

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Electors of the Town of Vincent held at the Administration and Civic Centre, 244 Vincent Street (cnr Loftus Street), Leederville, on Tuesday 9 December 2003 commencing at 6.00pm.

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Presiding Member, Mayor Nick Catania JP, declared the meeting open at 6.07pm.

2. APOLOGIES/MEMBERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE

(a) Apologies:

Mike Rootsey	Executive Manager, Corporate Services (on Annual Leave)
Cr Sally Lake	South Ward (will be late)

(b) Present:

Cr Simon Chester	North Ward
Cr Caroline Cohen	South Ward
Cr Helen Doran-Wu	North Ward
Cr Steed Farrell	North Ward
Cr Ian Ker (Deputy Mayor)	South Ward
Cr Sally Lake	South Ward (from 6.55pm)
Cr Maddalena Torre	South Ward
John Giorgi, JP	Chief Executive Officer
Rob Boardman	Executive Manager, Environmental & Development Services
Rick Lotznicher	Executive Manager, Technical Services
Matt Zis	Journalist – Guardian Express
Mark Fletcher	Journalist – Voice News

21 Electors (as per attendance list attached)

(c) Absent:

Cr Basil Franchina	North Ward
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3. RECEIVING THE 2002/2003 ANNUAL REPORT

Moved Cr Ker, Seconded Cr Torre

That the Annual Report 2002/2003, as Laid on the Table, be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUS

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1 Mr Terry Wilson of 152 Joel Terrace, Mt Lawley. Spoke about the undergrounding of power and stated as follows:

"Three months ago I attended a meeting of the Bank's Action Precinct Group where we were told that the Town of Vincent proposed putting some of the domestic electricity power lines underground and charging the residents for doing so. On enquiring further at that meeting whether it was intended to do this work in Joel Terrace and was told that it was. I was further told that the 132 KVA high voltage lines would not be touched and that it was not intended to put them underground as it would be too expensive.

I have always been led to believe that the idea of undergrounding the power lines is for aesthetic reasons and to tidy up the streetscape.

A few days after the meeting I got on to Western Power and enquired what they thought they were doing, by only doing half the job. I pointed out that the street would look just as much a mess as it does now if they poles, high tension wires and the large insulators supporting them were left in place.

The person I was speaking to Mr Mayor, then blew the gaff on the Town of Vincent, he told me that Western Power paid a subsidy to get domestic power lines put underground and that the Town of Vincent knew full well that the high voltage lines were not going to be removed and all the Town of Vincent wanted was to get their hands on the money because it wouldn't all be used p in the area and they could use some of it elsewhere.

The Western Power representative then said that there was no way that Western Power would put the 132 KVA cables down Joel Terrace underground because:

- 1) They rarely had trouble with the high voltage cables; and*
- 2) It would be prohibitive in cost.*

I would suggest Mr Mayor that it would be a good idea if you and your fellow councilors made a tour of the Banks Precinct and saw in daylight what a mess the whole area is with the high voltage cables crossing the area on their routes to serve other suburbs.

As a ratepayer I would be extremely annoyed to be told that I was expected to pay several thousand dollars to have a half baked job done undergrounding only the domestic power lines whilst the major eyesore was left standing.

I would therefore like to move a motion that:

Moved Mr Terry Wilson of 152 Joel Terrace, Mt Lawley, Seconded Mr Dudley Maier of 51 Chatsworth Road, Highgate

That under no circumstances should the Town of Vincent consider undergrounding domestic power lines in any street in the Town where high voltage lines also occur unless Western Power undergrounds their high voltage lines at the same time and removes the unsightly power poles.

Debate ensued.

I would like to also make the point that if this motion is not accepted and passed, I will organise petitions for all the affected streets in the Banks Precinct Area to get this lunacy stopped. I always thought that one elected councillors to represent the ratepayers expecting them to be endowed with a little common sense."

MOTION LOST (1-24)

- 4.2 Mr Brian Fleay of 59 View Street, North Perth. Spoke about multi-storey carparks in Vincent and moved the following motion:

Moved Mr Brian Fleay of 59 View Street, North Perth, Seconded Mr Dan Caddy of 44 Fairfield Street, Mt Hawthorn

That;

- (i) *in principle we do not support the introduction of multi-storey carparking as a solution to parking problems in the Town of Vincent for the following reasons;*
 - (a) *building roads and parking infrastructure to meet peak demand is recognized as inefficient;*
 - (b) *the immediate impacts of induced traffic on the local environment will be negative - people drive more if it is convenient to park;*
 - (c) *the strategic consequence will be to compromise the advantages of Vincent as an accessible place for access without a car, and to set it up for failure in the event of rising oil prices;*
 - (d) *they would not be financially viable due to the small peak demand for parking;*
- (ii) *we urge Council to stick to the intent and philosophy of the adopted Carparking Strategy which sought to solve parking problems in the Town of Vincent by a range of means which recognize the importance of protecting the local amenity and character of our residential and business areas; and*
- (iii) *multi-storey carparks should only be considered if:*
 - (a) *they do not increase the number of parking bays available except in response to substantial increases in the level of activity in the area;*
 - (b) *they free up land for more productive purposes (eg commercial properties, residential, usable public open space);*
 - (c) *the ensuing development has a positive impact on the streetscape (eg carparks located behind interactive frontages, vehicle crossovers do not impact on pedestrian amenity etc); and*
 - (d) *parking restrictions are introduced and effectively enforced in surrounding residential streets to ensure that carparking for businesses is concentrated in the commercial area.*

Debate ensued.

MOTION CARRIED (24-5)

- 4.3 Ms Marie Slyth of 89 Carr Street, West Perth. Spoke on the issue of lack of consultation.

Stated that in the last two months the Town of Vincent has failed to inform and consult with its residents on matters that have upset and undermined the rights of the ratepayers.

Quoted three examples:

1. Ten (10) magnificent trees, only one (1) diseased, on the verge of Leederville Oval were chopped down.
2. The 85 year old Jarrah tree outside Council Chambers was also slaughtered and we were not told about it until after the act.
3. Last Saturday morning, dog owners and resident ratepayers had to call a meeting at Britannia Oval in an attempt to extract from Council its proposal which we keep being told there is not a proposal to let the Subiaco Colts use the southern end of Britannia Oval.

She believes Council needs to be reminded that it exists to serve its residents and not to dictate or go behind their backs and tell them what to do.

Stated that Vincent Council has, until recently, been recognised as a fairly reasonable open Council but something is definitely changing and the consultation with residents seems to be diminishing and accordingly Council is becoming less democratic.

Asked Council to reconsider adopting the Precinct system early in the New Year. At present it tolerates Precinct Groups and does use some of the principles involved. Taking on the full Precinct system would provide open consultation for its residents, which is all we want and this, without having to resort to other methods and expenses to bring in other consultation methods.

Described a brief outline of the benefits:

- Lightens the load of all of the Councillors and provides them with first-hand information of the needs and wishes of all residents.
- Councillors gain respect of their electorate.
- Developers learn to recognise and accept their boundaries, consequently there is less friction as a result.
- The system enables full resident consultation in all matters.
- Creates openness by Council to all its residents, there is no hidden agendas or expenditures and full accountability.
- There is enormous savings to Council expenditure and as a consequence savings in Council rates to ratepayers.
- It does provide the correct perspective on the role of Council which does exist to serve its residents to meet their needs and expectations.

Stated that is why the community consultation through Precinct Groups is paramount, in effect the Precinct system reflects the true meaning of democracy.

Believes that Council should take on the full precinct system and requested that Council consider it in the New Year.

- 4.4 Mr Dudley Maier of 51 Chatsworth Road, Highgate. Mr Maier congratulated the Chief Executive Officer on the new Annual Report format which saves money and resources.

Moved Mr Dudley Maier of 53 Chatsworth Road, Highgate, Seconded Ms Marie Slyth of 89 Carr Street, West Perth

"That;

- (i) all future Council Briefing Sessions be open to the public unless Council explicitly votes to hold the session behind closed doors; and*
- (ii) the general public be given at least fourteen (14) days notice of those briefings that are open to the public.*

Mr Maier stated as follows:

"Background

- Last year the Town held briefing sessions to which the public was invited (eg 16 July 2002 on the Bicycle Path along the river; the Cape Bouvard development on Fitzgerald Street; the West Vincent Integrated Transport Plan and others).*
- On 13 May 2003 Council voted 9-0*

That;

- (i) where the Council holds informal briefings that are not open to the public, a full report on the briefing be included in the Information Bulletin for the next possible Council Meeting; and*
 - (ii) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to prepare a report on Policy Guidelines for determining the criteria of Briefing Sessions.*
- Skimpy notes have been included in the Information Bulletin. In some cases they did not extend much beyond the title of the briefing session, when it was held, and the attendees. They are certainly not the "full report" that was requested.*
 - Not all briefing sessions have been reported on - the session of 27 October 2003 dealing with the Elven St sub-division and Len Fletcher Pavilion has not been reported on.*
 - After 6 months the CEO has not yet prepared the guidelines.*
 - Certainly some sessions should be held behind closed doors (eg legal advice) but the majority should be open.*

- *The community would definitely be interested in sessions which affect them eg the Oxford Centre Study.*
- *If Councillors feel that there is a valid reason for holding a meeting behind closed doors they should state those reasons in public.*
- *Holding briefings in public will reduce the need for the CEO to produce the "full reports".*
- *It would prove to the public that elected members behave in a consistent manner."*

MOTION CARRIED (24-2)

4.5 Ms Lucia Dedear of 98 Buxton Street, Mt Hawthorn. Also spoke on behalf of Mr Tony Keene of 93 Kalgoorlie Street, Mt Hawthorn. Stated as follows;

- "1. *We propose that the amendments on the mango, the tango, the orange or the plum, should be made available to the 'green' public. The public are disadvantaged as they do not have the colourful amendments to look at before they question an item on the Agenda and are unable to follow the discussion without seeing the amendments. The public are kept in the dark colourless world! It sometimes makes us see red. If the colourful amendments can be made available to the journalists then they can be made available to the public.*
2. *We propose that a committee be formed comprising of planning officers, elected members and members of the community to discuss reviewing the planning reports presented in the agenda. Currently, these reports are not user friendly for the general public who has not understanding of planning jargon and terminology. Also, to look at how the compliance table can be made more comprehensive whilst at the same time making it easy to understand. This will help us all to see more clearly how decisions are balanced against the Town's Planning Scheme and policies.*
3. *Much debate has been made about Community Visioning in the past 12 months. Money put aside for this Community Visioning will be wasted, unless we employ skilled and creative visionaries who can 'look into the dark and extract the vision', that will then inspire the community to debate the possibilities for the future of our Town. Has our Planning Department got the time to be visionary and creative? If they haven't then who has? Is enough money being allocated for an inspirational visionary? This is our future and the next generation's future."*

4.6 Mr John Bettes of 1 Coogee Street, Mt Hawthorn. Representing residents and users of south Britannia Park.

Thanked the Mayor, Councillors and the staff who were able to attend the meeting last Saturday.

Stated that he was pleased that there are no plans for toilet blocks, carparks, floodlighting proposed for south Britannia. Furthermore, we are also pleased to know that should there be any plans at a later date that the residents and users of that park will be fully consulted.

- 4.7 Mr Andrew Del Marco of 91 Forrest Street, North Perth. Spoke in favour of Travelsmart.

Acknowledged Council's effort in supporting TravelSmart. Believes it is a great exercise and that there has been a momentum created by TravelSmart and the Council needs to not sit back and let it continue on as it might be. Believes people will drop off if there is not continual support.

Cr Lake entered the meeting at 6.55pm.

Moved Mr Andrew Del Marco of 91 Forrest Street, North Perth, Seconded Mr Dudley Maier of 53 Chatsworth Road, Highgate

"That the Council considers options for how it can maintain the momentum created by Travelsmart."

Cr Ker stated that he strongly supported the motion but pointed out that it has been demonstrated that TravelSmart in its own terms is fairly well self sustaining for a period of years as people are getting a good experience out of the change they undertake.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

- 4.8 Mr Karl Penirschke of 21 Brewer Street, Perth. Spoke about his experience with the Town's Customer Service Centre.

Moved Mr Karl Penirschke of 21 Brewer Street, North Perth, Seconded Mr Dudley Maier of 53 Chatsworth Road, Highgate

"That some urgency be given to improve the performance of the Council's front counter staff."

Debate ensued.

Moved Mr Dudley Maier of 53 Chatsworth Road, Highgate, Seconded ...

Concerned at the lack of action in improving the Customer Service function as recommended by the Independent Organisational Review and we see this fundamentally as a problem with management and training and not a problem with specific individuals.

Mayor Catania ruled that the amendment is contrary to the motion and is therefore not accepted.

AMENDMENT

Moved Mr Dudley Maier of 53 Chatsworth Road, Highgate, Seconded Lucia Dedear of 98 Buxton Street, Mt Hawthorn

"That;

- (i) we are concerned at the lack of action in improving the customer service function as recommended by the Independent Organisational Review; and*
- (ii) we see this fundamentally as a problem of management and training and not a problem with specific individuals."*

Debate ensued.

The Chief Executive Officer advised the Council that the Independent Organisational Review Recommendations are being implemented in accordance with the Council's decision of 14 October 2003 and that the matter was advertised for community consultation which closed on 4 November 2003. The report is being submitted to the next meeting of Council.

**AMENDMENT LOST
ON CASTING VOTE OF THE MAYOR (13-14)**

SUBSTANTIVE MOTION WAS PUT AND CARRIED (11-2)

- 4.9 Mr Dudley Maier of 51 Chatsworth Road, Highgate - Independent complaints mechanism.

Moved Mr Dudley Maier of 53 Chatsworth Road, Highgate, Seconded Mr Karl Penirschke of 91 Forrest Street, North Perth

That the Council investigate the appointment of an independent internal ombudsman to address complaints against the Town.

Debate ensued.

The Chief Executive Officer, John Giorgi, advised the meeting that, in his view, very few complaints are received and there are numerous agencies where members of the public can take their complaint against Council. However, in the first instance he advised that if dissatisfied with the service that the complainant should contact the relevant Executive Manager or Chief Executive Officer or, if necessary, an Elected Member. He also queried how an internal ombudsman, who would report to the Chief Executive Officer, could be independent.

Mr Maier withdrew the word "*internal*". Therefore the motion reads as follows:

That the Council investigate the appointment of an independent ombudsman to address complaints against the Town.

MOTION LOST (13-14)

- 4.10 Mr Dudley Maier of 51 Chatsworth Road, Highgate. A motion suggested by someone that could not make the meeting.

Moved Mr Dudley Maier of 53 Chatsworth Road, Highgate, Seconded Mr Dan Caddy of 44b Fairfield Street, Mt Hawthorn

That the Town show leadership in transport by:

- (i) *committing to move 50% of its car fleet to fuel efficient vehicles by 2008 and 90% by 2012; and*
- (ii) *investigating:*
 - *Offering staff multi-riders for business trips;*
 - *Offering staff cash instead of salary packaged vehicles;*
 - *Developing a green travel plan for Vincent as an employer; and*
 - *Changing some of the duties of an existing position (equivalent to 0.5FTE) to take on the role as the Town's TravelSmart Officer.*

Mr Maier stated as follows:

"Background

- *The Town is a participant in the Cities for Climate Protection.*
- *Work has been done on energy efficiency in head office and Beatty Park.*
- *The Town has gradually been increasing the number of gas powered vehicles.*
- *This just seeks to formalize to move to more fuel efficient vehicles and to set realistic targets.*
- *The TravelSmart Officer Network is facilitated by the Department for Planning and Infrastructure.*
- *Fuel efficient is defined as under 8lt per 100km on the AS2877 city cycle or under 6lt/100km on the AS2877 highway cycle.*

AMENDMENT

Moved Cr Cohen, Seconded Cr Farrell

"That the words be changed to read "the Town investigate the proposal".

AMENDMENT CARRIED UNANIMOUS

Moved Cr Ker, Seconded Cr Doran-Wu

That the Town lobby the Federal Government and the Federal Minister for Perth to seek release of the report of Fringe Benefits Tax and personal travel and seek action to remove FBT bias that favours the private car in salary packaging.

AMENDMENT CARRIED UNANIMOUS

THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION THEREFORE READS AS FOLLOWS:

That the Town;

- (i) *investigate the proposal of;*
- *committing to move 50% of its car fleet to fuel efficient vehicles by 2008 and 90% by 2012;*
 - *Offering staff multi-riders for business trips;*
 - *Offering staff cash instead of salary packaged vehicles;*
 - *Developing a green travel plan for Vincent as an employer;*
 - *Changing some of the duties of an existing position (equivalent to 0.5FTE) to take on the role as the Town's TravelSmart Officer; and*
- (ii) *lobby the Federal Government and the Federal Minister for Perth to seek release of the report of Fringe Benefits Tax and personal travel and seek action to remove FBT bias that favours the private car in salary packaging.*

5. CLOSURE

There being no further General Business, the Mayor thanked the members of the public, Elected Members and Officers for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 7.28pm with the following persons present:

Cr Simon Chester	North Ward
Cr Caroline Cohen	South Ward
Cr Helen Doran-Wu	North Ward
Cr Steed Farrell	North Ward
Cr Ian Ker (Deputy Mayor)	South Ward
Cr Sally Lake	South Ward
Cr Maddalena Torre	South Ward
John Giorgi, JP	Chief Executive Officer
Rob Boardman	Executive Manager, Environmental and Development Services
Rick Lotznicher	Executive Manager, Technical Services

These Minutes were confirmed by the Council as a true and accurate record of the Annual General Meeting of Electors held on 9 December 2003.

Signed:Presiding Member
Mayor Nick Catania, JP

Dated this day of 2004

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS**9 DECEMBER 2003****ELECTOR'S ATTENDANCE REGISTER**

NAME	ADDRESS
1. John Bettes	1 Googee Street, Mt Hawthorn
2. Marie Slyth	89 Carr Street, West Perth
3. Jim Fitzpatrick	8 Ethel Street, North Perth
4. Gabrielle Mews	49 Chelmsford Road, Mt Lawley
5. Andrew Del Marco	91 Forrest Street, North Perth
6. James Peart	6/7 Burgess Street, Leederville
7. Suzy Maxwell	6/7 Burgess Street, Leederville
8. Kay Stevenson	43 Rannoch Circle, Hamersley
9. Annie Folk	204 Carr Place, Leederville
10. Susie Wilders	254 Bulwer Street, Perth
11. Helen Pemberton	224 Brisbane Street, Perth
12. Andrew Main	11 Alfonso Street, North Perth
13. Lesley Penirschke	21 Brewer Street, Perth
14. Karl Penirschke	21 Brewer Street, Perth
15. Jennie Jack	68 East Street, Mt Hawthorn
16. Lucia Dedear	98 Buxton Street, Mt Hawthorn
17. Tony Keene	93 Kalgoorlie Street, Mt Hawthorn
18. Dudley Maier	51 Chatsworth Road, Highgate
19. Dan Caddy	44b Fairfield Street, Mt Hawthorn
20. Terry Wilson	152 Joel Terrace, Mt Lawley
21. Brian Fleay	59 View Street, North Perth
