



SHIRE OF LAKE GRACE

Annual General Meeting of Electors

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Electors held on Monday 1 February 2016 at the Lake King Hall.

1.0 OPENING

Shire President, Cr Andrew Walker presiding, opened the meeting at 7.30 pm, and welcomed everyone in attendance.

PRESENT

Cr Andrew Walker	Cr Jeanette De Landgrafft (Deputy President)
Cr Len Armstrong	Cr Murray Stanton
Cr Allan Marshall	Ms Sandy Knill
Mrs Roz Lloyd	Mrs Helen McDonald
Mr David Boyce	
Cr Deb Clarke & Cr Ross Chappell	<i>(entered the meeting at 8.00 pm)</i>

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Neville Hale, Chief Executive Officer
Ms Denise Gobbart, A/Manager Corporate Services
Mr Louka Shopov, Manager Infrastructure Services *(entered the meeting at 8.00 pm)*
Mrs Jeanette Bennett (Executive Officer)

2.0 APOLOGIES

Cr Steve Hunt
Mrs Lee Holben, Manager Community Services

3.0 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of previous Annual Electors Meeting held 25th March 2015. There being no questions:

Moved Cr Armstrong, seconded Cr Stanton

That the minutes of the 2014/2015 Annual Electors Meeting held 25th March 2015 be accepted.

Carried.

4.0 2014/2015 ANNUAL REPORT - PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Shire President, Cr Andrew Walker read aloud the President's report and the following motion was put in regard to the 2014/2015 Annual Report:

Moved Cr Walker, seconded Cr Armstrong

That the President's Report for 2014/2015 be received.

Carried.

5.0 2014/2015 ANNUAL REPORT – CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

Chief Executive Officer, Mr Neville Hale read aloud the Chief Executive Officer’s report and the following motion was put in regard to the 2014/2015 Annual Report:

Moved Cr Stanton, seconded Cr Marshall

That the Chief Executive Officer’s Report for 2014/2015 be received.

Carried.

Cr Armstrong queried the following and asked for clarification.

Council previously adopted the Annual Report at a Special Meeting on 21 December 2015 including the Chief Executive Officer’s Report. The Annual Report also contains other reports, are these other reports an extension of the Chief Executive Officer’s Report?

If so, the Infrastructure Services Report (P V111) contains information that is incorrect in terms of key projects namely:

- The Lake King Tractor Museum is reported as completed, this project was incomplete as at 30 June 2015
- The Newdegate Independent Living Units are reported as 85% completed, this was not the case as at 30 June 2015
- The Newdegate Lesser Hall Project is reported as 95% completed, this was not the case as at 30 June 2015

Reply: The Shire President and CEO acknowledged the discrepancy and advised that this will be rectified through Council approving corrections to the Annual Report at its February 2016 Ordinary Meeting.

Cr Armstrong also noted the need for the Annual Report documents to be made available to the community.

6.0 2014/2015 ANNUAL REPORT – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

There being no questions:

Moved Cr Stanton, seconded Cr Armstrong

That the 2014/2015 Annual Financial Statements as presented be received and adopted.

Carried.

7.0 2014/2015 ANNUAL REPORT – AUDITOR’S REPORT

There being no questions:

Moved Cr Marshall, seconded Cr Armstrong

That the Auditor’s Report, inclusive of the Management Report for the 2014/2015 Financial Year be received.

Carried.

8.0 OTHER INFORMATION AND QUESTION TIME

The Chief Executive Officer advised that no written questions have been received and asked if there were any questions from those present relating to the 2014/2015 Annual Report.

There were no questions from those present.

9.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

The Shire President asked if there was any General Business anyone wished to raise.

Mrs Helen McDonald

Mrs McDonald raised the following concerns regarding the construction of the Newdegate Independent Living Units:

To the CEO - I had concerns and endeavoured to attend a meeting of the Newdegate Independent Living on 23 April 2015, you did take note of my concerns even though Sandy and I were not permitted to stay. So here we go again as I see it.

Eclat Building was the successful tenderer. I presume Eclat Building was a registered building company, who then gave a quote of \$1,005,380.00.

Question 1: Was Eclat a registered building company?

Reply (CEO): Yes.

Mrs McDonald: I was always under the impression if a quote was given and a time limit, the builder carried out the work to the quote and if the building was not finished in time a penalty was incurred.

Question 2: Is that correct?

Reply: (CEO): Correct.

Mrs McDonald: In the case of our units, Eclat had no way completed the job, had left an enormous amount of work to be fixed up or redone.

Question 3: Was Eclat paid the full \$1,005,380.00 and was their work inspected at the time they were sacked?

Reply: The CEO replied that whilst Eclat was not paid the full amount, they were paid a significant proportion. The work was subject to inspection and financial control by three staff. There was an overpayment on the contract. The penalty rates incurred by Eclat are subject to legal consideration. The CEO believes there is limited chance the funds can be reclaimed.

Mrs McDonald: Eclat has gone off somewhere, the buildings are far from finished, more and more staff are being brought in to fix up and finish the job. The money quoted has gone. Now to finish the units.

Question 4: Where exactly is the money coming from to complete these units?

Reply: The CEO replied that at a Special Meeting of Council held in December 2015, an item was presented regarding the finance options for completion of the project. The Units

are to be finished and funding for the shortfall of \$350,000.00 has been identified through the changing of purpose of reserve funds and cutbacks on expenditures.

Mrs McDonald: I really think the ratepayers of the Shire deserve a full explanation as to what has really happened, who has been responsible for allowing this to happen, where it all went wrong, how much Eclat was paid and how much more funding will be required to finish the job and where exactly will the money come from. It is easy for the staff in the office just to increase rates to offset this debt. These buildings have been a disaster.

Reply: The President advised that the project failed due to a poor management process. The CEO accepted that it is ultimately his responsibility and he accepts that.

The CEO made comment that a major concern for the Shire is that nobody has indicated a desire to live in the units. The President commented that one hopes the budget for this last stage is correct. The CEO commented there is a loss to ratepayers which will delay other projects. The intention is that Reserve funds used for this purpose will be replaced over time.

Ms Sandy Knill

Ms Knill wished to raise the matter regarding the demolition of the Masonic Lodge in Newdegate by staff and how disappointed the community is. Reusable materials from the Masonic Lodge were to have been saved for use by the community for other projects. The front end loaders came in and everything came crashing down, lovely old bricks and the magnificent floorboards were smashed and taken to the Lake Grace tip.

Reply: The CEO advised it would appear some bricks and floorboards were taken to the gravel pit on Mission Road. Staff had been given instruction on the salvage requirements. Some bricks have been dumped at the Lake Grace rubbish tip however, it is not certain at this time if they were from the Newdegate Masonic Lodge but rather from works undertaken at the Lake Grace Hospital.

Cr Armstrong commented the dumping of bricks in a gravel pit defies logic in terms of illegal dumping.

10.0 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the President thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.05 pm.