

General Meeting of Electors

Meeting Minutes 25 November 2010

Pursuant to Section 5.27 of the Local Government Act 1995, a General Meeting of Electors is to be held within a local government district once every financial year.

Meeting advertised for public information, as follows:

- Bunbury Mail 'General News' and 'City Focus Column'
Wednesday, 3 November 2010
- South Western Times 'General News'
Thursday, 4 November 2010
- Bunbury Herald 'Public Notices'
Tuesday, 9 November 2010
- Bunbury Mail 'General News' and 'City Focus Column'
Wednesday, 10 November 2010
- South Western Times 'General News'
Thursday, 11 November 2010
- Bunbury Herald 'Public Notices'
Tuesday, 16 November 2010
- Bunbury Mail 'General News' and 'City Focus Column'
Wednesday, 17 November 2010
- South Western Times 'General News'
Thursday, 18 November 2010
- Bunbury Mail 'City Focus Column'
Wednesday, 24 November 2010
- Notices posted on notice boards in the City's Customer Service Centre, ~~Wesley~~ ~~Wesley~~ Australia and internet website.



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Table of Contents

Item No	Subject	Page
1.	Welcome by the Mayor or Deputy Mayor	1
2.	Record of Attendance, Apologies and Leave of Absence	1
3.	Reception of Annual Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2010	2
3.1	Mayor's Report 2009/10.....	2
3.2	Annual Report 2009/10.....	2
4.	Business of the Meeting	2
4.1	Questions on Notice	2
4.2	Questions from Electors at the Meeting.....	5
4.3	Motions from Electors	9
5.	Close of Meeting	9

City of Bunbury Notice of General Meeting of Electors

Minutes of a General Meeting of Electors held pursuant to Section 5.27 of the Local Government Act 1995 in the Council Chambers, City of Bunbury Administration Building, 4 Stephen Street, Bunbury on Thursday, 25 November 2010.

Minutes 25 November 2010

1. Welcome by the Mayor or Deputy Mayor

The Mayor opened the meeting at 7.00pm and welcomed everyone in attendance.

2. Record of Attendance, Apologies and Leave of Absence

PRESENT

Bunbury City Council Representatives:
Mayor - Mr Mayor David Smith (**Presiding**)
Deputy Mayor - Councillor Brendan Kelly
Councillor Alfred Leigh
Councillor Wayne Major
Councillor Stephen Craddock
Councillor Karen Steele
Councillor Noel Whittle
Councillor Michelle Steck

Bunbury Electors (14 electors - refer to list at Appendix 1)

City of Bunbury Representatives (non-voting):
Geoff Klem, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Ken Weary, Executive Manager - Corporate Services
Jack Dyson, Senior Administration Officer
Briana Mell, Administration Officer – Corporate Services

APOLOGIES

Phil Smith - Elector
Juliet Harrop – Bunbury City Councillor
Helen Punch - Bunbury City Councillor
Ross Slater – Bunbury City Councillor

3. Reception of Annual Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2010

3.1 Mayor's Report 2009/10

The Mayor read out his report for the year 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (as printed in the Annual Report). The Mayor also read out the Chief Executive Officer's report.

3.2 Annual Report 2009/10

The Mayor called for questions in relation to the Annual Report. As there were no questions from electors concerning the Annual Report, the Mayor called upon the meeting to receive the report.

Electors' Decision: Moved Dr. E C Manea

Seconded Mr. F Comito

The Annual Report of the City of Bunbury for the year ending 30 June 2010, be received.

CARRIED

4. Business of the Meeting

4.1 Questions on Notice

The Mayor read aloud the questions received (in writing) prior to the meeting and the responses that had been provided by the Mayor and the City's Executive Management Team.

Dr E C Manea, Central Medical Centre, 51-55 Forrest Avenue, Bunbury

Question 1: *In regard to the motion moved at the electors meeting "the Council conduct and aged forum". Could you advise if this matter was considered at a Council meeting and if so what the resolution was in regard to the matter.*

Response 1: At the General Meeting of Electors on the 26 November 2009, the following motion was moved by Dr Manea:

*Electors' Decision: Moved Dr E C Manea Seconded Mr Merv Mancer
Council host a public forum on ageing and the forward-planning
required to provide for the City's older citizens to enable them to lead
fulfilling lives.
CARRIED*

Following this, the motion that Council host a public forum on ageing was listed on the Council agenda on the 8 December 2009. Council resolved the following at its Ordinary Council Meeting held 15 December 2009:

Council Decision 238/09

1. *The minutes of the General Meeting of Electors held Thursday, 26 November 2009, be received.*
2. *The mover and seconder of the elector's decision contained in the minutes to be advised that Council will await the outcome of the South West Development Commission's Study currently being undertaken on the Ageing in the region (and will analyse the findings) before determining any further course of action.*

The mover and seconder were advised of this decision via correspondence on the 24 December 2009. A follow-up letter was also sent advising that the South West Development Commission had completed the report on 5 October 2010. This letter also contained information on the City of Bunbury's own Age-Friendly Community Plan which will guide future direction in this area.

<p><i>NOTE: At the meeting, the Mayor confirmed that the South West Development Commission report will go to Council early in the New Year.</i></p>

Question 2: *Could you provide the total rate collections for the years ending June 30 2008, 2009 and 2010.*

Response 2: Council's total rate collections for the year ending 30 June 2010 is \$23,236,674 compared to \$21,899,897 at 30 June 2009 and \$20,215,233 at 30 June 2008.

Councils rate collection for all rates collectable 2009/10 was 97.9%.

Question 3: *Could you provide the Council debt figures for June 30 2008, June 30 2009 and June 30 2010.*

Response 3: Council's debt as at 30 June 2010 is \$8,523,013 compared to \$8,230,404 at 30 June 2009 and \$9,602,948 at 30 June 2008.

Question 4: *Has there been any resurfacing of roads in the Bunbury City Council's area this year? If so where was it done?*

Response 4: Completed Projects for the 2009/10 financial year are listed below. There are another 6 road reseals projected for the 2010/11 financial year.

Location		Cost
Bussell Highway Brittain Road to Robertson Drive	3160 m2	\$ 44,984.00
Bussell Highway Nuytsia Avenue to Brittain Road	3230 m2	\$ 47,786.00
Old Coast Road Estuary Drive to Australind Bypass	4500 m2	\$ 52,749.00
Victoria Street Symmons Street Roundabout	350 m2	\$ 40,404.00
Victoria Street Wellington Street	500 m2	\$ 17,325.00
Victoria Street Prinsep Street	940 m2	\$ 23,362.00
Halifax Drive (McCombe Road to Monkhouse & Monkhouse to Shanahan Road)	4545m2	\$ 63,007.00
Monkhouse Street	490 m2	\$ 14,184.00
Jubilee Road Ince Road	525m2	\$ 16,229.00
Blair Street Stirling to Symmons	830m2	\$ 19,375.00
Minninup Road Hudson to Floreat	5490 m2	\$ 70,776.00
Total		\$410,181.00

At this point in proceedings, the Mayor referred to a list of *Questions on Notice* he had received by email from electors, Ms. Susan Hill and Mr. Mike Fenton.

Ms. S Hill – Convenor South West Environment Centre

Question 1: With respect to the 2009 South West Biodiversity Project, hosted by the City of Bunbury, how have local biodiversity strategies been incorporated into the Town planning scheme to support environmentally sustainable outcomes?

Response 1: The South West Biodiversity Project was an initiative of the Western Australian Local Government Association that was funded by the State and Federal Governments through the South West Catchments Council;

- The South West Biodiversity Project ceased in September 2009 due to a lack of funding caused by changes in the State and Federal Government's environmental funding priorities;
- The South West Biodiversity Project team was hosted by the City of Bunbury over the full life of the project (2005 – 2009);
- The South West Biodiversity Project's aim was to assist 12 Local Governments in the South West, including the City of Bunbury, to lever biodiversity conservation outcomes by incorporating protection mechanisms into the respective local planning schemes; and
- The City of Bunbury is currently continuing the work through the efforts of an internal working group and intends to incorporate biodiversity protection mechanisms into the future Local Planning Strategy and the next local planning scheme, where appropriate, as they are prepared over the coming years.

Question 2: In relation to the \$100,000 allocated for fencing of the Ocean to Preston River Regional Park, how will these funds be used and when will the fencing project be implemented?

- It is intended that the \$100,000 be used to undertake works to control access in the proposed regional park in order to limit further degradation of the park through factors such as dieback spread and rubbish dumping; and
- The City is in the process of devising a scope of works for the project and intends to appoint a contractor early in the New Year.

Mr. Mike Fenton – 25 Acacia Street, Bunbury

Question 1: How much did the function for the farewell of the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Greg Trevaskis cost?

Response 1: The total cost of the event was \$6,100.00 (incl. GST). A breakdown of costs is as follows:

Costs of Function

Catering - Finn Catering Company \$4065.00

Alcohol \$450

Invited guest Accommodation \$700

Cost of Gifts

Bunbury landscape photograph \$180.00

Bunbury Jetty Clock and leaf box \$360.00

1 x colour caricature \$350.00

4.2 Questions from Electors at the Meeting

The Mayor responded to verbal questions from electors concerning matters under the jurisdiction of the Bunbury City Council, as follows:

Bernard Bischoff – 15 Forster Street, Bunbury

Question 1: I would like to know what is the official date of Bunbury's birthday?

Response 1: The Mayor advised that an official date is very hard to determine, he then advised of several dates which are of significance to Bunbury.

Dr. Manea provided some additional background information on the history of the establishment of Bunbury.

Mr. Bernard Bischoff moved the following motion;

Electors' Decision: Moved Mr. B Bischoff Seconded Deputy Mayor, Cr. B Kelly (Proforma)
<i>That Council considers adopting March, 1830 as the birth date of Bunbury, because it was then that the townsite was created.</i>
CARRIED

Bernard Bischoff then proceeded to read the information he had in hand regarding the founding of Bunbury and advised that he believes it was March, 1830 when the townsite was officially created. He also advised that the story of Bunbury was not an official document but an interesting document.

Deputy Mayor Cr. Kelly spoke in relation to the above motion. Cr. Kelly advised that the history of Bunbury is important and Council should consider the birthday. He advised that the matter would need to be reviewed by the Heritage Committee and put back to Council for consideration.

Mr. Mike Fenton spoke against the motion. He advised that he spent a lot of time working in Darwin and from experience holding birthdays for cities can insult people particularly the indigenous community as they have their own thoughts and beliefs on the land.

Dr E C Manea, Central Medical Centre, 51-55 Forrest Avenue, Bunbury

Dr. Manea spoke in response to his question on notice in respect to Council hosting an aged forum. He advised he was disappointed with the lack of work on the aged care forums. He has a copy of the report from the South West Development Commission and believes it is a very good report. The forum would give the aged community a chance to have their say. 92% of aged people want to live in their own homes and too many don't have control of their own bodies. In Japan the aged people go out on buses, play games, read and watch videos. There is no such action in Australia.

We want a meeting where the aged people can express their own opinions on what should be done and what they see as their future.

Dr. Manea moved the following motion;

Electors' Decision: Moved Dr. E C Manea Seconded Mr. F Comito

That Council hold an aged forum within the next 4 months effective from today (25 November 2010).

CARRIED

Mr. Merv Mancer advised that he seconded the motion for the aged care forums on the 26 November 2009 and nothing has developed in 12 months. He believes that something is needed as over 27% of Bunbury's population are over 65. He supports the motion very strongly.

Mr. F Comito – 71 Strickland Street, Bunbury

Question 1: Would the City of Bunbury be willing to support the "Movember" foundation.

Response 1: The Mayor advised that a large number of Council Staff already support the cause and he didn't think it was appropriate to sponsor an individual.

Mr. Comito commended the City of Bunbury's Planning Department Staff. He noted that last year he consulted with Mr. Gary Fitzgerald and Mr. Paul Davies in regards to variations to the R-Codes in a subdivision. Within a week they were able to resolve the outstanding issues.

He also noted that a few months later a client of his wanted to build in that subdivision and vary the R-Codes. In this case, the variation was not as easy to resolve and the matter was dragged out over 4 months. The matter has now been resolved.

Question 2: Are any members of the public allowed to attend the Parking Committee meeting. The parking issue will be considered on Monday at the Parking Committee and go back to Council on Tuesday, 30 November, 2010.

Response 2: The Mayor advised that the City of Bunbury are inviting the public to submit in writing to the Parking Committee no later than Monday morning.

Question 3: How did the sign on King Road get approved? It was a good sign when it had the seat belt on it, now it is just visual pollution.

Response 3: The sign was endorsed by Council as a road safety sign. Any changes will need to be of a "community message" type.

Mr. M Fenton – 23 Acacia Street, Bunbury

Question 1: Would it be possible to invite the Shires of Capel, Dardanup and Harvey to the aged forum and they can share the benefits and the costs.

Response 1: The Mayor advised he liked the idea and it is a program for the City Life Department to consider.

Question 2: Could the City of Bunbury suggest a reverse take over?

Response 2: The Mayor advised that the City of Bunbury has proposed that. There is nothing in it for Bunbury, we are prepared to do what is in the best interest of the region.

Ms. T Ward – 83 Spencer Street, Bunbury

Ms. Trisha Ward advised that she has been the Chief Executive Officer for Community Home Care for 3 years and is concerned about the lack of services provided by the Council for aged care. On Australia Day they took a bus of aged people to the City of Bunbury celebrations and there was no parking, no where to turn the bus around and no where for the aged people to sit. This year Community Home Care have been involved in the preparation of the 2011 event.

Ms. Ward also noted that previously the City of Bunbury website did not contain any information on aged care, now it does, which is a positive sign. Things are now beginning to make progress and a forum would help Council understand the needs of the aged community.

Mr. N Cram – 21 Stallard Place, Bunbury

Question 1: Would Council consider putting an item on the briefing agenda in the near future in relation to legal action being taken by a third party against the Bunbury Car Club? He understands that the agenda is full at this time of the year but if it could please be included at the earliest possible time.

Response 1: The Mayor advised he was familiar with the Car Club situation and has seen the correspondence sent to the Council in relation to this matter. The decision is up to the Chief Executive Officer and Councillors. He also advised that there is no more briefing sessions this year and the next briefing session will not take place until the end of January.

The Mayor asked when the matter would be going to trial.

Mr. Cram advised that they hope it will go to trial within the next two (2) years.

Mr. F Comito – 71 Strickland Street, Bunbury

Question 1: What is the real problem, why don't the adjoining Councils want to amalgamate?

Response 1: The Mayor advised that it is the approach that the State Government has taken. The adjoining Councils are sustainable and there is no reason in terms of their financial viability to suggest that they should amalgamate. Other reasons for a reluctance to participate in this process include but are not limited to community identity, sense of community and retention of locality names. Also when you have been historically part of a community, it is hard to walk away.

Mr. B. Bischoff – 15 Forster Street, Bunbury

Question 1: If the name of Bunbury is the problem can we change the name?

Response: The Mayor advised you need to retain the names of the towns and localities but it is possible to change the name of the Council, although there can be heritage issues when changing the names of Councils.

4.3 Motions from Electors

Dr. E C Manea wished to move the following motions;

Electors' Decision: Moved Dr E C Manea Seconded Mr. Pritchard

That a vote of thanks be given to the Mayor and his wife for the valuable time and dedication they give to the Bunbury community.

CARRIED

Electors' Decision: Moved Dr E C Manea Seconded Mr. F Comito

That a vote of thanks be given to Councillors and the Staff for the work they do and commend and thank them for their work.

CARRIED

The Mayor thanked Dr Manea for his kind remarks and thanked those councillors and electors present for taking the time to attend the meeting.

5. Close of Meeting

The meeting was declared closed at 8.25pm.