

Shire of Denmark Minutes



BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE WAS HELD IN COUNCIL'S RECEPTION ROOM, 953 SOUTH COAST HIGHWAY, DENMARK, THURSDAY, 3rd SEPTEMBER 2015, COMMENCING 6.30PM.

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Council Committee Meeting

4 June 2015

DISCLAIMER

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Presiding Person opened the meeting at 6.33pm.

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

MEMBERS: (Voting)

- Mr Ross McDougall C.B.F.C.O
- Mr Lez Baines D.C.B.F.C.O
- Cr Ian Osborne Council Representative Proxy / Chairman
- Ms Kelly MacLeod Carmarthen Proxy
- Mr Chris Hoare East Denmark FCO
- Mr Peter Winch Harewood Proxy
- Mr Bruce Pringle Kordabup FCO
- Mr Colin Tindale Mehniup FCO
- Mr Joe Baker Ocean Beach FCO
- Ms Sam Blythe Owingup FCO
- Mr Ivars Sulcs Peaceful Bay FCO
- Mr Sid Marshall Scotsdale FCO
- Mr Alex Williams Hazelvale FCO
- Mr Brian Vigus Tingleddale FCO
- Ms Joan Merrifield William Bay FCO
- Ms Ann Howard Parryville Proxy
- Mr Don Atkinson Town FCO
- Mr Gary Stanway VFRS Captain

MEMBERS: (Non-Voting)

- Mr Wes Bailye DPaW Fire Coordinator
- Mr John Tonkin DFES Area Officer

STAFF: (Non-Voting)

- Mr Marcus Owen Community Emergency Services Manager / Secretary
- Mr Gregg Harwood Director of Community & Regulatory Services
- Mrs Charmaine Shelley Ranger

ATTENDEES: (Non-Voting)

- Mrs Susan Bright

APOLOGIES:

- Mr Adrian Kranendonk F.W.O
- Cr Roger Seeney Council Representative / Chairman
- Mr Mike Hills Harewood FCO
- Mr Malcolm Hick Mt Lindesay FCO
- Mr Peter Mildwaters Mt Shadforth FCO
- Mr Jean-Marc Merat Nornalup FCO
- Mr Callum Baxter Somerset Hill FCO

ABSENT: Nil

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Nil

Name	Item No	Interest	Nature

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING

The Chairman would like to remind all Committee members and proxies that they have the ability to cast a vote and if they are in attendance at a Committee meeting then it is mandatory to do so.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil questions.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 Committee Meeting Minutes

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION & COMMITTEE DECISION	ITEM 5.1
Moved: Alex Williams	Seconded: Lez Baines
<p>That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held on the 4th June 2015, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings subject to the following amendment to Item 3. <i>Announcements by the Person Presiding</i>;</p> <p><i>'Cr Seeney on behalf of Shire President, Ross Thornton, Councillors and the Shire of Denmark thanked all FCO's and Volunteers for the excellent job they have done during this very busy fire season stating. He said 'You have all been an asset to our Shire and other communities where we have also fought fires this season'.</i></p>	
Carried: Unanimously	

5.2 Matters Arising From Minutes

5.2.1 District Operational Advisory Committee (DOAC)

FYI - The next meeting is to be held on Thursday 17 September 2015.

5.2.2 Volunteer Vehicle and Equipment Advisory Committee (VVEAC)

FYI - The VVEAC has been cancelled and is currently not meeting.

5.2.3 Mount Shadforth UHF1 Repeater

At the last meeting the committee decided to support the officer recommendation and recommend to Council that they make a \$13,000 allocation to the 2015/16 budget to install a replacement repeater.

The same recommendation was also supported by the Local Emergency Management Committee.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 16th June 2015 Council endorsed the following;

COUNCIL RESOLUTION & OFFICER RECOMMENDATION **ITEM 9.3**
MOVED: CR SEENEY **SECONDED: CR SAMPSON**

That Council consider including a \$13,000 allocation in the 2015-2016 Budget to install a replacement UHF repeater that will become the property of the Shire of Denmark if the replacement cannot be predominately covered through Council's Insurance Policies.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: 8/0

Res: 130615

Nurrunga Communications have been asked to proceed with the work at their earliest convenience; they have confirmed work will commence shortly though no firm date has been set.

On completion of the work an insurance claim will be submitted to recover some/all of the costs.

5.2.4 Full Face Respirators

At the last meeting the committee decided to defer the decision to purchase full face respirators until the next meeting.

To date Owingup VBFB have indicated they would like 2 respirators and Carmarthen have indicated they would like 4.

As it is anticipated that brigades will from time to time seek to acquire small numbers of full face respirators it is recommended that the CESM be authorised to purchase them as and when required by brigade FCOs.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION & COMMITTEE DECISION	ITEM 5.2.4
Moved: Sam Blythe	Seconded: Lez Baines

That the CESM be authorised to purchase full face respirators as and when they are required by brigade FCOs.
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Carried: Unanimously

Prior to issuing of respirators the CESM will conduct a briefing on the care, hygiene and maintenance of the equipment.

5.2.5 Repeat Offenders – Burning Without Permits

At its 4th June 2015 meeting BFAC made the following committee service request:

Committee Service Outcome

CESM to report back to BFAC with compliance regimes, with particular focus on repeat offenders.

When a FCO believes a breach of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* has occurred, that FCO is to contact either the Shire Ranger or CESM presenting evidence of the breach including any previous history.

Based on that evidence the Ranger or CESM can determine the action to be taken. In serious or complicated cases advice will be sought from the Chief Executive Officer or Director of Community & Regulatory Services.

FCOs are encouraged to report suspected breaches as soon as possible so that timely action can be taken.

5.2.6 Thank You Bonfire at Bronnie's

Approximately 90 volunteers, including family, attended the bonfire and enjoyed a few drinks and roast meat rolls and an opportunity to acknowledge 'out-going' Chief Graeme Thallon's hard work and commitment to the position.

A big 'Thank-you' to Bev Seeney and Bronnie Wallace for organising and hosting the event.

Committee Service Outcome:

CBFCO to email FCOs to see who may be interested, from their brigades, in organising an end of season event in 2016 and bring a list of those persons to the December 2015 BFAC so that a working group can be formed.

5.2.7 Fire Regulation Notice

The 2015/16 Fire Reg. Notice has been finalised, the only changes made being dates, names (Chief & Deputy) and recognition of Hazelvale/Tingledale amalgamation.

The Chief's input was sought and was kept informed of the changes to the notice.

The notices are now being printed.

6. TABLED ITEMS

6.1 Regional Telecommunications Project – Shire of Denmark

Please see attached letter.

7. OFFICER REPORTS

7.1 Department of Fire and Emergency Services

DFES Area Officer John Tonkin provided a report to the Committee.

Report attached

The CESM, Marcus Owen initiated discussion regarding the Commissioner of DFES's recent decision not to renew that agency's MOU with the Department of Lands regards fire fuel risk reduction of Unallocated Crown Land (UCL) & Unmanaged Reserves (UMR) within town sites as it was not seen as a core business activity for DFES.

The Committee discussed the matter and made the following recommendation to Council.

COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved: Sam Blythe

Seconded: Bruce Pringle

That BFAC recommends that Council, as a matter of urgency and in the interests of community safety, write to the Minister for Emergency Services expressing Council's concerns at the Department of Fire & Emergency Services (DFES) Commissioner's hesitation not to renew the MOU with the Department of Lands regarding fire mitigation work on Unallocated Crown Land (UCL) and Unmanaged Reserves (UMR) in gazetted fire districts (within town sites). We understand the Commissioner does not see this as a core business activity of DFES.

Carried: Unanimously

7.2 Department of Parks and Wildlife

DPaW Fire Coordinator Wes Bailye provided a report to the Committee.

Report attached

7.3 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Ross McDougall provided a report to the Committee.

Report attached

Committee Services Outcome:

CBFCO & CESM to consider renaming "Incident Support" to "Denmark Support" to reduce confusion on fire grounds with "Incident Support".

7.4 Community Emergency Services Manager

Community Emergency Services Manager Marcus Owen provided a report to the Committee.

Report attached

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 Owingup Fire Shed

The Owingup Fire Shed is now built and the Light Tanker is now housed. FCO Sam Blythe would like to extend thanks to BFAC and Shire Council, Shire Staff, volunteers and the community who have donated time, materials and dollars.

8.2 Burn-Over Training & Drill

It is proposed to hold two or three refresher training sessions, dates to be decided at this meeting, to go through the burn-over procedure; now that radiant heat shields have been fitted to appliances there is an extra step to follow.

These sessions are to be held over three weekends, one in each zone. Members are welcome to attend which ever session best suits them.

CESM to contact brigades with dates in early October

8.3 Fire Appliance Servicing

The servicing of appliances will begin in the coming weeks. Please ensure log books and fault reports are up to date.

During servicing extra attention will be paid to 'fast-fill' equipment, pumps, hoses fittings and floats.

8.4 Command Vehicle Update

A request for a command vehicle was submitted with the 2015 / 2016 ESL – LGGS application.

This request was again denied.

Please see attached letter.

Current balance of donated funds for the command vehicle is \$1300

8.5 Discussion of Radio Schedule

The format of next season's radio schedule was discussed.

Committee Services Outcome:

CESM to check with Marius Wakka that his fax machine is fully functional.

8.6 Zone Coordinators

Committee Services Outcome:

CBFCO to contact 2014/2015 season zone coordinators to see if they are interested in continuing in that role.

8.7 William Bay Fire Shed

Committee Services Outcome:

CESM to arrange for the rectification of the erosion around the side of the William Bay fire shed.

8.8 Restraint of Loose Items on Fire Truck Trays

The restraint of loose items such as portable pumps was raised.

Committee Services Outcome:

FCOs are to discuss the restraint of loose items such as portable pumps with the shire mechanics when their fire vehicles are being serviced.

8.9 Electric Pump for Filling Water Bombers at the Airport

Chris Hoare advised that East Denmark Brigade had submitted a Western Power grant application for an electric water bomber filling pump out the airport.

8.10 Closure of Back Beach Tracks

Joe Baker expressed concern that recent Council rehabilitation works had closed sections of Back Beach track and stated that the closure of the secondary tracks in the area meant that fire units may not be able to turn around on the track.

9. NEXT MEETING

It is recommended that the next meeting of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee be held at 6.30pm on Thursday 3rd December 2015 at the Denmark Shire Reception Room.

10. CLOSURE OF MEETING –

There being no further business to discuss the Presiding Person closed the meeting at 8.15pm.

The Chief Executive Officer recommends the endorsement of these minutes at the next meeting.

Signed: _____
Dale Stewart – Chief Executive Officer

Date: 4 September 2015

These minutes were confirmed at the meeting of the

Signed: _____

(Presiding Person at the meeting at which the minutes were confirmed.)