



Shire of Victoria Plains

Minutes of a Special Meeting of Council held

On	Wednesday 23rd September 2009
At	Council Chambers, Calingiri
Commencing	5.00pm

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1 DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 5.12pm.

2 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

President:	Cr G Erickson	South Ward
Councillors:	Cr N Smith Cr B Johnson Cr D Holmes Cr M Anspach Cr D Lovelock Cr J Kelly Cr S Young	East Ward East Ward South Ward West Ward West Ward West Ward Central Ward
Apologies:	Cr J Brennan	Central Ward
Chief Executive Officer:	Mr H Hawkins	

3 BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED

The Chief Executive Officer was asked to explain the emails received from Gary Brennan regarding Jim Chown's question from the community meeting. The Chief Executive Officer was asked to distribute a copy of the emails.

Chief Executive Officer left the meeting at 5.18pm.

Chief Executive Officer entered the meeting at 5.22pm.

Cr Johnson
Concerned going with Chittering alone. Goomalling would balance it off.
Chittering may be concerned about us regarding rates.

Discussion ensued on rates and land values.

Cr Holmes
If we don't form a base with someone we have a chance to get Goomalling in.
Over four years we can then build with Chittering to attract Goomalling.

Cr Young
It was good to see Jim Chown at the public meeting. I am now not so sure I would vote tonight on what was decided at the community meeting. I am not prepared to go against the electors, but they were given incorrect information. I feel we need to go back to the electors with the correct information. I could not

vote for anything other than to stand alone.

Cr Anspach

There have not been any answers given at Local Government week.

Cr Smith

Cr Brennan has said he wants to stand alone. I think based on the following information that we should stand alone not just align with Chittering. We are doing what Wongan Ballidu and Moora have done to us if we include Goomalling.

Cr Kelly

I agree we should not include Goomalling.

Cr Smith

I think we should stand alone. We may lose funding but so will a lot of others.

Discussion ensued on Wongan Ballidu and Moora not including Victoria Plains in their submissions.

Cr Kelly

They have not been honest with us. At the first meeting we did not have all the information. We now have more information. If we went back to the public we would get the same answers. In regards to grants, Moora were asked at the public meeting about grants and benefits.

Discussion continued on grants that would be lost.

Cr Kelly

The electors in the south of the west ward wanted to go to Chittering in 2003. they did so because council went against their decision. Council should be wary about going against the community's decision.

Cr Young

We would have to do what is best for Victoria Plains not be honourable and worry about Goomalling or Chittering.

Discussion ensued on grant funding and what we would lose and would the Nationals be happy having it broadcast on the radio that Victoria Plains was losing funding.

Cr Anspach

Would move recommendation 3.1.2 and continue to talk to other shires regarding sharing resources.

Cr Lovelock

The shared services model still is in accordance with the motion passed at the community meeting.

Discussion ensued on shared services and the meeting decision and the emails from Gary Brennan.

Cr Lovelock

We need to do what is best for our council not give a dam about other shires. We are here to represent the best interests of Victoria Plains. The motion passed by the community is not changed by sharing services. We need to refine our region for the submission. We need to look at what is best for our people. If the government could prove amalgamations were going to save us \$M we could do that and still not affect the motion from Monday.

There will be more changes as this goes on it is inevitable. Victoria Plains believe we are a sustainable entity and would like to improve that sustainability by resource sharing.

Cr Young

Would like to comment on Cr Lovelocks comments. I don't think the community saw the finer detail as you saw it. I think the motion was to stand alone.

Cr Erickson

I queried Steve Woods that the intent was to retain our identity and he said yes.

Cr Young

I don't believe that they saw the finer detail and did want to stand alone.

Cr Johnson

I agree with Cr Young. In an ideal world we need more time. I believe we should stand alone and look at resource sharing in the future but we need a business plan to do it. We must have a plan for the future. We need to analyse the benefits.

Cr Erickson

It is very obvious that the community want to retain their identity. I agree with Cr Lovelock that we should put it back on to the government to tell us what the benefits of an amalgamation are.

Cr Smith

Are you going to include the last sentence i.e. "amalgamation in four years"?

Cr Erickson

No. We are asking the Government to prove the benefits.

Cr Kelly

I want you to define shared services, are we going to lose staff.

Cr Erickson

It would need to be worked out.

Cr Kelly

The SEAVROC model everyone would be retained. We can't go into a shared services model if we don't know what we are going to share.

Cr Young

I can't support any motion until we go back to the community again. We are ignoring the fact that some people in the meeting saw that the alliance option has gone.

Cr Lovelock

To answer Cr Kelly; in the SEAVROC no sharing of CEO's. you can decide on what level of sharing you want. Nothing here is contrary to Monday's motion. At the end of the day there are 9 people here who have to make that decision not the community. The SEAVROC would have equal representation on the board i.e. CEO and Shire President, but not necessarily. You can share whatever you like. We already share services and nobody has a problem except the minister. All the meeting on Monday wanted was not to amalgamate.

Cr Smith

There is nothing in the emails that says that the meeting on Monday was misled.

I bring this up because some here are saying the meeting was mislead, but it don't believe that this is correct

"The Minister encourages mergers or the creation of formal regional Councils. The differences between the SEAVROC model and a regional Council is in the governance area. For example members of SEAVROC would reach agreement through their individual councils on what services they will engage a business unit to deliver.

A regional council makes all decisions including taking a long term regional perspective on all matters affecting current and future communities. "

Discussion ensued on what is acceptable as a shared service model.

Cr Young

I still don't believe that the community was given the correct information, I would not have voted for the motion had I had the detail I have from these emails.

Cr Erickson

The mover of the motion Steve Woods said he didn't mind if we shared services we want to retain our identity.

The problem with the shared services model is that people would see us a following them.

The previous meetings had correct information and the public said to do nothing was not an option. We don't know what services we are going to share and until we do I cannot agree to this.

Cr Lovelock

If we amalgamate we don't know what you are going to end up with what is the difference. At the moment Chittering is the only willing partner and we would sit down and work this out. The only thing our community has said is that it does not want to amalgamate.

Jim Chown said there was \$100M to help shires amalgamate. I have spoken to some from South Australia and there were no savings or benefits. That's why I want the government to prove what the benefits are.

Cr Anspach

The rules are changing and have changed in the last 10 days. It will take up to 2 years to work out shared services or amalgamation.

We are elected to make these decisions.

Cr Erickson

The information changes daily and I believe it would be foolish to do nothing.

Cr Johnson

I went to the fire brigade meeting in Yerecoin and the information was confusing

Cr Kelly left the meeting at 7.00pm

Cr Smith

You keep saying wrong information has been circulated. Show me the wrong information.

Cr Kelly entered the meeting at 7.02pm

Cr Young

I can't see the decision be changed.

Cr Erickson

We can go back to 5 new public meetings.

Cr Smith

We should make a decision.

Cr Johnson

We would still not have good information if we go back to the community.

Cr Lovelock

The common thing is that the community does not want amalgamation. Standing alone does not need to go back to the community.

Chief Executive Officer

Explained that Three Springs, Mingenew etc had amalgamated.

Cr Young

I have been pushing for going back to the public. I may be pedantic.

MOTION

Moved Cr Young that the Shire of Victoria Plains submits a submission that the Shire of Victoria Plains remain as its own identity and that Council pursues shared services as it sees fit.

Cr Erickson

Against the motion although it is not seconded as it is telling the minister we are doing nothing and that is not what the community wants.

Amendment to the Motion

Moved Cr Young seconded Cr Lovelock that the Shire of Victoria Plains continues to look at shared services resources model.

Discussion ensued on the wording of the amendment.

RESOLUTION 257/09

Moved Cr Young seconded Cr Lovelock that the Shire of Victoria Plains submits to the Minister for Local Government by the 30th September 2009 that it will remain, at this point in time, as the existing Local Government entity of the Victoria Plains Shire and that the Shire of Victoria Plains continues to look at shared services resources model.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 5/3

RESOLUTION 258/09

Moved Cr Young seconded Cr Lovelock that the Shire of Victoria Plains submits to the Minister for Local Government by the 30th September 2009 that it will remain, at this point in time, as the existing Local Government entity of the Victoria Plains Shire and that the Shire of Victoria Plains continues to look at shared services resources model.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 6/2

3.1 TWO MOTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC MEETING HELD MONDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2009 IN CALINGIRI

3.1.1 SEAVROC

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Minister for Local Government is asked “Is the SEAVROC (subsidiary model) of resource sharing alliance an acceptable form of structural reform in the current situation”.

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The Minister's Chief of Staff has supplied the following answer in relation to the motion in Item 3.1.1

The SEAVROC model is a service delivery model it is not what the Minister is ultimately seeking. It is still a voluntary organisation notwithstanding it will have contractual obligations to engage the services of the proposed business units that would deliver services on behalf of all members.

The Minister encourages mergers or the creation of formal regional Councils. The differences between the SEAVROC model and a regional Council is in the governance area. For example members of SEAVROC would reach agreement through their individual councils on what services they will engage a business unit to deliver.

A regional council makes all decisions including taking a long term regional perspective on all matters affecting current and future communities.

3.1.2 VICTORIA PLAINS SUBMISSION

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Victoria Plains Shire Council submits to the Minister for Local Government by the 30th September 2009 that it will remain, at this point in time, as the existing Local Government entity of the Victoria Plains Shire".

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4 DECLARATION OF CLOSURE

There being no further business the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 7.26pm

Signed this 20th day of October 2009

Presiding Member