



SHIRE OF LAKE GRACE

Annual General Meeting of Electors

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Electors held on Monday 12 March 2012
at the Lake King Hall, Lake King.**

1.0 OPENING

Shire President, Cr Len Armstrong presiding, opened the meeting at 5.00pm, and welcomed everyone in attendance.

PRESENT	Cr Len Armstrong (President)	Cr Ross Chappell
	Cr Amanda Milton	Cr Dean Sinclair
	Cr Andrew Walker	Cr Wally Newman
	Mr Lindsay Atkins	Mrs Christine Atkins
	Mr Colin Penny	Mrs Sandy Penny
	Mr Lindsay Brownley	Mrs Terri Brownley
	Mrs Sylvia Brandenburg	Mr Ian Brandenburg
	<i>(Honorary Freeman)</i>	Mr Tim Cattle
	Ms Kylie Sugg	Ms Karen Richardson
	Mr Steve Const	

IN ATTENDANCE	Mr Sean Fletcher (Chief Executive Officer)
	Mr Martin Harrop (Manager Infrastructure Services)
	Ms Samantha Appleton (Manager Corporate Services)
	Mr Bill McKenna (Works Overseer)
	Mrs Lee-Anne Trevenen (A/Manager Community Services)
	Mrs Jeanette Bennett (Executive Assistant)

2.0 APOLOGIES

Cr Ollie Farrelly
Cr Ian Chamberlain (Deputy President)
Cr Jeanette De Landgraft

3.0 2010/2011 ANNUAL REPORT - PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Shire President, Cr Len Armstrong read aloud the following report:

The period that I have been in the President's position is from late October 2011 until today, less than five and a half months in total, and therefore projects underway or having been just completed were initiated or started during the period of my predecessor, Cr Andrew Walker.

As President, Cr Walker twelve months ago presented the Annual Report at the Varley Sports Pavilion and during the following seven months, Andrew steered the ship through what could have been seen as muddy waters with two electors meetings being called and the Ward and Representation Review for the Shire being issues at the time. Andrew steered us through those times and at the same time was in the chair when the Lake Grace Childcare Centre was constructed, doctor security for the Shire was realised, progression of the Medical Centre in Newdegate, resurfacing of bowling rinks firstly for Lake Grace and now for Newdegate, and so it would be remiss of me to present this Annual Report without recognising the vast amount of input that Cr Walker had to do with it. On behalf of the Shire thank you Andrew.

As has already been mentioned a number of projects have been started and are now in the stages of being completed or finalised. The CEO will be giving you his report and also a presentation on those points that are of interest. I will be taking any questions from the floor prior to this meeting's closure.

The following motion was put in regard to the 2010/2011 Annual Report:

Moved Cr Chappell, seconded Cr Walker

That the President's Report for 2010/2011 be received.

Carried.

5.0 2010/2011 ANNUAL REPORT – CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The CEO gave a report to the community in the form of a visual presentation and then the following motion was put regarding the 2010/2011 Annual Report:

Moved Cr Milton, seconded Cr Sinclair

That the Chief Executive Officer's Report for 2010/2011 be received.

Carried.

6.0 2010/2011 ANNUAL REPORT – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

There being no questions:

Moved Cr Walker, seconded Cr Chappell

That the 2010/2011 Annual Financial Statements as presented be received and adopted.

Carried.

7.0 2010/2011 ANNUAL REPORT – AUDITOR'S REPORT

The President allowed time for those present to read the Report. There being no questions:

Moved Cr Chappell, seconded Mr Harrop

That the Auditor's Report, inclusive of the Management Report for the 2010/2011 Financial Year be received.

Carried.

8.0 OTHER INFORMATION AND QUESTION TIME

The President advised that written questions have been received from electors and read aloud the following questions and prepared replies:

Questions from Marie Martin, Blackbutt Way Lake Grace – received by email Wednesday 7 March 2012

1. THE PLAYGROUND NEXT TO THE LAKE GRACE PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL

Why is the public playground inaccessible from the pool even though there is a gate installed for the specific purpose of allowing pool users to enter from the pool grounds? Why are children expected to leave the pool grounds and navigate a busy car park in order to access this playground? Can we please review the current access issues and find an alternative to the

use of the playground that is both safe and workable for the public and management of the pool?

Reply

The matter has been referred to the Shire's Occupational & Health Committee, who have had the Shire's insurers investigate the issue from a risk management perspective. The Shire is taking their views into consideration and options as to the future of the playground are being considered in keeping with the future development of the Sporting Precinct.

With regard to why the gate between the pool and the playground is locked ... the current pool managers who run the facility have concerns that people will not be able to supervise should they have children in the pool and in the playground at the same time.

2. HEATING OF THE LAKE GRACE PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL

Why is a pool blanket not currently in use at the pool? Apparently there was a pool blanket previously in use. What has happened to this pool blanket? If the pool blanket is beyond repair then why was it not replaced? If the pool blanket is still in storage at the pool grounds unusable, then why is it not being utilised?

Reply

The pool cover referred to was the result of a fundraising exercise by the Lake Grace Swimming Club during the mid 1980's, some 27 years ago. By 1989, when the previous pool manager started at the Lake Grace Pool, the cover had already disintegrated, only the rollers were left.

This matter has been discussed on several occasions and investigated at one stage, however, to date no formal submission has been made to the Shire. Currently there is no funding available for pool covers, the estimated cost for a new cover is between \$28,000 to \$35,000.

Questions from Vynka Lay, Lake Grace – received by email Wednesday 7 March 2012

1. HEATING OF THE LAKE GRACE SWIMMING POOL

When is the Lake Grace Swimming Pool going to be heated? What was the finding of investigations into the heating of the pool? After watching my children suffer through years swimming lessons in 21 degree water, I would like this matter addressed. The entire pool complex is one of the most under utilized assets of our town, simply because it is too cold! It is also absurd to have a bus load of seniors of Senior Citizens travelling weekly to Narrogin to do exercise classes in the heated pool there, when we could use our own pool if it was heated.

Reply

This matter was also raised via the previous question ... the answer is the same.

2. PLAYGROUND NEXT TO LAKE GRACE SWIMMING POOL

Why is the playground between the Shire office and the pool not accessible via the pool? The notice that appeared in the Lakes Link late last year warning parents about the dangers of children accessing this playground was simply insulting. That playground is hardly ever used because it is in a ridiculous place. It should be either utilized from the swimming pool or shifted to another location, and as it is only accessible from a carpark, of course it is dangerous.

Reply

Again, this question has already been raised ... the answer is the same.

3. RECYCLING DEPOT LAKE GRACE TOWNSITE

This depot has been removed? Why? When is it to be returned? It was extremely well utilized, so why was it removed?

Reply

The Lake Grace Recycling Depot has not been removed. However, there is still a large recycling skip bin at the waste disposal site. The large skip bin was removed from the Recycling Depot in town due to a cost blow-out. The yellow top recycling bins that were previously at the recycling yard have all disappeared i.e. they have 'walked'.

The Recycling Depot will be relocated to the other end of Dewar St in the near future as part of the Dewar St Light Industrial Subdivision Project.

Mrs Sylvia Brandenburg asked the following questions:

Question: Reference is made to the Reserve Funds on hand, there are substantial funds, could we have a list?

Reply: *The CEO advised the Reserve Funds are listed in the Annual Report.*

Question: Mrs Brandenburg referred to the Lake King Traffic Management Plan which was distributed through the Lake King Progress Association and for which there is an amount of \$44,000 in the budget. Mrs Brandenburg assumes Councillors have seen the plan and made the following comments:

- The tree and Goods Shed are heritage items
- Loading Ramp and stockyards have already been moved
- New plan brings traffic closer to the toilets than one could possibly imagine
- All Councillors are aware that Lake King has no other historical site in town
- The 'Hole in the Wall' is an important part of the town

Reply: *The Shire President advised that community engagement is taking place and that the Manager Infrastructure will take the comments on board.*

Mr Tim Cattle asked the following questions:

Question: Mr Cattle quoted statistics on the ratio of Shire population versus Shire employees between 1995 and today, along with the difference in operating budget and revenue. He believes the people at the eastern end of the Shire are not getting value for money and that things are not sustainable. Which way is the Shire going?

Reply: *The Shire President replied that rates increased by 4%, the same as CPI and made comment of the following:*

- *Shire sources grants which are Govt flavour at the time to top up funds*
- *More and more responsibility is being off loaded onto local government – all has a \$ value*
- *Strategic Planning is costing a heap of money*
- *Local Government Reform*
- *4WD & Lakes VROC – unless we are part and parcel of these regional organisations there would be no funds for housing for the elderly*
- *Tyranny of distance has a cost- minor things are going up and up*

- *Need to be up with it to keep population numbers up*
- *Housing – we have a business case in place*
- *Eastern States get most of the Federal \$'s – 4WD & Lakes VROC is recognised by the Federal Government*
- *Shire is trying to keep costs down – look at SARS – look at rates*

Mr Cattle:

- *Believes the Shire needs direction in relation to where employees live*
- *The ratepayers need more value for their \$'s*
- *Employees should be located regionally to service their job*
- *Lake Grace believe Lake Grace is a service centre – it used to be but now it is not, we are paying for it – be realistic and fair*
- *Shire needs a policy*

The Shire President replied the platform on which he stood when nominating for Council was the lack of Shire staff outside of Lake Grace.

The CEO advised that despite the Shire's best efforts to have employees out here all efforts over the past eighteen months have fallen over and at this time there are only cleaners. There is a process of community engagement underway to help the Shire get to where it needs to be throughout the next ten years and, the consultants will be out and about talking to groups and individuals seeking input. The obligations to report on everything we do is onerous, it is a competitive game, we need to be out there to get our share of the money.

The Shire President advised that the consultants will be at Varley for a community meeting – get your word across – where you want the Shire to be.

Question: Mrs Brandenburg queried the 4WD & Lake VROC and have collaboration and discussions gone on with Esperance regarding Cascades Road?

Reply: *The CEO advised that previous discussions had taken place re Cascades Rd, there was to be a report done – the matter needs to be pursued and further discussion had with the Shire of Esperance.*

Question: Mrs Brandenburg queried the status of the Hyden to Norseman Rd?

Reply: *The Shire President replied that on a regional basis the Hyden to Norseman Road is a priority road.*

Question: Mrs Brandenburg asked about community housing and the fact that people were earning too much money and the Joint Venture houses are in a run down state – what is going to happen?

Reply: *Shire President replied that housing is an issue, Council needs to make up its mind on how to manage its housing. Whoever takes it on, hopefully things improve. The Shire are not housing managers, we have a report, hopefully it will be signed off on in three months time.*

Mrs Brandenburg commented that Lake Grace has houses, people in Lake King are already working need a package to bring people in.

The CEO thanked Mrs Brandenburg for her comments.

Question: Mr Lindsay Brownley thanked the Shire for the quick cemetery repairs to their family graves and also asked why it has taken so long to get a response to works requests for the Lake King Pavilion when letters were written on 10 April 2011 and again on 10 May and 11 August.

Reply: The CEO replied he didn't have an answer but it will be checked up on.

Mr Brownley thanked the Shire for finally fitting the BBQ at the Lake King Pavilion.

Question: Mrs Karen Richardson said every day as she drives to town she has to go past the block opposite Tyrepower which is being used as a dump. It looks awful and is not acceptable. Also the road she travels (Varley South Rd) on is dangerous for school buses and considers her rates are just a donation when their roads are falling apart, when will some gravel be put on?

Reply: *The Shire President advised the Shire now has a full time engineer who will take those comments on board.*

Comment: Mr Ian Brandenburg also commented on the disgraceful mess at the northern end of town which has been reported time and time again.

Reply: *The CEO advised that the Shire cannot just enter onto people's land, there is a due process and it must be followed.*

9.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

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

10.0 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the President thanked everyone for their attendance and encouraged everyone to come to Varley for the community BBQ and closed the meeting at 6.00pm.