



Shire of Victoria Plains

Minutes for Meeting of Council's Plant and  
Works Committee held

On	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2005
At	Council Chambers, Calingiri
Commencing	11.00am



# *Shire of Victoria Plains*

## *Minutes*

FOR MEETING OF COUNCIL'S PLANT AND WORKS COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE  
2005 AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS CALINGIRI COMMENCING AT 11.00AM

### **1 DECLARATION OF OPENING**

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 11am.

### **2 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

<b>President</b>	Cr M Anspach	West Ward
<b>Councillors</b>	Cr J Kelly	West Ward (from 11.05am)
	Cr N Smith	East Ward
	Cr J Brennan	Central Ward
	Cr D Holmes	South Ward
<b>Chief Executive Officer</b>	Harry Hawkins	
<b>Works Manager</b>	Allen Kent	
<b>Executive Assistant</b>	Fiona Watson	
<b>Apologies</b>	Nil	

### **3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

#### **3.1 Confirmation**

The minutes of the Plant and Works Committee Meeting held 19<sup>th</sup> April 2005 were confirmed at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held 19<sup>th</sup> April 2005.

#### **3.2 Business Arising**

Cr Smith enquired whether the Resolution numbers had been corrected to reflect the mistake made in numbering of the Plant and Works Committee April 2005 Minutes.

Executive Assistant advised that this had been done and the official minute book copy had also been corrected.

## **4 WORKS**

### **4.1 Chief Executive Officer's Report**

#### **Staff**

Indications are that Gordon Wood may not return to work and Kim Watson has also said that he may be leaving to go to England later this year. We are already one man down and if substantial funding for the AgLime route is received we may need three new staff members.

#### **Heavy Vehicles on Unsealed Roads**

Following discussions at the last Council meeting on heavy vehicles using unsealed roads and travelling at excessive speeds I received a letter from the new Wheatbelt North Road Safety Group. I wrote and asked if they had any strategies to reduce the speed of heavy vehicles on local roads and the reply was, if we can provide details of the roads and vehicles involved Main Roads Heavy Haulage section will provide surveillance and threaten cancellation of permits of vehicles involved. Nothing slows them down quicker than the threat of losing their permit.

#### **AgLime Route 2 Funding**

At the time of writing this report no figure had been received from MRWA for AgLime Route funding. I have contacted them and stressed that we don't want the budget problems of last year repeated and was assured that Northam are keeping the pressure on head office for a figure and we would be notified as soon as they (MRWA Northam) find out.

Harry Hawkins

**Chief Executive Officer**

The Chief Executive Officer read aloud correspondence sent from the Shire of Victoria Plains to Main Roads regarding AgLime funding.

#### ***Resolution 146/05***

**Moved Cr Holmes seconded Cr Smith that the Chief Executive Officer's report be received.**

**MOTION PUT & CARRIED 5/0**

### **4.2 Works Manager's Report**

#### ***AgLime Route 2 - Calingiri New Norcia Rd***

All allocated monies for this project will be expended by the end of this financial year, including the special allocation of \$66,000. There are a few minor jobs to complete within the next 2 weeks of writing this report e.g. guide posts, signs, culvert pipe extension on the east end of Rex Glass's driveway entrances to his paddock affected by the road works, also one gate to relocate at Smith Road which will be moved along Smith Road away from the corner for drainage purposes.

### ***Construction - Councils Capital Works Programme***

Golf Course Road is the only Capital Works project to complete this financial year. This project will be completed by the end of this financial year. The intention is to start gravel re-sheeting early in third week of June and finish the project by the end of June this will depend on the weather conditions. At this stage Clive Duggan has supplied us with the gravel for this project within a five kilometre radius of the job. We are hoping to achieve 2000m x 9m formation of pavement at a depth of 150mm compacted gravel.

All other projects on the Capital Works Programme for this year have been completed to date, and have been deliberately under-expended to save funds to bring the budget close to a balanced budget at the end of this financial year.

### ***Maintenance Grading***

Since the opening rains 2 graders have been operating on Council's gravel road network carrying out maintenance grading. Some roads have needed more attention than others and this is the system being used at present to keep the heavier traffic roads in a reasonable condition as well as school bus routes because of the safety factor during wet conditions. When construction is complete e.g. Golf Course Road, all 3 graders will be involved in the maintenance grading programme.

### ***Verge Spraying***

Don Westlake has been engaged in some verge spraying within townsites and road shoulder spraying to control noxious weeds and sucker re-growth, mostly on newly constructed roads. This process is necessary to keep sucker re-growth down to a minimum so they don't become major problems in the future in relation to drainage by growing in drains and close to the road edges.

### ***Parks and Gardens***

This work is on a continual basis. This programme is ongoing and is worked in with the town maintenance and verge spraying when weather is favourable.

### ***Drainage Maintenance***

Since the winter rains have arrived, some culverts require a clean out in preparation for the rains ahead. This will be worked on when men and machinery are available. Most of the drainage throughout the Shire is coping adequately and some scrub growth will be removed between the road shoulder edge and the drains so that in future it will not pose a threat by being too close to the road edge.

### ***Bolgart Aged Units***

Work has been completed on a rock retainer wall at the front of the 2 units in Bolgart. This retainer wall will solve problems with water running off the footpath and general areas which was entering the front yards of the 2 units. Topsoil has now been spread in the front garden areas and is now ready for the planting of lawn by the Bolgart Progress Association. The rear lawns of the 2 units will need to be completed mostly by manual labour. This will also be completed by the Bolgart Progress Association, as the areas are only very small and cannot be negotiated with Council machinery.

### ***Plant and Machinery Report***

All Council plant is operating efficiently and we have no major mechanical problems to report.

However we have had a problem with the diff-lock on both the Volvo Graders. It appears this has been a major problem for C.J.D. This work has all been completed under warranty. To overcome the problem C.J.D. have taken away the whole diff-lock assembly and have replaced it with a new modified part. They then have the removed diff-lock remodified and overhauled and can be used on other machines as a replacement part with the modification.

### ***Bitumen Sealing Programme***

RnR contracting who carry out our sealing requirements have made a mistake with their invoicing and have only charged our Council \$0.49c/litre to spray some of our projects. The tendered rate should have been \$0.59c/litre sprayed. Unfortunately they had realised this mistake after we had paid all the accounts initially sent. I have spoken to Rod Evans a senior partner with RnR Contracting and they realised their invoicing mistake and I have agreed to resolve the problem with him. The outcome is that they will send us another invoice in addition to what we have already paid for their services. An adjustment will be made with the new invoice for the amount of litres sprayed at a reduced rate which was their mistake initially. The projects affected will be:-

Toodyay Bindi Bindi – Regional Funding  
AgLime Route 2  
Gillingarra New Norcia- Roads to Recovery

I was aware of their mistake and had taken into account, when they found out their mistake. There will be enough money left over in each job to cover this oversight for extra costs in the above jobs.

Allen Kent  
**Manager Works Services**

Cr Smith enquired regarding the regrowth on the Wongan Hills-Waddington Road. Will this be addressed?

Allen Kent advised that regrowth will be removed with the bobcat.

Cr Smith asked who the current grader operators for the Shire are.

Allen Kent – Works Manager advised that Arthur Jones, Ian Osboine and Gary Stewart (currently filling in for Gordon Wood when required) are current operators.

Cr Kelly enquired if operators were accredited.

Allen Kent advised that they were not and in the new financial year training/accreditation would be looked at.

Cr Kelly stated that all operators should be accredited and trained further as soon as possible.

### ***Resolution 147/05***

**Moved Cr Smith seconded Cr Brennan that the Works Manager's report be received.**

**MOTION PUT & CARRIED 5/0**

## WORKS

### W221 School Bus Turnaround - Brennan

<b>Location</b>	Shire of Victoria Plains
<b>Name of Applicant</b>	N/A
<b>File Reference</b>	T6.1
<b>Attachment/s</b>	Main Roads Letter
<b>Date</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> June 2005
<b>Author</b>	Harry Hawkins – Chief Executive Officer

#### Background

In January 2005 Council staff constructed a school bus turn around point on the Toodyay Bindi Bindi Road 4.9 kms north of Calingiri and approximately 700 metres south of the Brennan farm gate on behalf of the Public Transport Authority. It is believed that the move of this turn around point from the Brennan farm gate to the new position was arrived at by applying a formula used in calculating school bus contracts.

The only child affected by this move is a twelve year old first year high school student who when his parents can not drop him off is required to walk or cycle along 700 metres of the busy Toodyay Bindi Bindi road used by heavy traffic in an area where roadside vegetation prevents him from getting completely off the road shoulder.

#### Comment

Mrs Brennan has voiced concerns about the situation and Main Roads WA has agreed that it would be preferable not to have pedestrian traffic on busy rural roads.

Main Roads have also advised that they can't apply to have the turn around point moved and that that needs to be done by the School Bus Co-ordinating Committee at the Wongan Hills High School however they would support Council in any submission to that committee.

<b>Statutory Environment</b>	Nil
<b>Policy Implications</b>	Nil
<b>Financial Implications</b>	Nil
<b>Strategic Implications</b>	Nil

#### *Resolution 148/05*

Moved Cr Smith seconded Cr Brennan that Council supports Mrs Brennan and writes a letter to the School Bus Co-ordinating Committee at the Wongan Hills High School asking for the school bus turn around to be moved back to the Brennan farm gate.

**MOTION PUT & CARRIED 5/0**

## 5 NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE

#### *Resolution 149/05*

Moved Cr Kelly seconded Cr Smith that new business be introduced.

**MOTION PUT & CARRIED 5/0**

Cr Brennan enquired regarding shire staffing and contractors. Will local contractors be used in future works?

Allen Kent – Works Manger advised that local contractors had been used for approximately 6 months of the last year on various projects. Council need to be careful not to outsource too much work to contractors then leave shire staff without adequate work.

Harry Hawkins - Chief Executive Officer stated that Council need to be careful not to contract our works exceeding \$50,000. Once \$50,000 is exceeded contracts would need to go to tender then that would open up tenders from all over the state.

Cr Kelly stated that a balance is need. Permanent staff needs to be kept to around 10 and then outsource the overflow of works to local contractors.

Cr Kelly stated that the Mogumber townsite looks well maintained.

Cr Smith stated that he had received a call from Dan Duggan. Thanks are to be passed on to all concerned regarding works carried out on Duggan Road.

Allen Kent – Works Manager spoke regarding Red Gully Road.

Cr Smith drove along Calingiri-Goomalling and Calingiri-New Norcia Road. Calingiri-New Norcia road is very pot-hole. People must remember we are experience a very wet winter.

Cr Kelly spoke regarding Boxhall Crossing. Water was running over up to 8" during the recent rains. If this road is not included in the 2005/2006 budget it should be prioritised for the 20062007 budget.

Harry Hawkins - Chief Executive Officer stated the shire could possible apply for bridge funding from the Grants Commission. To be investigated by the Chief Executive Officer.

Cr Holmes stated that Mr G York of the Aged Persons Units in Bolgart had spent considerable time and effort in helping with the construction of the retaining walls in the front of each unit in Bolgart. Is there something the Council can offer by way of reimbursing and acknowledging his efforts?

Harry Hawkins - Chief Executive Officer stated that he is happy to acknowledge his help in the newsletter and also at the Official Opening (which is to be held at a later date).

Chief Executive Officer and Works Manager are to discuss some type of monetary reward for Mr G York of Bolgart.

## **6 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

Nil

**7 DECLARATION OF CLOSURE**

There being no further business the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 12.05pm.

Signed this ..... day of ..... 2005

Presiding Member .....