



Annual Meeting of Electors

Thursday 6 February 2020
Commencing at 7pm

Held at the Lower Chittering Volunteer Bushfire Brigade, 845 Muchea East Road, Lower Chittering

Preface

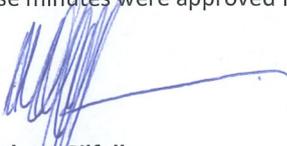
When the Chief Executive Officer approves these Minutes for distribution they are in essence "Unconfirmed" until the following Annual Meeting of Electors, where the minutes will be confirmed subject to any amendments.

The "Confirmed" Minutes are then signed off by the Presiding Member.

Attachments that formed part of the agenda, in addition to those tabled at the Annual Meeting of Electors are put together as an addendum to these Minutes.

Unconfirmed Minutes

These minutes were approved for distribution on Tuesday 18 February 2020.



Matthew Gilfellon
Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Chittering

Confirmed Minutes

These minutes were confirmed at the Annual Meeting of Electors held on:

Date:

Signed

Note: The Presiding Member at the meeting at which the minutes were confirmed is the person who signs above.

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* indicates separate attachments

Good evening Councillors, staff, ladies and gentlemen, we wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on, the Yued people. We would like to pay respect to the Elders of the Nyoongar nation, past and present, who have walked and cared for the land, we acknowledge and respect their continuing culture, and the contributions made to this region.

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING OF MEETING / ANNOUNCEMENTS OF VISITORS

The President declared the meeting open at 7.00pm and welcomed Shane Love MLA, Member for Moore to the meeting.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

2.1 Attendance

The following Elected Members were in attendance:

Cr Don Gibson	President (Presiding Member)
Cr John Davis	Deputy President
Cr Carmel Ross	
Cr John Curtis	
Cr Peter Osborn	
Cr Mary Angus	
Cr Kylie Hughes	

The following Shire staff were in attendance:

Matthew Gilfellow	Chief Executive Officer
Melinda Prinsloo	Executive Manager Corporate Services
Peter Stuart	Executive Manager Development Services
Jim Garrett	Executive Manager Technical Services
Natasha Mossman	Executive Assistant (Minute Secretary)

Media:

Nil

The following residents were in attendance:

M Southwick	Lower Chittering
G Wilkinson	Bindoon
R Gibson	Bindoon
J Kerr	Bindoon
B Hughes	Muchea
C Osborn	Bindoon
R v Eden	Mooliabeenee
DV Jowett	Bindoon
L Martin	Bindoon
J Nagel	Bindoon
D Boyanich	Bindoon
S Love	Lower Chittering

P Pedofsky	Lower Chittering
J Duzevich	Bindoon
R Frew	Bindoon
D Barnard	Lower Chittering
K Nesci	Lower Chittering
J Dawson	Lower Chittering
R Backer	Bindoon
V Pate	Lower Chittering
S Pate	Lower Chittering
L Borg	Bindoon
G Furlong	Lower Chittering
R Sprague	Chittering
P Groves	Bindoon
G Tilbury	Lower Chittering
M Rossouw	Lower Chittering

2.2 Apologies

Chris Waldie	Bindoon
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3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Annual Meeting of Electors: 13 March 2019

MOTION

Moved Cr Osborn / Seconded Cr Ross

That the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors held on Wednesday 13 March 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7:05PM

4. REPORTS

Prior to item 4.1 the Presiding Member read aloud an edited President's Message from the 2018/19 Annual Report. The Chief Executive Officer then read loud the CEO's Message from the 2018/19 Annual Report.

4.1 2018-2019 Annual Report for the Shire of Chittering*

Applicant	Shire of Chittering
File ref	13/02/38; 12/03/4
Prepared by	Executive Assistant
Supervised by	Chief Executive Officer
Voting requirements	Absolute Majority
Attachments	1. 2018-2019 Annual Report

Executive Summary

The 2018-2019 Annual Report for the Shire of Chittering is presented to the Annual Meeting of Electors.

Background

The *Local Government Act 1995* requires a local government to prepare an Annual Report each financial year and to hold an Annual Electors Meeting.

The Annual Electors Meeting is to be held on a day selected by the local government, but not more than 56 days after the report is accepted by the local government.

The annual audit was undertaken by Moore Stephens (WA) Pty Ltd and signed off by the Shire's auditor Mr Wen Shien Chai on 20 November 2019. Mr Wen Shien Chai discussed queries relating to the 2018-2019 Annual Report and financial statements with the Audit Committee via teleconference at the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 16 December 2019.

The draft Annual Report was considered at the same time as the Audited Financial Statements at a Special Council Meeting on 16 December 2019 meeting along with the 2018-2019 Annual Report which is including of the concise audited financial report.

Consultation/Communication Implications

Local

Chief Executive Officer
Audit and Risk committee

State

Moore Stephens

Legislative Implications

State

- *Local Government Act 1995*
- *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations*
- *Local Government (Administration) Regulations*

Local

Nil

Policy Implications

State

Nil

Local

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil

Strategic Implications

State

Nil

Local

- *Strategic Community Plan 2017-2027*
Focus area: Strong leadership
Objective: S5.1 An engaged community
Strategy: S5.1.1 Encourage and promote community engagement

Site Inspection

Not applicable

Triple Bottom Line Assessment

Economic implications

There are no known significant economic implications associated with this proposal.

Social implications

There are no known significant social implications associated with this proposal.

Environmental implications

There are no known significant environmental implications associated with this proposal.

Officer Comment/Details

The Annual Report represents an accurate snapshot of the Shire's activities over the 12 month period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019. In particular, the Annual Report also details progress made against the projects and actions as listed in the four year *Corporate Business Plan 2017-2021*. The financials have been assessed and meet the approval of the Shire's external auditors.

MOTION

Moved Lee Martin / Seconded Dennis Boyanich

That the 2018-2019 Annual Report and the Audited Financial Statements are received by Electors of the Shire of Chittering.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7:13PM

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 Rene van Eeden, Mooliabeenee

Mrs van Eeden addressed the meeting and spoke about their local honey business, which they are busy building up. Mrs van Eeden asked the President and Deputy if they support tourism and the work of the Chittering Tourist Association who contribute to the employment and support of tourism and business owners, whilst attracting investment to the shire.

The President stated that we support tourism but not at the expense of ratepayers.

Mrs van Eeden then stated that she looks forward to Council support in future decisions that are made.

5.2 George Tilbury, Lower Chittering

Mr Tilbury addressed the meeting and spoke to the grant of \$4.71m that was awarded for a new sport/recreation community facility in Lower Chittering, which is long overdue and needed by the community in Lower Chittering. Mr Tilbury asked how the grant is going to be spent to deliver a new community facility in Lower Chittering and can you categorically rule out that the money will be returned to the Federal Government or syphoned off to other projects in Bindoon or Muchea.

The President stated that the result from the local government election gave a clear message that ratepayers are not going to put up with a \$5m debt. Council is not going to borrow \$5m, and negotiations are ongoing with the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF). Council will be applying for a lesser grant, probably \$1m, which will be used to upgrade existing facilities. Mr Tilbury asked if this will be for the existing facility in Lower Chittering, which the President responded that it would be for Muchea and elsewhere.

Mr Tilbury then spoke on the subject that when Councillors are elected they are scrutinised by the community with everything that they do, and how they are responsible to the public 24/7. Mr Tilbury then drew the meetings attention to a flyer that was disseminated to the Lower Chittering community from the Deputy President, Cr John Davis, which contains mistruths about massive

rate increases and the Lower Chittering facility. Mr Tilbury asked is this flyer was sanctioned and supported by the shire and also asked as to what action the shire is taking to set the record straight by conveying factual information to the community.

The President stated that with regard to the flyer, that Cr Davis is within his rights to get the opinion of his local community. The flyer was only sent around to residents in Lower Chittering and the responses have been valuable. The President invited Cr Davis to address the meeting.

Cr Davis stated that the survey was conducted by himself for the ratepayers of Lower Chittering, so that he could get an idea of what there feelings were. The survey results were:

- *6% response rate:*
 - *9 against; and*
 - *1 for.*

Cr Davis stated that with these results most ratepayers do not want the facility to be built at a cost of \$5m (or thereabouts) to the residents. Cr Davis then stated at \$4.7m would probably cost the shire an extra 6% in rates, and residents do not want their rates increasing. Cr Davis then stated that the replies that he received were 9:1 against; however some responses indicated that they wanted the facility but not the way that it was planned by the previous Council which was ridiculous. Cr Davis stated that Council are looking at it, however there has been no requests from any organisation or association to build the facility.

Mr Tilbury stated that he will await the facts from the shire and an official survey, as many members from the Lower Chittering community did not want to participate in something undertaken privately. Residents want something that is official and 'on-the-records' and undertaken by the shire.

5.3 Shane Love, Lower Chittering

Mr Love asked about Lower Chittering Road and in particular the current work that is pegged-out if it will involve widening and/or safety barriers.

The President invited the shire's Executive Manager Technical Services to respond.

Mr Garrett advised that the culverts are going to be widened, with a 7.2m seal and that the shire is planning on extending up to Chittering Valley Road this year.

The President thanked Mr Garrett.

5.4 Lynn Borg, Bindoon

Mrs Borg stated that on 20 January 2020 she delivered by hand to the shire an envelope that contained a letter of warning and objection notice, plus medical advice; and as yet has not received a response. Mrs Borg directed her question to the Chief Executive Officer, asking if he had received that correspondence.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that he had received her document, however had been on leave last week of January, and as yet have not replied. Mr Gilfellow advised that a response would be provided to Mrs Borg.

5.5 John Dawson, Lower Chittering

Mr Dawson asked if Guernsey Rise will be connected to Maddern Road.

The President invited the shire's Chief Executive Officer to respond.

Mr Gilfellow stated that the shire is aware of the benefits of that connection, and that we would like that to happen; however at the moment that land is all privately owned. When this area is developed this is when the shire's planning department will make sure that the road goes right through so that there is that connection in place. As the land is currently privately owned unfortunately the shire is not able to do anything with it.

5.6 Julie Duzevich, Bindoon

Ms Duzevich addressed the meeting on behalf of herself and Richard Frew for the 'Friends of Bell Hill Reserve'.

Ms Duzevich asked if those responsible for the NBN tower on Bell Hill Reserve are pleased with their handywork. Ms Duzevich stated that the footprint dominates the lives of residents around Bell Hill Reserve and that the decision was a betrayal of the Yued people, local property owners and wildlife.

Cr Davis then asked Ms Duzevich if the advice that he had been given that you should not go on or near Bell Hill Reserve if you have a pacemaker is correct.

Ms Duzevich stated that there is a notice on the tower that anyone with a pacemaker is at risk.

5.7 Colleen Osborn, Bindoon

Mrs Osborn sought clarification from the Shire President's statement that you are not going to spend \$5m, and if this was a shire decision or just his belief.

The President stated that the project has been suspended and that it would stay suspended for the next few months until the agreement has been renegotiated.

Mrs Osborn again asked if there is decision, due to the President's emphatic statement that 'we would not spend \$5m', and whether this statement meant "you" or a "Council decision".

The President responded by saying that the local government election was very clear that the ratepayers were not going to accept that sort of debt.

Mrs Osborn asked again if there is a Council decision.

The President advised that it hadn't been formally decided.

5.8 David Barnard, Lower Chittering

Mr Barnard spoke to the matter previously raised regarding a route north out of Maryville Downs, as if a fire entered the estate from the south/southwest that the residents in this estate have no escape route.

The President thanked Mr Barnard.

5.9 Sandy Pate, Lower Chittering

Mr Pate expressed his appreciation of the 'sprucing-up' of the area, i.e. roads, white lines that we use a lot. Mr Pate spoke on the entry statements at Hereford Road and Santa Gertrudis Drive, and how did the shire arrive at the finish (i.e. concrete), as he has been hearing criticisms that concrete is a bit boring and not very good. Mr Pate also asked if the finish has to be grey, could there be some rustic art to promote the locality.

The President stated that it was a good idea, and directed a further response to the shire's Executive Manager Technical Services.

The shire's Chief Executive Officer responded, stating that the concrete finish is not the final and that it is going to be painted with the colour to be matching the previous colour, which is rammed earth.

Mr Pate congratulated the shire as the community were not sure if it is was finished or not. Mr Pate further commented on the thoughts of rustic art or an extra promotion.

Mr Gilfellow advised that any ideas will be taken to Council as with any projects, Council is responsible for approving the budget. Mr Gilfellow will take the request to Council for budget consideration.

5.10 Paul Groves, Bindoon

Mr Groves expressed his concern that with the new Great Northern Highway, what will happen to the maintenance of the old section of Highway; especially the cost to the shire in getting it up to a standard or will Main Roads fix it up before handing it over.

The President invited the shire's Chief Executive Officer to respond.

Mr Gilfellow advised that the shire has received written confirmation from Main Roads that they will be keeping ownership of that section of the road, which is the same for when the Bypass comes in. Main Roads understood that with 42km of additional road has never been passed to local governments before, therefore will be keeping ownership. The shire's sums worked out to about \$800,000 per year, which Main Roads were keeping.

Mr Groves enquired into the recycling facility that had burned down in the city, and that some recycling is going into landfill; and asked if this is impacting on the shire's ratepayers.

Mr Gilfellow stated that he had not checked it out for certain, but the business (i.e. Cleanaway) that burnt down is not the business that the shire uses, the shire uses Avon Waste. Mr Gilfellow further stated that he noted in the report that the EMRC (i.e. Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council) facility is no longer accepting Cleanaway, however would accept individual shires. Mr Gilfellow stated that he is going to contact Avon Waste to ensure that the shire's recycling is still being recycled.

Mr Groves spoke to the bridal trails located in the Country Club (Bindoon) and that in the shire's Program of Works there is money to be spent on updating and/or improving existing walking and cycling trails. Mr Groves asked if the bridal trails in the Country Club are included in the Program.

The President stated that the trails were never intended for cycling and stated that it is the mountain bike park that Mr Groves was referring to.

Mr Groves stated that the trails are through the Country Club Estate, that there is nothing to do with mountain bikes.

The President stated that he wasn't aware, and the shire's Chief Executive Officer responded that the statement wasn't specific to the bridal trails. The shire has just received funding in the region of \$100,000 for the Carty to Clune Trail (i.e. Bindoon to the Brockman Centre) and this is what that statement would be referring to.

Mr Groves expressed concern that the bridal trails are a little rugged to be used by horses, and that local residents like to walk but these trails could be a way that the shire can encourage exercise and well-being by improving them as walking trails.

The President stated that these trails were always intended to be bush tracks and suggested hiking sticks.

Mr Groves then spoke that our neighbouring shires to the east and west have been praised as they have received funds for bushfire mitigation work. Mr Groves asked if Chittering received any funding.

The President directed the shire's Chief Executive Officer to respond, and stated that the shire did not receive any of that particular funding.

Mr Groves then asked if the shire applied for it.

The Chief Executive Officer took Mr Groves's question on notice, to allow for further research and will respond accordingly. The Chief Executive Officer stated that in terms of bushfire efforts, the shire always needs additional money. In terms of bushfire efforts, the shire received funding to undertake and complete a Bushfire Risk Management Plan and this year the shire has been pursuing this with strategic firebreaks at almost 100%, increasing mitigation burning, when planning assess subdivisions that another route is available. The shire has also employed a bushfire risk officer who is working with residents 'one-on-one' to improve their properties.

Mr Groves stated that this grant is given to the shire's to do this work, and that shires' do not have to find their own money, and stated that Gingin received \$4m for Crown Land.

The Chief Executive Officer stated that this grant has restrictions were the money can only be used on Crown Land.

5.11 Bill Nobes, Bindoon

Mr Nobes addressed the meeting and first stated that he had nobody to attack. Mr Nobes then expressed congratulations as there is change happening. Mr Nobes then spoke about the boat and that he has come to a standstill as he is being confronted with problems, and asked Council to help to develop as a community the aged care facility for the land surrounding the medical centre. Mr Nobes then spoke more on the matter of aged care and the document that he provided to Council.

Mr Nobes stated that he was not asking for money from the community but asking for help from the shire to get money to be able to take this from a point of sitting to a point of were we can communicate from an exhibition centre.

Cr Davis asked Mr Nobes about the plan, and then proceeded to read aloud information on Brightwater Services that have properties like the one on plan. Cr Davis asked if Mr Nobes had approached them.

Mr Nobes responded that he has not approached Brightwater Services, and spoke more on aged care services and the potential for a regional facility for the area.

The President stated that Council is supportive of what Mr Nobes is doing, and that Council will keep working until they have a result.

Mr Nobes then enquired who he could speak to about getting some funding for some letters, as Mr Nobes wants to get the boat into a 'situation' as promised.

The President said okay.

5.12 Ruth Sprague, Chittering

Mrs Sprague raised concern with the Auditors Report and sought the Council's clarification about what they will do to ensure this statement is not in next year's report. Mrs Sprague referred to page 85:

"In accordance with the Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996, we also report that:

- a) In our opinion, there is a significant adverse trend in the financial position of the Shire as the asset sustainability ratio and operating surplus ratio have been below the DLGSCI standard for the past 3 years."*

Mrs Sprague asked if someone could advise what Council is doing to stop the flow.

The President directed the shire's Chief Executive Officer to respond.

Mr Giffellon stated that now that the Office of the Auditor General is responsible for all local governments that even if your trend is improving, if you are not meeting the benchmark standard they will still say there is a significant adverse trend. In terms of ratios every Wheatbelt council does not meet those ratios.

Mrs Sprague stated that she wasn't interested in other councils as this is the one where she lives. Mrs Sprague wanted to know what we were doing as a "company" to address because as a "shareholder" she isn't impressed.

Mr Gilfellon responded that if you wanted to account towards benchmarks, the way to get the ratio would be to either: (1) halve our spending and cut our services in half; or (2) double rates income, therefore we would have a sufficient operating surplus, but believes ratepayers do not want that. With regard to efficiency, unless services are cut in half it will not help as the benchmarks have been put in place by the State Government, and are not based on reality of what local governments face. The Shire will never achieve those benchmarks while relying on grant funding, which the council does. The only way the shire will stop relying on grant funding is to severely increase rate funding, which council does not want to do.

Mrs Sprague then asked if she picked up any other shire in the Wheatbelt their auditors report would have the same comment in it that local government can't get their act together.

Mr Gilfellon responded that yes to the question that other Wheatbelt local governments would have the same comment in their auditors report. With regard to 'local government can't get their act together', Mr Gilfellon stated that it isn't that local government cannot get their act together, its that it is not able to meet the official benchmark that has been set by the State Government. Mr Gilfellon further stated that the standards are set by State Government (not local government) which is not based on the reality that local governments face the State Government came up with a measurement.

Mrs Sprague then asked if the council can query that with the State Government.

Mr Gilfellow advised that local governments have queried this many times with the State Government, and as they are still going through the current Local Government Act Review, but the State Government has chosen not to change it.

Mrs Srague then asked that in the future that the document be made available to the ratepayers well in advance, not 24hrs before a meeting.

Mr Gilfellow advised that the Annual Report while not clearly available on the shire's website, it was tabled at December's Special Council Meeting so has been out in the public realm since then. The document was an attachment to the December Special meeting of Council, and has been available on the shire's website since then.

Mrs Sprague then asked as a ratepayer, how was she able to access a copy of the document.

Mr Gilfellow stated that if the minutes are followed, the December meeting it was an attachment to the Special Council Meeting.

Mrs Sprague stated that a document like the annual report should be made available to the ratepayers on the shire's website well in advance, not 12hrs before an electors meeting so that people have a chance to read the document, to then be able to ask council/CEO/staff for an explanation of anything in the report. Mrs Sprague further stated that if the shire is talking about being open and transparent, and being aware that this is what she would like to see.

The President stated that the new council is currently working on cutting costs and will continue to do that to get the shire back in a better situation.

5.13 Michelle Rossouw, Lower Chittering

Ms Rossouw spoke to the comment about cutting costs, with council on numerous occasions have been committed to cutting costs, and asked when council will commit to reviewing and reducing the sitting fees considering the ratepayers are funding an exorbitant amount of \$45,000 a year just for the President's fee.

The President responded by saying that council has frozen the sitting fees for the last three years and will be looking at it again in April.

Ms Rossouw then asked again if the President will commit to reducing this current sitting fees, considering that as President he is taking \$45,000 a year for a sitting fee.

The President responded by saying that council look at the average, and believes that this council is sitting below the average at the moment.

Ms Rossouw then directed her question to the January meeting, and asked why council instructed the Chief Executive Officer and President to not apply the Common Seal to the Immaculate Heart College agreement.

The President stated that Ms Rossouw would be well aware of the rejection of this deal at the last local government election, which Ms Rossouw was a part of, and council is acting in accordance with the ratepayers request.

Ms Rossouw stated that this response did not answer her question, and as she remembers the members who were elected were not elected on the proviso of stopping the recreation centre going ahead.

The President responded by saying that the message was very clear and that information since gives the same impression.

Ms Rossouw then asked what this information was.

The President responded by saying that the Deputy President has further information on his survey.

Ms Rossouw asked if this was the survey that went out on a piece of paper with a personal email address, as didn't think it could be called a survey as the only reference is at the top of the flyer is states "This survey is sent to all Lower Chittering residents", which there were many who did not receive; and it also said "unlike other surveys that have not been a good representation of our needs or requirements so I implore you to give some thought to this letter". Ms Rossouw then asked if the Deputy President will publish the results of his survey.

The President stated that this survey was as successful or better than most shire surveys that have been put out.

Ms Rossouw asked how many responded.

The President stated that generally the shire gets about 4%.

The Deputy President then asked if Ms Rossouw would like him to read aloud one response.

Ms Rossouw said that her question was what the percentage of the response rate.

The Deputy President stated that it was 6%.

Ms Rossouw apologised that she was not in the meeting when the Deputy President first referenced his response rate. Ms Rossouw then asked if council will commit to taking on the \$2m that is now not going to be taken by the Immaculate Heart College.

The President stated that council will not be taking on the \$2m.

Ms Rossouw then asked how it would be more financially responsible by not letting them take on the burden of the \$2m than rather the shire taking on additional \$2m.

The President stated that the Immaculate Heart College have continually re-negged on their agreements, even though they have a written and signed agreement and that there will not be any further dealings.

Ms Rossouw then asked if the project will not go ahead.

The President's response was "exactly".

Ms Rossouw asked if council have made that decision.

The President stated that it was unaffordable and that the ratepayers were not going to put up with that sort of borrowings.

Ms Rossouw stated that she wasn't sure if it had been to a vote, as doesn't remember it being to a vote. Ms Rossouw further stated that the shire has not undertaken an official survey to find out what the ratepayers actually want.

Mr President then stated that the shire has had public meeting after public meeting and that it has been rejected at every one, so didn't think it was an issue and directed Ms Rossouw to go onto another subject.

Ms Rossouw then stated that there was no formal recommendations that were voted on by council. To date, council has voted on every recommendation that has come to council except for the one in January for the recreation centre.

The President stated that this was previous council Ms Rossouw was talking about and that there is a new council now.

Ms Rossouw asked if council was going to disregard all the 10 year planning that has gone into the recreation centre that the community has said that they want, and feasibilities that have been done to say [interrupted by the floor]

The President said that council is using common sense.

Ms Rossouw asked if Council will be redirecting the funds to Muchea.

The President's response that it was part of it.

Ms Rossouw asked if council had spoken to the Federal Government with regard to redirecting the funds.

The President advised that council has to negotiate whether we get anything or nothing, and this hasn't been done yet.

Ms Rossouw asked what the consequences were if the shire gets nothing and decline a \$5m grant from the Federal Government when the council wants to go ahead with, for example, an aged care facility, which is federal government funding; what will the consequences be of that.

The President said that the consequences will be saving the ratepayers a lot of money in repaying loans.

Ms Rossouw asked if the shire will fund an aged care facility out of their own pocket.

The President advised that this would be done by private company.

5.14 Cr John Davis, Lower Chittering

There being no further general business, Cr John Davis asked the President's permission to read aloud a response from his survey. Cr Davis then proceeded to read aloud a sample response to the 500 surveys he distributed.

"Thank you for the pamphlet you sent to Lower Chittering residents. We really appreciate that you are interested in our feedback. We have four young children and generally do not use Chittering Shire facilities. We have found that a majority of events and programs that are run by the Shire are focused around Bindoon town, which is too far out of our way [inaudible]. When things are run at Lower Chittering Hall there is limited information available. We currently utilise many events and programs run by the City of Swan through the Bullsbrook Library as it is more closer, more community focused, and family friendly for us. We also use the Gingin pool as it is affordable and family friendly. This is the first year that we are considering enrolling any of our children in extra-curricular sport and activities; that would be the scouts in Lower Chittering and soccer in Ellenbrook. Unless the shire is willing to change direction and put greater focus on Lower Chittering [inaudible] community engagement, events and programs at the new facility I can't see us using. We agree with the majority of other ratepayers in the shire, we are opposed to building of this facility if it results in an increase to our rates. We already get minimal services from the shire rates that keep increasing. From information that we have received so far it seems that the building of this community facility will be of great benefit and minimal outlay for the IHC school, but a minimal benefit and a great cost to the community. While the IHC may feel the need for a massive sporting complex, it seems over the top for the needs of Lower Chittering residents, especially considering the plans [inaudible] sporting complex, oval, pool [inaudible]..."

Cr Davis stated that they were not totally against the facility but they do not want to increase their rates. Cr Davis stated that this was main thing that had come back from the 30 responses that he got back. Cr Davis further stated that the project that was planned with the last/previous council was too expensive and no consultation of the ratepayers. Cr Davis stated that he made an attempt as a councillor to approach the ratepayers.

5.15 Cr Mary Angus, Bindoon

Cr Angus asked permission from the President to address the meeting.

Cr Angus informed the meeting that 'yes', council has voted to put the Lower Chittering facility on hold and probably not proceed as originally planned, but council as a whole as yet has not finished discussing or made any decisions on where the funds will go, if they will be redirected, what may or may not happen at Lower Chittering; so no decisions have been made by council yet.

6. CLOSURE

The President declared the meeting closed at 8:02PM.