



TOWN OF
VICTORIA PARK



Annual Meeting of Electors Minutes – 30 May 2023



WE'RE OPEN
VIC PARK

Please be advised that an **Annual Meeting of Electors** was held at **6:30pm** on **30 May 2023** in the **Council Chamber**, Administration Centre at 99 Shepperton Road, Victoria Park.

Her Worship the Mayor Karen Vernon
9 June 2023

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1 Declaration of opening

1.1 Opening

Mayor Karen Vernon opened the meeting at 6.35pm.

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 kaadijtin, 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

Emergency procedures

In the event of an emergency, please follow Town staff out of the building, down the foyer stairs and out to the muster point in Memorial Gardens.

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.

An update on the decisions made at the Annual Meetings of Electors will be provided at the following years' Annual Meeting of Electors.

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	Ms Natalie Martin Goode
Chief Operations Officer	Ms Natalie Adams
Chief Financial Officer	Mr Duncan Olde
Manager Governance and Strategy	Ms Bernadine Tucker
Secretary	Ms Felicity Higham
Public liaison	Ms Alison Podmore
Apology	Cr Vicki Potter

There were 43 electors in attendance at the meeting.

4 Discussion about contents of Annual Report 2021/2022

4.1 Mayor's report

The financial year ended 30 June 2022 was the most challenging for the Town and our community since the global pandemic began in 2020, as it was the time that we faced the impacts of widespread community transmission of COVID 19 in Western Australia for the first time commencing in January 2022. Once the WA borders opened in March 2022, the Town's services were quickly impacted adversely due to quarantine requirements and staff shortages.

Our business continuity and resilience as an organisation was tested like never before with added economic pressures of rising inflation, supply chain delays and shortages. But despite these challenges, I believe to our credit, the Town has continued to prioritise our values and the delivery of valuable services to our community.

This particular financial year marked an important one for Council with the development of the most significant suite of Strategic Plans for the Town's future that were adopted in a single year. These included five inaugural plans that we have not had before, Climate Emergency Plan, Local Planning Strategy, Social Infrastructure Strategy, Events Strategy and a Youth Action Plan. We also had two new plans, Integrated Transport Strategy and a Parking Management Plan, replacing pre-existing plans. And most importantly we adopted a new Strategic Community Plan for the period 2022 to 2032, which was developed in collaboration and consultation with you our community over a period of time.

There was also an endorsement by Council of a number of future Concept Plans that will impact the places that we all live going into the future. We endorsed the Concept Plan for the Lathlain Park Zone 1 which is the remaining part of the Lathlain Precinct Masterplan, the Burswood South Streetscape Improvement plan, Old Spaces New Places number 3, the Kent Street Sandpit Concept Plan and we advanced progress significantly on the Macmillan Precinct Masterplan towards the final concept.

I can also report that after more than two decades the heritage redevelopment of Edward Millen House, the Town's only State heritage listed asset, moved forward, with Council's decision in 2021 to grant a lease of the building to Blackoak, in a rare public/private sector partnership that will see the Town upgrade the surrounding Edward Millen parkland and Blackoak undertake the heritage restoration of the house, complemented by new private sector hospitality and community infrastructure to be built adjacent to the house.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those passionate members of our community who dedicate their time by participating in our advisory and working groups that advise and guide Council in their decisions. Including the Mindeera Advisory Group, Access and Inclusion Advisory Group, Urban Forest Strategy Implementation Working Group, Business Advisory Group, Macmillan Precinct Working Group, Lathlain Park Advisory Group, Hockey Working Group and the independent committee members of our Audit and Risk Committee. Your contributions to our work on Council and our community at large are invaluable and we cannot thank you enough for your time and your efforts.

On behalf of Council, I would like to formally thank the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Anthony Vuleta, the Executive Management and every Town employee for their hard work and for not losing sight of our values throughout the challenging year that ended on 30 June 2022. We have overcome many obstacles together, and I am sure that there will be more to come. The new purpose and the strategic priorities that we have endorsed in that year will steer us on the path of building a stronger and more sustainable community and an organisation that we can continue to be proud of.

I do wish to personally thank my colleagues on Council both past and present, since the year of 2021/22 was a Council election year and we saw the retirement of two Councillors and the introduction of some new Councillors to our group. I thank them for all of their efforts in supporting effective representation for our community, and good governance for the Town.

I would now like to invite the A/Chief Executive Officer, Ms Martin Goode to present the Chief Executive Officers report.

4.2 Chief Executive Officer's report

There are so many significant achievements that are highlighted in the Annual Report, unfortunately far too many to mention but there are a few that I would like to mention.

Some of the achievements include:

Embedding a new online way of working brought about by the pandemic that has brought significant efficiencies and flexibility. The Library moved to contactless borrowing and 24 hour returns via RFID (Radio Frequency Identification). We also launched a Lifelong Learning strategy so all members our community members have access to the important information.

We developed a Climate Emergency Plan, continued our highly successful Urban Forest Strategy, we introduced a three bin model, we finished the redevelopment of GO Edwards Park including two dog agility areas and natural play areas, and we continued and strengthened collaborations with several Councils namely the SECCA Councillors South East Corridor Councils and the Inner City Council Group.

I am very proud of what the Town has achieved in the last year, and I look forward to seeing what we can achieve this year.

4.3 Chief Financial Officer's report

It does give me great pleasure to present the audited financial statements, as included in the Annual report for the year ending 30 June 2022.

The 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 ending 30 June 2022 and its financial position at the end of that period, and in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995* and the applicable Australian Accounting Standards. The Independent Auditor, being the Officer of the Auditor General a State Government Agency has issued an unqualified opinion on the financial report to that fact.

The audit is generally conducted over a number of months and in two primary parts, the first which focuses on process and procedures, and the second which focuses on the financial reports and notes and if they do in fact represent a true and accurate record for the year. Full access to any requested records and information was provided by staff to the auditors, as and when requested.

Some key highlights from the report, there is a lot of information in the attachment which I don't have time to go through all of them tonight:

- Rates income was \$44.3 million, an increase from 2020/21 rates of \$43.06 million, however this is still below the pre-pandemic rates income of \$45.6 million in 2018/19.
- The overall loan principal owing has been reduced by \$1.3 million.
- There was a large income for service charges, which was received for the underground power network expansion of \$6.9 million and the program continues across the Town.
- Overall reserves balance reduced by \$15.03 million.

As noted, most of the information is in the back half of the report, which is available on the Town's website and also 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 You Tube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fo8wqXu_1UQ.

4.5 Receiving the Annual Report

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 2021/22.

Deputy Mayor Claire Anderson moved the motion.
Cr Bronwyn Ife seconded the motion.

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

The motion was carried unanimously.

5 Update on decisions from previous Annual Meeting of Electors

The update is available on the Town's website as an attachment to the Annual Electors Meeting Agenda.

6 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.

6.1 Questions

Murray Masters, East Victoria Park

1. The Town is losing too many trees, what can be done to strengthen preservation?

The A/Chief Executive Officer advised the Urban Forest Strategy Implementation Working Group have information on the Town's website on addressing the loss of trees, the majority of which are on public land along with actions and education to encourage the retention of trees on private land. The Town is also looking to advocate to the State Government to lead the protection of trees on private land through legislative change, urban forest regeneration and perhaps financial contribution.

Mayor Karen Vernon noted during the WALGA Urban Forest Conference discussed Tree Protection Local Laws which are prevalent in the Eastern States. The State Government is planning new requirements around deep planting zones on private developments but stopped short of private land. A number of local Councils are encouraging the State Government to require developers to retain trees through legislation.

2. What can I do as there is a lot of support in the community?

Mayor Karen Vernon suggested lobbying the local member to encourage legislative change and tonight it will be on the public record. There is also a new lobby group operating online through WA Tree Canopy Advocates and Victoria Park has started a group. Community pressure can express the desire for change.

Vince Maxwell, Victoria Park

1. It is unusual to see Councillors sitting at their seats during the electors meeting, these chambers are not suitable why isn't the meeting being held in the function room?

Mayor Karen Vernon advised that there isn't a reason for the meeting being held there and it is difficult to predict the numbers that may turn up. The elected members can sit in their seats and provide more space for community members. At Stirling Joondalup and Wanneroo, the elected members all sit in their own seats. The Town's elected members are here as electors and nothing else.

2. This is the one meeting of the year that electors can ask questions of the administration, why isn't the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) here?

Mayor Karen Vernon advised the CEO is on leave and the A/Chief Executive Officer is more than capable of answering questions.

3. The Annual report 2021/22 shows a \$5 million surplus but the budget set at the end of 2022 Council was told it was \$2.3 million. What has the Town done to ensure this doesn't happen again so rates are not being calculated on incorrect information?

The Chief Financial officer advised the estimation for the budget is completed in March, it was anticipated there would be a surplus of \$5.8 million, there was a large amount of additional carry forwards due to the implementation of the three-bin system. This year we have made our best estimate with the information at hand, prior to Financial Year but there may be expenses we are not aware of.

4. So nothing is being done differently?

Mayor Karen Vernon advised the Chief Financial Officer stated incorrect information hadn't been provided and that nothing needs to be done differently.

5. On pages 116 and 117 of the Annual Report reserve funds are higher than budgeted, such as reserves associated with the Town's main purposes, with road renewals, path renewal up on forecast and other infrastructure, is it correct to assume reserve funds are higher as work has not been done?

The Chief Financial Officer advised when the budget is set for the 2021 financial year there would have been an estimation that certain funds would be used from a particular reserve. If a project was set to use reserve but not taken or reimbursed, there may be an element where work has not proceeded or is still in progress.

Mayor Karen Vernon asked if that results in the funds in the reserve being higher than otherwise would have been at the start?

The Chief Financial Officer advised that if all work completed as anticipated however it is still reserved for the correct asset class.

Rhonda Potter, Lathlain

1. Will the Town be promoting its stance on the Voice to Parliament in the March election and if so, how?

The A/Chief Executive Officer took the question on notice.

Jethro Sercombe, East Victoria Park

1. Victoria Park is very lucky to have the use of the new community space at the Boston Brewery site and I congratulate the Town on this. Have the leasing requirements been set for the life of the building rather than a short period of time?

The Chief Executive Officer advised that she believed it had been a planning approval condition that the leasing agreement was for the life of the building but took the question on notice to confirm.

Mayor Karen Vernon confirmed the arrangement was for the life of the building, not the 20 years that was originally proposed.

Gerald Milford, Lathlain

1. A shared path is being considered for Rutland Avenue, why isn't consideration being given to putting the shared path on the railway reserve side of the wall rather than widening Rutland Avenue?

The Chief Operations Officer advised this was considered but due to safety considerations and PTA requirements the Town is not able to place a publicly accessible shared path facility within the rail corridor.

Rick Sneddon, East Victoria Park

1. There was a \$5.8 million surplus in the budget and it was predicted that there would be a surplus of something like \$2.5 million is this correct?

The Chief Financial Officer advised broadly speaking it is correct.

2. That is a 100% increase in surplus that you did not predict, is that correct?

The Chief Financial Officer advised that at the time the budget was put together that is correct.

3. In response to Mr Maxwell's question's you didn't indicate any changes to process or procedures in your estimations. Are we to expect a budget surplus of \$11.6 million this time next year?

The Chief Financial Officer advised no.

Jeff Pryce, Carlisle

1. There are 5G towers in the electorate, who approved these as the emission rates are dangerous limit to those who live around them, and you haven't told anyone about them. What are you doing about the emissions?

The A/Chief Executive Officer advised there are two mechanisms for 5G to be approved by Council. A new tower needs a planning approval or application for some time, with the last being between 12 months and 2 years ago. If a tower is considered low impact, these are exempt under from planning approval under Commonwealth legislation. In terms of the emissions, it is not something the Council is able to answer.

2. *People have metered these towers and identified they are immersing very dangerous frequencies around the area. Why weren't we asked, and why wasn't there a referendum?*

Mayor Karen Vernon advised that Local Governments do not conduct referendums, however the A/Chief Executive Officer may be able to provide information on consultation that took place.

The A/Chief Executive Officer advised that if there is a planning application for a mobile phone tower, it requires community consultation in accordance with Local Planning Policy 37 which specifies the radius from a tower within which community consultation with owners and occupiers needs to occur. The radius is around 200 metres.

Mayor Karen Vernon advised it is around 2 years since there has been an application, letters were sent to surrounding residents in accordance with that and submissions were put forward. The legislation falls under the Commonwealth so anyone with concerns should raise them with the Member for Swan.

3. *Are you implementing 15m cities?*

The A/Chief Executive Officer advised that the Integrated Transport Strategy is trying to achieve this.

4. *When will you tell people?*

The A/Chief Executive Officer advised there are many mechanisms to implement a 15 minute city not things that require consultation but if you want to know the timing I would be happy for you to speak with a place planners.

Mr Pryce confirmed he would like to speak with a Place Planner.

6.2 Statements

Rick Sneddon, East Victoria Park

1. Made statement on the questions about an audit noting that if he were a Councillor and there was nothing spurious in the Town's actions or contracts then there is nothing to fear. Stopping the audit implies there's something to hide. An audit will cost money, but the Town has a surplus so can afford it.

6.3 Motions

MOTION:

Moved: Kristen Marr, Lathlain

Seconded: Tracey Pola, Lathlain

That Council supports the current plan to construct an off-road walking and cycling path along Rutland Avenue based on the extensive community consultation carried out in 2018 and does not proceed with a new one-way street design that will result in increased traffic being pushed to other streets through Lathlain.

Carried

For: 14

Against: 12

Abstained:

MOTION:

Moved: Kristen Marr, Lathlain

Seconded: Sky Croesser, East Victoria Park

That Council:

1. investigates the pedestrian safety along Gallipoli Street and Goddard Street, with the high levels of car traffic currently experienced, that were further exacerbated by the recent Rutland Avenue one-way trial.
2. specifically investigates the intersections of Cornwall/Gallipoli, Howick/Goddard and the section of road at the Gallipoli St shops where there are large number of children needing to cross while travelling to and from school (St Augustine's Primary School, Lathlain Primary School, Ursula Frayne Catholic College) that were again further affected by the recent Rutland Avenue one-way trial.

Carried

For: By show of hands.

Against:

Abstained:

MOTION:

Moved: Amber Douglas, Lathlain

Seconded: Rose Kamarudin, Lathlain

That Council:

1. investigates the impacts of increased traffic on residential arterial roads in Lathlain should the zoning of certain lots along Rutland Avenue change to R60.
2. ensures any identified impacts are incorporated into any traffic modelling relating to other plans and development proposals such as the trial converting Rutland Avenue to a one-way street to accommodate the shared cycle pathway.

Carried

For: 18

Against: 0

Abstained:

MOTION:

Moved: Rick Sneddon, East Victoria Park

Seconded: Vince Maxwell, Victoria Park

For the purposes of leveraging differential rates, the Council determine the definition of vacant land to mean unimproved or cleared land that has been left undeveloped for more than five (5) consecutive years.

Carried

For: 20

Against: 6

Abstained:

MOTION:

Moved: Rick Sneddon, East Victoria Park

Seconded: Melanie Lund, East Victoria Park

That Council incentivise the development of vacant land by waiving rates for three (3) years for any new purchase of vacant land.

Carried

For: 12

Against: 10

Abstained:

MOTION:

Moved: Graham Ferstat, Burswood

Seconded: Fred Borthwick, Victoria Park

That Council amend delegation 1.1.16 tenders for goods and services function to read:

"Authority to undertake exempt procurement in accordance with the Purchasing Policy requirements where the total consideration under the resulting contract is equal to or less than \$250,000 in value and a sufficient budget allocation is included in the adopted annual budget."

Carried

For: By show of hands

Against:

Abstained:

MOTION:

Moved: Sam Zammit St James

Seconded: Mike Lanternier, Lathlain

That Council immediately suspend the Business Grants Program.

Carried

For: By show of hands

Against:

Abstained:

MOTION:

Moved: Vince Maxwell, Victoria Park

Seconded: Jayden Burns, East Victoria Park

That Council immediately commission the Auditor General to conduct a forensic audit of the Town's activities in relation to the following matters:

1. Changes to the Deed of Agreement and the Structure Plan for Burswood Lakes Development
2. The sale of 355 Shepperton Road
- 3 Edward Millen Adaptive Heritage and landscape redevelopment project

And that the resultant Auditors report be made publicly available in its entirety.

Carried

For: By show of hands

Against:

Abstained:

MOTION:

Moved: Vince Maxwell, Victoria Park

Seconded: Graham Ferstat, Burswood

Move a motion of no confidence in the Council and direct the Council to immediately resign on mass immediately and call fresh elections due to the Councils demonstrated inability to provide good governance and oversight over the Town's activities, although not exhaustive the matters of concern include:

1. The Town's covert actions that have culminated in Mirvac's Burswood Development maintenance responsibilities and associated costs being transferred to the Town resulting in additional costs to ratepayers.
2. The bungling of the sale of the Town's carpark at 355 Shepperton Road that after more than three years has delivered little more than an unsightly hole in the ground and a large legal bill.
3. The Town's inability to execute the much hyped and expensive Edward Millen project and that includes the Town sitting on a \$4 million federal grant which was sufficient to cover the total restoration works when it was granted in September 2020 but now due to inflation and rising building costs has left the Town with a large shortfall.
4. And failure of the Council to engage with the Auditor General to investigate the anomalies in the Town's activities in relation to these matters.

Carried

For: 20

Against: 13

Abstained:

MOTION:

Moved: Ronhhda Potter, Lathlain

Seconded: Sky Croeser, East Victoria Park

That Council:

1. That Council promotes the outcome of the vote at the March 21st 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting to support the Uluru Statement from the Heart with a series of supporting statements on all of the Town's social media platforms in the run up to the Referendum date.

That the CEO present a report for approval to the July 18 Ordinary council meeting on the following:

- i. Costings
- ii. Strategies
- iii. Locations

Of signage, banners and other mediums to be placed throughout the Town, promoting the outcome of the vote and the 21 March 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting supporting The Uluru Statement from the Heart, leading up to the National Referendum.

Not Carried

For: 9

Against: 9

Abstained:

MOTION:

Moved: Leigh Dix, Carlisle

Seconded: Sky Croeser, East Victoria Park

That Council investigates the establishment of a peace park and peace pole in the Town similar to those in other Town's around Perth.

Lost

For: 5

Against: 8

Abstained:

MOTION:

Moved: Mike Lanternier, Lathlain

Seconded: Graham Ferstat, Burswood

That the Town review the design of the speed bumps installed in the Lathlain area with the view to reduce the risk of vehicle damage to residents' cars. The review to include but not limited to the recycled rubber bolt down speed humps such as those on Howick Street, and the asphalt type humps such as those installed on Goddard and Gallipoli Streets.

Carried

For: 14

Against: 0

Abstained:

MOTION:

Moved: Jethro Sercombe, East Victoria Park

Seconded: Rick Sneddon, East Victoria Park

That Council immediately implements changes to the sections of the Health Local Law 2003 related to poultry and bees, so that keeping bees and poultry is more accessible to Vic Park citizens and that the requirements, particularly for distances from fences, buildings and streets are more reasonable and able to be met for the normal range of block sizes.

Carried

For: 16

Against: 0

Abstained:

MOTION:

Moved: Marc Allen, East Victoria Park

Seconded: Jethro Sercombe, East Victoria Park

That the Town complete a study into the implications of and implementation of mass electrification across the Town and community renewable energy and battery storage.

Lost

For: 6

Against: 7

Abstained:

7 Closure

Mayor Karen Vernon closed the meeting at 8:40pm