# MINUTES FOR
# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS

**Monday, 5 December 2016**

**Chinkabee Complex**
**6166 Great Northern Highway**
**Bindoon WA 6502**

**Commencement: 6.30pm**
**Closure: 8.15pm**

Shire of Chittering

## Unconfirmed Minutes

These minutes were approved for distribution on 16 December 2016.

Alan Sheridan
**Chief Executive Officer**
**Shire of Chittering**

## Confirmed Minutes

**These minutes will be confirmed at the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on Wednesday, 15 February 2017.**

**SIGNED BY** _____

**The person presiding at meeting which minutes were confirmed is the person who signs above**

**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.

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* indicates separate attachment

## 1. DECLARATION OF OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 6.30pm.

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

### 2.1 Attendance

The following Elected Members were in attendance:

| | |
|---|---|
| Cr Gordon Houston | Shire President (Presiding Member) |
| Cr Peter Osborn | Deputy Shire President |
| Cr Mary Angus | |
| Cr Don Gibson | |
| Cr Aaron King | |
| Cr Michelle Rossouw | |

The following Shire staff were in attendance:

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr Alan Sheridan | Chief Executive Officer |
| Miss Bronwyn Southee | Executive Manager Development Services |
| Mr Jim Garrett | Executive Manager Technical Services |
| Mrs Natasha Mossman | Executive Support Officer (Minute Secretary) |

The following electors were in attendance:

| | |
|---|---|
| Carl Petersen | Bindoon |
| Philip Surtees | Lower Chittering |
| Tricia Taylor | Wannamal |
| Mal Taylor | Wannamal |
| Marie Donaldson | Bindoon |
| Graeme Donaldson | Bindoon |
| Patricia Tabor | Mooliabeenee |
| Derek Tabor | Mooliabeenee |
| Lois Jones | Bindoon |
| Jane Righton | Bindoon |
| Vivienne du Plessis | Bindoon |
| Nina Foulkes Taylor | Bindoon |
| Gwyneth Jones | Mooliabeenee |
| Ern Males | Mooliabeenee |
| Josephine Fern | Bindoon |
| Tom Fern | Bindoon |
| Nita Hart | Bindoon |
| Leanne Kerr | Bindoon |
| Ruth Gibson | Bindoon |
| Paul Groves | Bindoon |
| Chris Waldie | Bindoon |
| M Martin | Bindoon |
| Janet Pilbeam | Bindoon |
| John Pilbeam | Bindoon |
| Maxine Parsons | Bindoon |

| | |
|---|---|
| Les Parsons | Bindoon |
| Ida Zemunik | Bindoon |
| Barni Norton | Bindoon |
| Maitland Donaldson | Bindoon |
| Meg Seeley | Bindoon |
| Blaki O'KB | Bindoon |
| Tara L Brooks | Bindoon |
| Simone Van Hattem | Bindoon |
| Gina Seketa | Chittering |
| Paul Seketa | Chittering |
| Bill Nobes | Bindoon |
| Elizabeth Nobes | Bindoon |
| Karen Alford | Chittering |
| Paul Young | Lower Chittering |
| Robert Taylor | Mooliabeenee |
| Nelson Palmer | Lower Chittering |
| Rachel Sheahan | Bindoon |
| Nigel Hunt | Lower Chittering |
| Tom Hayden | Bindoon |

| | |
|---|---|
| Shane Love MLA | Member for Moore |

**2.2 Apologies**

Cr George Tilbury

**2.3 Approved leave of absence**

Nil

## 3. REPORTS

**Declarations of Interest by Elected Members including the nature and extent of the interest. Declaration of Interest forms are to be completed and handed to the Chief Executive Officer.**

Nil

### 3.1 2015-2016 Annual Report for the Shire of Chittering*

| | |
|---|---|
| **Report Date** | 5 December 2016 |
| **Applicant** | Shire of Chittering |
| **File ref** | 12/03/4 |
| **Prepared by** | Natasha Mossman, Executive Support Officer |
| **Supervised by** | Alan Sheridan, Chief Executive Officer |
| **Voting requirements** | **Absolute Majority** |
| **Documents tabled** | Nil |
| **Attachments** | 1. Shire of Chittering 2015-2016 Annual Report, Financial Statements and Audit Report |

**Executive Summary**
To present the 2015-2016 Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Shire of Chittering.

**Background**
The *Local Government Act 1995* requires a local government to prepare an Annual Report each financial year and to hold an Annual General Meeting of Electors. The Annual General Meeting of Electors 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 purpose of the Annual General Meeting of Electors is not to adopt the Annual Report but to discuss its contents and raise any general business that Electors may have as per the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*.

The 2015-2016 Audited Financial Statements, as audited by Council's auditors during August 2016 by Mr Plinio Bresciani from Moore Stephen. The audit report was signed off by the Shire's auditor Mr Wen Shien Chai on 14 October 2016 and received in this office on 14 October 2016.

The draft Annual Report was considered at the same time as the Audited Financial Statements at its 16 November 2016 meeting (Resolution 071116) along with the 2015-2016 Annual Report which is including of the concise audited financial report.

**Consultation**
In preparing the Annual Report consultation has occurred throughout Administration with a broad range of staff including the Chief Executive Officer, Executive Managers and support staff.

*Section 5.55* of the *Local Government Act 1995* requires that Council give local public notice of the availability of the Annual Report once adopted by Council. Advertisements were placed in the local newspaper (*The Advocate*), the Shire's website and notices placed on Council's public notice board post the November 2016 Council Meeting.

**Statutory Environment**
State: *Local Government Act 1995*
*Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations*
*Local Government (Administration) Regulations*

**Policy Implications**
Nil

**Financial Implications**
Nil

**Strategic Implications**
Nil

**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.

**Comment**
The Annual Report represents an accurate snapshot of the Shire's activities over the twelve (12) month period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016. In particular, the Annual Report also details progress made against the projects and actions as listed in the four year Corporate Business Plan 2015-2019. The financials have been assessed and meet the approval of the Shire's external auditors.

**Moved Cr Mary Angus / Seconded Cr Peter Osborn**
**That the 2015-2016 Annual Report be presented to the electors of the Shire of Chittering.**

**THE MOTION WAS PUT AND DECLARED CARRIED 6/0**
**BY AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY**

## 4. GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Houston advised the meeting that in accordance with the procedures for the meeting, two motions had been received in writing prior to the meeting.

### 4.1 Notice of Motion: Mr Mal Taylor

**4.1 ELECTORS' MOTION**
**Moved Mal Taylor / Seconded Graeme Donaldson**

1. **That the Shire of Chittering assumes full control of the bushfire resources and bushfire control situations as well as fire protection measures on all land including public areas within the Shire boundaries.**
2. **Further to that the Shire employ a competent person with the responsibility of attending to these matters and to liaise with any organisation the State may appoint with such person to have precedent over any other organisation including FESA resources and police matters. Such person to be fully indemnified in relation to their duties.**

**THE MOTION WAS PUT AND DECLARD CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY A SHOW OF HANDS**

*General discussion*

**Mal Taylor** expressed concern with regard to the condition of the shire especially with regard to bushfires. Mr Taylor also expressed concern with regard to the vegetation behind Binda Place; especially the businesses that back onto Binda Place that they would be lucky to survive a fire that started up on Crest Hill and travelled in an easterly direction. Mr Taylor made mention of the devastating fires in Yarloop and Esperance only last summer and how a whole town can be lost. Mr Taylor expressed his frustration with regard to the authorities (i.e. DFES) in charge. Mr Taylor also highlighted external brigades travelling to Bindoon to extinguish 'small' fires and the cost of this. Mr Taylor would like to the shire to take control of fire protection, not external organisations.

**Graeme Donaldson** fully supported Mr Taylor's motion. Mr Donaldson stated that one 'man' with teeth is all that it takes to sort it. There needs to be greater emphasis on fuel reduction.

**Tom Haydon** stated that trying to do something with regard to fires was a waste of time as there are too many laws.

*Cr Houston advised that Council is working as hard has it can within the context of the legislation that we have to work under. Especially to make our denser residential areas as safe as possible. Shire officers have been undertaking inspections on properties with regard to firebreaks, and it is noted that a high number of residents are doing the right thing.*

*With regard to the vegetation behind the businesses on Binda Place, the Shire is unfortunately not allowed to access that area as it is controlled by a State Government agency, and the Shire has contacted them numerous times to ensure the safety of the town.*

*Also, having external organisations coming into the shire that do not have the local knowledge to fight fires is a concern that Council is addressing. Cr Houston praised the local volunteer brigades and the fact that are able to get to local fires very quickly. Council does support maintaining the local expertise, and with recent reports that have been released the State Government is looking at the whole structure within the state. Cr Houston stated that Shire does need to retain people on the ground with their local expertise.*

*Cr Houston sympathised with the residents with how times have changed – years ago you could get out in your paddock with a tractor to fight a fire, but these days it has become very political especially with regard to insurances. Cr Houston expressed thanks to our local volunteers as they are doing the best that they can.*

*General discussion*

**Mal Taylor** stated that for too long the situation with CALM, Main Roads, etc has been used as an excuse for not doing anything, and that the time has now come to do something. Mr Taylor expressed belief that the problem goes to the top of the hierarchy as they are the ones who do not know what they are doing.

**Lee Martin** then addressed the meeting and stated that in our local volunteer brigades there are not many experienced members, as the brigades are now being hindered by political correctness. Mr Martin stated that DPaW should be held accountable for not maintaining their reserves, especially when businesses and lives are at risk. Mr Martin mentioned the levy and that the funds should be administered by the local authority and not going into a pot to be thrown around. A few years ago the local brigades were the community, everyone played a part (i.e. there was someone making scones or cups of tea) but now the people are not wanted to help in some form – not at the fire front.

## 4.2 Notice of Motion: Mr Mal Taylor

**4.2 ELECTOR'S MOTION**
**Moved Mal Taylor / Seconded Derek Tabor**
**That the Shire of Chittering does not further employ the contractor responsible for the Binda Place improvements.**

**THE MOTION WAS PUT AND DECLARED LOST BY A SHOW OF HANDS**

*General discussion*

**Mal Taylor** stated that the time taken by the contractor to do the job, the inconvenience to the public and businesses is why this motion is presented. Mr Tyalor stated that this motion was not to criticise the work, but the fact that it has been going on for almost a year and it is going to go on possibly for the best part of next year. Mr Taylor advised that he has spoken with the businesses on Binda Place and that they have stated to him that they are quite concerned.

*Mr Sheridan advised that the contractors engaged to undertake the work on Binda Place are expected to finish on 22 January 2017, and that the project is close to being completed now. Mr Sheridan advised that the project has only been in place for six months, that it started in July 2016. Mr Sheridan sympathised with the business and residents that a construction project like this will impact on businesses and residents; though you cannot do a project like this without impacting on people. Mr Sheridan stated that the contractors who are working on this project have done a good job. Unfortunately there have been numerous problems under the ground that the Shire did not know about at the start, and the contractor has been very co-operative with the Shire in dealing with these issues.*

## 4.3 Discussions during the meeting

**Unknown** raised the matter that Notices of Motion were to be submitted on Friday at 12 o'clock. **Unknown** made mention of the dates (i.e. changed from the 25th to the 15th to the 5th.) and stated that Council changed it three times and [inaudible].

*Cr Houston stated that the formal process was followed correctly and that there was also the opportunity during the meeting for people to present motions.*

**Carl Petersen** addressed the meeting and spoke with regard to the meeting held in Muchea approximately 12 months ago and how Council stated that they would undertake audit of all the Shire's facilities. Mr Petersen raised the issue of caravans in Bindoon, and that he wanted an audit undertaken to find out where the money goes. Mr Peterson also questioned if the Shire gets rent for the hall, caravans, etc? Mr Petersen expressed most interest with regard to the Bindoon Post Office / gift shop / tourist centre and he wanted to know where the money went from there. Mr Peterson wanted to know that if the combined centre is run as a business then who runs it; the post office side or the gift shop's side. Mr Petersen stated that he had been told that $20,000 of ratepayers' money goes into that gift shop/post office. Mr Peterson stated that this matter was raised at the community meeting in Muchea.

*Cr Houston advised that Council had been through this as an overall process, looking at expenditure. All of the Councillors agreed that when they first came on board that they would look into every service and expenditure during the rates process and that this is part of the annual financial review process. Council has spent considerable amount of time and effort looking at all the Shire assets, including all the Shire facilities. Most of the Shire facilities are used by community groups that do not attract very high lease, as Council does not charge a significant lease to community groups, otherwise they would not be able to operate out of them as they have only small memberships compared to metropolitan community groups. For example, the Hall attracts nominal rent from BEAT which basically covers power, etc. With regard to the post office this has only been raised in the last 6 months [or so] and Council asked the Chief Executive Officer to conduct an internal audit of the facility, i.e. the way it operated. Council has set a task for administration as we have questions about these facilities and how they operate, and of course there are legacy issues and the way the buildings are used by the groups in the past is very much in favour of the community groups who use them. The Shire's Chief Executive Officer as undertaken a full financial audit and we can show income and expenditure and where those costings are.*

*Mr Sheridan advised that the Visitor Information Centre is run by the Chittering Tourist Association. The Visitor Information Centre is a 'not-for-profit' organisation and that does not mean that a 'not-for-profit' cannot pay salaries/wages to people – it can and it is quite legal. The activities that the Chittering Tourist Association are involved in include the Chittering Wildflower Festival and the support for other Council sponsored events, i.e. the Taste of Chittering, and they run the Visitor Information Centre which has six regular volunteers who put in approximately 30hrs a week. They also maintain the tourism website (http://www.chittering.travel/), they provide the local post office service, they collaborate with our neighbours in terms of providing visitor information services and local tourist operators and they are a keen member of the Chittering Community Planning Advisory Group which most recently been involved in roadside cleanups.*

*Mr Sheridan advised that what the organisation actually provides in terms of income and expenditure is summarised as:*

- *Direct cost to Council, in terms of building costs, the sharing of amenities (toilet block); and the Council grant (referred to previously) is $47,000*
- *The Chittering Tourist Association obtains revenue from the post, tourism grants, camping, the wildflower festival and other activities*

*Mr Sheridan advised that running a 'not-for-profit' organisation and making a small profit like the Association does is not significant; and that the Association is only making enough money to cover their costs. Mr Sheridan further advised that the Australian Taxation Office states that 'not-for-profit' organisations can employ people at a reasonable amount in the course of doing their duty and the organisation can still make a profit, but it must be used for carrying out the purposes of the organisation.*

*Mr Sheridan advised that in terms in auditing under the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 the Association is classed as a Tier 1 Business, i.e. 'not-for-profit' and accordingly no formal audit is required. However the financial statements must give a true and fair view of their financial position. In relation to this fact, the Chittering Tourist Association submit their accounts to Council on an annual basis for review, therefore they are exceeding their legislative requirements. Mr Sheridan further advised that their last review was conducted in August 2016 and there were no*

*issues of any kind. Overall, in terms of accountability, the organisation operates in accordance within the 'not-for-profit' rules, and reports on Key Performance Indicators, it provides its books to Council for an annual review. Mr Sheridan further stated that the centre provides a service to Council which is running a visitors centre that promotes all other groups and encouraging and supporting tourism throughout the Shire; and that the direct cost to Council of $47,000 which is good value for money. Generally the Centre provides a cost effective service to the community. This information is what I provided to Council and Council was satisfied with the outcome of this information.*

**Derek Tabor** stated that during the last 6/7 months he had brought up the subject of who pays the insurance, superannuation, everything for the people who work at that post office. Mr Tabor was told by the Shire that the Shire has nothing to do with the Post Office.

*Mr Sheridan advised that the figures he has provided to this meeting are correct, after being requested by Council to investigate the matter. Mr Sheridan stated that the building is owned by the Shire, and is leased to the Chittering Tourist Association. The Chittering Tourist Association runs a 'not-for-profit' organisation which provides a visitor information service and runs the post office. All that money is used for the purposes of the Chittering Tourist Association (a 'not-for-profit' association) and the Council resolved previously to allocate $20,000 for the employment of a part-time Tourist Information Officer to work in the Visitor Information Centre. Mr Sheridan further stated that the Chittering Tourist Association pays their own insurance for their staff and that the Shire works in co-operation with the Visitor Centre to encourage and promote tourism.*

**Bill Nobes** wished everyone a merry Christmas and also stated that Council should be more accountable for what they are doing.

**Gina Seketa** addressed the meeting and wanted to know what Council is doing about potential unconventional gas field developments in the Chittering Shire.

*Cr Houston advised the meeting that the Shire has been made aware, especially in the last few weeks, about the angst in the community about this unconventional exploration mining, or fracking as it is called generally. Council shares the same concerns and advised that Council have met several times over the last couple of weeks; and part of the discussions that we have had have been around this particular issue. Cr Houston informed the meeting that the Shire has significant control over the general mining within the boundaries of the Shire; however the Shire does have some peculiarities regarding the pre-89 mining leases. Cr Houston informed the meeting that with petroleum exploration production the Shire has challenges because it is not the same legislation; and the Shire is considering what moves it can implement to bolster its position with regard to these activities.*

*Mr Sheridan informed the meeting that the legislation relating to these activities is administered by the State Government under the Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967, and that the local government does not have any legislative control over these activities; however this does not stop Council from expressing an opinion in relation to these activities. Recently at one of the Council Meetings, Council indicated support for the National Party's policy position that was adopted at the State Conference on 29th October 2016, which was to amend the Resources Act to include the veto of landowners to protect their interests from exploration of induction by*

*commercial onshore gas operators. Mr Sheridan further stated that as the Shire President mentioned Council has been considering the matter further and I understand that at the next meeting one of the Councillors will present a motion to express a Council position in relation to this. However, residents need to be mindful that this is something that Council does not have any legislative control over.*

**Simone Van Hattem** informed the meeting that the locality of Upper Chittering declared itself gas field free by the will of the community protecting itself from gas fields, i.e. 99.4 out of 167 people surveyed. Simone thanked Cr Gibson for his attendance and accepting the declaration from the 'Gas Field Free Lake Chittering Group'. Ms Van Hattem informed the meeting that there are numerous councils that have taken action around Australia against this and even though it is State legislation it makes a political statement, councils can lobby the State Government on this issue. Ms Van Hattem further stated that Council could pass by-laws that will slow it down. Ms Van Hattem stated that the Nationals Policy is a great step forward to give people veto rights and that the City of Swan has just passed a motion (October 2016) unanimously against such activities and that the group is looking forward to the Shire of Chittering's motion.

*Cr Houston advised that the Shire has undertaken some investigation with regard to other local governments who have gone down the same track, (i.e. Dandaragan, est 2014, Coorow and Carnamah) and their approach was that this was just a form of mining. Cr Houston informed the meeting that the Shire has some protection already in our legislation with regard to general mining. Their focus was to make a very loud and clear point to government agencies at state level that control of this particular type of activity and where they put the blame if an incident occurs as a result of these activities is back on the government agencies.*

*Cr Houston informed the meeting that Council is currently reviewing their overall Strategic Community Planning controls and that Council is looking at how to integrate these controls with this legislation. These controls will improve the Shire's situation in how we deal with these types of activities within our boundaries.*

**Lee Martin** thanked Council for moving on the fracking issue as it is very important issue to a lot of our community members and the exploration does not stop there. We as a community really urge you to push for that and as said before I support the Nationals position, and that is to get veto rights. Mr Martin then asked Council how long the Council and staff Christmas party went for that was held at the Stringybark?

*Mr Sheridan informed the meeting that the function was for 4hrs.*

**Lee Martin** then questioned why Council would only allocate from 6.30pm to about 8pm for the electors meeting and he also expressed concern with regard to the conflict with a community event that is taking place on the same night.

*Cr Houston informed the meeting that there was no intention to shut the doors at 8pm; this meeting will continue until the last question has been asked.*

**Barni Norton** raised a question with regard to the STED (Sewerage Treatment Effluent Disposal) and if a site has been chosen. At the public meeting held on 27th April the majority of the community were concerned about where their effluent was going to be headed. Ms Norton was advised that they were told that we could gravity feed somewhere down the line without the cost of a huge pump and figured that it would be someone on the river front. Ms Norton's other question was if the Shire has sought input from the managing body of Chittering Lake (i.e. DPaW) with regard to this matter.

*Cr Houston advised that Council has seen some concepts as to how the process is going to work; and that basically everything falls to a central point. To get it off the flats and away from the water courses, especially the lake system, the system will go through a pump station which has engineered into it some safety features for overflows or power failures and pumped to a site for further treatment. Appropriate approvals will be required and the Water Corporation will have comply with all the usual regulations about keeping it away from water, etc. Cr Houston advised that the whole project will be subject to an environmental impact assessment so there will be the usual ticks/crosses against it as far as government agencies are concerned; and that the project would not be able to go ahead unless they complied with this.*

*Mr Sheridan advised the meeting that the STED is a Water Corporation scheme and is therefore funded by the State Government and the cost to implement is approximately $6million. Mr Sheridan further advised that the soil conditions around Bindoon have long been identified as not being suitable for septic systems and that what is happening at the moment is that a lot of the run-off from the systems are going into Chittering Lake anyway. The idea of the STED is to take that away and treat it properly. The actual treatment facility is nothing more than a series of large dams or holding ponds, and the sunlight filters through the holding ponds at varying depths which treats the waste water and the rest is treated through evaporation. There is no flow from the site; it is fully enclosed and treated on the site. To allow for growth to occur in Bindoon it is absolutely vital to have this type of infrastructure available. Mr Sheridan informed the meeting of the ongoing discussions with Retirees WA Inc about the development of independent living units on part of the old golf course site and that the only reason why the sale has been finalised is because of the sewerage scheme; i.e. WA Retirees would not have gone ahead with their development without it. Mr Sheridan also advised that there are other parcels of land in Bindoon that will benefit from this scheme and that if at some stage in the future the town is bypassed Council needs to provide a future for development in Bindoon.*

**Barni Norton** then re-asked if the land site has been chosen for STED.

*Cr Houston advised that the Shire had not yet been formally notified.*

**Barni Norton** then asked if the Shire has sought advice from the Chittering Lake managing body (i.e. DPaw) with regard to these claims that are being made. Ms Norton advised that she had been told that her leach drain is impacting Lake Needoonga but she has not seen any information. Ms Norton also questioned that if DPaW are the managing body of Lake Needoonga and Lake Chittering, if they are aware of this proposal as if they are they need to be in on the initial discussion.

*Cr Houston advised that the Shire has not approached DPaW as this is not a Shire project; reiterating that the engineering and planning of this project is with the Water Corporation. The Shire's involvement is that of a recipient. Cr Houston further stated that he was sure that the Water Corporation will be subject to all the environmental requirements as any other applicant.*

**Ida Zemunik** asked that when the STED does go ahead how is this going to impact on the rates for those residents, particularly as a lot of them are pensioners.

*Mr Sheridan advised that the estimate we have received to connect to the scheme and decommission the existing leach drains is around $3,000 each. We are of the view that to have a contractor do them all in one go we might get it for $2,000 per property. Council is putting aside money every year to form a reserve to create a fund for this so we are hopeful that this will cover the cost, without impacting financially on the residents. The figures that were given by Water Corporation in April 2016 indicated a likely range of charges with seniors/pensioners entitled to a rebate (pensioners 50%, seniors 25%) and there are exemptions for charitable organisations and commercial charges facing different rates. This is a charge that would be levied by the Water Corporation so it would be like your phone bill; the Shire will not be charging for this.*

**Lee Martin** asked that if the Water Corporation could not afford the land, why the Council has not looked at sewerage treatment plants for use of the land.

*Cr Houston advised that the challenge was there isn't enough effluent going back into the system at this point in time, or won't be based on their calculations, basically because we do not have enough people using the system.*

**Lee Martin** then asked why not asked about running additional ponds to store the water.

*Cr Houston advised that this is probably one of the cheaper forms of systems to install without putting in a full treatment system. Bindoon has been selected because of the impact of the leach drains into the river system and the long term effects of significant nutrient levels that are impacting on the Lake.*

**Lee Martin** then asked with regard to recycling of sewerage, i.e. being able to use it on our ovals.

*Cr Houston advised that from a science perspective the water has to have a certain amount of retention time. Primary treatment happens in the central tanks, the solids are then removed, and then the run-off/secondary water from that runs off to the polishing/evaporation ponds. The challenge is that if you do not have enough water going into the evaporation ponds they will not work properly. If you take the water out of them before it has a chance to polish then you have problems with raw sewerage. This is a Water Corporation design that they have come up with for the Bindoon townsite. To put a package to them for a larger townsite but the expense would be 3/5/7 times more expensive than what they are putting into this system.*

*Mr Sheridan advised that the treatment of waste water is that it has to be treated so that it is safe for human contact. It doesn't matter if you put it on the oval, you have people who run/jump, lick their fingers; the water needs to be treated to quite a high level – almost to a drinkable standard.*

**Lee Martin** than asked that even though the Water Corporation are responsible for the project it is still tax payers money and the Shire should be using that water.

*Cr Houston advised that Council have asked that question and the challenge is bringing it back into the townsite in another pipe and returning it back into the townsite. Also, according to the Water Corporations calculations there would not be enough to properly service the facilities. Until there is enough 'input:output' it is not a viable project.*

**Nigel Hunt** stated that in Ravensthorpe there was a similar scheme to this, where they treated water when the town was put onto sewerage. The town put a treatment plant in which was used on the oval. This was a successful operation, and going back about 20yrs it cost about $1,500 per head. Mr Hunt stated that the best thing Bindoon could do would put in a treatment plant.

*Cr Houston advised that he understood what Mr Hunt was saying, and advised that Council has raised this matter with the Water Corporation and that Council will continue to raise it.*

**Mal Taylor** raised concern with regard to funding for St John Ambulance. Years ago St John Ambulance received funding from the Shire by way of a grant; and was unsure what it is these days. Mr Taylor wants Council to consider a levy in next year's budget, much the same as the bushfire and plant replacement years ago. The idea is to give St John Ambulance a security of income rather than giving them money out of the goodness of your heart. Mr Taylor would like Council to consider this when looking at their rating. The service provided by St John Ambulance is a very important necessity in the Shire.

*Mr Sheridan advised that the Shire has been working closely with the representatives from the local St John Ambulance sub-branch as they have plans to build a new facility. One issue is keeping volunteers and part of that is not having proper training rooms. It is much easier to attract volunteers when you have good facilities. The local St John Ambulance gets most of their revenue from ambulance fares. The new facility that they are looking to build will be on a parcel of land which is near the new medical centre, which will be provided by the Shire at a heavily discounted rate and they will then be able to sell their current block.*

**Vivienne du Plessis** raised concerns with regard to cemetery and initial design had blocks of 20 plots that were initially designated in the plan. Of the one 20 block; 18 have been taken, two are reserved, and one is free. Ms du Plessis asked if Council could look at having 20 plots available at any one time. Ms du Plessis did advised that she has spoken with the Shire's Executive Manager Technical Services (Mr Jim Garrett) and he advised that he has designed a new plan for the cemetery which he stated should be ready by end of the financial year.

*Cr Houston took the matter on notice.*

**Barni Norton** addressed the meeting and talked about tourism; thanking the Shire and the Visitor Centre in promoting European history in the community. Ms Norton's concern was with the sign that George Fletcher was the first known visitor to the region. Ms Norton has presented this matter with the Shire's Chief Executive Officer and President, and has been advised that the sign will be changed / reworded. Ms Norton presented the following motion:

**4.3 ELECTOR'S MOTION**
**Moved Barni Norton / Seconded Josephine Fern**
**That Council please determine a strategy to recognise the original inhabitants of this land be added to the interpretative signage which now dots the Shire.**

**THE MOTION WAS PUT AND DECLARED CARRIED BY A SHOW OF HANDS**

**Nigel Hunt** raised the problem with firebreaks and wondered who was going to let the Environmental Protection Authority know that the Shire may require the pushing down/removing trees from properties to install firebreaks. Mr Hunt stated that everywhere he goes he has been told that he will be in trouble.

*Cr Houston stated that the firebreak issue is a very real one, and that the number of properties that now require firebreaks has increased. Cr Houston informed the meeting that residents can apply for variations to their firebreaks so that residents do not have to remove trees. Residents are reminded to contact Shire staff for direction without issuing residents with infringements.*

*Mr Sheridan also advised that firebreaks do not have to follow your boundary, and that residents may be able to use part of their driveway as a firebreak. To date to the Shire has received more than 100 variations, of which only two have not been approved.*

**Nigel Hunt** then advised that he has received a notice that his firebreaks have not been done, when they have.

*Mr Sheridan advised that he would have staff investigate this matter further.*

## 5. CLOSURE

*Cr Houston addressed the meeting; saying that if members of the community have any concerns that you have seven people that you voted in to represent you. Your Councillors are contactable at any time to talk with you about any issues. Residents do not leave their concerns until a Council meeting, community meeting, etc, please contact your elected members at any time. Cr Houston welcomed those who attended and invited residents to attend future council meetings and look forward to seeing you around the town.*

*Cr Houston declared the meeting closed at 8.15pm.*

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