
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Central Coast Council held in the Council Chamber at the Administration Centre, 19 King Edward Street, Ulverstone on Tuesday, 7 November 2017 commencing at 7.00pm

Present

Cr Jan Bonde (Mayor)
Cr Garry Carpenter
Cr Gerry Howard
Cr Tony van Rooyen

Cr Kathleen Downie (Deputy Mayor)
Cr Amanda Diprose
Cr Rowen Tongs
Cr Philip Viney

General Manager (Ms Sandra Ayton)
Director Community Services (Mr Cor Vander Vlist)
Director Infrastructure Services (Mr John Kersnovski)
Director Organisational Services (Mr Bill Hutcheson)
Executive Services Officer (Mrs Lou Brooke)

Ms Annette Overton
Mr Warren Barker

Apologies

Cr John Bloomfield
Mr Jake Weeda

Media attendance

No media attendance.

Opening of meeting

The Mayor, in opening the meeting and welcoming those in attendance:

- . advised that the Annual General Meeting had been called in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*;
- . advised that notice of the Annual General Meeting was given in The Advocate newspaper on Saturday, 21 October 2017; and
- . referred the public in attendance to the agenda prepared for the meeting and which incorporated procedures for the conduct of the meeting.

Introduction of councillors

The Mayor introduced the attending Councillors to the meeting.

Confirmation of the Minutes

■ Cr Howard moved and Cr Tongs seconded, "That the minutes of the annual general meeting held on 8 November 2016, as circulated be confirmed."

Carried unanimously

Annual Report

The Mayor reported that the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2017, including financial statements and audit opinion, had been advertised as available to the public from the Administration Centre and Service Centre and on the Council's website. Electors were invited to make written submissions relating to the Annual Report.

The Mayor spoke in support of the Annual Report.

Additional comment was provided by the General Manager with a PowerPoint display of highlights from the report.

Submissions

One written submission was received (via email) from Mr Jacob Weeda JP and is reproduced below along with responses to his questions.

Question 1

It is a concern to quite a few Ratepayers that the proliferation of Gorse has not been arrested in the municipality especially in and around Penguin.

This is a serious problem and will require a reasonable budgetary figure to start eradicating this scourge.

Response

Over recent years Gorse and Spanish heath have become significant weed pests in and around Penguin. The Central Coast Council receives many enquiries about the growing problem, especially when gorse is in flower and becomes more obvious. Unfortunately, much of the infestations of gorse are on Crown land and state highway reserves as well as on private owned lands.

On-going control by the Council, Clubs and private landowners in the area commenced in earnest four years ago, in response to the increased risk of far reaching weed spread in some cases as mountain bike usage gained popularity in the area. Although the weed issue is extensive, and the resources required to bring this under effective control are great, inroads are being achieved.

To this end, Council wishes to thank a member of the community, Dr Stefan Delitzsch and other concerned citizens who have been contributing to the treatment of the gorse at no expense or personal liability to landowners. Stefan has had success in getting numerous infestations under effective control and uses a qualified weed contractor to assist in this.

Unfortunately, once treated the affected areas require continuous treatment for a number of years due to the spread of seeds in affected areas and the consequent regrowth issues. In recent weeks large areas of gorse on Crown land along Preservation Drive have been slashed or treated and it is hoped that the Crown as responsible citizens will ensure that any regrowth is dealt with appropriately.

Question 2

Last year I briefly made the suggestion that the CC Council investigate the provision of a short term medium security prison in the CC area.

Two current Councillors John Bloomfield & Philip Viney are fellow Justices of the Peace, who may feel the same way. Offenders not granted after-hours bail have to be transported to the Launceston lock-up. A facility in our area would generate employment and be a non-polluting industry.

Response

Approaches were made to the State Government but there has been no interest shown from the State Government for the building of a short term medium security prison within Central Coast.

Question 3

People still ask about the copious amount of "firewood" on the beaches and as to who may recover it.

I asked the question last year and you suggested that any wood on 'wet' sand could be taken.

I think you missed someone's comment that "Wait till it has rained."

Anyway, may I suggest that this issue be clarified in the press.

That way people have tangible guidance on what is permitted as well as having the beaches cleaned up prior to the summer.

Response

The Council is very aware of the concern within the community in relation to the amount of timber on beaches which was mainly due to the flood event in June 2016. The Council's hands are tied as to what it can do as the beaches are under the umbrella of Crown Land Services and Parks and Wildlife.

At this time, despite numerous approaches by the Council, Parks and Wildlife will not permit any further removal of timber from the beaches.

At the last Community Safety Partnership Committee meeting it was agreed that the General Manager would convene a meeting of the relevant Minister and relevant heads of department to come to a resolution in how we can deal with this issue, not only in Central Coast but other Council areas as well.

Further comment

Every year I have expressed accolades for the amazing work done in and to the Municipality and I do so again.

As you know we had a few skirmishes this year but generally they have been resolved.

Even though I don't "win" many, at least the issues are thrashed out and compromises have been attained.

We are all on the same team, albeit tackling issues from a different perspective.

I am happy for you to broadcast this memo.

Regards, Jacob Weeda JP

Other Business

The Mayor invited questions and/or comments from the floor.

- . Mr Warren Barker indicated he had a question:

- 1 What is the Council's view or plans for the Aged Persons Home Units in Penguin, that are empty?

The Mayor referred the matter to the Director Community Services who advised that the Council have been working through a few scenarios, which includes the revision of the pet keeping policy and renting the units via real estate

agencies; these along with other scenarios will contribute to increasing the occupancy rates.

- Cr Viney moved and Cr Tongs seconded, "That the Annual Report be received."

Carried unanimously

Close of meeting

The Mayor closed the meeting at 7.52pm and, in doing so, thanked those in attendance for their participation.

Sandra Ayton
GENERAL MANAGER