



Shire of
Wongan-Ballidu

Minutes (Unconfirmed)

Annual Electors Meeting
Wednesday, 11 February 2026





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Shire of Wongan-Ballidu acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land within the Shire, the Ballardong and Yued people of the Noongar nation, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

The Shire recognises the integral role these community members play in our culture, diversity, history and future.

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Item 1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY/DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Presiding Member, Shire President, Cr S Boekeman, declared the meeting open at 6:00pm

Item 2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendees:

Electors:

Eric Ganzer	Carol Mincherton
Fiona Brown	Steve Clarke
Pam Toster	Brian Donnellan
Desmond Booth	David McFarlane
Jaime Hanson	Ross Lane
Marie Edmonds	

Councillors:

Cr S Boekeman	Shire President
Cr J Hood	Councillor
Cr S Kalajzic	Councillor (<i>Arrived 6.01pm</i>)
M Sewell	Councillor

Council Staff:

Sam Dolzadelli	Chief Executive Officer
Melinda Lymon	Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Apologies:

Nil

Item 3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2025

MOVED: DESMOND BOOTH

SECONDED: BRIAN DONNELLAN

That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors held on Wednesday, 12 February 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

Item 4. RECEIPT OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

MOVED: PAM TOSTER

SECONDED: STEVE CLARK

That the Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2025, inclusive of the following reports be received:

- President's Report
- Chief Executive Officer's Report (Incorporating Officers Reports)
- Annual Financial Report
- Auditors Report for the year ended 30 June 2025
- Management Report

CARRIED

Item 5. GENERAL BUSINESS

- 5.1 Pam Toster - Commended the Shire staff at the Community Resource Centre (CRC). Noting they always make themselves available to assist and are very competent, Pam also values the discretion shown by the staff.

In addition, Pam commends the Works and Services Manager who makes himself available to discuss concerns about the Shire roads and for the works carried out on road maintenance, and for the recent upgrades to facilities in Ballidu.

Pam also noted her appreciation to the Shire for the recent initiative to display local art throughout the Shire facilities.

The CEO thanked Pam for her comments.

- 5.2 Marie Edmonds - Requested information regarding whether toll gates were to be installed in the Shire, as this was a concern if it was occurring.

The CEO asked for the source of the information, and that the Shire has not received anything to indicate that toll gates would be installed, and that it would be unlikely in regional WA.

- 5.3 Brian Donnellan – Mining progress. Are there any updates on the construction of the mine?

The CEO explained he has a meeting with the proponent tomorrow, 12 February 2026 to discuss the progress for the mine. Caravel have employed an Operations Manager who will be progressing with the planning for the life cycle etc. Information will be disseminated to the community as soon as possible.

There has been a meeting with Carol Redford from Astrotourism and Caravel to discuss the management of light pollution and Carol will assist with the proposal and Caravel in this area.

5.4 Brian Donnellan - Fire Station Colocation. Are there any updates?

The CEO provided an update including that the Shire is now liaising with stakeholders on the final concept design prior to further discussions with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) to see how to progress the construction of the facility, including funding, land tenure, and funds for the further design.

The location for the facility has not been confirmed, and there will be further progress within the next two - six months.

Brian also wished to give compliments to the CEO and Shire staff for the efforts and works carried out.

5.5 Carol Mincherton – Glad to see that works have been carried out at the Debb's Rugs shop to tidy it up.

Also commended the Shire on the installation of the Fire Danger Rating sign at the entry to town, as this is a good initiative.

5.6 Marie Edmonds - Could the Shire consider a new tower in the discussions with the mine especially as the TV retransmission is soon to be turned off?

The CEO noted that the decision to no longer provide the TV retransmission was made by Council in November 2024 due to the continuation not being viable into the future. The costs make the service not equitable for the ratepayers to be paying the service costs for the facility.

The Shire President noted that surrounding Shires including Koorda have also shut down the retransmission 18 months ago.

The CEO included that contractors have been in town recently working on the upgrades to the NBN service. When the service is upgraded in 12 - 18 months the availability of fibre to premises NBN will benefit residents with access to high-speed internet for television streaming etc. and other use.

5.7 David MacFarlane - Airfield Fence. David reiterated the previous positive comments on the Shire staff and road works. David raised concerns about the fence around the airfield being removed, and suggested the Shire consider some future planning for construction of hangars to ensure an orderly layout with possible surveyed lots.

The CEO informed that flora and fauna surveys have been carried out to progress towards applications for clearing to provide required buffer to reinstate the fences at a compliant distance from the airfield. This is progressing, and the fencing materials are being stored at the Depot with the intent to reinstate them as soon as possible.

Brian Donnellan commented that there been inclusion of future housing lots alongside the back of the hangar area.

The CEO thanked David for the suggestion regarding planning for future hangars and noted there are lots being surveyed behind Shields Crescent in preparation for an application to develop additional lots of land. The Local Planning Strategy 2014 includes investigation of a sky park at the airfield, although this has never eventuated. Land to the south of the hangars is confirmed to be Shire-owned.

- 5.8 David MacFarlane - Medical Centre Generator. David requested the Shire expedite the installation of a generator at the Wongan Hills Medical Centre. This is a great need for the community and would assist the Doctor for storage of vaccines and medications during power outages.

The CEO explained that quotes are currently being sought and this will be put forward for Council consideration through the budget review if there are funds available, or for the 2026/27 budget.

- 5.9 Fiona Brown - Medical Centre Generator. Fiona reiterated the support for installation of a generator at the Medical Centre following personal experience where important injections were unavailable as they had been transferred to the hospital during a power outage and were locked away.

- 5.10 Desmond Booth - Barracks and Civic Centre, are there any plans to do works?

The CEO informed there is \$107,000 included in the current budget for maintenance works on the Civic Centre and some works have commenced. There is a structural report being prepared for the Barracks. A second Building Maintenance Officer has been employed to assist with the backlog of work, which has been effective.

- 5.11 Brian Donnellan - The house next door to the Museum, which was previously owned by the Doctor, has fallen into disrepair. Is there anything the Shire can do?

The CEO explained that as this is a private residence, the Shire is unable to enforce works unless there is a public safety issue. The residence would be checked to see the extent of the damage.

- 5.12 Pam Toster - Could the upgrade and restoration of the Barracks be an opportunity to engage with a large organisation such as the Forrests, or Gina Rinehart to seek funding.

Brian Donnellan commented that this may be better received if the organisations were approached by the Progress Association rather than the local government.

- 5.13 Eric Ganzer - Heavy vehicles on Manmanning Road. Eric enquired whether a curfew could be placed to reduce the heavy vehicles using Manmanning Road and suggested between midnight and 4:00am. There is significant damage caused to the road.

The CEO informed that there are new works planned for Manmanning Road in the 2025/26 Budget through the Regional Road Group funding. There is now less use of Quinlan Street by

the heavy vehicles which has assisted through town, though Manmanning Road is a main route for trucks.

- 5.14 Ross Lane - Road network. Ross commended the Shire on the way the roads have been maintained in recent years and asked if there is future planning in place to ensure maintenance due to a greater number of trucks, the change to farming with less sheep and more grain, and the trucks being larger. Ross also asked if there is an underspend on funded maintenance projects, does the funding get paid back to the funding body.

The CEO explained that the funding would generally be rolled over to the next year to ensure the project is finalised, or the funding agreement is adjusted for the funds to be used for another road project if the original project is complete. It is rare that funding is needed to be returned.

The CEO also explained that the Shire is developing asset management plans to capture the future needs for road maintenance and other works.

- 5.15 Ross Lane - Secondary roads. Ross enquired about the secondary roads within the Shire as there are some where the back slopes have not been graded for some time. The roads are down to the bedrock with minimal foundation and the back slopes cannot be accessed due to the tree line encroaching. Council needs to ensure there is a discussion to reassess the maintenance of back slopes on the secondary roads. In addition to this the tree canopy is a fire control issue.

The CEO noted that this will be investigated further. There was some mulching carried out on the road verges last year.

Councillor Jarrod Hood included that there are some related policies coming up for review by the Works and Services Committee and Council and this would be considered.

The Shire President noted that there is an annual bus trip for the Councillors to inspect the roads, and requested if there are any specific roads to be looked at for Ross or anyone else to notify the Shire to ensure these roads are included in the inspection.

- 5.16 Pam Toster - Road Safety. Pam noted that the trucks are getting bigger, and there appears to be more instances where drivers are not being considerate of others on the road, including occasions where she has had to pull over when trucks are passing for safety.

Pam also included she is not in favour of the back slopes being graded further to allow pathways for the birds and other creatures.

Councillor Matt Sewell noted that that where mulching has been carried out or can be carried out it can be allowed to deteriorate and then the original gravel dragged back onto the road. It is difficult to source gravel, and this will assist.

5.17 Steve Clark - Financial management. Steve commended the Shire on the financial management over recent years. Steve also commended the Shire on the assistance with community projects including the Anzac service, Christmas lights and cemetery toilets.

5.18 Steve Clark - Main Street. Steve voiced concerns as it appears someone is living in a commercial building on the main street.

The CEO noted that the Shire is aware of this and investigating the matter. There are requirements within the planning and development legislation regarding people residing in commercial zones including for ablutions and wastewater etc.

Steve also asked whether the facades for the shop fronts are privately owned, or by the Shire, as there is a section where the gutters and wrought iron is heavily deteriorated. It looks unsightly and needs attention.

The CEO committed to investigating to clarify who is responsible for the facades.

5.19 Carol Mincherton - Senior Citizens. Carol thanked the Shire for the installation of new blinds and the air conditioning at the Civic Centre for the senior citizens.

5.20 Marie Edmonds - Road safety. Marie commented that the roads need to be safe, and the width of the roads may be the issue.

The CEO explained that the Shire is working constantly on roads within the Shire, and that there is a road hierarchy which is considered for road maintenance.

The Shire President informed that representatives from Main Roads Heavy Vehicle Services are making a presentation to Council in February, and this should assist with Council planning for road maintenance and construction.

Councillor Hood included that the Shire receives some funding for roads, though the cost to maintain roads is significant and the Shire does have a large road network.

5.21 Brian Donnellan - Road Drainage. Brian asked if there was any work being done to improve the road drainage.

The CEO explained that this is being looked at, with the culverts and the maintenance of the stormwater management system included. An asset management plan is being developed and these will be incorporated into the future planning.

5.22 Desmond Booth - Footpaths and gardens. Desmond congratulated the Shire for the high standard of footpaths in the town, and for the quality of the Shire gardens.

The CEO explained there has been some funding received for the installation of new footpaths, and some work will also be carried out on existing footpath maintenance.

Item 6. CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Shire President, declared the meeting closed at 6:58pm.

Signed by:

Name

Date