic plan for Bremer Bay.

Officer Response:

CEO Martin Cuthbert advised that the installation of a dump point in Bremer Bay is in Council's forward plans. The location and cost need to be determined, and a decision made regarding how it will be funded. The Strategic Community Plan, Corporate Business Plan and Long Term Financial Plans are on Council's website and available at libraries.

Councillor Comment:

Cr Rex Parsons commented that he is personally involved with the Bremer Bay Caravan Park, and that its dump points are available to the public for a small charge. The dump point on a leach drain is very expensive to run, and deep sewerage would be the only way to go, however they are heavy to maintain and not simple to manage.

Michael Lance – 15 Short Beach Road, Bremer Bay

Summary of key points:

- Mr Lance informed the meeting that the RV Group provided some funding to the Shire of Gnowangerup for its dump point, and the Shire of Jerramungup could approach them. That dump point is on deep sewerage and works well.
- He further suggested that the plan for Bremer Bay needs to be updated, as the town is expanding quickly and block availability, electricity supply, and maintenance of facilities, all need to be addressed.

Officer Response:

Manager of Development Noel Myers advised that the Local Planning Strategy will be reviewed over the next 12 months and there will be opportunity for public input. It is a joint project with the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage that will revisit the 10 – 15 year plan. Service agencies refer to this document for forward planning. It is an expensive process and resource heavy.

Barry Atkins – 26 Margaret Street, Bremer Bay

Summary of key points:

- Mr Atkins requested that the Bremer Bay rubbish tip be tidied up. He recommended that rubbish be segregated, recyclable materials removed, and mattresses be taken away.

Officer Response:

CEO Martin Cuthbert agreed with comments made by Mr Atkins and advised that the Shire is having difficulty finding an organisation willing to remove and dispose of the mattresses as they have been stored in the weather and are unable to be recycled. The Waste Disposal Site needs an overhaul and solutions are currently being investigated.

Anthony White – 2 Eucla Court, Bremer Bay

Summary of key points:

- Mr White requested more regular maintenance of the Bremer Bay Airstrip, including removal of shrubs growing on the runway and resolving issues with the lights.
- He asked for toilet facilities to be installed at the Airstrip, and for the Ranger to conduct weekly inspections.

Officer Response:

CEO Martin Cuthbert advised that the Ranger conducts weekly inspections of the Airstrip, however issues can occur at any time. The Shire has been advised this week that it was successful in obtaining grant funding for the construction of a cross runway and replacement of lighting, with the project to commence in 2023/24.

Katrina Wellstead – 476 Wellstead Road, Bremer Bay

Summary of key points:

- Mrs Wellstead requested that the Shire provide additional toilet facilities at beaches and better maintain walkways and rails on accessways.
- She also suggested extending opening hours at the Bremer Bay Waste Disposal Site during busy periods.
- Believes there is a general lack of inspections and maintenance done by Shire staff around Bremer Bay.

Melissa Joy – 1 Frantom Way, Bremer Bay

Summary of key points:

- Mrs Joy advised that her business, Bremer Bay Resort, had a really successful summer, and that the Shire Rangers did a brilliant job.
- She questioned whether the aged units have limitations on occupancy, as there is limited housing availability in Bremer Bay.
- Mrs Joy requested that unsightly signs (such as the illegal camping signs) be removed, to improve the presentation of Bremer Bay.
- She suggested that the Shire capitalise on the Blueback movie and tie orcas into the town entrance, as it is dated, tired and needs refreshing.

Officer Response:

CEO Martin Cuthbert advised that the Over 55 Independent Living Units are managed by Advanced Housing. Other suggestions were noted.

Graeme Drew – 8 Biddy Crescent, Bremer Bay

Summary of key points:

- Mr Drew requested that the fence at the Bremer Bay Airstrip be repaired, and action be taken regarding the number of kangaroos living in the area.
- He advised that Government Regional Officers' Housing (GROH) – which replaced GEHA – have many vacant blocks in Bremer Bay which they could build on to house their staff. This would free up private rentals which are in high demand and needed by businesses. He requested the Shire write to GROH and advocate that they build houses on their land.
- Mr Drew provided detailed information in relation to the wharf facility jetties, and sand and rocks left behind by the contractor.

- He outlined environmental issues caused by putting lime into the groyne, thereby increasing alkalinity.
- Mr Drew asked how no Environmental Impact Study was carried out before the work was done?
- He also questioned how the contractor was allowed to dig through a registered historic site.

Officer Response:

CEO Martin Cuthbert advised that fencing was part of the upgrade works planned for the Airstrip under the grant funding that was announced earlier.

CEO Martin Cuthbert acknowledged concerns raised and advised that he was unable to comment on the contractor issues due to current legal action.

Discussion re Western Power trucks driving down footpaths in Bremer Bay to gain access to power poles and damaging the footpaths.

Officer Response:

Western Power does not accept liability. The Shire is having an ongoing dispute with Western Power on this subject.

Tara Pittard – 8118 Bremer Road, Bremer Bay

Summary of key points:

- Mrs Pittard questioned whether the Shire has an Engineer on staff and expressed concern that hot mix asphalt work was done without kerbing in parts of Bremer Bay, as it looks poor.
- She queried plans for commercial land in the Bremer Bay town centre, and stated that lack of industrial land will mean Bremer Bay will lose businesses.
- Mrs Pittard asked to be notified by email of Electors' Meetings.
- Mrs Pittard asked whether there had been any funding applications submitted for footpaths.
- She suggested Ministers could be contacted in relation to Western Power issues, such as their trucks driving on footpaths.
- Mrs Pittard complained regarding the lack of a dump point and visitors to Bremer Bay using sand dunes and beaches due to inadequate toilet facilities.

Officer Response:

Manager of Development Noel Myers advised that the Department of Lands is currently doing due diligence in relation to commercial land availability.

Deputy CEO Charmaine Solomon advised that Council delivered \$72,000 of footpath work in Bremer Bay, and that the Footpath Masterplan is being reviewed. The update of this plan is a requirement for future funding applications.

Corinne Hobbs – 1 Hakea Close, Bremer Bay

Summary of key points:

- Mrs Hobbs asked that previously requested and ordered signs to "Be Aware of Children" be installed at the Bremer Bay skatepark.
- Mrs Hobbs advised that the shoulders of Wellstead Road to Point Henry Road are a disgrace, and requested a personal response to her questions at this meeting.

Officer Response:

Deputy CEO Charmaine Solomon advised that the Shire will follow up the skatepark signs as a matter of urgency. A funding submission to Regional Road Group to improve the shoulders was not accepted. She noted that the Shire has been short staffed. Currently looking at spraying and mulching, what is required, and obtaining quotes.

Manager of Development Noel Myers confirmed that the Town Centre footpath is dual use.

Ken Dowdell – 2 Templetonia Road, Bremer Bay

Summary of key points:

- Mr Dowdell expressed concern that nothing has been done to improve the shoulders on roads.
- He stated that the presentation of Bremer Bay over the holiday period was disgraceful, gutters have suckers growing in them and the same potholes are patched repeatedly.
- Mr Dowdell felt that no effort goes into Bremer Bay.
- He suggested that parking at the Marina needs to have designated areas allocated for orca visitors and for boaties.

Janet Roberts – 167 Ridgeway Drive, Bremer Bay

Summary of key points:

- Mrs Roberts was concerned that a proposal for a dump point in Bremer Bay is always being 'looked at' but never eventuates.
- Mrs Roberts suggested that maintenance and presentation of carparks be addressed.
- Mrs Roberts expressed the view that Fisheries Beach is a disgrace, as the carpark is used by families with young kids, and the paths have steps which need maintenance and pruning of overhanging trees.
- Mrs Roberts identified the Native Dog Beach carpark as one which needs to be addressed.
- Mrs Roberts recommended that Councillors carry out a thorough inspection of the area.
- Mrs Roberts felt that a street sweeper would improve the presentation of town.

Astrid Kernan – 1890 O’Dea Road, Bremer Bay

Summary of key points:

- Mrs Kernan expressed frustration regarding the lack of action by Council, and that the same things are raised repeatedly.
- She commented that free camping at Dillon Bay gets worse every year and is not controlled, and suggested a camp host and charging of a fee would help resolve this.
- In addition, she informed the Council that a general overflow camping area is needed.
- She felt that there is a lack of care, lack of progress and foresight by the Shire, and she would like to see a step in the right direction.
- Mrs Kernan asked if there is an option to provide a long drop or a temporary skip bin at Dillon Bay?

Officer Response:

Manager of Development Noel Myers advised that the issues raised regarding camping in areas around town are relevant. With regard to Dillon Bay, the State is in the process of identifying what parcels of land may be suitable for transfer to the Noongar estate under the terms of the South West Settlement. 380,000 hectares of land are to be transferred, but the process of identifying suitable parcels for transfer is ongoing. The area of land around Dillon Bay is one such parcel being considered. While waiting for this to be determined, it has been the practice of the State to not issue licences to do anything on this land.

Leonie McMahon - 8197 Bremer Road, Bremer Bay and Fitzgerald Biosphere Group (FBG)

Summary of key points:

- Mrs McMahon addressed the room regarding the Wellstead Estuary, on behalf of the FBG. She advised that migratory birds include threatened species, there is beach nesting over summer, and at least 100 bird species use the Estuary.
- The FBG focus is on shore birds but also the actual health of the Estuary, and the temporary fence is protecting the shore birds and the natural environment.
- Shore birds are masters of camouflage when nesting and as such are easily disturbed or destroyed.
- People visit Bremer for pristine wilderness and the community wants to keep it that way.
- The huge influx of people and four-wheel drives means the community is dealing with a fast changing situation, and there are no easy answers. Visitor activities put pressure on the natural environment.
- Mrs McMahon advised that the temporary fence is the most effective solution, as well as being the simplest and cheapest. Other options such as bollards, signs and fines would not be as effective in protecting the birds and environment.
- With all of the eyes in the town and a community who cares, the fence can be made to work. When water levels rise this should be communicated to the FBG so the fence can be removed.

Anthony White – 2 Eucla Court, Bremer Bay

Summary of key points:

- Mr White thanked the Shire for carrying out bushfire mitigation works and hoped it would continue and maintenance be done.
- He expressed concern that peppermint trees are out of control, and residents of Point Henry will face catastrophic fires. He suggested that these peninsulas need to be mosaiced.
- Mr White queried whether Wellstead Road South is an escape route, through Pat Wellstead's access road, because if it is, it needs to be built properly so it isn't a safety issue.
- He stated that firebreaks get built during fires but they then need maintenance to keep them in appropriate condition.
- Mr White also commented that if tracks were better maintained, vehicles travelling to fishing spots would stay on them.

Officer Response:

Deputy CEO Charmaine Solomon advised that the Shire has received grant funding for bushfire mitigation activities to continue our work in this area, and this is currently being advertised for tender.

Shire President Response:

President Joanne Iffla advised that the Shire sits on a Working Group with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, and that requests for maintenance in their areas of responsibility are ongoing.

Ken Dowdell – 2 Templetonia Road, Bremer Bay

Summary of key points:

- Mr Dowdell advised that the golf course was vandalized on the weekend and virtually every fairway was damaged.
- He informed the group that the Men's Shed is now operating cash for cans, and thanked the Shire for assisting with an appropriate site.

Veronica Thomas – 10010 Borden Bremer Bay Road, Bremer Bay

Summary of key points:

- Mrs Thomas noted that the School P&C is under a contract with Lionetti's for cash for cans, and funds come back to the school.
- Further discussion between School P&C and Men's Shed to be held once the contract with Lionetti's is finished.

10.25am – Ken Dowdell, Corinne Hobbs, Tara Pittard and Astrid Kernan departed the meeting and did not return.

Graeme Drew – 8 Biddy Crescent, Bremer Bay

Summary of key points:

- Mr Drew commented that there is a disparity between footpaths in Bremer Bay and Jerramungup in comparison to rate income.
- He advised of the need to deal with erosion and tree roots at Paperbarks.
- Mr Drew discussed the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Marine Park proposal and asked about the Shire's position regarding this.
- He requested support to provide an alternative Marine Park proposal and push back on the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, as he believes some areas should be general purpose and not a sanctuary.

Shire President's Response:

President Joanne Iffla advised that any such proposal would need to be considered by Council once a copy of the DBCA Draft Plan is received.

Ruth Reader – 111 Black Rocks Road, Bremer Bay

Summary of key points:

- Mrs Reader expressed concern regarding the amount of power outages and unreliability of power in Bremer Bay and queried whether the Shire has any idea of what is happening with Western Power.

Shire President Response:

President Joanne Iffla advised that the Shire is a member of the South Coast Alliance, and the group compiled a business case for alternative power in Bremer Bay. It was considered too big for the micro grid and not eligible for the funding program.

Cr Iffla confirmed that the Shire does everything in its power to address electricity issues throughout the whole Shire, and that the Shire being on the end of a line is part of the problem.

The Shire does a lot of 'knocking on doors' trying to address community concerns, particularly in relation to electricity and health. These are not a part of any Shire's core business, however, they are major concerns for the community.

Ruth Reader – 111 Black Rocks Road, Bremer Bay

Summary of key points:

- Mrs Reader requested that the Shire does its core business better in Bremer Bay, and asked if the Shire seeks assistance through the local Member of Parliament.

Shire President Response:

President Joanne Iffla advised that the Shire attends numerous meetings with Politicians and Government agencies and is in regular contact to try and get improved services for the whole of the Shire of Jerramungup.

Cr Rex Parsons

Summary of key points:

- The Shire of Jerramungup has a balanced budget and must live within its means.
- The rates base is \$3.4 million, so every 1% rate increase equals \$34,000.
- A second Ranger would equal a 1% rate increase across the Shire.
- New toilet facilities at Blossom Beach would equal a large rate increase.
- Rates pay for day-to-day Shire operations, however grants are required for capital projects and infrastructure.

President Jo Iffla

Summary of key points:

- President Joanne Iffla encouraged residents to telephone or email the Shire office to log a customer request, as this is the best way for action to be taken and have the request registered.

Michael Lance – 15 Short Beach Road, Bremer Bay

Summary of key points:

- Mr Lance suggested that the appointment of a Grants Officer would be a worthwhile investment for the Shire.
- He felt that Works staff should be looking, seeing and acting on maintenance needs in Bremer Bay.
- He advised that the Banky Beach sign which used to say 'Dangerous Cliffs' is so faded it is white and should be replaced.

Graeme Drew – 8 Biddy Crescent, Bremer Bay

Summary of key points:

- Mr Drew expressed concern regarding the walkway from the caravan park to the beach, as the speed limit is over 50km/h with no bollards between the walkway and the road.
- He also requested that the road to the lookout be sealed as soon as possible.

Shire President's Response:

President Joanne Iffla advised that Main Roads made the speed limit decisions. The Shire has made a submission requesting a reduction in the speed limit but it was declined, so speed humps were installed instead.

Janet Roberts – 167 Ridgeway Drive, Bremer Bay

Summary of key points:

- Mrs Roberts suggested that prebuilt toilet blocks are a fraction of the cost, very functional and easy to clean and maintain.

Shire President's Response:

President Joanne Iffla advised that the Shire has investigated prefabbed toilet blocks, however the requirement to build to coastal standards increases the cost whether it is prefabbed or built on site.

6.0 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Presiding Member closed the meeting at 10.53am.

<p>These minutes were confirmed at a meeting held</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Signed:</p> <p>Presiding Person at the meeting at which these minutes were confirmed</p> <p>Date:</p>
