

**MINUTES FOR
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS**

Tuesday, 1 December 2015

Bindoon Town Hall
6182 Great Northern Highway
Bindoon WA 6502

Commencement: 6.00pm

Closure: 7.55pm



These minutes will be confirmed at the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on Wednesday, 16 December 2015.

SIGNED BY

Person presiding at meeting which minutes were confirmed

DATE

Disclaimer

The purpose of this Council meeting is to discuss and, where possible, make resolutions about items appearing on the agenda.

Whilst Council has the power to resolve such items and may in fact, appear to have done so at the meeting, no person should rely on or act on the basis of such decision or on any advice or information provided by a member or officer, or on the content of any discussion occurring, during the course of the meeting.

Persons should be aware that the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1995* (section 5.25 (e)) establish procedures for revocation or rescission of a Council decision. No person should rely on the decisions made by Council until formal advice of the Council decision is received by that person.

The Shire of Chittering expressly disclaims liability for any loss or damage suffered by any person as a result of relying on or acting on the basis of any resolution of Council, or any advice or information provided by a member or officer, or the content of any discussion occurring, during the course of the Council meeting.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	ATTENDANCE	1
2.	RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE.....	1
	2.1 Attendance.....	1
	2.2 Apologies.....	2
	2.3 Approved leave of absence.....	2
	2.4 President’s Welcome Address	2
3.	OFFICER’S REPORTS.....	4
	3.1 Presentation of the 2014-2015 Audited Financial Statements for the Shire of Chittering*	4
	3.2 Presentation of the 2014-2015 Annual Report for the Shire of Chittering*	4
4.	GENERAL BUSINESS	4
	4.1 Bill Nobes, Bindoon	4
	4.2 John Davis, Lower Chittering.....	6
	4.3 Les Parsons, Bindoon	6
	4.4 John Curtis, Bindoon	7
	4.5 John Davis, Lower Chittering.....	7
	4.6 Mark (Marcus) Edmonds, Mooliabeenee	8
	4.7 Brian Smith, Bindoon	8
	4.8 Bill Nobes, Bindoon	9
	4.9 John Nagel, Bindoon	9
	4.10 Derek Tabor, Mooliabeenee	10
	4.11 Sam Young, Chittering.....	10
	4.12 Patricia Shemeld, Chittering.....	11
	4.13 Ann Elliot, Bindoon.....	12
	4.14 Graham Belgrove, Chittering.....	12
	4.15 Lee Martin, Bindoon.....	12
	4.16 Tuarn Brown, Chittering.....	13
	4.17 Chris Oversby, Bindoon.....	13
	4.18 Cheryl Porter, Bindoon.....	13
	4.19 Bernie Erhard, Bindoon.....	14
	4.20 John Broad, Bindoon	14
5.	CLOSURE.....	14

* indicates separate attachments

1. ATTENDANCE

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 6pm.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

2.1 Attendance

The following Elected Members were in attendance:

Cr Stephen Vallance	Shire President
Cr Gordon Houston	Deputy Shire President
Cr Don Gibson	
Cr Aaron King	
Cr Peter Osborn	
Cr Michelle Rossouw	
Cr George Tilbury	

The following Shire staff were in attendance:

Mr Gary Tuffin	Chief Executive Officer
Ms Jean Sutherland	Executive Manager Corporate Services
Miss Bronwyn Southee	Executive Manager Development Services
Mr Jim Garrett	Executive Manager Technical Services
Mrs Karen Parker	Manager Human Resources
Miss Karen Dore	Economic Development / Communications Officer (Minute Secretary)

The following residents were in attendance:

John Williams	Bindoon
Ed and Rhonda Walsh	Bindoon
Pam and John Winterbourne	Bindoon
Lois Jones	Bindoon
Myrna Turner	Bindoon
Jean Kerr	Bindoon
Jane Righton	Bindoon
Agnes Beaton	Bindoon
John Pilbeam	Bindoon
M Edmonds	Bindoon
B Smith	Bindoon
C O'Neil	Chittering
Janet Pilbeam	Bindoon
Richard Frew	Bindoon
Julie Duzevich	Bindoon
John Davis	Lower Chittering
Anne Elliot	Bindoon
Maxine and Les Parsons	Bindoon
Colleen and John Nagel	Bindoon
Bernie Erhard	Bindoon
Peter and Josephine Chick	Mooliabeenee
Lee and Cheryl Martin	Bindoon

Graham Belgrove	Lower Chittering
David and Alison Barnard	Lower Chittering
Chris Oversby	Bindoon
Sam Young	Chittering
Patricia Schemeld	Chittering
Amanda Oversby	Bindoon
Cathy and Tuarn Brown	Chittering
Ron Armstrong	Chittering
Gavin Martin	Bindoon
J Curtis	Bindoon
Cheryl Porter	Mooliabeenee
C Antunovich	Bindoon
Brenda Manning	Bindoon
Helen Manning	Bindoon
J Loudon	Wannamal
Ruth Loudon	Wannamal
Alan Barnes	Bindoon
Derek Tabor	Mooliabeenee
Patricia Tabor	Mooliabeenee
B & E Nobes	Bindoon
M Martin	Bindoon
Laurie Bush	Chittering
John Broad	Bindoon
Julie and Martin Dennis	Bindoon
Laurance Oversby	Bindoon
Natalie Vallance	Muchea

2.2 Apologies

Lance Stagbouer
Jan Stagbouer
Jeff Harris
Anne and Jeff Parrot
Nita Hart
John Barlow

2.3 Approved leave of absence

2.4 President's Welcome Address

The Shire President made the following address:

Welcome to the 2015 Annual Meeting of Electors.

Over the past 12 months we have seen a fairly significant change to the Council, with 4 completely new councillors and one recycled one being elected at the October Elections, myself being the recycled one of them. Clearly the voters wanted a change.

Tonight I have Councillors Houston, Osborne, Rossouw, King, Gibson and Tilbury with me.

The new council was sworn in at the October Ordinary Council meeting by our local Member Mr Shane Love. As we have only been in office for less than 2 months we are still in the process of getting up to speed with the operations of the Shire. Council is currently meeting weekly to be briefed by staff, and to hold its own discussions on what the priorities need to be for the next 12 months and on.

Council has already taken immediate action at its first Ordinary meeting by instructing the Chief Executive Officer to prepare a cost reduction plan for the organisation, which will look at what sustainable cost reductions can be made. This will involve an analysis of Council's income and expenditure, reviewing current and historical trends, look at what options are available to provide more cost effective ways of providing services and any initiatives that could be implemented that may lead to cost reductions.

Also at the October meeting Council resolved to put a freeze on the replacement of any plant until such time as a review has been undertaken on the Plant Replacement Program.

Council will, in the New Year undertake a review of its Strategic Community Plan which is put together based on community input. This is a community driven plan. Therefore, I encourage you all to actively participate in the community consultation process.

It is further Council's intention to review the Shire's Workforce Plan, Sports & Recreation Plan, 10 year Plant Replacement Plan & 10 Year Financial Plan amongst other Council plans.

A plan has been finalised for the redevelopment of Binda place and the new Council would like to hear the community's views on it. It is a lot of money and a big change. We need your views sooner than later as a final decision must be made before long.

Whilst I didn't agree with many of the actions of the previous Council, I believe it is appropriate that I acknowledge a few of their more significant achievements of the previous financial year, being:

- The introduction of the Rating Strategy which has been a project on the Shire's books for a very long time, at least 10 years or more. This strategy has seen the town rates on average drop by 18% and agricultural based properties reduced by around 11% on average. Overall 52% of ratepayers received a decrease and for those that didn't, Council applied a concession so that the increase would not exceed \$300 from the previous year. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of staff, as I have been advised that the process used here has been held-up as the benchmark in WA for this process by the Department of Local Government.*
- The construction of the Chittering Health Centre was another project that has been around for a very long time that was completed on budget & on time.*
- The completion of the Bindoon Hall restoration project which was majority funded by Lotterywest, is another long term project completed.*
-

In regards to the financial performance of Council, no concerns were raised by Council's Auditors (unqualified audit) and it finished the year with a \$1.7 million surplus, with over a million coming from grant payments received in advance for the 2015/16 financial year, and the balance being

explained generally by under expenditure and project savings. This surplus was carried forward to fund the current financial year.

3. OFFICER'S REPORTS

3.1 Presentation of the 2014-2015 Audited Financial Statements for the Shire of Chittering*

3.1 OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

Moved Lois Jones / Seconded Ruth Loudon

That the 2014-2015 Audited Financial Statements for the Shire of Chittering be received.

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND DECLARED CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3.2 Presentation of the 2014-2015 Annual Report for the Shire of Chittering*

3.2 OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

Moved Clint O'Neil / Seconded John Williams

That the 2014-2015 Annual Report for the Shire of Chittering be received.

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND DECLARED CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1 Bill Nobes, Bindoon

Mr Nobes addressed the meeting to challenge the Council on the legality of their responsibilities of what has taken place.

I refer to September 2014 of a vote of no confidence against the Council and the Council didn't act on that. Therefore I am going to ask the Council if they are going to take that up.

Mr Nobes spoke on notification he received from Shane Love with regard to the appointment of Chief Executive Officers in local government; and he then questioned on how one of the Councillors who resigned is back on Council.

Mr Nobes raised concerns about the appointment of the Commissioner and who appointed him; and then asked if the Shire has received a copy of the report from the Minister for Local Government following the Commissioner's appointment.

The President stated that he would be seeking a copy of that report but that he does not know if it would be made available to the public.

Mr Nobes raised the point of no confidence that was raised at the electors meeting held in Muchea 2014.

The President stated that those motions passed at the electors meeting then have to go to Council meetings to be considered. That means the Council is voting on whether they have confidence in the vote of no confidence. Council has to consider it – they do not have to pass it.

Mr Nobes advised the meeting that there is a petition with regard to this matter that will be presented to Council in due course. Mr Nobes stated that he believes that the Council should be stood down until an investigation is undertaken by the Minister or some appointed body.

Mr Nobes further stated;

We keep on paying more and more and get less and less. What are we getting? Other than increases, we want a Council for the community; put some industry, put some employment, get us accommodation for aged people.

The President stated that by the next budget this would be a completely different Council. The Chief Executive Officer has informed me that there is a \$12million development coming for the independent living units; there is a lot going on that will happen.

Mr Nobes advised that he has spoken with WA Retirees about the development and that a 2 bedroom unit would be about \$400,000 each and on top of that a cost of \$280 per month

How can the average person afford that?

The President stated that that is not what the costs are going to be.

The Chief Executive Officer stated that he has received design drawings which lays out the concept and that they expected the development to be in the order of \$12million.

Mr Nobes asked if this was over 20years.

The Chief Executive Officer stated that he was not sure on the time frame mentioned by Mr Nobes. Council has negotiated a timeframe with a deed of arrangement that they will build five within a set period of time, and another five subject to market demand. It will not happen overnight as there needs to be a market as they will only do it if it is commercially viable. It is a win for them and a win for the community. From what I have seen of the development it is a very high quality development that I am sure the community would be very pleased with. It is something that they have been asking for a very long time in the smaller size lot sizes that people can retire on. Not only that they want a quality facility and what they are producing so far it looks like it will be a very high quality facility.

Mr Nobes stated that as an aged pensioner he wants something self-sustaining and that is not going to cost me \$400,000 or even \$350,000.

The President stated that the development is going to happen and that we will release more details as they are received.

4.2 John Davis, Lower Chittering

Mr Davis asked what the cost of the administrator was that was brought in to run the Council.

The President stated that he believed it was about \$30,000. The Chief Executive Officer informed the meeting that the actual cost over the entire time for the Commissioner was \$26,000 and then add any other associated costs i.e. travel.

Mr Davis again asked what the total cost was.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that the total cost would have to be taken on notice, but as the President said it would be around \$30,000.

The President advised that the full amount may be waiting on receipt of all charges so that they can be processed.

Mr Davis stated that he understood that it would be at no cost to the Shire when he was brought in.

The Chief Executive Officer stated that the Commissioner would be in the region of \$10,000 cheaper than if the Council had of been in place during the same period. The cost of Council during the same period would have been closer to \$46,000 if the full members had of been present.

Mr Davis then raised the rumour that had been going around that the Chief Executive Officer had just before the former councillors resigned, made certain deals with regard to accommodation, wages and everything else

Is that a fact?

The President advised that not long before the councillors resigned a new contract was negotiated with the Chief Executive Officer. The new contract changed the conditions and the accommodation that the Chief Executive Officer was entitled to was paid out in cash. The President advised that he has investigated to ensure that this was legal and advised that Council were allowed to do it. Whether you think it should have been done or not that is another matter, but that is what was done and there is nothing illegal about it. There was a saving in FBT so the Shire has come out in front and we now have a house to rent out.

Mr Davis then asked if the accommodation provided by the Shire was free accommodation for the Chief Executive Officer.

The President advised that the Chief Executive Officer was paying subsidised rental on the premises, which was in the region of \$10,000 per year.

4.3 Les Parsons, Bindoon

Mr Parsons spoke on the subject of fires and his first question was with regard to the nature reserve just east of the Bindoon townsite.

There has not been a controlled burn in winter for at least 20 years and firebreaks have not been done and are badly overgrown. There are at least six farms that border this reserve and we would appreciate if the Shire could put some serious pressure on the DPaW to do the following:

- (i) To immediately have all the firebreaks done with a doubling of the width of the boundary firebreaks; and*
- (ii) To guarantee that a controlled burn take place this coming winter.*

The President advised that this is the opportune time to do it, DPaW are notorious for not looking after their land and their holdings are extensive. Now with the Bindoon fire and with it fresh in everyone's mind now would be the time to tell them that we need that done. The President advised that the Shire would take steps to do this.

4.4 John Curtis, Bindoon

Mr Curtis spoke with regard to the S.T.E.D. Program

Are those ratepayers who are going to be out of pocket to the tune of thousands, are they going to be compensated by the Shire?

The Chief Executive Officer advised of a recent meeting with the Water Corporation in regard to this project about the initial timeframe of around 2017. He mentioned there was a bit concern about some of the other developments taking place and in particular the Independent Living Units site and that we would much prefer some more project details sooner rather than later.

The Chief Executive Officer stated;

The Water Corporation have committed to undertaking a feasibility study in terms of what they can do for that sort of money. At this point in time we do not know exactly where the lines will run, or what the costs will be in relation to a connection. What they have said is that in terms of going ahead, it will need to be a 50% rejection rate of the proposal not to proceed. It will go to community consultation, there will be extensive community consultation and during that period will be the chance for the community to say whether they would like to receive those services or not.

Mr Curtis then asked if the Shire could respond to a letter received from the Minister for Transport on 16 November 2015 and inform him that we are not well catered for in public transport.

The President advised that the Shire would write a response to the Minister's letter.

4.5 John Davis, Lower Chittering

Mr Davis spoke with regard to the election campaign and that a lot of the candidates were going to look into the tip charges from the Shire.

The President advised that this would be investigated.

Mr Davis then referred to the employee expenditure in the budget (about 60%) and questioned the wages of staff.

The President advised that ratepayers are entitled to know what the Chief Executive Officer is paid, but not other staff. The Chief Executive Officer is our only employee as a Shire Council. The President directed the meeting to page 45 of the Annual Report which gives a breakdown of senior employees.

Cr King addressed the meeting and confirmed that the Shire's budget balances. As a Council we have gone down to the next level; where the costs reside and what are the costs associated with salaries, and salary on-costs i.e. superannuation. The Council is going to work forward to a cost reduction program to undertake the new budget starting March 2016. We are doing all the groundwork, we understand where all the money is, we understand how much rates we get in and we also understand what the employee costs and what the overhead costs is. They will all be addressed in time, starting with a cost reduction to come up with a balance (expenditure vs income). It will take some time rolling it out. The budget we have now will not change as it has already been agreed by a previous Council.

Mr Davis asked if the Shire had a registered logo or can anybody use it?

The President advised that it would be copyright, but that it wouldn't take too much difficulty with a letter or email to the Shire asking permission, it would be granted for most conceivable uses.

4.6 Mark (Marcus) Edmonds, Mooliabeenee

Mr Edmonds asked if all the equipment that belongs to the Shire has been recovered from Dr Haywood.

The Chief Executive Officer informed Mr Edmonds that he understands that all the equipment has been returned to the Shire however this needs to be confirmed as it has only recently been returned.

4.7 Brian Smith, Bindoon

Mr Smith referred to the paddock on the corner of Gray Road which is being worked on (filling in with gravel).

Who has paid for that?

The President advised that the block is leased from the owner of the building. The fill all came from a job up the road, so it didn't cost anything – it was cheaper carting it there, than going out to the Bindoon tip. This is where most of the fill came from. The job is being paid for by the Shire and the improvements that have been made, we are leasing the land from the person who owns it, and the payment is in-kind for the work that is being done. There is no cash payment – the work that is being done is paying for the lease.

Mr Smith asked with regard to the trees on Binda Place.

The President informed the meeting that there is a final plan and that trees will not be removed until the Shire has consulted the public.

4.8 Bill Nobes, Bindoon

Mr Nobes read aloud from a statement with regard to outcomes from the electors meeting held in September 2014, the quitting of former councillors and competing doctors for the Chittering Health Centre.

The President advised Mr Nobes that his statements refer to previous Council and not the current Council.

Mr Nobes asked for this Council to clear up these actions/statements.

The President advised Mr Nobes that the Chief Executive Officer has advised that the aged housing is coming through.

4.9 John Nagel, Bindoon

Mr Nagel asked if Council were going to reduce staff numbers to reduce costs, reduce number of staff vehicles, reduce rates and reduce spending?

The President advised that he was not able to give any solid indications on staff numbers until budget time, as you have been a Councillor so you know how these things work. With regard to vehicles they are in contracts, so there cannot be anything done about it until contracts expire but this is something that we are looking at. With regard to reducing rates, this is not going to happen. I can promise you that the future rises will be no-where near as big as they were at least why this Council is in place. You know that they will not be reduced. As for the reduction in spending the first job that the Chief Executive Officer got at the first Council meeting was to investigate areas that he considers where cuts can be made, and us as a Council will look at that and decide what areas that we consider they can be made. It will be a double-barreled approach.

Mr Nagel then spoke with regard to the resignation of the four councillors and if the Chief Executive Officer knew that the councillors were going to resign.

The Chief Executive Officer made reference to the meetings that he had with Mr Nagel on this matter previously with the Commissioner.

The Chief Executive Officer stated;

Furthermore that it was stated in the minutes as well that I said to you that on a number of occasions prior to the event, that a number of Councillors had said that they had had enough of what was going on and that they would resign. I didn't say that I knew when they would resign; I said that a number of times a group of councillors had said that they should resign. There is a big difference. I welcome an enquiry and am happy to meet with the Minister and by all means go ahead and get your enquiry.

4.10 Derek Tabor, Mooliabeenee

Mr Tabor stated that he is led to believe the cars are not on contract, they are paid for, so why can't those cars be sold?

The Chief Executive Officer advised that the cars are not on contract, they are owned outright. However, most of the cars are provided for in employment contracts to help attract staff. We have in the past couple of years reduced the amount of cars supplied for example when the parks and gardens, planning officer became vacant we had the opportunity to remove the cars.

Mr Tabor advised that he tried to help the Chief Executive Officer in regards to the lease for the new medical centre, and that he took out the provision in relation to the renting out of other rooms.

Chief Executive officer advised that he had previously advised the people taking on the new lease asked for that provision to be removed and this was clearly identified as part of the Council recommendation when Council considered this matter.

Mr Tabor asked why does the Chief Executive Officer get \$10,000 when it was his choice to move out?

Shire President advised that the previous Council negotiated it with the Chief Executive Officer.

Mr Tabor asked if any action has been taken against the Councillors who resigned?

The Shire President stated that there isn't any action that can be taken. We've sent letters to the Minister and to WALGA to try and get the Act changed so that it can't happen again. It wasn't illegal.

Mr Tabor asked how can Councillor Rossouw be allowed to sit on Council when she was allowed to be one of the main ones that brought the council down?

Shire President stated that it is not against the law.

Mr Tabor further queried the Councils dress code stating he is offended by the way some of the women dress.

Shire President stated that these issues are not appropriate for this meeting and that there is nothing wrong with what they wear.

4.11 Sam Young, Chittering

Mrs Young addressed the meeting in relation to transparency, some of you, our newly elected members quoted transparency as being an important issue that needed to be addressed when you were lobbying for us to vote you into your positions. Today Council had a meeting with the developer of Reserve Road and Rosewood Drive of which I attempted to attend and as a bounding

neighbour who will be directly impacted by the proposal. Where is the transparency today when I was advised that I needed to leave as it was a closed meeting?

Shire President advised that developers have to be able to come to Council to put their case in commercial confidence. Anything that comes to Council, you are going to find out, you are entitled to the same as a developer to come to us to put your side of the case.

Mrs Young stated that she is aware of Councils that don't have closed door briefings.

When we do our briefing, we would be happy for you to invite the Developer.

Mrs Young further asked if Council vote on a matter can it please be minuted how each Councillor votes on the matter when the vote is not in the absolute majority?

Shire President advised that it is up to a Council procedure, a Councillor can elect to have their vote recorded.

The Chief Executive Officer further commented that under the Local Government Act a Councillor has the right to ask that their vote be recorded, it is a personal choice.

The President commented;

This is possibly something we could start doing.

4.12 Patricia Shemeld, Chittering

Ms Shemeld asked;

Does the Council have the capability to implement its own emergency contacts due to the lack of information that was provided on the recent fires, it became abundantly obvious to us in the Chittering Rise development that we had a real lack of information provided when those fire were going on. They hit three sides of us and we were stuck we had only three hour incremented information packages and they weren't up to date, people were panicking.

Is it possible that we can implement a strategy to improve the communication throughout the shire either by phone, 2 way radio or internet?

The Deputy President advised that there is lack of communication from DPAW to DFES. He further advised that the Local Emergency Management Committee will be running an on ground exercise early next year and the speed of communication is to be addressed. In relation to the recent fire, things change so quickly, information is out of date as soon as put up.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that relevant fire captains have been contacted and asked to provide some feedback on response, communication, containment and control strategies and safety issues, to look at how we can improve.

4.13 Ann Elliot, Bindoon

Ms Elliot commented that she had fire at 360 degrees around her place, and that;

The Shire Ranger suggested a 3m fire break and to get a slasher in, there are too many rocks that it can't be done, so I went around with a whipper snipper. Directly up the hill near Bell Hill Reserve there was a paddock with thick wild oats and rubbish, the verge was overgrown and went up like a bomb. We all have to do our part.

4.14 Graham Belgrove, Chittering

Mr Belgrove commented that he is concerned that at two SEMs people have been concerned about the lack of transparency and that at the SEMS, the Council agreed to have their names after the votes, it never happened except for Councillors Norton and Gibson.

The only way to have transparency is to have names against votes.

He further commented that the President said 52% people received lesser rate, and asked how many residents received a benefit (not ratepayers, the people who live here). Concerned they will go up again, as they have done in last 4 years.

The President stated that the aim is to keep the increases within CPI. He further advised that we will see what we can do in relation to finding out how many residents are affected in relation to how many empty blocks received a rate decrease.

4.15 Lee Martin, Bindoon

Mr Martin spoke in relation to the recent fire and commented that his concern is the management of the fire as there was concern in the country club for evacuation, Gray Road was closed and people had no way of finding out how to get to the Bindoon Town Hall. He asked who made the decision for the hall to be the evacuation centre when it was under threat from the ember attack.

Mr Martin further stated that he was disappointed with Michelle who rang saying he rubbished the local fire fighters.

Michelle Rossouw clarified that she clearly stated that;

I was phoning to ask the question to clarify, wasn't abusing you, I was asking a question.

Mr Martin stated that holding a debrief on a Monday is shocking, as people work, and were still firefighting. He further commented that someone tied up with DFES needs to get information through to the community.

Mr Martin stated that he believes the Chief Executive Officer misinformed him in chambers during a Council meeting when asked what knowledge he had of the Councillors resigning.

4.16 Tuarn Brown, Chittering

Mr Brown commented that he followed what was happening with the fires on facebook, the shires pages, DFES and ABC radio, and that information was very slow at coming. Somebody needs to spread the word for the community. The first post that occurred was a public member giving a head ups. DFES first post was at 2.52pm. All the instructions the community have is to look at the DFES site for updates, all they (DFES) need to do is spread the data facts.

He further stated that he is a believer in UHF radio, because its point to point, you've got one in your vehicles and probably a hand held one, when everything else fails, you'll always have UHF radio. The repeater up on the hill that ran CH2 for many years has fallen to disrepair and he believes the Shire passed it off to somebody locally and they were trying to raise some funds to get that up and running again. He queried if that is something the Shire should be looking at for itself again for another communication method.

The Deputy Shire President advised that people do rely on electronic communication and they sometimes don't work, this is one of the issues to be looked at and local broadcast radio for live updates is an option.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that the Community Emergency Services Manager has been trying to get a Bushfire Ready Group in the area for the past 12 months, and that given the recent events the Shire will run this program again which will be publicly advertised.

4.17 Chris Oversby, Bindoon

Mr Oversby noted that a siren in the town would be a good idea. The control DFES has over fires in our rural area is a concern as they have no local knowledge. The Great Northern Highway was closed till 4am the next morning, when the danger had gone and had already crossed the road.

The Deputy Shire President agreed that there is no better knowledge than local knowledge, it is state legislation that DFES are involved however we will endeavor to work on the communications issue.

4.18 Cheryl Porter, Bindoon

A member of the gallery commented that at her property they could see the smoke from many of the fires, and which direction it was coming from. She advised that if there is a fire in the district, her property has a very good view.

4.19 Bernie Erhard, Bindoon

Mr Erhard spoke in regards to the fire, at 7pm he left his property to get some fuel, and was told the highway would be open, 4 hours later he was still stuck at the s bends near the church. All the people there had fear for their lives because of traffic roaring past, could have moved 20 metres away to the men's shed carpark. He further stated that he asked police to go back to Hart drive and drive through a track back to the property and was allowed.

4.20 John Broad, Bindoon

Mr Broad encourages more people to spray their block as so much easier to do, especially if you use dye which you can get here at the hardware, can see what you've done, whippersnipper just makes it look better, does nothing to help in the fire in his opinion.

5. CLOSURE

The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 7.55pm



6177 Great Northern Highway
PO Box 70 Bindoon WA 6502
T: 08 9576 4600 F: 08 9576 1250
E: chatter@chittering.wa.gov.au
www.chittering.wa.gov.au

Office hours: Monday to Friday
8:30am - 4:30pm