

CITY OF JOONDALUP

MINUTES OF SPECIAL ELECTORS MEETING HELD AT WHITFORD SENIOR CITIZENS HALL, CNR BANKS AND MARMION AVENUES, HILLARYS ON WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2003.

ATTENDANCES

In Attendance:

CMR J PATERSON – Chairman

Officers:

Chief Executive Officer:	D SMITH
Director Infrastructure and Operations:	D DJULBIC
Director, Planning & Community Development:	C HIGHAM
Director, Corporate Services and Resource Management:	P SCHNEIDER
Manager, Marketing, Communications & Council Support:	B ROMANCHUK
Manager Audit and Executive Services:	K ROBINSON
Manager Community Development Services:	G HALL
Manager Assets and Commissioning:	C SMITH
Media Advisor:	L BRENNAN
Committee Clerk:	J HARRISON
Minute Clerk:	L TAYLOR

APOLOGIES

Cmr A Drake-Brockman – Deputy Chairman
Cmr M Anderson
Cmr A Fox
Cmr S Smith

There were 107 members of the public in attendance who signed the attendance record.
For Attendance lists, click here: [attendance smoe 101203.pdf](#)

There was one member of the press in attendance.

ITEM OF BUSINESS

The Chairman of Commissioners opened the meeting at 1900 hrs, welcomed members of the public and thanked them for attending this Special Meeting of Electors.

The Chairman of Commissioners advised this meeting had been called following receipt of a 168-signature petition from residents of the City of Joondalup, to consider the following motions:

- 1 That this meeting of Electors calls upon the City of Joondalup's Councillors to reaffirm Council's previous decisions (Page 23 Minutes Full Council 26 February 2002) [Item CJ043-02/02 Refer] and (Page 24-25 Minutes Full Council 9 April 2002) [Item CJ073-04/02 Refer] "guaranteeing permanency of use by Seniors of the Whitford Seniors Centre".
- 2 This meeting of Electors calls upon the Councillors, to refrain from treating Seniors in the City of Joondalup as second-class citizens.
- 3 This meeting calls upon the Councillors of the City of Joondalup, to reinstate the maintenance of the Seniors Centre, with refurbishment, phased in, if necessary, over future budgets, in order to bridge the neglect by the previous City of Wanneroo and the Commissioners.
- 4 Any other business in order brought forward by the Electors present at the Electors' meeting.

The Chief Executive Officer addressed the meeting and assured members of the public present that the Council's position had not changed from its earlier resolutions, being that:

At its Meeting of 26 February 2002 Council resolved:

- not to entertain any change in the Municipality's ownership or intrusion into this site;
- should the library be relocated into the shopping centre, (and there is no suggestion of this at the moment) the library will be refurbished for the expanding needs of Seniors and Community Groups.

at its Meeting of 9 April 2002, Council resolved to:

- *note the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Electors held on 25 March 2002 at Whitford Senior Citizens Centre and reaffirmed all Council's earlier decisions.*

The Chief Executive Officer advised that nothing had changed since the adoption of the above resolutions. He advised that a review of the City's libraries has been undertaken but no decisions have been made and there have been no negotiations about relocation into Whitford City shopping centre.

In relation to current maintenance and expenditure the Chief Executive Officer advised that:

- between September 2001 and November 2003, an amount of \$34,228 has been spent on repairs and maintenance items in the centre;
- of this amount some is minor maintenance, but the City has also undertaken a major project in 2002 to install gas heating in the building at a cost of \$23,000;
- added to this has been \$30,000 for cleaning last year and a predicted \$39,000 for this year;
- current budget provisions amounted to \$37,500 and include:
 - modifications to the new Podiatrist entry foyer
 - increasing the size of the office; and
 - replacing air conditioners in the hall

The Chief Executive Officer referred to the Seniors Master Plan, which has been endorsed by Council, which has provided a framework by which the City can meet the needs of the Seniors in general and the needs of Whitford Senior Citizens specifically.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME/MOTIONS

Mr Colin Stokes, President of Whitford Senior Citizens Centre:

Mr Stokes advised he had been concerned on hearing that negotiations were made in relation to the centre at a meeting on 2 July attended by Mr Pyres as he had believed following the previous Special Meeting of Electors held in February 2002 that this proposal was not going to happen. Mr Stokes therefore believed there had been no alternative but to call this evening's Special Meeting of Electors. Mr Stokes referred to the caveat on the land, and a letter in his possession from the State and Commonwealth Government which stated that the building could not be used for purposes other than a senior citizens centre.

Mr Stokes said that the Whitford Senior Citizens Centre was one of the top senior citizens centre in Perth and possibly in WA, with a good membership which is run by a volunteer executive committee. All the facilities within the building are available to members for an annual fee of \$20 and members have paid for much of the equipment themselves. Mr Stokes advised that some members are in their 90's and they look forward to attending the centre.

Mr Stokes referred to discussions in 1995 with the then Manager of Whitford City Shopping Centre, who had requested the members of the centre to support him in an application for an extension to the shopping centre. At the time it had been stated in the press that the reason they had changed their mind was due to the detrimental impact the increased traffic would have on residents of Hillarys, however in 2002 the senior citizens were asked to relocate into that area. Mr Stokes said the current location of the centre provided benefits to members in relation to access to transport and suitable parking.

Mrs June Broxton, Padbury:

Mrs Broxton advised she was a past President and had been a member of the centre for 15 years.

Mrs Broxton said that whilst the club does on occasions request financial support from the City, funds are mainly provided from the Lotteries Commission. She stated that members have a great deal of their own money invested in the club and believed they should be left in peace.

The Chairman of Commissioners stated he admired the strength of the club and gave the support of the Commissioners for the club to remain in its current location.

Mr Zakrevsky, Mullaloo:

Mr Zakrevsky referred to a statement made that in the event of the library being relocated, it was Council's intention to renovate the building. He requested that the community be consulted on any discussions concerning the relocation of the library. Mr Zakrevsky did not support the library being relocated into the shopping centre.

Mr Zakrevsky raised concern at the recent change library hours and believed that libraries should remain open after 5.00 pm to assist people in the workforce accessing the library. He stated any changes to library services should be carried out in consultation with the community.

Response by Chairman:

The Chairman of Commissioners stated he supported community consultation.

Response by Director Planning and Community Development:

The Director Planning and Community Development advised that the library service is going through a major restructure, and part of the function of the restructure is to ensure that the library service will satisfy the needs of the community in the future. He stated that library hours had been examined to ensure they meet the high demands. The changed library times are currently undergoing a three month trial period, part of the

trial being to extend weekend hours when there are a high number of visits. The Director Planning and Community Development advised that public comment is welcomed on the trial.

Mrs M Zakrevsky, Mullaloo:

Mrs Zakrevsky stated she had not been aware that the new library hours were for a trial period only.

Response by Director Planning and Community Development:

The Director Planning and Development undertook to provide Mrs Zakrevsky with information in this regard.

Mr Ellery, Woodvale:

Mr Ellery believed that any possible relocation of the library should be the subject of a referendum.

Mr M O'Brien, Warwick:

Mr O'Brien advised that at the Council meeting on 30 September 2003, reinforcement of the two previous decisions relating to the use of the centre was sought but not resolved by the Council. A petition was therefore presented requesting that this evening's meeting be held. Mr O'Brien stated that one matter of concern was regarding the meeting that the Mayor had with Mr Pyres and Mr Stubbings, a meeting that was not reported back by the Mayor. Mr O'Brien stated that the Mayor and a Councillor had visited the centre to look at the needs of the members. He said the main problem was that the seniors were in limbo as a result of the actions of the Mayor and wanted to be given some indication that there will not be any interference with the tender and usage of the facility.

Mrs M Bailey, Hillarys:

Mrs Bailey stated she had been a member of the club for 19 years, and on behalf of the 400 members of the club advised that members did not want to be relocated.

Mr D Carlos, Ocean Reef:

Mr Carlos stated that as Mayor of the City, he had been visited by the Whitford City management who talked about what they were doing in the shopping centre complex and raised the matter of building a new complex for this centre and said he had advised them that the Council had no intention of going ahead with the proposal.

Mr Carlos said that as part of his looking at the needs of the City he had visited some seniors facilities and he and Cr Walker had met with the President and some committee members of the Whitford Senior Citizens Centre and discussed its requirements. Mr Carlos said he had advised Mr Stokes that the offer from the developer was still open and should the club wish to move the developer could be approached. However, Mr Stokes had stated that the committee did not wish to move and the matter was therefore closed.

Mr Stokes, President of Whitford Senior Citizens Centre:

Mr Stokes confirmed that Mr Carlos had met with him and told him that an offer had been made but had said that if one member of the committee did not want to move, they would not have to. Mr Stokes said the reasons the meeting had been called this evening was because the issue was not reconfirmed by Council at its meeting on 30 September 2003. In moving the following motion, Mr Stokes requested that the City provides written confirmation to the Whitford Senior Citizens Centre.

**MOVED Mr Colin Stokes, President of Whitford Senior Citizens Centre
SECONDED Mrs June Broxton, 60 Giles Avenue, Padbury that:**

- 1 this meeting of Electors calls upon the City of Joondalup's Commissioners to reaffirm Council's previous decisions (Page 23 Minutes Full Council 26 February 2002) [Item CJ043-02/02 Refer] and (Page 24-25 Minutes Full Council 9 April 2002) [Item CJ073-04/02 Refer] "guaranteeing permanency of use by Seniors of the Whitford Seniors Centre".**
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The Motion was Put and

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CLOSE OF BUSINESS

There being no further business, the Chairman of Commissioners declared the meeting closed at 1935 hrs.