



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL STATUTORY MEETING OF THE HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL HELD 10 NOVEMBER 2021 AT THE NHILL MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTRE, 77-79 NELSON STREET NHILL COMMENCING AT 6:00PM.

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Present:

Crs R Ismay, R Gersch, D Nelson, W Bywaters, B Ireland, M Albrecht

In Attendance:

Mr Greg Wood (Chief Executive Officer), Ms Monica Revell (Director Corporate and Community Services), Ms Angela Hoy (Director Infrastructure Services), Ms Shauna Johnson (Executive Assistant).

1 WELCOME

The Mayor, Councillor Ron Ismay, declared the meeting open at 6:00pm.

2 ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY AND OPENING PRAYER

Cr R Ismay acknowledged the Indigenous Community and offered the opening prayer.

3 APOLOGIES

No apologies.

4 MAYORAL REPORT 2020/2021

Cr Ron Ismay to present the Mayor's report for 2020/2021.

Mayoral Report 2020/2021

It has been an honour to represent the Shire as Mayor over the past twelve months, albeit a totally different year than any I have ever experienced before.

The year seemed to be getting back to some sort of "normal" early in the year that was at least until the Rural Council's Victoria Summit in May. We have been forced into lockdown after lockdown ever since. Hopefully this will now change with the vaccination uptake reaching prescribed targets.

I have sorely missed the handshakes, personal greetings and interaction around the council table. Zoom and Microsoft Team meetings have freed us from total limbo, just. I look forward, hopefully, to a turnaround in 2022.

2021, however, hasn't been all doom and gloom. It has resulted in funding being made available to live stream the Council meetings and made QR codes part of everyday life. QR

codes will be used much more widely into the future, certainly in the tourism and hospitality industry.

In 2021, we have seen the opening of the new Dimboola library, synthetic greens at the Dimboola Bowling Club, opening of the refurbished Dimboola Old Shire Hall into a Community Civic Hub and an exciting new structure and development at the old Dimboola pub site.

Jeparit has had a new library and refurbished customer service centre added to the Memorial Hall, and has had some upgrading of Roy St which has enhanced the entrance into town. The swimming hole/discovery trail node will be discussed this month with construction to commence before the end of the year.

Nhill Lutheran school are also about to invest in a substantial upgrade to their facilities in the near future.

I must pay tribute to Lucy Stephan, a highlight of our Shires high achiever's, for winning Gold at the Tokyo Olympics. Well done Lucy. Our young residents are our future and need inspiration such as this and mentoring by our older generation, something I hope to get involved in the future.

Material costs, undersupplies or high trade services have caused and continues to create great difficulty, not only for our shire but Australia wide with little prospect of easing anytime soon. This has impacted our funding for cabins at the Caravan Parks, Nhill Tennis Club, Davis Park and change rooms at the Rainbow Recreation Reserve.

A new dual lane Albacutya bridge is about to be constructed replacing the 100-year-old single lane version. Widening of the road will also take place to alleviate some of the safety issues with the high volumes of heavy vehicle traffic.

Rainbow also has a new library/customer service centre under construction and soon to commence, Llew Schilling silo project.

Rainbow Desert Enduro will continue to grow with range and volume of events in 2022 and beyond.

A very sincere thank you to my fellow councillors for your support throughout a somewhat difficult year.

I look forward to 2022, and hopefully a much improved and brighter outlook than this year.

Thank you to our CEO Greg Wood, Monica Revell, Angela Hoy and Shauna Johnson for their efficiency and professional support making my role so easy to do. 2022 will be an exciting year and we will all reflect on 2020/21 as years to add to the history of misfortune.

Cr Ron Ismay
Mayor

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council accepts the outgoing Mayor's report for 2020/2021.

MOVED: CRS W Bywaters/D Nelson

That Council accepts the outgoing Mayor's report for 2020/2021.

CARRIED

5 TERM OF OFFICE OF MAYOR

Section 26(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to determine the length of the Mayoral term prior to the election of the Mayor. The term decided will apply to the Deputy Mayor, if one is also elected. The term of office of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor may be a 1-year term or a 2-year term.

Under the Act, where the Mayor is elected for a 1-year term, the next election of the Mayor must be held on a day to be determined by Council that is as close to the end of the 1-year term as is reasonably practicable.

Where the Mayor is elected for a 2-year term, the next election of the Mayor must be held on a day to be determined by Council that is as close to the end of the 2-year term as is reasonably practicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council determines that the Term of Office of the Mayor be a period of one/two year(s).

MOVED: CRS R Gersch/B Ireland

That Council determines that the Term of Office of the Mayor be a period of one year.

CARRIED

6 ELECTION OF MAYOR – CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The election of the Mayor will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020* Section 25

25 Election of Mayor

- (1) *At a Council meeting that is open to the public, the Councillors must elect a Councillor to be the Mayor of the Council.*
- (2) *Subject to section 167, any Councillor is eligible for election or re-election to the office of Mayor.*
- (3) *The election of the Mayor must—*
 - (a) *be chaired by the Chief Executive Officer; and*
 - (b) *subject to this section, be conducted in accordance with the Governance Rules.*
- (4) *Subject to subsections (5) and (6), the Mayor must be elected by an absolute majority of the Councillors.*
- (5) *If an absolute majority of the Councillors cannot be obtained at the meeting, the Council may resolve to conduct a new election at a later specified time and date.*
- (6) *If only one Councillor is a candidate for Mayor, the meeting must declare that Councillor to be duly elected as Mayor.*
- (7) *In this section, **absolute majority** means the number of Councillors which is greater than half the total number of the Councillors of a Council.*

The Chief Executive Officer called for nominations and conducted the election for Mayor.

**Cr D Nelson nominated by Cr W Bywaters, seconded by Cr D Nelson.
Cr M Albrecht nominated by Cr R Gersch, seconded by Cr D Nelson.**

Voting was by a show of hands.

Cr M Albrecht was declared elected 6 votes to 0 votes.

Following declaration of voting, Cr M Albrecht assumed the chair as Mayor.

7 CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO MAYOR

Councillors congratulated Mayor.

8 MAYORAL RESPONSE

Incoming Mayor thanked Councillors for their support.

9 DETERMINATION OF POSITION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Pursuant to the *Local Government Act 2020*:

Section 20A Office of Deputy Mayor

- (1) A Council may establish an office of Deputy Mayor.
- (2) If the Council has established an office of Deputy Mayor, the provisions of this Act relating to the office of Deputy Mayor apply.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council elects/does not elect a Deputy Mayor for a term of one/two year(s).

MOVED: CRS D Nelson/R Ismay

That Council elects a Deputy Mayor for a term of one year.

CARRIED

10 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR – CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

If council decides to elect a Deputy Mayor the Mayor will ask the Chief Executive Officer to conduct the election for a Deputy Mayor.

The election of the Deputy Mayor will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020* Section 27

27 Election of Deputy Mayor

- (1) *Section 25, other than subsection (3)(a), applies to the election of a Deputy Mayor by the Councillors as if any reference in that section to the Mayor was a reference to the Deputy Mayor.*
- (2) *Section 26 applies to the election of a Deputy Mayor as if any reference in that section to the Mayor was a reference to the Deputy Mayor.*

The Chief Executive Officer to called for nominations and conducted the election for Deputy Mayor.

Cr W Bywaters nominated by Cr D Nelson, seconded Cr R Ismay.

Cr B Ireland nominated by Cr R Ismay, seconded Cr D Nelson.

Voting was by a show of hands.

Cr B Ireland was declared elected 4 votes to 2 votes.

11 APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES TO COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

The following Council organisations and external committees require the appointment of Council delegates for the period 2021/2022.

It is important that this list of Council appointments to external organisations is as complete as possible, as Council policy provides that travelling expenses and out of pocket expenses are payable for attendance at meetings of these organisations.

A Councillors role with these organisations is to provide strategic input, influencing outcomes that are consistent with goals in Council's Plan, and be a communication conduit between the organisation and Council.

Previous delegates, and appointments, are listed for convenience.

No.	COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEES	2019/2020 DELEGATE	2020/2021 DELEGATE
1	Audit Committee (2 required)	Cr D Nelson Cr M Albrecht	Cr D Nelson Cr M Albrecht
2	Nhill Aerodrome Master Plan Advisory Committee	No Delegate	Cr W Bywaters
3	Nhill Town Committee	Cr M Albrecht	Cr M Albrecht
4	Dimboola Town Committee	Cr W Bywaters	Cr D Nelson
5	Jeparit Town Committee	Cr B Ireland	Cr B Ireland
6	Rainbow Town Committee	Cr R Ismay	Cr R Ismay
	COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES		
7	Rainbow Civic Centre Committee	Cr B Ireland	Cr B Ireland
8	Rainbow Recreation Reserve Committee	Cr R Ismay	Cr R Ismay
9	Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Committee	Cr B Ireland	Cr B Ireland
10	Yurunga Homestead Committee	Cr B Ireland	Cr B Ireland
	EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS		
11	Municipal Association of Victoria (Delegate & Substitute Delegate recommended)	Cr R Ismay Cr W Bywaters (Substitute)	Cr M Albrecht Cr B Ireland (Substitute)
12	Rural Councils Victoria	Cr R Gersch	Cr R Gersch
13	North West Municipalities Association	Cr R Gersch	Cr R Gersch
14	Wimmera Development Association	Cr M Albrecht	Cr M Albrecht
15	Wimmera Regional Transport Group	Cr R Gersch	Cr R Gersch
16	Western Highway Action Committee	Cr R Ismay	Cr R Ismay
17	Rail Freight Alliance	Cr R Ismay	Cr R Ismay
18	Wimmera Mallee Tourism Association	Cr R Ismay	Cr R Ismay
19	Grampians Central West Waste and Resource Recovery Group	Cr R Gersch	Cr R Gersch

20	Hindmarsh Landcare Network	Cr M Albrecht	Cr W Bywaters
21	Wimmera Mallee Sustainability Alliance	Cr D Nelson	Cr D Nelson
22	Local Learning and Employment Network	Cr D Nelson	Cr D Nelson

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council delegates for 2021/2022 as proposed be adopted.

MOVED: CRS R Gersch/R Ismay

That the Council delegates for 2021/2022 as proposed be adopted.

CARRIED

12 DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL MEETING

The date of the next Annual Meeting must be after the fourth Saturday in October and prior to 30 November 2022.

RECOMMENDATION:

That a Special Meeting to elect a Mayor and appoint delegates be held at 6pm Wednesday 9 November 2022 at the Nhill Memorial Community Centre, 77-79 Nelson Street, Nhill.

MOVED: CRS B Ireland/W Bywaters

That a Special Meeting to elect a Mayor and appoint delegates be held at 6pm Wednesday 9 November 2022 at the Nhill Memorial Community Centre, 77-79 Nelson Street, Nhill.

CARRIED

13 MEETING CLOSE

There being no further business, Cr M Albrecht declared the meeting closed at 6:22pm.