

MINUTES

OF THE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS

HELD IN THE

CONFERENCE ROOM, MELVILLE CIVIC CENTRE

AT 6.30PM ON

TUESDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2014



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, MELVILLE CIVIC CENTRE, 10 ALMONDBURY ROAD, BOORAGOON, COMMENCING AT 6.30PM ON TUESDAY 2 DECEMBER 2014.

1. PRESENT

His Worship the Mayor, Russell Aubrey

COUNCILLORS

Cr N Foxton (Deputy Mayor)
Cr M Reynolds
Cr D Macphail, Cr R Aubrey
Cr R Willis, Cr C Robartson
Cr C Schuster, Cr N Pazolli
Cr S Taylor-Rees, Cr J Barton
Cr R Hill, Cr P Phelan

WARD

University
University
City
Bull Creek/Leeming
Applecross/Mount Pleasant
Bicton/Attadale
Palmyra/Melville/Willagee

2. IN ATTENDANCE

Dr S Silcox	Chief Executive Officer
Mr M Tieleman	Director Corporate Services
Ms C Young	Director Community Development
Mr S Cope	Director Urban Planning
Mr J Bird	A/Director Technical Services
Mr L Hitchcock	Executive Manager Legal Services
Ms K Johnson	Executive Manager Organisational Development
Mr G Ponton	Manager Strategic Urban Planning
Mr P Prendergast	Manager Statutory Planning
Mr T Capobianco	Manager Building Services
Ms K Brosztl	Manager Engineering Design
Mr P Kellick	Manager Asset Management
Ms L Hartill	Manager Neighbourhood Development
Ms L Reid	Manager Cultural Services
Mr B Dawkins	Manager Neighbourhood Amenity
Mr T Cahoon	Manager Health & Lifestyle Services
Mr B Taylor	Manager Financial Services
Mr M Duncan	Manager Information & Communications Technology
Mr J Clark	Governance and Compliance Program Manager

At the commencement of the meeting there were 55 Electors of the City of Melville and no members of the press in attendance.

3. APOLOGIES

Nil

4. LEAVE OF ABSENCE**5. INTRODUCTION OF ELECTED MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

His Worship the Mayor, R Aubrey, introduced individual Elected Members and Senior Staff to the meeting and advised that the City's Management Team were in attendance and would be available to meet electors after the meeting.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**6.1 FINANCIAL INTERESTS**

Nil

6.2 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST THAT MAY CAUSE A CONFLICT

Nil

7. BUSINESS**7.1 NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS**

The following Notice of Meeting was advertised in the West Australian Newspaper on Saturday, 15 November 2014 and the Melville Times Community Newspaper on Tuesday, 18 November 2014 and 25 November 2014, in addition to being displayed on public notice boards at all the City of Melville libraries and the Civic Centre and the City's website. The notice read:

“Annual General Meeting of Electors

Electors are invited to the Annual General Meeting of Electors that will be held on **Tuesday 2 December 2014** in the Conference Room of the **Civic Centre, 10 Almondbury Road, Booragoon** commencing at **6.30pm**.

Order of Business

1. To receive the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2014
2. General Business

The Elected Members and staff welcome your questions regarding the City of Melville, the Annual Report or any matter relating to the Notice of Meeting. A question form can be obtained from the City of Melville website www.melvillecity.com.au or please contact Corporate Support on 9364 0607 for alternative arrangements.

In order for complex questions to be answered at the meeting, questions must be received by **5.00pm** on **Friday 28 November 2014**.

Copies of the Annual Report will be available on the City of Melville website from **Friday 21 November 2014** and printed copies from Monday 1 December 2014 at the **Melville Civic Centre** and all City of Melville Libraries.

Dr Shayne Silcox
Chief Executive Officer”

His Worship the Mayor read out the Manner of Conduct of the Meeting.

7.2 MANNER OF CONDUCT OF THE MEETING

1. It is a requirement to advise that in the event of an emergency, everyone should take direction from officers who will guide you to the exit points of the building.
2. Toilets are located immediately before the entry to the Council Chambers.
3. All present are required to sign the attendance register at the entry to the Conference Room.
4. Speakers must be Electors of the City of Melville.
5. The proceedings are being taped for the purpose of production of the minutes and speakers are requested to use the microphones each time they speak.

The Minutes will include a summary of any questions asked and a summary of the response provided.

6. No other audio or visual recording is to be undertaken without the permission of the Presiding Member.
7. Speakers are asked to clearly give their name and address each time they speak.
8. Upon a motion being proposed, each speaker is to address the Chair.
9. All addresses are to be limited to a maximum of five (5) minutes. Extension of time is permissible only with the agreement of a simple majority of Electors present (*Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 Regulation 17*)
10. No persons are to use offensive or objectionable expressions in reference to any Member, employee of the Council, or any other person (8.3 of Standing Orders).
11. All Elected Members and Directors attend this meeting to observe the proceedings and hear comments from Electors. All questions and comments should be directed to the Mayor who may invite a response from the Chief Executive Officer, Presiding Members of Committees, Directors or Elected Members.

8. PRESENTATION OF CITY OF MELVILLE COMMUNITY ANNUAL REPORT 2013/2014 INCLUDING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014.

His Worship the Mayor advised that copies of the Community Annual Report 2013/2014 had been circulated and had been available on request from City of Melville, libraries and the City's website.

The Mayor asked for a general agreement from Electors that the meeting would conclude at approximately 8.30pm.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

His Worship the Mayor read out questions that were received in writing prior to the meeting.

1. Ms C Kelers, Alfred CoveQuestion

Will the Council still relocate the Melville Bowling Club if it can be demonstrated by a petition that it is against the wishes of its members and ratepayers?

Response

The City has been working closely with the President and executive team of the Melville Bowling Club over the last 18 months who are representing their members. The City has also received a formal letter from the Club accepting the proposed relocation and indicated their willingness to continue working with the City and other stakeholders to progress a management model for the new facilities.

The proposal would see the Club relocated approximately 300 metres east of the current location with a large sports club bar area, outdoor alfresco areas, sufficient toilet/locker/change room areas, a significant increase in parking and of course the expansion of the bowling greens themselves.

There will be opportunity for the community feedback during 2015 when the Tompkins Park sporting concept plan will be presented to the community for comment prior to formal endorsement by the Council.

The City has an important role to play in planning strategically for recreation and sporting facilities, and to provide them in the most sustainable and feasible manner. What is critical through this process of delivering the best long term options is to ensure the outcome which best represents the interests of the whole community.

2. Mr C Tarrant, Alfred CoveQuestion

Why has the Council been planning to relocate the Melville Bowling Club without any notice or consultation with the ratepayers? You are supposed to serve us! These are major changes which will affect us all, as we already have a large amount of flats and apartments at Pelican Cove etc.

Response

Following an initial public meeting, it was pertinent to work with the various sporting bodies on the concept planning, prior to commencing a broader community comment period. Hence project officers have been working over the last 18 months with the various sporting groups, including the Melville Bowling Club and the Melville Bridge Club. The President and the Executive team of the Bowling Club have been closely involved with this work representing their members. This work is informing a broad concept plan for the Tompkins Park Sports precinct which will be provided to the community for comment in 2015.

The City does own the land on which the Bowling Club is located and further studies still need to be completed in regard future use of this site. Once these studies are completed this again would be presented to the community for comment and the Council for endorsement.

The focus of the concept planning project is sport and recreation based, with the aim of improving sustainability of all clubs in the City, while also catering for future growth in some sports.

3. Mr G Applin, Attadale

Question 1

Response to paragraphs 1, 2, 7, 9 of correspondence 12 October 2014 addressed to the Chief Executive Officer

Jeff Bird Ref 3414711 Entry Troy Park.

Guarantee no more plantings or poisoning of grassed areas. Council's responsibility environmental health hazards, mosquito population at historical levels. Rat population continues to expand. Environmental restoration continues to enhance these health issues. Immediate response required.

Response

As the City is not the land owner of parts of the foreshore, the City cannot guarantee that no further environmental restoration will take place in those areas along the Attadale Foreshore not managed by the City. The area the City does manage is a Bush Forever Site and the City is required to protect the environmental values of this area and to enhance them where possible.

The majority of the original foreshore vegetation has been lost as a result of clearing and the only option available to the City, in relation to environmental protection, is to protect the remaining remnant vegetation and to increase habitat where possible.

In general, this habitat is created by restoring areas immediately adjacent to existing vegetation, which can include removing the non-native grasses and replacing them with native species. These activities are only carried out if there is sufficient open space available for public usage nearby.

Mosquitos are a natural part of the ecosystem and are expected to be in higher numbers in areas adjacent to water bodies. Mosquito problems are less likely in healthy, functioning wetland/foreshore areas due to increases in biodiversity and predation of mosquito larvae. Pools of standing water with no natural biodiversity are more likely to increase mosquito numbers due to reduced predation of larvae.

Rats are an introduced species that are well adapted to urban living. They are equally at home in suburban backyards and are likely to be attracted to the food opportunities around houses, such as pet food and food scraps. Human habits rather than environmental restoration are responsible for the continued presence of rat populations.

For further clarification on the areas not managed by the City it is recommended that Mr Applin makes contact with the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

Mr G Applin, Attadale (Continued)Question 2

Residents of Burke Drive consider that their street is neglected, low on maintenance and visually polluted on the riverside in particular from Alfred Cove to Haig Road.

Why will the Council not keep this area clean and tidy?

Response

Over the past few years the City has conducted a number of activities which have contributed to the amenity and safety in this area, those being;

The upgrading of the drainage area in Troy Park at a cost \$66,000, this work involved removal of weed species, shaping of the drain, planting and fencing the area.

Burke Drive from Hislop Street to Sedwick Street was resurfaced in the 2010/2011 financial year under the MRRG program. The cost was \$399,779.

The shared path upgrade on Burke Drive from Haig Rd to Lentona Road was recently completed in November 2014. The total cost was \$492,022.

In regards to maintenance of the road, the City sweeps Burke Drive a minimum of four times a year and checks the drainage once a year educting if needed.

4. Ms E Nicholson, Applecross

Question 1

Would you please explain the Council's strategy in regard to the planting of seedlings/saplings in Melville's bushland/wetland areas? In particular, I would like to know why the Council plants saplings but doesn't allow for watering/general care for the first couple of years to ensure that the saplings have a reasonable chance of survival. Frequently, this lack of watering and care results in an extremely low survival rate and the planting process is repeated the following year. Wouldn't it be better to care for the saplings to ensure a good survival rate and save ratepayers' money?

Response

Seedlings in bushland areas are planted in the winter months to take advantage of winter rains. It is an accepted practice by many environmental professionals to not water bushland seedlings to ensure they adapt to the local climate conditions and do not come to rely on supplementary watering.

Plants that have been grown in this way are shown to have deeper root systems and higher long term survivability rates than those that receive regular watering. Similarly, tubestock is selected for this reason over mature plants as they have had less time to adapt to a nursery situation.

Seedlings are watered in when initially planted and tree bags are placed around them to create a microclimate and reduce smothering by weeds. Weed control is carried out and selective watering is done on an as needed basis if it is deemed necessary at a particular site. The City has increased the rate of watering in recent years due to the changing rainfall conditions; however, it is still subject to site conditions and is not automatically carried out at every site.

Survivability rates do not just come down to watering and can vary depending on the site and soil conditions and land use history.

Question 2

Street Tree Policy

Given that the Council's image is of an environmentally-aware Council and to this end Council has approved a street tree policy (CP-029) which requires all builders to, amongst other requirements, erect a tree barrier around all street trees, why isn't the Council's street tree policy being enforced equally on all builders?

I am aware of instances whereby some builders even after they have been notified of the rules by the City, have not complied whilst others have been made to comply by the City.

Is it one rule for some builders and another for others?

Ms E Nicholson, Applecross (Continued)Response

The City endeavours to apply the requirements of the Council Street Tree policy consistently and across the board. To that end, and in considering the impact that development proposals can have on the health of street trees, it is the practice of the City to impose a condition requirement on planning approvals to the effect that all verge trees potentially affected by development proposals be protected via the installation of a Tree Protection Zone (TPZ). A TPZ will, if implemented correctly, ensure that the long term health and viability of street trees is safeguarded during the construction phase of any development.

Once the condition to require a TPZ is imposed, the onus is on landowners and applicants to ensure that it is provided and maintained throughout the construction phase. If and when it is brought to the attention of the City that the latter is not the case, appropriate compliance action is always taken.

Question 3*Cash Reserves*

I note the Council cash reserves have risen from \$39.4million in 2007 to \$89 million in 2014 (excluding the \$20 million approx. loss in CDO investment). At what dollar level of reserves will the Council stop accumulating cash reserves and why?

Response

Prior to answering this question we need to correct three errors of fact contained in the question.

1. Reserve account balances as at 30 June 2007 were \$25m
2. Reserve account balances as at 30 June 2014 were \$83m (\$82m after impairments)
3. Realised total losses on CDO investments total \$9.5m prior to any distributions from the liquidators of Lehman Brothers (Australia) (In Liquidation) following the successful conclusion of the legal action the City of Melville took part in. The failed investments also returned in excess of \$5m of interest over the period.

It is very pleasing to note that the increase in Reserve Account balances has been achieved despite the Global Financial Crisis and reducing interest rates and significant acquisitions of Public Open Space amounting to \$16.3m. This clearly demonstrates that the Council's Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) is resulting in the creation of a financially sustainable local government which takes into account the needs of future as well as current ratepayers. The LTFP ensures that current ratepayers are meeting the true costs associated with their consumption of assets and services and not placing liabilities on future ratepayers.

Short-term decision makers would argue that rates could have been lower – what they fail to recognise is that there is a statutory obligation placed on Councils by the *Local Government Act 1995* to, when carrying out its functions, “*use its best endeavours to meet the needs of current and future generations through an integration of environmental protection, social advancement and economic prosperity.*” The City of Melville takes its obligations seriously and as such has implemented the Integrated Planning Framework published by the Department of Local Government to meet this objective.

Ms E Nicholson, Applecross (Continued)

Of the \$82m held in Reserve accounts as at 30 June 2014 \$18.7m represented Reserve Accounts being held for known liabilities such as the Unexpended Capital Works and Grants reserve account holding \$6.14m which is to be spent in the 2015/2016 financial year on those specific grant funded projects/services. \$4.67m is for rehabilitation of former tip sites which, like all former tip sites, are classified by the Department of Environment as contaminated sites. The cost of rehabilitation is unknown but estimates obtained for one former tip site shows the costs would be in excess of \$10m. \$3.8m is held in the Risk Management Reserve being the insurance contingency amount the City could be called upon to pay in the event of major insurance claims related to past years activities and \$1.92m relates to Leave Entitlement liabilities.

A further \$30.5m is held in various asset replacement reserve accounts. This compares to an asset replacement value of some \$782m = 3.9% and accumulated depreciation of \$384m i.e. \$7.9m. What this means is that past generations of ratepayers have enjoyed the consumption of those assets but haven't been charged for that consumption. This is a legacy liability that current and future ratepayers now have to resolve.

The City has taken the steps of implementing asset management and long term financial planning and is seeking to rationalise on assets to ensure that these legacy liabilities are reduced. Unfortunately this process is not without some pain and sometimes it's those same people that clamour for reduced rates who protest when in order to achieve that the Council embarks on programmes that will help deliver that.

A further \$1.98m is held in the Public Open Space Reserve account. This money is used to purchase and develop/redevelop public open space. Of this amount \$942,500 will be spent on developing the new Carawatha Park. This follows on from the \$5.3m the City spent on purchasing the site being the former Carawatha Primary School at the same time as purchasing the former Melville Primary School site for \$5.5m. Other significant recent P.O.,S. purchases were the former Bicton Western Power sub-station site \$2.21m and the former Water Corporation pumping station site in Mount Pleasant for \$3.31m. The balance of the P.O.S Reserve account will be spent on other public open space developments or redevelopments with the development of the lower land at Heathcote being another major parks development that will require funding in addition to many other opportunities.

The final amount of \$30.6m in the Land & Property Reserve account is earmarked for the purchase of revenue earning properties, the income from which will be used to offset the need to increase rates. This is a long term project associated with the rationalisation of non income earning freehold land and property assets for reinvestment in income earning properties.

In summary the City is working towards long-term financial sustainability in a manner that should ensure current and future ratepayers meet the true costs of consuming assets and services.

5. Mr E Nielsen, Booragoon

Background

In 2012 the City of Melville won the International Association for Public Participation Core Values Award, with the citation stating “The City of Melville’s Approach to its communities, customers and other stakeholders contains an inherent emphasis on stakeholder engagement and civic participation” and referring to “The Good Governance principles of accountability, integrity, transparency and consensus-building adopted at the City of Melville”.

In October 2013 the City of Melville introduced a proposal to the Local Government Advisory Board (LGAB) that included ceding Bicton and Palmyra to the City of Fremantle, without engaging the community in any way.

In March 2014 the City of Melville made a further submission to the LGAB, again without engaging the community.

In August 2014 the City of Melville recommended to the Local Government Advisory Board that the City of Melville should retain the Point Walter Reserve and Golf Course despite the residential part of Bicton being transferred to the City of Fremantle, again without any public consultation.

Subsequently the City of Melville has hindered the release of documents sought under FOI that reveal these actions.

Despite being complicit in the transfer of Bicton and Palmyra to Fremantle, the Mayor has publicly bemoaned the transfer and encouraged residents to oppose it.

Question 1

How do you reconcile the stated City of Melville principles of ‘stakeholder engagement’, ‘civic participation’, ‘accountability’, ‘integrity’ and ‘transparency’ with its Local Government Reform actions on Bicton and Palmyra?

Response

It is important to note that the State Government’s plan to reform local government and reduce the number of Perth metropolitan councils from 30 to 14 initiated the review of the boundary along Stock Road. The decision of boundaries was made independently by the Local Government Advisory Board (LGAB) and their recommendations endorsed or declined by the Minister for Local Government.

In July 2013, State Government announced its reform plan for local government, recommending an amalgamation between the City of Melville with the City of Fremantle (excluding North Fremantle), Town of East Fremantle and a portion of the City of Canning.

In response to that plan the City of Melville delivered its reform proposal to the Local Government Advisory Board (LGAB) on Friday, 4 October 2013, in the form of three submissions.

The Minister for Local Government reserved the right to lodge a proposal on behalf of those reform partners or individual local governments deemed to have a non-conforming submission.

Mr E Nielsen, Booragoon (Continued)

With unanimous Council endorsement from all Elected Members, the City of Melville's submissions to the LGAB present various scenarios for boundary changes, though remain largely consistent with the recommended State Government model. This included the option of providing growth to City of Fremantle to expand along Stock Road so an amalgamation would not need to occur.

Two of the City of Melville's submissions to the LGAB represented a two phased approach - Phase One which would see the creation of an enlarged City of Melville, and Phase Two which would then create the City of Fremantle-Melville.

The City's third submission offered a contingency plan, in the instance the State Government model is not followed and a decision is made to proceed with an enlarged City of Fremantle. This ended up being the outcome rather than the Cities of Fremantle and Melville amalgamating.

Ultimately the State Government initiated the reform process. As we were not the deciding authority, we provided information to the Bicton and Palmyra community to make their own submission with the Local Government Advisory Board, who were making the recommendations to the Minister.

Information was provided to the community via:

- Two direct letter mail-outs from the Mayor to every household within Bicton and Palmyra including the latest updates and information needed to inform the public
- Advertising in the local community newspaper
- Updates on the City of Melville website
- Information board in the City of Melville Civic Centre including hard copies of the latest maps, documents and printed submission forms
- Information posters in City of Melville libraries and recreation centres

Advertised 'Meet the Mayor' sessions at Point Walter Café, Garden City Shopping Centre and Melville Plaza – open to the public.

Background

It was reported in the Melville Times on October 28, 2014 that the City had *spent \$50,000 so far* on council amalgamation and this *did not include the extra hours put in by staff*.

The Community Annual Report 2013 - 2014 recently published makes no mention of the financial cost incurred by the City during this process.

Mr E Nielsen, Booragoon (Continued)Question 2

Would the City please provide the total financial cost incurred during 2013 – 2014 for this council amalgamation process, including the financial cost of the hours spent by the staff, officers, the CEO and the cost of any external consultants?

Response

The City of Melville received a \$50,000 grant from the Department of Local Government to assist with planning for reform. That covered the costs alluded to in the October Melville Times article. As noted correctly it does not include hours put in by staff. The full hours spent on reform have not been collated separately however it is one of the most significant projects we have undertaken and we expect a significant emphasis and hours will be directed to reform to ensure a smooth transition.

6. Mr J Gianfrancesco, BictonQuestion

We, the residents of Bicton respectfully request that this dangerous vehicle entry be closed off ASAP. We really don't want to wait for deaths of accidents, before action is taken.

Response

The City is currently in receipt of a planning application which proposes the change of use of 378 Canning Highway, Bicton, to a liquor store. This development has been the subject of two previous grants of planning approval, in 2010 and 2012. In 2010 the matter was considered by the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT), who after careful consideration and deliberation, overturned the previous decision of the Council to refuse consent for the change of use to a Dan Murphy Liquor outlet.

The current proposal differs slightly from the previous two approvals in that the existing (eastern) access into the car park from Fifth Street is retained, whereas in the initial SAT approval it was moved west from its current location, and in the case of the 2012 planning approval, the access was removed altogether. The reason for the retention of this access/egress point into the car park relates to the existence of an easement across the application site in favour of the owner of the adjoining lot (Melville Plaza Shopping Centre). This easement provides vehicle access rights across the car park from Fifth Street for the benefit of customers and service/delivery vehicles to the Melville Plaza Centre, and its existence obligates that a right of carriageway be maintained across the said land.

In practice the existence of the easement requires that the access from Fifth Street be maintained, and this is something that the applicant has no individual control over, neither does the City.

In assessing the implications of the current Development Application with the access from Fifth Street retained, the City will have regard to a Traffic Impact Assessment that has been prepared in support of the application as submitted. In addition, the City's Traffic Engineers have considered the retention of the access in technical terms taking into account average vehicle speed in the vicinity and crash statistics for Fifth Street, and found that:

1. The average speed of vehicles (85th percentile) is 52km's/hour (based on a traffic count undertaken 6/5/2014).
2. There have been two crash incidents within the previous five year period. Of these, one involved a vehicle leaving a residential driveway, and the second occurred at an intersection, either Fifth Street/Murray Road or Fifth Street/Preston Point Road

Taking these facts into consideration, and given that visibility for vehicle drivers at the junction of the car park with Fifth Street is not impaired such that concern would be warranted, there is no reason why in technical traffic terms that the subject car park entry point should not be retained. Irrespective of this, the access point is an existing one which the City is powerless to remove.

CITY OF MELVILLE COMMUNITY ANNUAL REPORT 2013/2014

At the conclusion of the written questions His Worship the Mayor called for a mover and seconder to receive the Community Annual Report. 2013/2014.

At 7.11pm Mr C Walkley of Bicton moved, seconded Mr Moore of Bateman –

That the Community Annual Report 2013/2014 for the Year Ended 30 June 2014 be received.

At 7.11pm the Mayor submitted the motion which was declared

CARRIED

His Worship the Mayor invited questions from the meeting attendees.

His Worship the Mayor reminded the Electors of the Manner of Conduct in relation to questions from the floor –

1. Speakers must be Electors of the City of Melville
2. Speakers are asked to clearly give their name and address each time they speak.
3. No persons are to use offensive or objectionable expressions in reference to any Member, employee of the Council, or any other person (8.3 of Standing Orders).
4. All Elected Members and Directors attend this meeting to observe the proceedings and hear comments from Electors. All questions and comments should be directed to the Mayor who may invite a response from the Chief Executive Officer, Presiding Members of Committees, Directors or Elected Members.

K Kelers, Alfred Cove

Question 1

I don't believe the first question about the Melville Bowling Club is answered adequately – what does it take to demonstrate to the Council that the proposed shift of the Melville Bowling Club is against the wishes of all bowlers and ratepayers. Because of the loss of

open space, then when the bowling club is shifted the land is going to be used for development and there will be traffic congestion and some of the properties will be devalued and we are going to lose an iconic/historic age friendly sporting institution.

Response

The Chief Executive Officer responded:

The opportunity cost to the City's ratepayers, 42,000 of them and 100,000 residents is 1% in rates for land per year.

The land is owned by all ratepayers.

The City has an obligation to keep rates as low as possible and provide sustainable public facilities for the future.

What is suggested is the movement of 300 metres to a new facility.

The opportunity cost of the current situation is forgoing a 1% reduction in rates.

The City can have a brand new bowling facility by undertaking this move.

The current site is not public open space at the moment as it is used by the Club.

The City must look at all assets that the City has to ensure they are working hard and returning the appropriate returns to all ratepayers for today and into the future.

The City is aware that some people are against the proposal but there are 42,000 people that live within the City of Melville boundaries soon to grow by another 20-30 thousand people and we have to make decisions in relation to the whole community.

Will you still be playing bowls the answer is yes.

Will the City have to maintain a facility which is depreciated when we could build a new facility and there would be an ongoing return in relation to the potential use of the current site.

The City does not have an idea what that will be at this stage. I believe that the ratepayers of the City of Melville would be happy that bowls are still being able to be played on a brand new facility 300 metres from the current site and that the ratepayers get a return of some 1% in relation to that on going.

Question 2

Will there be high rise development in that area?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer responded:

The Council has not resolved any position, at all in relation to this matter.

Ms J Curtis, Bicton

Question 1

Can you tell me why the proposed plan for Dan Murphy's wasn't put on the website so more people could have a chance to look at it?

Ms J Curtis, Bicton (Continued)Response

The Director of Urban Planning responded:

The City's practice is to notify residents in accordance with our advertising policy and to invite them to come and inspect plans at the City's Planning and Building counter. This is also achieved via notices on the site.

Question 2

How will the council address the following unsafe features on the proposed Dan Murphy's plans relating to the Murray Road entrance to the shopping centre? Firstly will the narrow pedestrian path next to the proposed Dan Murphy's building be widened?

Response

The Director of Urban Planning responded:

Yes we are aware of residents' concerns about that issue; there are ways this can be addressed by way of conditions on any planning approval that the Council may see fit to grant.

Question 3

How will the Council stop the fronts or the backs of the cars in the proposed right angle bays adjacent to the path from overlapping on the path?

Response

The Director of Urban Planning responded:

The Council has the ability to deal with this via conditions on planning approvals that may be granted

Question 4

Regarding pedestrian safety on Murray Road – pedestrians' have to cross over on Murray Road to get into that driveway. If there is a delivery area on that pathway into Dan Murphy's, how will that not exacerbate the safety of pedestrians trying to get to the shopping centre?

Response

The Director of Urban Planning responded:

There is of course an existing delivery area that has been there for many years. In considering these issues there may be enhancements or modifications to the footpath network that can be made in that location to make it safer for pedestrians. The City's officers will look at that.

Ms J Curtis, Bicton (Continued)Question 5

Has the Council taken into consideration the safety of people with prams, young children walking beside parents, the elderly or disabled with walking aids or scooters who have to cross this driveway squeezing past the parked cars?

Has the Council considered the possibility that if there is an accident and litigation issues, who will be held responsible for these plans?

Response

The Executive Manager of Legal Services responded:

The City assess the applications that are submitted, according to expert knowledge that it has itself or according to traffic management plans that will be submitted to make these assessments. There are Australian standards that apply, but should an accident happen, then one would look at the negligence aspects of it. If the City does its job it will not be negligent.

Question 6

Has the Council considered making a path on the left hand side of the driveway on the entrance to give the pedestrians from Murray Road safe access to the shopping centre and to avoid all the above problems so they enter from the left instead of having to cross the driveway to the right they can just carry on up to the shopping centre on the left which will be a much safer option?.

Response

The Director of Urban Planning responded:

The City is considering the application at the moment.

Question 7

What are our options for deferring this so that the community is fully informed and so that we can follow the right process?

Response

The Director of Urban Planning responded:

The processes have been followed. The application has been before the Council on previous occasions and as noted there are very little differences between the application currently presented and previous applications. The key thing is that the appropriate process is followed.

The Chief Executive Officer also responded:

It would be my view that if the City deferred it, the application will go past the statutory time frames and it will be deemed refusal. The applicant can then take it straight to the State Administrative Tribunal., The City believes the best outcome is to put the application before

the Council and the Council can determine the types of conditions that you're wishing to have put in place.

Mr A Bajada, Bicton

Question 1

It appears that when Palmyra and Bicton become amalgamated with the City of Fremantle that there will not be any wards, could you confirm this Dr Silcox?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer responded

I can't speak on behalf of the City of Fremantle however I understand a ward structure can be put in place after the Governor's order have been promulgated.

Mr M Moore, Bateman

Question 1

Mr Moore advised that he is the Chairman of Piney Lakes Community Garden Incorporated.

What is the reason why the gates can't be opened at 8am on a Saturday and Sunday and long weekends and closed on at 6pm when they are already open seven hours of those days?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer responded:

I appreciate the work that you do at the Community Garden.

The key issue for the City is that seven keys have been issued to members.

The City believes that the members should be in a position to manage seven keys to ensure that their access and egress to the site meets the needs of members.

The provision of an access point has been investigated but has significant risk of providing access to vandals.

Response

The Acting Director Technical Services also responded:

There are keys available to the gardening group and the option of a lockable box was investigated which would store some additional keys and as the CEO stated vandalism is a concern in the area.

This matter is being investigated to arrive at the best option.

Question 2

If the gates open seven hours on a Saturday and Sunday and are then closed for an hour then open again, what's the difference of having it open between 8am and 5pm or 6pm when it's open from 7am until 10pm during the week? Is a three month trial something that the City would consider?

Response

The Mayor advised that hopefully this would be considered with the Piney Lakes Community and the relevant officers at a meeting that was scheduled for earlier today.

Mr G Crawford, AttadaleMotion 1

Moved - Mr G Crawford, Seconder – Mr Walkley of Bicton

That Mr Crawford be granted an extension of time.

The Mayor declared the motion:

Carried

Motion 2

Moved - Mr G Crawford, Seconder – Mr C Walkley of Bicton

1 That the City of Melville establishes and commits to a Schedule for the delivery of a Parks Management Plan for each major City park commencing with delivery by December 2015, of a management plan for Troy Park and associated areas through to Page Street.

2 This plan to involve input from the Friends of Attadale Foreshore, the Friends of Attadale Parks and Amenity Areas, residents, ratepayers and City of Melville community groups who make use of the park areas.

3 The Swan Estuary Reserves Action Group as a consequence of its actions to be excluded from participating in the development of this plan.

The Mayor declared the motion:

Carried

Motion 3

Moved - Mr G Crawford, Seconder – Mr G Applin of Attadale

That the City of Melville immediately suspends any engagement with the Swan Estuary Reserve Action Group pending a formal independent investigation by the State Ombudsman Office or the like regarding the poisoning of the grassed entry to the Alfred Cove Nature Reserve and adjacent Swan Estuary Marine Park.

The Mayor declared the motion:

Carried

Mr McCormack of Alfred Cove, President of the Melville Bowling ClubQuestion 1

How can the Club basically be integrated with the other facility and how then will those other groups which use the Club be housed and be accommodated?

Response

The Director of Community Development responded:

I would like to appreciate the efforts that you and other members of your Club that have worked very collaboratively with officers over a period of time.

The City has done a lot of work with the Melville Bridge Club and the last design concept clearly delineated spaces that were for the Bowling Club and separate spaces for the Bridge Club.

Both the Bowling Club and the Bridge Club are very concerned about their culture. Both Clubs have particular requirements that we have tried to respect in this early concept plan in terms of the design.

The City has reached a point with the draft concept plan that we are reasonably comfortable with and does show separate spaces. There is some sharing of toilet facilities, but most of the other spaces are separate and gives you that opportunity to operate as you have done.

In terms of the Association which is the model that the City looks for, the City has had a Council Policy for some time around Community Hubs. This is a model of co-location of a number of different groups under the same roof.

You have an opportunity in the next stage to tell the City what is going to work for you.

In terms of the other groups you mentioned the City does operate on the philosophy of trying to strengthen the community and would want those groups to access the new facility. There may be in that new facility, different spaces that may suit them better.

The City is willing to listen and willing to work with you on this journey which is a significant change for the groups involved

Response

The Chief Executive Officer responded:

It is my understanding that the State Government won't fund separate facilities anymore. The State is actually moving towards the concept of a hub. The City is trying to build a hub that suits the parties.

Mr Williams, Mount Pleasant

Motion

Moved - Mr Williams. Seconder – Ms Williams of Mt Pleasant

- 1 Do the people in attendance agree that both Moolyeen/Reynolds Roads are particularly dangerous roads?**
- 2 That the Council be requested to put funding towards the commencement of a plan for the whole length of the road to increase traffic calming in the next five years.**

The Mayor declared the motion:

Carried

Moved - Mr C Walkley of Bicton, Seconder – Mr Williams of Mt Pleasant.

That the following vote of thanks be recorded:

Mr Walkley thanked all the Council Members and the Officers for all their hard work that has been done.

The Mayor declared the motion:

Carried

On behalf of the Elected Members and Staff of the City of Melville, His Worship the Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe New Year.

10. CLOSURE

There being no further business, His Worship the Mayor, R Aubrey, declared the Meeting closed at 8.24pm.