



Moved Mr J Newton, seconded Cr A McPhail

That the Minutes of the Electors' Meeting held on 30 January 2018 be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

7.1 *Contents of the Annual Report*

Moved Mrs P Newton, seconded Cr D Nardi

That the 2017-18 Annual Report be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7.2 *General Business*

• **Street Trees**

Mrs Flynn tabled the following question from Mr Damien Flynn:

I understand the Town has a Tree Preservation Policy (in draft or finalised).

The stated Objectives include:

(b) "To ensure new/replacement trees are planted to preserve or enhance the Town's existing streetscape character"

(c) To preserve street trees"

It is quite obvious just walking around that the Town has lost a significant number of street trees over the past few years due to dry weather conditions and aging of trees. I have not noticed much replacement activity.

Please advise how many replacement street trees have been planted over the past year.

The Operations Manager advised that Council's tree planting budget was \$50,000 pa which generally provides for around 100 trees.

Mayor O'Neill advised that the CEO would provide a written response to Mr Flynn.

Mr Newton commented that since moving into the area in 1963 tree coverage had significantly changed and he would be happy to provide photographs illustrating the transformation.

Ms Hood queried whether Council kept records of the age of trees within the district. The CEO responded that there were no records regarding this information.

Staff advised that the Urban Streetscape and Public Realm Style Guide would address the species of trees to be planted in specific locations for the future. It was anticipated that Council's proposed urban forest program may provide targets for future tree coverage.



- ***East Fremantle Oval Redevelopment***

Mrs Newton requested Council give serious consideration to the provision of a skateboard park in the redevelopment proposal.

Mayor O'Neill advised that a report regarding the results of the recent consultation process for the project would be considered by Council at its February meeting and then advertised for public comment. He urged everyone to get involved and provide further feedback

Mrs Flynn queried the Football Club's financial capacity to be part of the proposed redevelopment of the Oval.

The CEO advised that any redevelopment would be subject to a further detailed business case and development would be staged over a considerable period, the first stage being soft landscaping, removal of perimeter fencing etc. The second stage would be the development of a community facilities which would include the issue of viability of the Club.

Mr Newton advised that, as was the case with most of the WAFL clubs, he didn't believe the Club would have the financial capacity to service a loan for redevelopment of their facilities.

Mrs Newton noted the long tradition and association of the Football Club with the Town and supported the retention of the Club at the Oval.

Ms Hood queried whether the bowling and croquet clubs would be part of the redevelopment.

The CEO advised that any relocation (if any) for either club, would involve extensive consultation and would most likely only proceed if improved facilities could be offered. There has not been any formal discussions to relocate either club.

- ***Council Staff***

Mr Bird stated that since the decisions regarding council amalgamations, Council needed to give thought to what a small town really means for its residents, what does it have to offer? He advised that most ratepayers had never met any Council staff, besides the rangers and questioned whether they were necessary, given we could enlist the services of rangers from adjacent councils.

Mayor O'Neill advised that the last Council perception survey had indicated that the majority of respondents were happy with the operations of the Council. The next survey was due to be released shortly and would provide further feedback on how ratepayers/residents view Council's performance. Over recent times, Council had employed an Economic and Community Development Officer who was liaising with community and sporting clubs and local businesses within the area. The Mayor advised Council was always keen for feedback on how it can improve.

Ms Hood advised her latest interaction with Council staff had been great. She had been pleasantly surprised to receive a follow-up phone call regarding a matter she had raised.

Mrs Flynn advised that her dealings with Council staff over the past 12-18 months had been excellent, also citing the conduct of the George Street Festival and the utilisation of kids from a local sporting club delivering the Town's calico shopping bags as great initiatives.



Mayor O'Neill advised that Council Rangers performed a very difficult job, issuing a greater ratio of cautions to any infringements issued for parking (3 cautions /1 infringement) and dog matters (6/1).

Both Mr & Mrs Newton advised this was the best Council (elected members and staff) that they had experienced since moving to the area. Mrs Newton advised that she had met many staff members by dropping into the Council office and suggested Mr Bird could do the same. She also suggested that perhaps information regarding individual staff members could be regularly featured in the Town's e-newsletter.

Parking in Front of Left Bank

Mr Bird suggested Council investigate providing additional parking in front of the Left Bank.

Mayor O'Neill advised that this could be looked at as part of the Integrated Traffic Management and Movement Strategy.

The CEO advised that with the future upgrade of Riverside Road it was proposed to realign the road where financially viable to increase some areas of land adjacent to the foreshore.

- ***Mrs Pat Newton – WA Volunteer Service Award***

Mrs Newton thanked Council for the letter of congratulations on receiving the above Award.

8. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

There being no other business Mayor O'Neill thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 7.35pm.