



CONFIRMED MINUTES

Annual Electors Meeting Tuesday, 2 February 2021

Date: Tuesday, 2 February 2021

Time: 5.00pm

Location: Council Chambers, York Town Hall, York

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**MINUTES OF SHIRE OF YORK
ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, YORK TOWN HALL, YORK
ON TUESDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2021 AT 5.00PM**

The York Shire Council acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which this meeting is held.

1 OPENING

1.1 Declaration of Opening

Cr Denese Smythe, Shire President, declared the meeting open at 5.01pm.

2 ATTENDANCE

2.1 Members

*Cr Denese Smythe, Shire President; Cr Denis Warnick, Deputy Shire President;
Cr Ashley Garratt; Cr Jane Ferro; Cr Pam Heaton; Cr Kevin Trent*

2.2 Staff

Chris Linnell, Chief Executive Officer; Darren Wallace, Executive Manager Infrastructure & Development Services; Natasha Brennan, Administration and Governance Officer

2.3 Apologies

Cr Stephen Muhleisen; Alina Behan, Executive Manager Corporate & Community Services

2.4 Leave of Absence Previously Approved

Nil

2.5 Number of People in the Gallery at Commencement of Meeting

There were (3) three people in the Gallery at the commencement of the meeting.

3 OFFICER'S REPORTS

The Shire President tabled the Annual Report and asked if anyone in the gallery had any questions regarding the document.

Ms Yvonne Dols ask if the Old Infant Health Building being demolished is mentioned in the Annual Report.

Response: The Shire President advised no.

4 GENERAL BUSINESS

The Shire President asked if anyone in the Gallery had any questions or matters of General Business they would like to raise.

Pat Hooper
President of York Bowling Club

Question 1:

Question relating to Customer Service

Can Council, in relation to the Customer Service Charter, please explain to the York Bowling Club:

- a. Why has the staff of the Council not been able to prepare/finalise a MOU with the Bowling Club? This MOU has been sought for over 5 years and there is no more information on the table now than there was then.
- b. Why has Council staff been able to work and prepare lease arrangements for the York Hockey while it would appear NO other Sporting/User Group has been afforded the same accord?

This two-part question is asked with the knowledge there has been staff allocated to the task.

Response provided by the Chief Executive Officer -

- a. *The Chief Executive Officer confirmed that officers had met with members of the York Bowling Club and that a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was currently being drawn up. It is expected that once the MOU has been finalised it can be presented to the March Ordinary Council Meeting for consideration.*
- b. *Shire has been working with the York Community Social Centre Inc (YCSC).*

Question 2:

Question relating to the "Clubhouse" issue in terms of the RFP advertised on 30 January 2021.

It would appear that in the RFP there is no discussion in relation to how any respondents to the RFP are to deal with current users of the YRCC and in particular the major Sporting organisations.

Can Council explain where in the RFP the "rights" of Sporting/User groups who relinquished the clubhouse facilities they owned/occupied prior to the building of the YRCC, and now use the YRCC as their clubhouse are able to be accommodated?

Response provided by the Chief Executive Officer -

The Chief Executive Office advised that there had been significant discussions with the YCSC and the York Shire Council in relation to the management of the facility.

The direction from Council was to test the market via the Request for Proposal (RFP) to assist Council with the future management of the site.

Regarding the clubhouse, no discussions have taken place. As outlined in the RFP this is a request for a proposal rather than a request for tender, which will open the doors for new ideas that may have not been considered previously. The key outcome – community outcomes.

Pat Hooper
York Community Ratepayer

Question 1:

Relating to the Business Plan of the YRCC.

Can Council explain how they used the “Business Plan” of the YRCC to build a case for the privatisation of the Management of the YRCC?

- a. Was there an analysis of the cost/revenue of the YRCC over say the period, 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018 and 2018-19?
- b. Was there any attempt to rectify issues within those Reports?
- c. Were the issues addressed by Council and then reported to the Sporting/User groups and the York Ratepayers?
- d. Or has there actually not been a properly formulated Business Plan and review of the YRCC in the period 2015-2019?

Response provided by the Chief Executive Officer -

The Chief Executive Officer advised that the request for proposal will provide an opportunity for Council to look at the current operating model and submitted proposals and compare which will provide a cost and social benefit to the community.

Question 2:

Relating to “Community Consultation” and York Shire Assets.

Can Council please explain why the changing of the Management Procedures of the YRCC has not gone to Public Consultation?

Surely an asset that is probably the second largest asset the Council has it would be appropriate to not only deal with Sporting/User Groups but the significant percentage of the “Community” who use YRCC. Changes of any sort will obviously impact upon them as well.

Can Council also advise as to whether there has been an analysis of Cost/Revenue/Value of the major assets of the Shire and has there been any further discussion upon the Cost/Revenue structures?

This question relates in particular with the Shire Assets including the York Hall, the York Swimming Pool, the Residency Museum and in light of the improvement of Avon Park, the ongoing costs of this asset which raises minimum revenue to the Community.

Response provided by the Chief Executive Officer -

The Chief Executive Officer advised that this question would be taken on notice and a written response would be provided.

The Council directed the Administration to prepare documentation for Tender in Feb 2020. This process was refined to a Request for Proposal at the Dec 2020 Council meeting and is now currently out for submissions. At present the management of the YRCC has not changed.

Community assets such as swimming pools, sporting infrastructure and open space provide services to communities. It is well known that it is the social outcomes and not the financial outcomes that give these facilities their importance. With regard to the cost the Shire of York's Asset Management Plans identify and outline costs to maintaining all these facilities including when scheduled maintenance and renewals are required. If a new management model is agreed by Council following the RFP process then that impact will need to be tested against the Asset Management Plan for this facility.

Yvonne Dols
York Friendship Club

Question:

What is the Shire Policy on recycling and the environment and are there any local environment concerns?

It was suggested by Ms Dols that the Old Infant Health Centre could possibly be utilised by a local group to reduce, reuse, renew and recycle. The York Friendship Group is desperate for a base and demolishing such a building would leave a large gap in the street.

Response provided by the Chief Executive Officer -

The Chief Executive Officer advised that in the new Shire of York Strategic Community Plan (SCP) has an Environmental Pillar.

Two key environmental strategies mentioned in the plan were the Avon River and street greening which are more environment related and the Containers for Change with relation to recycling and reuse.

However at this point in time, there are no other environmental policy or strategy documents in Councils current portfolio of documents that direct Council into the future.

The direction from Council is to remove the building subject to community feedback.

If the community are not agreeable with the building being demolished, then the Council will consider this however, if the building was to stay, then Council has already considered the possibility of using the building for archive storage.

A report is expected to go to the March Ordinary Council Meeting.

Pat Hooper

Not a question but congratulations to the Shire of York for the Avon Park Redevelopment.

The Shire President thanked Mr Hooper.

As there were no further questions – Public Question Time concluded at 5.20pm.

5 CLOSURE

The Shire President thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 5.20pm.

The minutes were confirmed by the Council as a true and accurate record at the Council Meeting held on 23 February 2021.

SHIRE PRESIDENT