



Annual General Meeting of Electors

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Electors held on Monday 17 December 2009
at the Newdegate Library Telecentre, Newdegate.

1.0 OPENING

Shire President, Cr Andrew Walker, presiding, opened the meeting at 7.35pm, welcomed the healthy turnout and commented it was pleasing to see people taking an interest in the affairs of our local government

PRESENT	Cr Andrew Walker (President)	Cr Ian Chamberlain (Deputy President)
	Cr Amanda Milton	Cr Ross Chappell
	Cr Ollie Farrelly	Cr Dean Sinclair
	Cr John Dunkeld	Cr Wally Newman
	Mrs Katherine McCracken	Mrs Pearl Green
	Ms Alana Rosenthal	Mrs Karen Rosenthal
	Mr Len Armstrong	Mr Bill Lloyd
	Mrs Roz Lloyd	Ms Alison Spencer
	Mrs Pam Boyce	Mr David Boyce
	Ms Stephanie Clarke	Mr Matthew Lloyd
	Mrs Diana Gosling	Mr Raymond Gosling
	Mrs Phyllis McCracken	Mrs Helen McDonald
	Mr Robert Newman	Mr Gary Guelfi
	Mrs Jill Dykes	Mr Brad Boyce
	Mr Colin Dunkeld	Ms Lynne Ellard

IN ATTENDANCE	Mr Sean Fletcher (Chief Executive Officer)
	Mr Mark Burbridge (Manager Corporate Services)
	Mrs Jeanette Bennett (Executive Assistant)

2.0 APOLOGIES

Cr Jeanette De Landgraft

3.0 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Moved Cr Wally Newman, seconded Cr Ross Chappell

Minutes of previous Elector's Meeting held on Monday 30 March 2009 be accepted.

Carried.

4.0 2008/2009 ANNUAL REPORT - PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President read aloud his report. There being no questions:

Moved Cr Ollie Farrelly, seconded Cr Ross Chappell

That the President's Report for 2008/2009 be received.

Carried.

5.0 2008/2009 ANNUAL REPORT – CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

The Chief Executive Officer presented his report and provided an update on Local Government Reform and where things are at. There being no questions:

Moved Cr Wally Newman, seconded Cr Amanda Milton

That the Chief Executive Officer’s Report for 2008/2009 be received.

Carried.

6.0 2008/2009 ANNUAL REPORT – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

There being no questions:

Moved Cr John Dunkeld, seconded Cr Ollie Farrelly

That the 2008/2009 Annual Financial Statements as presented be received and adopted.

Carried.

7.0 2008/2009 ANNUAL REPORT – AUDITOR’S REPORT

The Chief Executive Officer presented the Report. There being no questions:

Moved Cr Ollie Farrelly, seconded Cr Amanda Milton

That the Auditor’s Report, inclusive of the Management Report for the 2008/2009 Financial Year be received.

Carried.

8.0 OTHER INFORMATION AND QUESTION TIME

Council has received the following (3) written questions.

Written Question 1 – Mrs Roz Lloyd, Secretary Newdegate Community Development Association

“I understand that the original plans endorsed by the committee/community for the Newdegate Medical Centre are now in jeopardy. Can you please explain?”

Reply: In reply the Shire President read aloud the following response:

It is proposed to take the outcomes from the tender process regarding the Newdegate Medical Centre project to the next Council Meeting for Council’s informed scrutiny and consideration. Until the outcomes of the tender are known and Council has given this outcome due consideration it is inappropriate to comment any further on Council’s decision making process.

The Shire President went on to comment that Council had held a workshop last week to discuss funding for the project – the project is not in jeopardy – it is important for Council to be in the know as far as the loss of funding for the project is concerned – Council agendas are in the mail - people are welcome to attend next week’s meeting if there is anything in the item they wish to question during Public Question Time.

The Chief Executive Officer also re-enforced that the bottom line is that Council are yet to meet to consider the report – the public can come along to the meeting.

Question: Mrs Judy Walker questioned the fact that never during the planning stages was a transportable considered.

Reply: The Chief Executive Officer replied that the question was not appropriate.

Written Question 2 Mrs Jill Dykes

“Why has there been a change of heart regarding the building of a new purpose built Medical Centre when it has already been passed and accepted by the Newdegate community?”

Reply: The President and Chief Executive Officer both summed up in that again Council has not yet considered the report from the CEO – this will be done at next week’s Council Meeting. The report considers options that were spoken about at last week’s Councillor’s workshop. Council will be assessing funding options.

Written Question 3 Mrs Helen McDonald & Mrs Pearl Green

“We object strongly to any consideration of changes to the building of the Newdegate Medical Centre from the plan discussed, displayed and accepted by the community to a transportable building.

The tenders were out for this project, why the change?

The Newdegate Field Day (a community organisation) has contributed \$150,000 towards the project.

We would like an explanation of why this change is even being considered.

This has been many years of ongoing anticipation and planning and is part of a three phase overall plan for Newdegate.

There is an urgent need for a return to the original objective, and we would with many others like this to be discussed at the Ratepayers Meeting tonight.”

Comment: Mrs McDonald also went on to comment about the project being ongoing and part of a three phase plan which also includes renovation to the town hall and a seniors village for the town of Newdegate.

Reply: The President replied that yes the Medical Centre is an ongoing project and part of a proposed 3 phase plan. Once again it is very hard to comment on the Medical Centre part as no one has yet had the chance to look at the CEO’s report in any detail. Council met informally last week to discuss the loss of funding for the project and how funding could be sourced. The discussion was had to allow the CEO to prepare his report for next week’s Council Meeting.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that Council is earnestly looking to move the project forward and the difficulties involved, particularly now that the Royalties for Regions Programme funding has been deferred – Council needs to have the discussion on funding for the project.

Comment: Mrs McDonald commented that \$50,000 has been spent on plans to date and the community does not want to downgrade and end up with a lesser quality building than was planned and approved. The current medical rooms are disgusting. If the funds

are not there, there must be more discussion with the community or a Council decision on the matter. More grants come up constantly and must be able to be sourced.

Reply: The Chief Executive Officer advised that the budget allocation of \$250,000 is still available, the project in its current form now needs an additional source of funding because access to expected funds has now been removed.

The Shire President advised that last Monday's informal meeting was to discuss other funding sources because the \$300,000 NRRHIP funding application (federal funding) was not available. Council now needs to sit back and assess where we are at.

Comment: Mrs Judy Walker said that the most important thing is having a health service, it makes the community feel safe, the money needs to be spent on a good facility.

Comment: Mrs Diana Gosling advised that the Medical Centre was not just for the doctor to use once a week but also for child health, occupational and speech therapy and mental health. She herself works as an extended care nurse in the community and needs somewhere to work from. The Centre will have a considerable number of uses.

Reply: The Shire President once again re-iterated the project is not in jeopardy, the issue is with how it is to be funded and at what expense. Council has a fiscal responsibility in ensuring a good future for the Shire.

Comment: Mr Robert Newman advised that the \$150,000 Field Day Commitment may not be forthcoming if the plans change. The matter would be taken back to a meeting and would probably not be supported if it was to be a pre-fabricated building.

Question: Mrs Roz Lloyd asked if all those present tonight could have a copy of the relevant agenda report?

Reply: The Chief Executive Officer gave consent.

Question: Mrs Helen McDonald asked where the idea for a transportable building came from?

Reply: The Shire President re-iterated that Council has not had its meeting yet and the matter has not yet been considered.

Comment: Mrs Jill Dykes commented that as a Community Nurse she provides child health and well women's clinics out of the Newdegate Medical Centre and would like to see the original plans followed through. She would be disappointed if the building was downgraded as the community will use it more than one day a week.

Reply: The Chief Executive Officer advised that if the building plans were to change the community would be consulted.

Comment: Mrs Jill Dykes – She was involved in the very first well women's clinic being run out of Lake Grace 10 years ago, they ran out of room and now have a good medical facility. Who knows where we will be in 10 years time in Newdegate if we have the new facility.

Comment: Mrs Helen McDonald – Nothing can be done until the Council Meeting next Wednesday.

Comment: The Shire President advised a recommendation has been made and a decision will be made.

Question: Mr Colin Dunkeld queried that should the recommendation contained in the envelope become Council's decision what chance do the community have?

Reply: The Shire President advised that the community has access to the Council Agenda, they can make phone calls to Councillors, bring a delegation to the meeting and ask questions of Council at the appropriate time.

Comment: Mrs Judy Walker – it is a good opportunity for Newdegate people to let Council know how they feel.

Comment: The Chief Executive Officer encouraged everyone to read the report, all the information is there with all the issues raised.

Comment: Mrs Judy Walker again commented the community wants to see the project completed as planned.

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 closed the meeting at 8.20pm.