



# MINUTES

## ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING Tuesday 25 March 2025



I certify that this copy of the Minutes is a true and correct record of the meeting held on Tuesday 25 March 2025

Signed: Ernie Dow  
Shire President

Date: 28 April 2026



# **MINUTES**

of the

## **ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING**

**25 March 2025**

**1. DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS**

The Shire President welcomed Councillors, Staff and Members and the Gallery Member then declared the Meeting open at 5.00pm.

**2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Members**

Councillor M Leonard	Shire President
Councillor B Wyse	Deputy Shire President
Councillor P Summers	
Councillor A Gillam	
Councillor I Scott	
Councillor E Tunbridge	
Councillor J Melsom	

**Staff**

Mr S Ivers	Chief Executive Officer
Ms P Machaka	Manager Finance
Ms F Boksmati	Acting Manager Community Services
Mr M Connell	Manager Development
Ms S Mearns	Executive Assistant/Minute Taker

**Electors and Members of the Public (Non electors)**

Mr John Rossiter	Port Denison
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**Approved Leave of Absence**

Nil

**Apologies**

Mr M Jones	Manager Operations
Mr S Stubbs	Community Emergency Services Manager

**3. 2023/24 ANNUAL REPORT**

CEO Shane Ivers provided an overview of the 2023/24 Annual Report and highlight significant events:

The 2023/24 financial year was another strong year of delivery including community events, assorted projects, maintenance operations and supporting building growth by providing timely approvals. Soon after adopting the 2023/24 Budget, the biennial Council election took place. I firstly

acknowledge the significant contribution of the outgoing Shire President Mike Smith who was elected in 2011 as a Councillor and served the last 6 years as President. I welcome the new Shire President Mark Leonard who commenced as a Councillor in 2013. Councillor Peter Summers was the only newly elected Councillor with Cr Grant Eva retiring after completing his term and the re-election of councillors Cr Andrew Gillam and Cr Hayley Palmer though Cr Hayley Palmer subsequently resigned in early 2024.

The results from the 2023/24 annual audit of the Shire financial and management systems demonstrated good compliance. At the same time, it must be noted that again the Shire of Irwin received some of the lowest funding in WA from the State Government which directly impacts the projects and services we can deliver to our community. Despite this significant challenge, the vision of Council, the dedication of staff and the support of our community has seen outstanding achievements.

The Surf Beach stabilisation works are an example of financial innovation where the last stage of this project was completed, which has been very effective and at less than a quarter of the cost compared to cheapest traditional treatment. Without this innovation, the Shire would not have been able to afford to protect this beautiful portion of coastline and in turn it would have impacted Ocean Drive and Surf Beach car park infrastructure.

Given the tight financial constraints, the Shire is continually implementing solutions to increase efficiency, which included improving our work management systems, upgrading our prime mover to cart double trailers, purchasing a spray truck to catch the early emergence of road verge weeds eliminating days of slashing, continuing the program with the skid steer mulcher to remove heavier road verge growth and a mini excavator to sort out reticulation issues in-house ensuring a green foreshore and sporting ovals.

After some persistence to resolve the projector issues, the Drive-In was back in action where the Shire was able to achieve this result for minimal cost. Shire events such as the Sprint, Magic on Moreton and Australia Day were all successfully delivered. The Recreational Centre had strong gym attendance and once again supported the school holiday programs. The Container Deposit Scheme counted well over 2 million containers and our customer service team managed over 20,000 interactions with the public.

We are already located in one of the most beautiful places in the state, a great place to live and with incredible potential. Our Kailis Drive entry statement was completed which has improved the visibility of this important entry into Port Denison, with an aim to increase visitor numbers to Dongara Port Denison and showcase our wonderful foreshores, river and other community assets.

Our local economy is continuing to strengthen around core areas such as tourism, farming, crayfishing and onshore gas with local businesses providing the necessary support. The practical balance between workers accommodation and tourist accommodation is critical, such that all industries and local businesses can continue to grow. The accommodation challenge, including community housing and it being affordable, were during the year, key advocacy areas for the Shire. Once again, many thanks to the new Shire President and Councillors for their strategic oversight guiding the Shire through another productive year. I also sincerely thank all staff for their hard work and dedication and our community for their continued support.

The Shire President then thanked the Chief Executive Officer and staff for their professionalism which was showcased in there being no adverse findings reported during the 2023/24 Financial Audit. The Shire President also expressed gratitude to fellow Councillors for their dedication and professionalism in addressing issues, working through resolutions, and reaching the best possible outcomes for the Shire.

#### **4. GENERAL BUSINESS**

The Shire President invited the Gallery to pose any questions relating to General Business.

**Question 1:** John Rossiter, Port Denison:

When something is gazetted doesn't that mean that it cannot be changed, specifically in relation to Francis Road and Pettit Road?

**Response:**

*The Shire President confirmed that Pettit Road, was originally named as such. The street sign erected however was incorrect and showed the road name as Pettit Lane. Subsequently*

*the street sign was corrected to Pettit Road which is the correct name as confirmed by Landgate.*

*The Manager Development added that Landgate requirements in relation to the naming and gazetting of roads and confirmed that the practice of officially naming roads is covered under section 26A of the Land Administration Act 1997. The Minister for Lands is responsible for the Act, and through delegated authority, the Minister enables Landgate to capture and maintain road names within Western Australia. Landgate is responsible for maintaining the State's Gazetteer and nomenclature database which contains official names for public and private roads for all of Western Australia. Landgate has confirmed that the correct road name is Francis Road.*

**Question 2:** Bruce Baskerville, Port Denison:

*It was resolved at the 27 August 2024 Council meeting to forward the Draft Local Planning Strategy to the WA Planning Commission for approval before being advertised for public comment. What is the progress the draft strategy?*

**Response:**

*The WA Planning Commission gave its consent to advertise the draft Local Planning Strategy on 27 February 2025. The draft Strategy will now be advertised for public comment commencing tomorrow with the submission period closing on 17 April 2025.*

**Question 3:** Bruce Baskerville, Port Denison:

*The Irwin Arrowsmith Advisory Council (IAAC) - the Terms of Reference was endorsed by Council 22 August 2023. \$150,000 expenditure in total was approved by Council, which was to be reimbursed in full to the Shire by 31 December 2024. Has the \$150,000 been reimbursed?*

**Response:**

*To clarify, the Council decision was for the Shire to seek reimbursement. The Shire has received close to \$1M from Irwin/Arrowsmith industry. These funds have been put to good use where it has been, or planned to be, multiplied through appropriate Federal or State grant funding applications. The multiplication has been up to 8 times such as the case with Milo Crossing creating exceptional benefit for our community.*

**Question 4:** Bruce Baskerville, Port Denison:

*The Irwin Arrowsmith Advisory Council (IAAC) – if the \$150,000 has been reimbursed, where does the revenue appear?*

**Response:**

*It is captured under Operating Grants, Subsidies and Contributions or Non-Operating Grants, Subsidies and Contributions in the Shire of Irwin Statement of Financial Activity, or in the balance sheet as a Contract Liability under Adjusted Net Current Assets.*

**Question 5:** Bruce Baskerville, Port Denison:

*The Irwin Arrowsmith Advisory Council (IAAC) – has it been established or registered?*

**Response:**

*No. There was a significant industry downturn February 2023, which is only showing signs of recovery now.*

**Question 6:** Bruce Baskerville, Port Denison:

*The Irwin Arrowsmith Advisory Council (IAAC) - if it has not been registered, what entity has the \$150,000 been made available?*

**Response:**

*No entity has received any portion of the \$150,000.*

**Question 7:** Bruce Baskerville, Port Denison:

*The Irwin Arrowsmith Advisory Council (IAAC) – from what entity was any reimbursement received?*

**Response:**

*Many local businesses and industries have generously supported the Shire of Irwin community. Industries that have contributed to the \$1M mentioned in the earlier question include Mitsui (MEPAU), Beach Energy, Energy Resources, Strike Energy, Infinite Green Energy, Tronox Management Pty Ltd and Mid West Wind Farm Pty Ltd.*

## **5. CLOSURE**

There being no further business, the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 5.16pm.