

**MINUTES OF THE SHIRE OF KOORDA ANNUAL MEETING
OF ELECTORS HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2019
IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS COMMENCING AT 6.30 PM**

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Presiding person declared the meeting open at 6.31pm

2 PRESENT

Councilor

Ricky Storer
Jannah Stratford
Gina Boyne
Pam McWha

Staff

Darren Simmons
Lana Foote
Tracey McMiles

Electors

Colleen Scally
Kim Storer
Henry Gratte (6.37pm)
Gerry Pauley (6.38pm)

APOLOGIES

Merle Henning

3 PRESENTATION OF THE 2018/2019 ANNUAL REPORT

- a. Presidents Report
- b. Chief Executive Officers Report
- c. Financial Report
- d. Auditors Report

Moved: K Storer

Seconded: C Scally

That the Annual Report for the 2018/2019 Financial Year including:

- a) Presidents Report**
- b) Chief Executive Officers Report**
- c) Financial Report**
- d) Auditors Report**

be accepted.

Carried

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

C Scally: On behalf of museum and community, we would like to thank the Shire Council for works carried out at the Museum. It has been wonderful and has enhanced the area. We now have a proper ceiling to minimise the dust and the termite damaged floor boards have been treated and new floor boards are being installed.

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- C Scally: In regard to the Yalambee units, it is great to see they're being upgraded. We have had many friends stay there and they are great. Although some have not been upgraded, we hope the shire continue upgrading the whole complex. The units are great as they include linen and washing machine, so once again thanks to Shire and Council.
- CEO: It is within the Shires plan to have a staged development process to upgrade all the units inhouse with our Maintenance Officer.
- C Scally: Congratulations to the Council on keeping the idea of the original Koorda logo. Although not the first choice, the logo looks great. It was a shame about the change in slogan, although it was noted that corn dolly country was not official, I couldn't see it in the minutes regarding the update of the slogan.
- Pres: The slogan of "Drive In, stay awhile" was agreed upon by consensus and not as an agenda item. It was discussed at council through the forum. I feel it reflects what Koorda is, more so than the Corndolly Country slogan did.
- C Scally: In relation to the Telstra phone towers, the Shire of Wyalkatchem President was on the radio speaking about the mobile phones not working and some issues relating to a failed battery. Have we had that issue here? He also alluded to Telstra mentioning illegal repeaters, have we experienced that?
- Pres: Council can only advocate the service; however, we do not have much input as it is a Telstra issue. In regard to the illegal repeaters, we have had advice from Federal (ACMA) and they are not aware of any reports from Telstra regarding illegal repeaters in WA.
- C Scally: What are the demographics of the Shire? It seems that we have an influx of elderly people. Are the Shire doing anything to attract the younger demographic or new businesses to town? In the community plan it says "*Advocate, promote and market the Shire as a place to live, work and visit,*" what is the Council doing for this?
- Pres: The Council support local businesses and the tourism industry as much as we can. Which enhances town advocacy.
- Cr McWha: The Shire are currently working with CBH to organise new workers accommodation units and we have a new house being delivered tomorrow as part of a collaboration with GROH (Government Regional Officers Housing)
- CEO: Tourism is the first step to new residents. People don't generally move somewhere they haven't been. There are also education and health challenges smaller communities face. There is an advocacy role to play as the President has just spoken about. Younger demographics are around jobs and if there is no employment this will be a major issue; hence Council have a support role.
- C Scally: Is there any news on the future of a bus services to Koorda?
- Pres: Council trialed the service, however it was unsuccessful. There is no suggestion for future trials as it was not patronized well to justify the service.

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- C Scally: What are the Shire doing in regards to the Strategic Community Plan strategy to *“Facilitate the development of tourism activities associated with the Shire’s diverse natural, social and built heritage?”*
- CEO: Koorda has seen multiple car and caravan groups travelling to Koorda for a weekend of organised activities. We have already programmed in caravan clubs coming to Koorda for 2020. Council are a member of NEWTRAVEL/Wheatbelt Way. The town is also RV friendly and promote this, along with a number of initiatives and other services provided to boost tourism.
- K Storer: Drive In upgrade. Between 1428 between June and November. If you average it out for a person to spend \$20, this comes to \$28,560, then it goes around Koorda three times before leaving so that amounts to \$85,680 into the local economy.
As part of the NEWTRAVEL, Wheatbelt Way association, figures show that Koorda’s accommodation is up 9%. We are the only town in the wheatbelt to show an increase in this spectrum. Also, this is only statistics gained from the Shire owned accommodation as local providers or free camps have not been accounted for. Regional Development Australia came 2 weeks ago to look at the Drive In. Chris Evans, from RDA researched and evaluated the Drive In and gave it a 9/10 rating in relation to how it has boosted the economy and assisted with regional development.
- C Scally: What is the Shire doing in regards to the Strategic Community Plan strategy to *“Encourage the consideration of renewable energy generation technologies in the Shire,”* is this encouraging renewable energy on a private or public scale?
- CEO: The Shire currently embraces solar power at Shire Office and Swimming Pool. This is something we will continue to look at as opportunities arise. These Strategies are for a 10-year time frame, not the year under review. The Strategic Community Plan is from 2018 and is current to 2028.
- Pres: Through NEWROC, looking at microgrid setup. See what can be done. Looking at options/researching.
- C Scally: What is the Shire doing in regards to the Strategic Community Plan strategy to *“Encourage property owners (residential and commercial) to install water recovery and recycling systems?”*
- CEO: The Strategic Community Plan works on 10-year time frames and Council will continue to work on these strategies for the next 10 years. However, we already encourage waterwise use.
- C Scally: With regards to the strategy *“Maintain and protect heritage buildings and sites,”* does this include the Museum?
- CEO: This strategy is listed as a challenge we embrace. It is difficult to spend public money on private buildings and businesses. This strategy is a work in progress and will take time.
- C Scally: Comment sought for the strategy *“Advocate the communities view against amalgamation of local governments.”*
- Pres: The threat of amalgamations is always going to be present and may be raised again with increasing requirements of local government and increasing demands in local services. When the idea of amalgamations was first raised, Council went in with due diligence to crunch numbers to be on the front foot if they were every to come into fruition.

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- C Scally: Not a question, however I would like to congratulate the Shire on past 12 months, not having a CEO for a few months when Lana filled in, and Acting CEO Gary until Darren arrived. Thanks to Councilors and staff, we think you've all done a great job.
- Gerry: In regard to attracting people to the town or younger generation/young families. The only real business opportunities are in agriculture. There are often people travelling around looking for somewhere to set up and I believe it's important for Koorda to be ready to take the opportunity, ready to accommodate a keen business, etc (industrial units).
- Pres: Council looked into setting up industrial lots, for that very purpose. To put the infrastructure in place, it is expensive, and the project is a risk with not having any enquiries and Council would have to be sure the business coming in is viable.

Just before closing, the President formally welcomed Darren Simmons as CEO, and thanked Lana Foote in her role as Acting CEO during the transition period. Welcome to Cr Gina Boyne who was elected onto Council in the October 2019 elections. On behalf of Council and the Community we'd like to thank Darren, Lana and the entire team for presenting the town at such a high standard. There have been numerous glowing reports about our Caravan park.

The Presiding person thanked all in attendance and declared the meeting closed at 7.02pm

5. CLOSURE

These minutes were referred to the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18 December 2019.

Signed