



**City of Belmont**  
**ANNUAL ELECTORS' MEETING**  
**MINUTES**  
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13 December 2017

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**ANNUAL ELECTORS' MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT**

Cr P Marks, Mayor (Presiding Member)	East Ward
Cr M Bass ( <i>arr 7.02pm</i> )	East Ward
Cr B Ryan	East Ward
Cr J Powell	South Ward
Cr S Wolff	South Ward
Cr L Cayoun ( <i>dep 9.24pm &amp; did not return</i> )	West Ward

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr J Christie	Chief Executive Officer
Mr R Garrett	Director Corporate and Governance
Mrs J Hammah	Director Community and Statutory Services
Mr S Morrison	A/Director Technical Services
Mr J Olynyk, JP	Manager Governance
Ms E Cashman	Senior Governance Officer
Ms S D'Agnone	Governance Officer

**MEMBERS OF THE GALLERY**

Mr J Bass  
Mr B Childs  
Mr R Foster  
Ms J Gee  
Ms G Godfrey  
Mr M Goff  
Mr R Greenwood  
Mr M Heldberg  
Mr P Hitt  
Ms L Hollands  
Ms S McLaren  
Dr D Mossenson  
Mr S Quinn  
Ms B Scharfenstein

There was one press representative in attendance.

## 1. WELCOME

The Mayor opened the meeting at 7.00pm and welcomed those in attendance from the public, Councillors and staff.

The Mayor advised that public notice of the meeting has been made in the Southern Gazette on Tuesday 5 and Tuesday 12 December 2017.

A public notice has been placed on the Notice Board of the Ruth Faulkner Library and the City of Belmont Administration Building Notice Board, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995*. Notification was also provided through the City's Facebook page.

The notices also stated that copies of the 2016-2017 Annual Report were available from the City's website and the Ruth Faulkner Public Library.

**7.02pm Cr Bass entered the meeting.**

*The Mayor read the Acknowledgement of Country.*

***It is important that we acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on  
which we are meeting today the Noongar Whadjuk people and pay  
respect to Elders both past and present.***

## 2. APOLOGIES

Cr R Rossi, JP, Deputy Mayor (Apology)  
Cr J Davis (Apology)  
Cr G Sekulla, JP (Absent)  
Mr R Lutey (Apology)

West Ward  
South Ward  
West Ward  
Director Technical Services

### **3. RECEIVING OF THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The Mayor drew attention to the financial statements provided in the Annual Report and invited questions on the financial statements in the 2016-2017 Annual Report.

Mr Greenwood asked the following questions:

1. I am concerned about the fiscal priorities of this Council, which should be reassessed. Council is spending a lot of money on this proposed new building, which has caused some controversy. The Civic Centre was refurbished only a few years ago. The estimated \$30M to \$40M costing will wipe out liquid assets. How far advanced is the project, and what is the thinking behind this expenditure given that the money spent will be lost to ratepayers?

#### **Response**

**The Presiding Member advised that the refurbishment of the Civic Centre was undertaken in 2005, over 12 years ago.**

**The new Community Centre will cost the City approximately \$26M after grant funding is received. The City currently has \$45M in total reserve funds. The City intends to continue on with the project, which will bring advantages and resources to the community.**

**The Chief Executive Officer advised that Council has resolved to accept the preferred tenderer for the construction of the Community Centre, with a recommendation that the Chief Executive Officer negotiate the cost component. Discussions are currently being carried out and are expected to conclude by the end of December 2017. A contract will be entered into and it is anticipated that demolition of the Senior Citizens' building will commence in February or March 2018, with an expected construction period of two years for the Community Centre.**

2. Why is this building being built?

#### **Response**

**The Presiding Member advised that the Senior Citizens' building is 56 years old, with a deteriorating roof/ceiling that needs replacing, the museum building cannot accommodate the requirements of a modern museum and the current library building is no longer big enough and does not accommodate the requirements of a modern library and the growing needs of the community.**

**Not for profit agencies also require space to operate in the City so that their services can be more easily delivered to the Belmont community. The Community Centre will have an entire floor dedicated to not for profit organisations.**

3. What part of the building is for seniors?

#### **Response**

**The Senior Citizens space comprises approximately 20% of the total building space.**

*Item 3 Continued*

4. What percentage of the Civic Centre building will be retained and used in the future?

**Response**

The Presiding Member advised that the entire Civic Centre building will continue to be utilised; governance and administration will continue to operate out of the Civic Centre. The new Community Centre will be a building utilised by residents and community members of Belmont.

5. What will be left in the kitty?

**Response**

The Presiding Member advised that the financial strategy for the funding of the Community Centre involves intergenerational responsibility. Rather than one generation bearing the total cost of the project, funds will be borrowed and costs spread over 20 years, as the facility is utilised. This way two to three generations will assist in funding the project. Ratepayers will contribute, however no direct rate increase as a result of the project is anticipated.

The Director Corporate and Governance further advised that the concept of intergenerational responsibility is that the community that is making use of the facility will reasonably contribute to its cost.

The City currently has \$44M in reserve funds which is a significant amount. Significant grant funding from the Federal and State Governments (primarily Lotterywest) is contributing to the project.

Approximately one third of the cost of the project is intended to be borrowed. Presently, interest rates are the lowest since 1962 and the City intends to fix the interest rate for the life of the loan.

The City's ten year long term financial plan indicates that the project will not have an impact on rate levies. The City's financial management strategy involves rates increasing year to year only by Consumer Price Index (CPI) or Local Government Cost Index (LGCI) amounts.

6. I thought there would not be an increase in rates?

**Response**

The Presiding Member advised that rates will not increase as a result of the Community Centre project.

The Director Corporate and Governance advised that the City's rate of interest on the loan is expected to be less than 5%.

The Director Corporate and Governance further advised interest in the initial year of the loan will be approximately \$750,000 of a \$1.35M repayment, however the interest amount will decrease over the term of the loan.

*Item 3 Continued*

**The Presiding Member advised that keeping funds in reserve allows the City to consider other projects. If all reserve funds were directed to the Community Centre, other projects would need to be put on hold indefinitely, such as the Belmont Oasis.**

7. With so many members of the community hurting in this economic downturn, I am wondering how many ratepayers are aware of this plan?

**Response**

**The Presiding Member advised that the project has been out in the community for some time, and that there is awareness of the project and its benefits.**

Ms Hollands asked the following questions:

1. I am concerned about the \$15M being borrowed. At the moment, interest rates are low, but what happens when rates go up?

**Response**

**The Presiding Member reiterated that the interest rate is expected to be fixed for the 20 year term of the loan.**

**The Director Corporate and Governance further advised that the City is currently in the process of making an application to the Western Australian Treasury Corporation (WATC). It is his understanding that the City can fix the interest rate for the term of the loan.**

2. What if the City cannot get a fixed rate?

**Response**

**The Director Corporate and Governance advised that this will make minimal impact to the overall budget.**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**CR BASS MOVED, CR POWELL SECONDED,**

***That the Annual Financial Statements for the period ending 30 June 2017 as shown in the City of Belmont 2016-2017 Annual Report be received.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **4. RECEIVING OF THE REPORT OF THE AUDITOR**

The Mayor invited questions on the Report of the Auditor.

Mr Greenwood asked the following questions:

1. The Annual Report was not available until tonight. I have raised previously that the Annual Electors' Meeting is held at an inconvenient time. Can the date of the meeting be changed?

#### **Response**

The Director Corporate and Governance advised that the Annual Report document has been available to the public on the City's Website since the second week of November 2017. It was adopted and endorsed by Council at the 28 November 2017 Ordinary Council Meeting and was also included in the agenda for that meeting. The version available in the gallery is the finalised printed version.

The Director Corporate and Governance further advised that it is a legislative requirement that the Annual Financial Report be audited prior to 30 September and presented to Council prior to 31 December. The City's intent is to comply with the legislation to achieve that outcome.

The Presiding Member advised that the meeting is held as soon as practicable after the Annual Report is endorsed by Council, ensuring that the meeting is held prior to the end of the year.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**CR CAYOUN MOVED, MR RICHARD FOSTER SECONDED,**

***That the 2016-2017 Auditor's Annual Report as shown in the City of Belmont 2016-2017 Annual Report be received.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 5. REPORT OF THE MAYOR

The Mayor provided an overview of the Mayor's Report provided in the 2016-2017 Annual Report. The Mayor invited questions on the Mayors Report.

Mr Foster asked the following questions:

1. How were the community satisfaction percentages obtained?

### Response

**The Presiding Member advised that percentages quoted in the Mayor's Report were obtained from the Catalyse Community Survey.**

2. I have spoken to lots of people in our suburb and I don't think anybody was asked?

### Response

**The Presiding Member advised that Catalyse have a method of surveying the community which ensures that a cross section is contacted.**

**The Director Corporate and Governance advised that the full Catalyse Report, inclusive of methodology is available on the City's website.**

Mr Greenwood asked the following questions:

1. What percentage of the Belmont Business Park project is funded by the City?

### Response

**The A/Director Technical Services advised that that the \$12M Belmont Business Park Transport Infrastructure Project is being funded 50/50 between the Federal Government and the City of Belmont. (\$6M funded by the City)**

7.26pm The Manager Governance departed the meeting.

2. What does the project involve?

### Response

**The A/Director Technical Services advised that project includes an upgrade of Belmont Avenue between Alexander Road and Great Eastern Highway, landscaping, the provision of underground power, upgraded street lighting along with additional street parking facilities in surrounding roads within the Belmont Business Park with a goal of increasing the number of parking bays by around 900. The street parking component of the project is currently 90% complete.**



*Item 5 Continued*

Ms Hollands asked the following questions:

1. Why is there a waiting list to be a volunteer?

**Response**

**The Director Community and Statutory Services advised that the City has many community members willing to volunteer, but do not have the capacity at present to accommodate them all. The Community Development department are currently investigating ways to connect prospective volunteers with not-for-profit services.**

7.28pm The Manager Governance returned to the meeting.

2. Why can't volunteers on the waiting list be used in other ways?

**Response**

**The Presiding Member reiterated that the City are investigating ways to do this.**

**The Director Community and Statutory Services further advised that the Community Development department is in the process of developing capacity with current resources and are looking to implement a program in the new year.**

Mr Greenwood asked the following questions:

1. At the Urban Forest Strategy workshop, a series of questions were asked about canopy loss in DA6 and on Perth Airport land. Could this information be made available?

**Response**

**The Chief Executive Officer advised that he would investigate the matter.**

2. Loss of tree canopy in the City of Belmont has been significant. Does Council have policies for protecting trees and for the retention of trees, such as heritage listing trees when appropriate?

**Response**

**The Chief Executive Officer advised that the City does have policies regarding trees, retention of trees and streetscapes, and a Canopy Plan is currently being developed as part of the City's Urban Forest Strategy. When making comparisons to other local governments, it is important to note that the City of Belmont has a significantly lower percentage of residential areas (i.e. City of Melville – 75% residential, City of Belmont – 30% residential). There are opportunities for improvement in tree canopy, and one concern is infill on private property which reduces the City's overall canopy.**

**The City is consistently focused on improving tree canopy and all policies are reviewed. The Parks and Environment department continues to work on this important issue.**

*Item 5 Continued*

3. Residents of DA8 do not want high or low rise development in this precinct. Is Council going to support DA8 landowners who wish to opt out of any proposed Landcorp development?

**Response**

The Presiding Member advised that any Councillor who wanted to indicate their preference on this matter could do so, however as this is a quasi-judicial matter he is waiting until it is presented to Council when all the information provided can be assessed.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**MS JANET GEE MOVED, DR DIANNE MOSSENSON SECONDED,**

***That the Report of the Mayor as shown in the City of Belmont 2016-2017 Annual Report be received.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**6. REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

The Mayor invited questions on the Chief Executive Officer's Report.

There were no questions.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**CR CAYOUN MOVED, CR WOLFF SECONDED,**

***That the 2016-2017 Report of the Chief Executive Officer as shown in the City of Belmont 2016-2017 Annual Report be received.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **7. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **7.1 REPORT OF THE PRESIDING MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Presiding Member of the Executive Committee, Cr Marks, provided an overview of the report as printed in the 2016-2017 Annual Report.

The Mayor invited questions on the Executive Committee Report.

There were no questions.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

#### **CR CAYOUN MOVED, CR POWELL SECONDED,**

*That the 2016-2017 Report of the Presiding Member of the Executive Committee as shown in the City of Belmont 2016-2017 Annual Report be received.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **7.2 REPORT OF THE PRESIDING MEMBER OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE (AUDIT AND RISK)**

The Presiding Member of the Standing Committee (Audit and Risk), Cr Cayoun, provided an overview of the report as printed in the 2016-2017 Annual Report.

The Mayor invited questions on the Report of the Standing Committee (Audit and Risk).

There were no questions.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

#### **CR BASS MOVED, DR DIANNE MOSSONSEN SECONDED,**

*That the 2016-2017 Report of the Presiding Member of the Standing Committee (Audit and Risk) as shown in the City of Belmont 2016-2017 Annual Report be received.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **7.3 REPORT OF THE PRESIDING MEMBER OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE (COMMUNITY VISION)**

The Presiding Member of the Standing Committee (Community Vision), Cr Powell, provided an overview of the report as printed in the 2016-2017 Annual Report.

The Mayor invited questions on the Report of the Standing Committee (Community Vision).

**7.46pm Cr Bass departed the meeting.**

**7.48pm Cr Bass returned to the meeting.**

Dr Mossenson asked the following questions:

1. Could a copy of the Public Art Advisory Panel Terms of Reference be provided?

#### **Response**

**The Director Corporate and Governance advised that Terms of Reference documents, which detail membership, terms and objectives are available on the City's website.**

Mr Greenwood asked the following questions:

1. Does the City have statistics on the number of homeless people sleeping rough in the City of Belmont? Have these numbers increased?

#### **Response**

**Cr Powell advised that exact figures are difficult to determine and change month to month. The City receives some information and statistics from Belmont Police, Red Cross and Noongar Outreach Services on homelessness in the area.**

**The Director Community and Statutory Services further advised that Community Development recently completed a survey conducted by an external organisation with the City's input indicating that there has been no real increase in homelessness or people 'sleeping rough' in the City. The survey identified concerns about people sleeping in cars or couch surfing. Figures are difficult to establish.**

**The City does not have specific numbers regarding seasonal homeless people sleeping in parks, however encouraging not for profit organisations into the area will assist in managing this issue.**

2. Can Council consider changing the date of Australia Day celebrations (as raised by members of the Aboriginal Reference Committee)?

#### **Response**

**The Presiding Member advised that the issue raised concerned the City holding Citizenship Ceremonies on Australia Day. It has been requested that Citizenship Ceremonies be conducted on another day. The City will work with the Aboriginal Reference Committee to address this matter.**

*Item 7.3 Continued*

**RECOMMENDATION**

**CR POWELL MOVED, MR RICHARD FOSTER SECONDED,**

***That the 2016-2017 Report of the Presiding Member of the Standing Committee (Community Vision) as shown in the City of Belmont 2016-2017 Annual Report be received.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**7.4 REPORT OF THE PRESIDING MEMBER OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE (ENVIRONMENTAL)**

The Presiding Member of the Standing Committee (Environmental), Cr Wolff, provided an overview of the report as printed in the 2016-2017 Annual Report.

The Mayor invited questions on the Report of the Standing Committee (Environmental) Report.

Mr Hitt asked the following question:

1. At a previous Standing Committee (Environmental) meeting I raised the issue of the condition of notice board at Tomato Lake. Why has no action been taken?

**Response**

**The Chief Executive Officer advised that the matter would be investigated to ensure the notice board was updated.**

Ms Scharfenstein asked the following questions:

1. In relation to foreshore restoration, is the City of Belmont responsible for the banks of the foreshore along the length of the City's boundaries?
2. What is the basis for restoration and assessment of the vegetation?
3. What prompts restoration?

**Response**

**The Chief Executive Officer advised that the City is responsible for the management, restoration and stabilisation of the foreshore on property owned by the City or vested in the City, but not for private property where the responsibility lies with the property owner. The City is aware of the significant risk in some of these areas.**

**The City has a foreshore strategy and continues to monitor, review and manage the foreshore as best it can. State government funding for foreshore restoration is limited and has to be divided between all local government areas with river frontage and therefore generally only goes to high priority and risk areas.**

*Item 7.4 Continued*

Dr Mossenson asked the following question:

1. As part of the street tree audit, were the trees in Brearley Avenue included as part of the tree count in the Urban Forest Strategy?

**Response**

**The A/Director Technical Services advised that the question would be taken on notice.**

Ms Hollands asked the following questions:

1. It has been mentioned that volunteers help with weeding. Are there any plans to use volunteers to plant trees or undertake any other environmental activities?

**Response**

**The Chief Executive Officer advised that the environmental team use volunteers if they are available, especially for planting days and bushland restoration, and will continue to do so.**

2. Is this a regular occurrence or limited to certain days/events?

**Response**

**The Chief Executive Officer advised that the number of volunteers required differs according to the season. For example, seedlings are planted during the winter months to take advantage of the winter rain so that plants can become established. The City will continue to consider volunteering opportunities and use volunteers when they are available.**

Mr Greenwood asked the following questions:

1. How serious is the City about recycling and what percentage of plastic is effectively recycled?

**Response**

**Cr Wolff advised that Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC) are continually looking at opportunities for recycling, however it can be difficult to sell recycled materials and stockpiles of material can accumulate.**

2. Tree canopy is a concern in the City. Could incentives to retain trees on private property when development or subdivision occurs be considered?

**Response**

**The Chief Executive Officer advised that the City is currently in the process of developing a Canopy Plan which considers a number of options encouraging tree retention; however this can be difficult to enforce on private land. The Planning Department has been involved in this process.**

*Item 7.4 Continued*

3. Could Council tree maintenance services be extended to maintaining trees on private property to assist residents who are no longer able to do so?

**Response**

**The Chief Executive Officer advised that elderly residents who require assistance maintaining trees on their property should contact the City's Community Development department who can direct them to appropriate service providers.**

4. Trees provide benefits to the whole community. How can respect for environmental services provided by trees on private property, maintained by private owners at their own expense be shown?

**Response**

**The Chief Executive Officer agreed that trees provide benefits to the entire community in many ways. If trees are removed from the environment, road surfaces become hotter and air temperatures rise. Calculating the benefits of trees in a monetary sense is difficult and depends on tree canopy sizes.**

**These issues will continue to be considered as part of the Urban Forest Strategy. Extending tree canopy cover on private property and the introduction of green walls and roofs will also be investigated.**

Ms Hollands asked the following questions:

1. Is it possible that when looking at amending Local Planning Scheme No. 15 to ensure that trees are retained on private property when developments occur?

**Response**

**The Presiding Member advised that Cr Rossi put forward a motion which attempts to enforce the retention or replacement of trees, particularly in relation to multiple dwellings.**

**The Director Community and Statutory Services further advised that the existing Residential Design Codes (R-Codes) and Local Planning Scheme No. 15 (LPS15) constrain what can occur at present.**

**The City's Planning department is investigating innovative ways to maintain trees on multiple dwelling sites. There is always the concern that existing trees may be removed to avoid future restraints.**

*Item 7.4 Continued*

2. When subdivision sites are inspected, can rules be made so that trees cannot be removed during development?

**Response**

The City makes recommendations to the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) regarding subdivisions and strata subdivisions. There can be difficulties maintaining trees and ensuring the installation of services to rear or strata blocks can occur concurrently. An assessment is required on whether a dwelling can be built without the removal of trees, or if trees will be required to be removed at a later date.

The City's focus has always been on retaining street trees, and Officers will recommend flipping or amending designs to ensure that street trees are retained.

Development in Belmont is more difficult than at Greenfield sites and each development is assessed on its merits.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**CR POWELL MOVED, CR RYAN SECONDED,**

*That the 2016-2017 Report of the Presiding Member of the Standing Committee (Environmental) as shown in the City of Belmont 2016-2017 Annual Report be received.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



**8. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**8.1 MOTION (MR PAUL HITT)**

Mr Hitt put forward the following motion:

**MR PAUL HITT MOVED, MS JANET GEE SECONDED**

***That all Council meetings be electronically recorded and these recordings be made available to the public.***

**CARRIED 11 VOTES TO 1**

**Reason:**

**To enhance the accountability and transparency of the City of Belmont, its staff and council representatives.**

The Mayor invited further questions.

Ms Gee asked the following questions:

1. Can Council commit to regularly cleaning up the nut drop from the trees at Gabriel Gardens or look at removing the tree and replacing it with a more appropriate one?

**Response**

**The Chief Executive Officer advised that there are a number of trees across the City that drop nuts. It is the City's expectation that residents take care of leaf and nut litter on their own properties and verges.**

**The Director Corporate and Governance further advised that discussions have been held between Officers and contractors at Gabriel Gardens and a Management Plan has been created to ensure the situation is closely monitored and appropriate action is undertaken regularly.**

2. Large verge trees can generate bark and leaves that can be in excess of what an ordinary bin can accommodate. Is it the Council responsible for maintenance and rubbish removal, or is the onus on the owner?

**Response**

**The Chief Executive Officer advised it is the City's responsibility to maintain street trees and residents should not interfere with, or attempt to prune these trees, however there is an expectation that residents be responsible for the maintenance of verges. The City encourages residents to take ownership of their street, and the City will only intervene if there is a safety or fire hazard issue.**

**Substantial rate increases would be incurred if the City took responsibility for maintaining verges.**

*Item 8 Continued*

3. Can elderly residents ring their Councillors for assistance in these matters?

**Response**

**The Chief Executive Officer reiterated that the appropriate course of action for residents who cannot undertake their own verge or garden maintenance is to contact the City's Community Development department who will direct them to the appropriate service either the City's Home and Community Care program or a not-for-profit provider, generally at no cost to them.**

4. Does the City have a complaint management policy?

**Response**

**The Chief Executive Officer advised that the City prides itself on its extremely high level of customer service and has a number of policies in place to manage complaints and customer service.**

**The Director Corporate and Governance further advised that Ms Gee has previously been directed to the City's website for this information. There is no specific Complaint Management Policy document available to the public. The City maintains a Complaints Management Process as an internal document.**

Mr Hitt, on behalf of Belmont Residents Ratepayers Action Group Inc. asked the following questions

1. Are the meetings that take place in the Councillors' Lounge meetings to discuss information that is not available to all Councillors?
2. Are the meetings to discuss the voting inclinations of the Councillors present?
3. Is there a purple circle of a number of Councillors privy to information that other Councillors are not?

**Response**

**The Presiding Member advised that no official meetings are held in the Councillors' Lounge on Friday afternoons. All information provided to Councillors is distributed by the Chief Executive Officer or Officers via paper distributions or the Councillor Portal. Those in attendance discuss a number of matters, and all Councillors are welcome to attend. A vote count has never been carried out in the Councillors' Lounge.**

**The Councillors' Lounge can be used by Councillors at any time and Councillors may invite guests with the Mayor's permission, which previous Councillors have done on many occasions. Officers can also request to use the Councillors' Lounge, with permission to be provided by the Mayor.**

*Item 8 Continued*

Ms McLaren asked the following questions:

1. Does Council support the closure of Brearley Avenue?
2. The traffic situation is going to become a lot worse with the opening of the DFO which a 500 bay carpark, and the medium to high rise accommodation. It is a huge safety concern for now and into the future. What steps are being taken to alleviate current and future rat runs?

**Response**

**The A/Director Technical Services advised that the City supports the closure of Brearley Avenue, which is a part of the DA6 Vision Plan. Traffic issues will be considered and traffic analysis will be undertaken as part of the DA6 Vision Plan. Measures will be taken to alleviate any traffic issues that arise.**

Ms Hollands asked the following questions:

1. I asked if the City had written to Main Roads WA about the closure of Brearley Avenue. What about the residents and their concerns about this road closure?

**Response**

**The Presiding Member advised that the City has always supported the closure of Brearley Avenue.**

2. What about the concerns of residents who wish that Brearley Avenue remains open?

**Response**

**The Presiding Member advised that there are also residents who are supportive of the closure of Brearley Avenue.**

**The A/Director Technical Services further advised that the City made a submission confirming that it is supportive of the closure of Brearley Avenue. It is each individual's responsibility to make their own submission and Council cannot make submissions on their behalf.**

3. What training do Councillors receive around the City's Code of Conduct? What expectations are there concerning the behaviour of Councillors?

**Response**

**The Presiding Member advised that training is offered to all Councillors, however it is not compulsory. Some Councillors have attended external courses and the City continually offers and where appropriate holds training and development sessions. After each election, a representative from the City's Solicitors conducts training and information sessions on the role of Councillors, governance, planning and quasi-judicial matters.**

*Item 8 Continued*

4. What is offered specifically in relation to the Code of Conduct?

**Response**

**The Presiding Member advised that this information is incorporated into training and information provided by the City's Solicitors.**

5. I have made a complaint about the conduct of a Councillor. What is going to be done to improve behaviour?

**Response**

**The Presiding Member advised that the complaint will be dealt with appropriately, through the correct channels.**

Dr Mossenson on behalf of Zoonie Pty Ltd asked the following questions:

1. Could 'high level traffic modelling' be defined?

**Response**

**The Director Community and Statutory Services advised that 'high level traffic modelling' refers to investigating whether road capacities in an area are equipped to handle proposed increases. Without a Development Application, no detailed figures or actual analysis can take place.**

2. There has been no traffic modelling done by the City of Belmont for their own purposes and high level traffic modelling is anticipated to be done after the DA6 Structure Plan is completed. Is that correct?

**Response**

**The A/Director Technical Services advised that traffic modelling will be carried out as part of the implementation of the DA6 Vision Plan.**

3. Will high level, detailed or microsimulation traffic modelling occur?

**Response**

**The A/Director Technical Services advised that all three types of traffic modelling will be carried out at certain times specific to certain street and intersections, commencing with high level modelling.**

*Item 8 Continued*

4. Why has the City advocated for the closure of a road that offers a way in and out of the area when no specific traffic modelling has been undertaken by the City? Modelling undertaken by other agencies has been shown to be deficient.

**Response**

The A/Director Technical Services advised that the insinuation that there is a great deal of traffic problems in the DA6 area is not true. While there are some identified problems around schools, the City is confident that the roads are coping with current volumes of traffic and have the capacity to cope with future volumes. Notwithstanding the major changes to the area, issues will arise with the implementation of DA6, and this is why the City will undertake traffic analysis at the time. There is little value in undertaking a traffic analysis now.

The Director Community and Statutory Services further advised there are pertinent planning reasons for the closure of Brearley Avenue, such as the provision of a green spine in the area and the ability to link the two parts of Redcliffe. This was something the community had asked for in developing the DA6 Vision Plan.

5. If a motion is passed by Council requiring further action, what should ratepayers expect as a result? Is it reasonable to expect action from a motion?

**Response**

The Presiding Member advised that would be reasonable to expect action; however the action to be undertaken may not be immediate in all cases.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that when Council passes a resolution it is the Chief Executive Officer's responsibility to action the resolution in a timely manner.

6. What constitutes a timely manner?

**Response**

The Chief Executive Officer advised that a 'timely manner' is relative to the resolution and it is difficult to generalise. There are instances where timeframes are specified in the resolution or when actions are dependent on other agencies.

7. At the 26 April 2016 Special Electors' Meeting a resolution was passed and put to meeting. 14 May 2016 Ordinary Council Meeting. Cr Rossi put forward a motion, seconded by Cr Powell, in which Council resolved that: *'The Council will review and investigate the traffic flow in DA6, in 'real time', while Brearley Avenue remains open between Great Eastern Highway and First Street, for now, until after the second quarter 2017 for local traffic.'* Would it be a reasonable expectation for this investigation to have occurred before the City supported the closure of Brearley Avenue?

**Response**

The Chief Executive Officer advised that traffic counts and investigations have occurred since that time. Traffic counts have been in place. Further traffic studies will be undertaken after the complete closure of Brearley Avenue. Volume, speed and type of traffic have been monitored to determine if there will be significant increases that may impact residents in the area. As the A/Director Technical Services has advised, traffic analysis figures are used to determine if any action is required. Full traffic analysis will be carried out as part of the DA6 Vision Plan implementation.

*Item 8 Continued*

**The A/Director Technical Services advised that traffic counts were undertaken in February and March 2017, however none are presently being undertaken. Further counts will occur after the complete closure of Brearley Avenue**

**The Council resolution was made on the assumption that Brearley Avenue would be closed by now. As the City has repeatedly stated, traffic modelling will commence and the recommendation will be further actioned after Brearley Avenue has closed.**

8. Why would the City assume Brearley Avenue would close when there is a process to follow?

**Response**

**The Presiding Member advised that advice was received from Main Roads WA and the Minister for Transport indicating that Brearley Avenue would be closed.**

9. When did the City realise that the road closure requirements had not been met by Main Roads WA?

**Response**

**The A/Director Technical Services advised that there was an error made by Main Roads WA in relation to the statutory requirement for the closure of the road. This is now in process and has been rectified by Main Roads WA.**

**9.24pm Cr Cayoun departed the meeting and did not return.**

**8.2 MOTION (DR DIANNE MOSSENSON)**

Dr Mossenson put forward the following motion:

**DR DIANNE MOSSENSON MOVED, MS BELLA SCHARFENSTEIN SECONDED**

*That Council do forthwith write to Main Roads WA (MRWA) requesting that Brearley Avenue remain open to all traffic from Great Eastern Highway to First Street until such time as the City has had the opportunity to undertake a detailed traffic modelling by a qualified traffic engineer and produced an analytical report.*

*That Council do review and investigate the traffic flow in DA6 in real time while Brearley Avenue remains open between Great Eastern Highway and First Street for now until after the second quarter 2017 for local traffic by engaging a highly qualified traffic engineer to undertake comprehensive traffic modelling and assessment for the needs of the area for now and into the future.*

*To support the outcome of the Special Electors' Meeting held April 2016 and to action the Motion moved by Councillor Rossi and seconded by Councillor Powell on 24 May 2016.*

**CARRIED 11 VOTES TO 1**

**8.3 MOTION (MS BELLA SCHARFENSTEIN)**

Ms Scharfenstein put forward the following motion:

**MS BELLA SCHARFENSTEIN MOVED, MR ROBERT GREENWOOD SECONDED**

*That Central Avenue be closed at Dunreath Drive to prevent a rat run through DA6.*

**CARRIED 10 VOTES TO 0**

**9. CLOSURE**

There being no further business the Presiding Member thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.50pm.

*\*\*\*Please note that were some abstentions on a number of the votes undertaken.*

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**MINUTES CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned certifies that these minutes of the Annual Electors' Meeting held on 13 December 2017 were confirmed as a true and accurate record at the Ordinary Council Meeting held 27 February 2018:

Signed by the Person Presiding: 

PRINT name of the Person Presiding: PHILIP MARKS