



TOWN OF
VICTORIA PARK



Annual Meeting of Electors Minutes – 27 May 2024



WE'RE OPEN
VIC PARK

Please be advised that an **Annual Meeting of Electors** was held at **6pm** on **27 May 2024** in the **Council Chamber**, Administration Centre at 99 Shepperton Road, Victoria Park.

Her Worship the Mayor Karen Vernon
31 May 2024

Table of contents

1 Declaration of opening.....	3
1.1 Opening	3
2 Announcement from the Presiding Member.....	3
3 Attendance.....	5
4 Discussion about contents of Annual Report 2022/2023	6
4.1 Mayor's report	6
4.2 Chief Executive Officer's report.....	6
4.3 Financial statements and auditor's report.....	7
4.4 Highlights from the annual report.....	8
5 General business	9
5.1 Acceptance of Annual Report 2022/2023	10
5.2 Questions	10
5.3 Statements.....	15
5.4 Motions.....	15
6 Closure.....	17

1 Declaration of opening

1.1 Opening

Mayor Karen Vernon opened the meeting at 6pm.

Acknowledgement of Country

Ngany djerapiny Wadjak – Noongar boodja-k yaakiny, nidja bilya bardook.

I am honoured to be standing on Whadjuk - Nyungar country on the banks of the Swan River.

Ngany kaaditj Noongar moort keny kaadak nidja Wadjak Noongar boodja. Ngany kaaditj nidja Noongar birdiya – koora, ye-ye, boorda, baalapiny moorditj Noongar kaaditjin, moort, wer boodja ye-ye.

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and respect past, present and emerging leaders, their continuing cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land, which continues to be important today.

Ngany youngka baalapiny Noongar birdiya wer moort nidja boodja.

I thank them for the contribution made to life in the Town of Victoria Park and to this region.

2 Announcements from the Presiding Member

About the Annual Meeting of Electors

The Annual Meeting of Electors is required to be held once every financial year for the purpose of discussing the annual report and any other general business.

Role of person presiding

The role of the presiding person is to run the meeting in accordance with the order of proceedings. The person presiding is entitled to move, second, speak to and vote on motions in their capacity as an elector.

Role of elected members

Elected members may attend electors' meetings and are able to move, second, speak to and vote on motions in their capacity as an elector.

Role of Town of Victoria Park employees

Appropriate senior officers may attend electors' meetings to provide information, as required.

Role of electors

An elector is a person who is eligible to be enrolled to vote at elections for the district.

Electors are required to sign the attendance register to provide their name and address to confirm whether they are electors of the Town before participating in the meeting.

Electors' meetings are open to all members of the public however, only electors may move, second, speak to and vote on motions. Electors may raise any motion that is related to the responsibilities and functions of local government.

Each elector present at a meeting of electors is entitled to one vote on each matter to be decided but is not required to vote.

Consideration of decisions made at electors' meetings

Decisions made at electors' meetings will be considered by Council at the next Ordinary Council Meeting, or as soon as reasonably practicable.

Recording of meetings

Meetings of electors that are held in the Council Chambers are to be recorded and live-streamed in accordance with Policy 052 - Audio and video recording and live streaming of Council meetings, Agenda Briefing forums, committees and electors meetings.

No other audio or visual recording may be undertaken without the permission of the presiding person.

The minutes of an electors' meeting will record a summary of the meeting and the decisions made. It will not be recorded verbatim.

3 Attendance

Mayor	Ms Karen Vernon
A/Chief Executive Officer	Mr Duncan Olde
Chief Community Planner	Ms Natalie Martin Goode
Chief Operations Officer	Ms Natalie Adams
A/Chief Financial Officer	Mr Trent Prior
Manager Governance and Strategy	Ms Bernadine Tucker
Secretary	Ms Winnie Tansanguanwong
Public liaison	Ms Alison Podmore Ms Felicity Higham

There were 28 electors in attendance at the meeting.

4 Discussion about contents of Annual Report 2022/2023

4.1 Mayor's report

Mayor Karen Vernon made a brief statement about the highlights of the Annual Report 2022/2023.

On behalf of council, I am pleased to present the Town Annual Report financial year ending 30 June 2023, it showcases significant services the Town provided and the projects the Town has delivered to make our community a dynamic place for everyone.

On behalf of Council and Community, I would like to thank the Town of Victoria Park, Acting Chief Executive Officer, all executives, and all the staff of the Town of Victoria Park for their hard work in delivering vital services and projects to our Town.

4.2 Acting Chief Executive Officer's report

In July 2022, the Council adopted the new Corporate Business Plan 2022-2027, our commitment to strategic planning and community engagement. This plan is a blueprint for the next five years. It outlines our dedication to achieving the community's priorities and Town objectives as established in the Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032. With a focus on integration and improvement, we are committed to delivering a better future for our residents.

One of our most significant accomplishments was the permanent rezoning of more than half of the land at Miller's Crossing as Parks and Recreation, following a decision by the Victoria Park Council in February 2023. This achievement was the result of years of advocacy from both the Town and our wider community. We thank the State Government for their support to enable this outcome. This transformation further contributes to the creation of a vital 'green corridor' stretching from Lathlain to Bentley, reinforcing our commitment to preserving and expanding public open spaces.

The delivery of the 22/23 Public Places Program has been marked by a series of remarkable accomplishments. We have not only engaged our community in the design of parks like Rotary Park but also secured essential funding for projects like the Higgins Park lighting upgrade. These initiatives are essential to fostering a sense of community, providing well-built and well-maintained facilities, and enhancing the overall liveability of our town.

The 22/23 Vic Park Planning Program has been instrumental in shaping the future of our community. From endorsing the new Local Planning Scheme No. 2 to completing the Albany Highway Precinct Structure Plan and commencing the Oats Street Precinct Structure Plan, we have made significant strides in our urban development efforts.

Our commitment to improving transportation is evident through the development of the Public Health & Wellbeing Strategy and the Integrated Transport Program. With initiatives such as the Mid-

Tier Transit Project, METRONET Project Officer role, and Black Spot Funding application, we are actively working to create a more accessible and safer community for everyone.

As part of our ongoing efforts to reduce carbon emissions and meet our Climate Emergency Plan targets, we have introduced two fully electric vehicles, made possible through the WA Government Zero Emission Vehicle Rebate Scheme. This transition to electric vehicles is a significant step towards a more sustainable future.

Our Urban Forest Program continues to thrive, receiving international recognition with a Highly Commended Award in the World Green City Award category of Biodiversity. Our commitment to preserving and growing our tree canopy cover has been acknowledged, highlighting our dedication to sustainability.

We celebrated the Year of the Water Rabbit with diverse Lunar New Year festivities. Our community joined us in this celebration, and landmarks across our town were illuminated in traditional red, reflecting the rich cultural diversity that makes our town so unique.

Our eighth annual Victoria Park Arts Season was a resounding success, celebrating the vibrancy of visual and performance art in our community. This event showcases the talent and creativity that defines Victoria Park and has become a cherished tradition for both residents and visitors.

I want to extend my gratitude to our Mayor, Council and our dedicated staff for their unwavering support and contributions.

4.3 Acting Chief Financial Officer's report

I am pleased to present the audited financial statements, as included in the Annual Report, for the year ending 30 June 2023.

The financial statements, and supporting notes, contained within the Annual Report are in accordance with the relevant Australian Accounting Standards, the Local Government Act 1995, and associated regulations to present fairly the position of the Town of Victoria Park.

As a brief summary of the Financial Statements, the following observations are made.

- Rates revenue of \$46.3 million was levied across 18,077 rateable assessment, which was an increase from 2021/22 rates of \$44.3 million
- Overall loan principal owing reduced by \$3.1 million from \$15.5 million to \$12.4 million. A large proportion of this debt relates to the Underground Power Projects.

- Council undertook a re-evaluation of land, building, roads, pathways, parks and other infrastructure assets, which along with new capital additions increased the non-current assets from \$552.5 million to \$629.2 million.

The financial statements, as presented, were independently audited by the Office of the Auditor General, a State Government Agency and in their opinion the annual financial report:

- is based on proper accounts and records
- presents fairly, in all material respects, the results of the operations of the Town for the year ended 30 June 2023 and its financial position at the end of that period, and,
- in accordance with the Local Government Act 1995 (the Act) and, to the extent that they are not inconsistent with the Act, and the Australian Accounting Standards.

An emphasis of matter was raised to draw attention to Note 30. This relates to an error in the accounting for service charges from the State Underground Power Program. The service charge was raised in full during the year ending 30 June 2022, for all properties on the scheme.

However, a statutory receivable was not raised for the full amount of service charges receivable at the time of issue of the rates notices. Due to the material nature of the errors, a correction was raised.

The impact of the adjustments and other highlights are provided in the Annual Report and are available on the Town's website and in hard copy.

4.4 Highlights from the annual report

A video was played showing highlights from the annual report. This video is available on YouTube at https://youtu.be/oz6G4_NIO-s.

5 General business

Participating at the Annual Meeting of Electors

In accordance with Regulation 18 of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*, the procedures to be followed at electors' meetings are to be determined by the person presiding over the meeting.

The following procedures have been determined by the Mayor for this Annual Meeting of Electors:

General

1. Only electors of the Town of Victoria Park are entitled to speak and vote.
2. The meeting will be conducted in line with the Town of Victoria Park's Meeting Procedures Local Law 2019. Where the Meeting Procedures Local Law makes no provision, the procedures shall be otherwise as determined by the Presiding Member.
3. There will be no adverse reflection from any elector at the meeting and any elector addressing the meeting shall extend due courtesy and respect to Elected Members, Town employees and members of the community and must comply with the direction of the Presiding Member. Should an elector reflect adversely on another person or not extend due respect to another, the question or statement will be ruled out of order and the elector may be asked to rephrase or to cease speaking.
4. Questions, statements and motions are limited to matters within the remit of the Town under the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Questions

5. Electors will be offered an opportunity to ask a maximum of 4 questions each.
6. Any questions unable to be responded to at the Annual Meeting of Electors will be taken on notice. In this case, a written response will be provided as soon as possible and included on the agenda of the next Council meeting, or if that is not possible, the agenda for the following Council Meeting.

Statements

7. Electors wishing to make a statement have a maximum of 2 minutes in which to make their statement.

Motions

8. Any motions are to be moved and seconded before anyone speaks to the motion.
9. A mover of a motion has 3 minutes in which to speak on the motion.
10. The Presiding Member will ask all electors present if there is any dissent to the motion, and if not, the motion will be put to the vote.
11. If there is any dissent, those speakers in dissent have 3 minutes in which to speak against the motion.

12. Following speakers against the motion, the mover of a motion has the right of reply, for up to 2 minutes.
13. All motions are determined by a simple majority vote of electors' present.

Voting

14. Voting is to be conducted by a show of hands, so that no voter's vote is secret. When directed, electors will raise their hand to show support for or against the motion.
15. Each elector present at the meeting is entitled to 1 vote on each matter to be decided but does not have to vote.

5.1 Acceptance of Annual Report 2022/2023

Mayor Karen Vernon sought to receive the Annual Report which has already been adopted by Council but under legislation it is a requirement to receive the Annual Report at the Annual Meeting of Electors.

Electors are entitled to vote if they wish, but do not have to.

Mayor Karen Vernon called for a motion from the floor to receive the Annual Report 2022/23.

Moved: Mayor Karen Vernon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Bronwyn Ife

The electors present were called on to vote in favour of receiving the Annual Report 2021/2022 of the Town of Victoria Park.

For: 23

Against: 6

The motion was carried.

5.2 Questions

Mr Gerard Siero, Burswood

1. Regarding Climate emergency, does the Town have a 2050 and 2100 strategy relating climate adaptation to heat, drought, sea level rise, and disasters?

The Chief Operations Officer advised that regarding the climate emergency strategy, the Town has a plan up to 2032. In relation to sea level rises, preliminary modeling has been initiated by the Town to assess the potential effects. Regarding the death of the trees and urban heat effect, these issues are addressed within the Town's plan, and measures have been implemented to mitigate them.

2. Regarding Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB), could the Council provide an update?

The Chief Operations Officer took the question on notice.

Mr John Gleeson, Carlisle

1. What is the difference between being a Mayor and a Chairperson? Why are we not allowed to ask questions?

Mayor Karen Vernon advised that the Mayor has specific responsibilities outlined in the *Local Government Act 1995*, while the chairperson of the meeting oversees the proceedings. Additionally, in other organisations, chairpersons may have additional roles beyond chairing meetings.

Regarding the matter of asking questions, Mayor Karen Vernon advised that the presiding member conducts the meeting in accordance with the meeting procedure local law. This role entails managing the meeting, which includes allocating time for public questions as outlined in the agenda. Therefore, there are no restrictions on individuals asking questions, provided they adhere to meeting procedures, such as asking questions politely and refraining from making adverse reflection.

2. Regarding the truck runs through the roundabout on Briggs Street and Star Street, who designed or built it?

The Chief Operations Officer advised that the design had been carried out by the Town and it has been built by contractors. Some of the roundabouts are designed to be driven over, it is designed to slow vehicles and trucks down.

Ms Rachel Watts, East Victoria Park

1. Regarding integrated transport strategy, what action is planned in the work around Berwick Street near to the intersection of Kent Street, specifically for active transport to facilitate pedestrian movement?

The Chief Community Planner advised that a detailed breakdown on the progress made can be found in the Town's quarterly performance reports to Council. High level information on the 10 sub programs (used to implement the Integrated Transport Strategy) can be found on the Town's web site. However, the highlights include:

- Several skinny street trial sites are in progress to improve safety and attractiveness of local streets. A Design Manual is in progress with agreed local treatments.
- Advocacy to improve Burswood Station through Burswood Station Concept Design, supporting improved connections between Burswood Station East and West precincts.
- Rutland Avenue – One-way trial complete.
- Active Transport maps created to support people to use active transport to get around Victoria Park, available online with hard copies in Town facilities and sent to local schools.
- Advocacy of the Mid-Tier Transport Project with PTA and Main Roads WA to prioritise 900 series bus routes along Albany Highway.

- Level Crossing Removal Program - Partnership with METRONET & PTA will see the grade separation of the Mint/Archer Street, Oats Street and Welshpool Road level crossings and the upgrade and precinct planning of Carlisle and Oats Street Stations.
- Improved train services – Advocacy has supported Perth Stadium Station to transition to a commuter station, which supports the planned development and population growth on the Burswood Peninsula.
- Causeway Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridges - Work with MRWA to ensure the bridge provides suitable connectivity to McCallum Park foreshore path network.
- Safe Routes to School audits complete for two of three local schools involved in the Your Move program.
- Promotion of 'car-free' events including the Summer Street Party, pop-up events to activate Town Centres in East Victoria Park and Lunar New Year event on Harper St.
- Archer Mint Streetscape Project – Carlisle Town Centre between Planet and Bishopsgate Streets complete with improved walkability, safer road conditions (decreased traffic speeds by 6.6%), increased tree plantings (tree canopy coverage projects to increase from 17 to 40%) and higher quality amenity for people visiting local shops and cafés.

2. In relation to safety concerns on Kent Street, are there any updates or collaborative efforts with Main Roads to address these issues?

The Chief Operations Officer took the question on notice.

Mr Vince Maxwell, Victoria Park

1. Regarding the acting CEO appointment, could you provide details about the process involved?

Mayor Karen Vernon advised that the information cannot be disclosed as this matter was addressed during a confidential session of the council.

2. From the Freedom of Information, there is no document of risk assessment for the parking and charging of electric vehicles in the basement. Has the Town conducted the mentioned risk assessment since March 2024?

The Chief Operations Officer advised that it is an ongoing assessment.

The Chief Operations Officer took the question on notice.

3. Over 12% of rates were mistakenly charged in 2022/2023. What measures has the Town taken to ensure the surplus is correctly calculated so ratepayers are not charged incorrectly?

The Acting Chief Executive Officer advised that budget papers are prepared based on various factors including carried forward projects and the timing for the federal grant.

4. Comparing Belmont Council, and our Town, why does the cost of staff in the Town of Victoria Park increase every year?

The Acting Chief Executive Officer took the question on notice.

Mr Oscar Foster, East Victoria Park

1. Regarding 5G towers around the Town of Victoria Park area, is there any effects?

Mayor Karen Vernon advised that the 5G towers are not owned by the Town of Victoria Park, and thus, the impact falls outside the responsibility of the Town of Victoria Park.

2. In the case where the parking meter doesn't accept cash, what options are available for individuals who rely on cash?

The Acting Chief Financial Officer advised that the Town has ACROD bays available. The Town provides free parking at the beginning of each transaction, and off-street and side street parking is also provided at no cost.

2.1 What about individuals who don't own a phone and face challenges in paying for parking?

The Acting Chief Financial Officer advised that payment for parking can still be made using a card; however, coins are not accepted.

3. Does the Town have any strategy regarding crime and criminal behaviour?

Mayor Karen Vernon advised that the Town has implemented a Safer Neighborhoods Plan, which was adopted in 2022 as a 10-year plan.

The Chief Community Planner also advised that any criminal activity should be reported to the police. However, the Town does offer support through its Safer Neighborhoods Officer, along with various programs, including:

- Street Meet and Greet which encourages neighborhood watches.
- Information to combat anti-social behavior in John Macmillan Park.
- CCTV and security incentives scheme
- Scheme which reviews police data

Mayor Karen Vernon also advised that the Town also has focus on enhancing visibility by focusing on passive surveillance with street lighting.

4. Regarding general cleanliness of the streets, could you outline the Town's actions?

The Chief Operations Officer noted that the Town has seen a marked increase in litter. The Town conducts daily cleaning and street sweeping on Albany Highway and the team is actively working to resolve this issue.

Mr Sam Zammit, St James

1. Regarding the problem of people hassling the housing tenants. Any possibility you could disclose who you have been in contact with?

Mayor Karen Vernon advised that it is essential to uphold confidentiality by refraining from discussing subjects originating from private conversations during our public meetings.

Ms Amy Holdsworth, Burswood

1. Is it confirmed that no risk assessment has been conducted regarding parking and charging for electric vehicles? Will the Town cease parking and charging until a proper risk assessment has been completed?

The Chief Operations Officer advised that there was a risk assessment done.

2. Was the test run by the Town or Manufacturer?

The Chief Operations Officer advised that there are the risk assessments done by the manufacturer, the Town, LGIS and DFES.

3. Is the document going to be available under the request of Freedom of Information?

The Chief Operations Officer took the question on notice.

Mayor Karen Vernon advised that until the formal application is submitted, the relevant Town staff are unable to provide information in advance. Additionally, the approval depends on the Freedom of Information (FOI) officer granting the application.

4. Regarding the parking, does the Town intend to remove the free parking period in the future?

The Acting Chief Financial Officer advised that there is currently no intention to remove free parking.

5.3 Statements

Mr Gerard Siero, Burswood

Made statement about the disappointment of the outcome of the citizenship climate assembly motion, while maintaining hope for its realisation in the future.

Mr John Gleeson, Carlisle

Made statement about the lack of personal interaction between Councillors and rate payers.

Mr Vince Maxwell, Victoria Park

Made statement about the risk assessment of Electric Vehicles.

Mr Oscar Foster, East Victoria Park

Made statement about the unpleasant odour along the pathway and that people are not picking up after their dogs. Hoping the Town can address this.

Mr Roger Meakes, Burswood

Made statement about the gratitude to the Town for hosting a successful tree program event.

5.4 Motions

MOTION:	
Moved: Leigh Dix, Carlisle	Seconded: Gerard Siero, Burswood
That Council to install a Peace Pole in one of the parks it manages.	
	Carried
For: 17	
Against: 7	

MOTION:	
Moved: Gerard Siero, Burswood	Seconded: Leigh Dix, Carlisle
That Council:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Publicise the responses to the climate crisis with the focus on engaging with the community meaningfully on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) Mitigation ii) Adaptation iii) Steps and places for how we can deal with the current urban heat effect. 	
	Carried
For: 13	
Against: 8	

Annual Meeting of Electors - 27 May 2024

MOTION:	
Moved: Gerard Siero, Burswood	Seconded: Ammons Noble, East Victoria Park
That Council prepare a report to the Council and community on the status of water sensitive Urban Design in the Town.	
	Carried
For: 22	
Against: 0	

MOTION:	
Moved: Rachel Watts, East Victoria Park	Seconded: Michael Smith, East Victoria Park
That Council create an Integrated Transport Residents Advisory Group to offer input on decisions related to active and integrated transport	
	Carried
For: 23	
Against: 0	

MOTION:	
Moved: Wilfred Hendriks, Carlisle	Seconded: John Gleeson, Carlisle
That Council request the Town investigates how <i>Local Planning Policy No. 39 Tree Planting and Retention</i> can be adhered to and bring the report back to Council by_____	
	Carried
For: 16	
Against: 4	

MOTION:	
Moved: Wilfred Hendriks, Carlisle	Seconded: none
That Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cancel two annual green waste verge pick up collection around April and August 2. Have only one bulk green waste verge pick up each year around May or June 	
	Lapsed

The motion lapsed for want of a seconder.

MOTION:	
Moved: Gerrard Zero, Burswood	Seconded: none
That Council prepare the report for Councillors and the community on the status of landscape comparing the existing landscape to what was in the development application at the time project has approved.	
	Lapsed

The motion lapsed for want of a seconder.

6 Closure

There being no further business, Mayor Karen Vernon closed the meeting at 7:29pm.