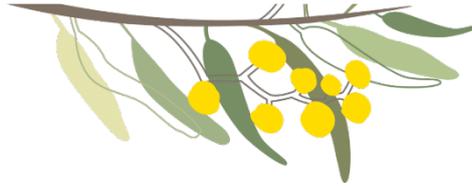




SHIRE OF WOODANILLING



ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING Unconfirmed Minutes 10 February 2026

Disclaimer

The recommendations contained in the Minutes are subject to confirmation by Council. The Shire of Woodanilling warns that anyone who has an application lodged with Council must obtain and should only rely on written confirmation of the outcomes of the application following the Council meeting, and any conditions attaching to the decision made by the Council in respect of the application. No responsibility whatsoever is implied or accepted by the Shire of Woodanilling for any act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during a Council Meeting.

Agendas and Minutes are available on the Shire website www.woodanilling.wa.gov.au

CONTENTS

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING	2
2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE	2
3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	3
4. OFFICER'S REPORT	4
4.1. <i>ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2025</i>	<i>4</i>
4.1. <i>SHIRE PRESIDENT'S REPORT</i>	<i>4</i>
4.1. <i>CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT</i>	<i>4</i>
4.1. <i>AUDITOR'S REPORT</i>	<i>5</i>
4.1. <i>FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2024/2025</i>	<i>5</i>
4 GENERAL BUSINESS	6
PUBLIC QUESTIONS	6
4.1 <i>ANNABEL PAULLEY</i>	<i>6</i>
4.2 <i>MAL BAXTER</i>	<i>6</i>
4.3 <i>PAULINE EDGCUMBE</i>	<i>6</i>
4.4 <i>CATHI BESSELL-BROWNE</i>	<i>7</i>
4.5 <i>BRIGITTE BURG</i>	<i>7</i>
MOTIONS	8
4.6 <i>INDEPENDENT FORENSIC AUDIT – NOTICE OF MOTION</i>	<i>8</i>
DISCUSSION	9
5 CLOSURE OF MEETING	10

Ray Kowald

Annabel Paulley (7.06pm)

APOLOGIES

Nil

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

That the minutes of the 2023/2024 Annual Electors Meeting held on Tuesday 11 February 2025 as attached be confirmed to be a true and correct record.

ITEM 3.1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 2023/2024 ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING

Moved: Lesley Trimming

Seconded: Dale Douglas

That the minutes of the 2023/2024 Annual Electors Meeting held on Tuesday 11 February 2025 as attached be confirmed to be a true and correct record.

CARRIED 10/0

4. OFFICER'S REPORT

4.1. ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2025

File Reference	ADM0017
Responsible Officer	Anika Serer, Chief Executive Officer
Author of Report	Anika Serer, Chief Executive Officer
Disclosure of any Interest	No Officer involved in the preparation of this report has an interest to declare in accordance with the provisions of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> .
Attachments	Attachment 4.1.1 - Shire of Woodanilling Annual Report 2024/2025

In accordance with S5.27 of the *Local Government Act 1995* a general meeting of electors is to be held once every financial year, not more than 56 days after the local government has accepted the annual report.

Regulation 15 of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* specifies that the matters to be discussed at the general electors meeting are, firstly, the contents of the Annual Report for the previous financial year and then any other general business.

At its meeting held 16 December 2025 Council resolved to accept the Annual Report for the financial year ending 30 June 2025, inclusive of the Audited Financial Report 2024/2025.

Council resolved to hold the Annual Meeting of Electors on Tuesday 10 February 2026 commencing at 7pm in the Council Chambers.

Annabel Paulley entered the meeting at 7.06pm.

4.1. SHIRE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Shire President will ask for a mover and seconder to receive the Shire President's report. A mover and seconder can be from the public, and all are asked to vote.

ITEM 4.1. SHIRE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Moved: Ray Baxter

Seconded: Colette Annice

That the Shire President's Report for the year ending 30/06/2025 be received.

CARRIED 14/0

4.1. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Shire President will ask for a mover and seconder to receive the Chief Executive Officer's report. A mover and seconder can be from the public, and all are asked to vote.

The CEO provided an overview of key activities during the reporting period, including:

- Commencement in May 2025 and acknowledgement of former CEO Paul Hanlon and Acting CEO Mark Hook.
- Delivery of capital works including upgrades to Robinson Road West and Oxley Road, resheeting and maintenance works on Leggoe, Gorn and Burt Roads, and ongoing road maintenance programs.
- Completion of Stage 1 of the Centenary Park upgrades and progress on Stage 2.
- Community events including the Bloom Art Exhibition and Australia Day celebrations.
- Acknowledgement of outgoing and incoming Councillors following the October elections.
- Appointment of the Executive Manager Corporate Services and continued focus on governance and compliance.

- Upcoming infrastructure works and development of a non-potable water strategy.
- Appreciation to staff, Council and community volunteers for their contributions.

ITEM 4.1. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Moved: Marj Winstanley

Seconded: Damian Shackley

That the Chief Executive Officer's Report for the year ended 30/06/2025 be received.

CARRIED 14/0

4.1. AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Shire President will ask for a mover and seconder to receive the Auditor's report. A mover and seconder can be from the public, and all are asked to vote.

ITEM 4.1. AUDITOR'S REPORT

Moved: Lesley Trimming

Seconded: Mike Vermeulen

That the Auditor's Report for the year ending 30/06/2025 be received.

CARRIED 14/0

4.1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2024/2025

The Shire President will ask for a mover and seconder to receive the 2024/2025 Annual Financial Statement as shown in the Shire of Woodanilling 2024/2025 Annual Report. A mover and seconder can be from the public, and all are asked to vote.

ITEM 4.1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2024/2025

Moved: Dale Douglas

Seconded: Mike Vermeulen

That the Financial Statements for the year ending 30/06/2025 be received.

CARRIED 8/0

4 GENERAL BUSINESS

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Questions from members of the public were directed to the Presiding Member in accordance with the procedure outlined prior to the commencement of the meeting.

4.1 ANNABEL PAULLEY

Annabel Paulley requested clarification regarding the Shire's current financial position, noting the Annual Report did not clearly outline the overall financial standing.

Cr Thomson advised the current budget is balanced and the Shire holds approximately \$700,000 in reserves, including plant and long service leave provisions. He stated the Shire is not in financial difficulty but must continue to manage finances carefully, particularly following rate increases of 10% over the past two years.

In response to a question regarding debt, Cr Thomson confirmed the Shire currently holds no debt.

Annabel asked whether further annual rate increases of 10% were anticipated. Cr Thomson advised this has not been determined and Council must balance competitiveness, community expectations and financial sustainability.

Annabel queried the revenue generated from the recent 10% rate increase and its allocation. Cr Thomson advised approximately \$100,000 was raised and placed into general revenue.

The CEO advised the additional revenue contributes to a range of operational areas including wages, overheads and road-related expenditure.

Annabel asked whether the Shire was progressing efforts to return responsibility for Robinson Road West to Main Roads WA and requested an update on current progress.

The Shire President advised that the Shire is preparing a business case supported by traffic data to demonstrate regional and heavy vehicle usage. It was noted that Main Roads WA is not obligated to accept transfer of the road and discussions are ongoing.

4.2 MAL BAXTER

Mal Baxter asked whether the adopted budget to June 2026 was publicly available.

The Presiding Member advised the budget is available on the Shire website and monthly financial reports within Council agendas provide ongoing financial updates. The CEO offered to provide a copy upon request.

4.3 PAULINE EDGCUMBE

Pauline Edgcumbe raised several matters:

Waste and Recycling/Landfill

Pauline noted previous concerns regarding recycling and wind-blown rubbish had been addressed and requested this be publicly communicated in the Woodanilling Wongi. She also asked about the remaining lifespan of the landfill facility. The question was taken on notice.

Health Services and Transport

Pauline raised concerns regarding access to health services and requested consideration of transport options to Katanning. The question was taken on notice.

Water Use and Oval Irrigation

Pauline expressed concern regarding year-round watering of the oval and the condition of memorial lawns. The Presiding Member advised the oval water supply is sourced from the dam and noted efforts are being made to reduce reliance on purchased water. Concerns regarding memorial lawns were acknowledged.

Weather-Sensing Irrigation

Cathi Bessell-Browne supported Pauline's comments and requested Council investigate weather-sensing irrigation technology to improve water efficiency. The Presiding Member acknowledged this as a potential improvement.

Baptist Church Grounds

Pauline asked about the Shire's commitment to maintenance at the Baptist Church. The CEO advised the Shire undertakes basic maintenance up to a capped amount, with additional works the responsibility of the Church. Further opportunities may be explored with the Bloom Festival group. The matter was noted.

Pauline raised a question regarding the allocation of funding toward town and community services, expressing concern that a significant portion of expenditure appears directed toward roads. She asked how much of the Shire's finances are allocated to the town and community, and whether this information could be presented in a more transparent and easier-to-understand format.

The Chief Executive Officer confirmed that monthly financial statements are publicly available and advised that no funds have been redirected from their intended purposes. The question was taken on notice.

4.4 CATHI BESSELL-BROWNE

Cathi Bessell-Browne thanked the Shire for recent vegetation clearing works near Tieline Road and Darby Road and raised ongoing concerns regarding road maintenance, including:

- Dangerous gravel crossroad conditions
- Lack of response to complaints regarding road maintenance
- Missing road signage for an extended period

The matter was taken on notice.

Cathi, on behalf of Brooke Moulden, queried why the Shire was not formally participating in meetings relating to Ausgold social impact assessments, noting potential impacts to the Woodanilling community.

The Shire President advised that while the Shire is not formally represented, it is aware of the matters and maintains communication through relevant channels.

4.5 BRIGITTE BURG

Brigitte Burg, attending her first Electors Meeting, asked whether financial documents could be made more accessible to the public.

The Presiding Member advised financial information is publicly available and paper copies may be requested from the Shire office. The CEO noted options could be explored to provide simplified summaries to assist community understanding.

MOTIONS

4.6 INDEPENDENT FORENSIC AUDIT – NOTICE OF MOTION

A proposed motion submitted by elector Cathi Bessell-Browne for consideration at the Annual Electors Meeting.

ITEM 4.6. INDEPENDENT FORENSIC AUDIT – NOTICE OF MOTION

Moved: Cathi Bessell-Browne

Seconded: Annabel Paulley

That Council consider immediately requesting an independent forensic audit to assess past, current and future capacity of the Shire of Woodanilling to meet its statutory, regulatory and governance obligations to inform continuous improvement, financial sustainability and community confidence.

The scope of the audit should include, but not be limited to, an assessment of:

1. Alignment between community expectations, the level of services currently provided, and the Shire's financial and operational capacity, including benchmarking service levels against comparable local governments to ensure the community receives reasonable and sustainable value in return for rates and charges.
2. Capacity, transparency and governance arrangements to play an active and appropriate role in community safety planning and risk mitigation, particularly in the context of recent local events and community experiences suggesting a growing criminal element and potential risks to child safety.
3. Capacity to enforce local planning and development requirements in a consistent and transparent manner, including compliance relating to unauthorised occupation, accommodation, land use and amenity impacts.
4. Capacity to sustainably fund, maintain or transfer responsibility for assets and infrastructure, including consideration of the long-term viability of maintaining Robinson Road West versus transfer to Main Roads WA, particularly in light of the recent tragic fatality involving this road.
5. Capacity to engage with community, including public availability of accurate and timely agendas, minutes, audio recordings, registers of interests, councillor training registers, and other statutory information, and a review of Council's Community Engagement Charter to identify if it reflects regulatory requirements and best practice.
6. Council's delegations, policies and governance frameworks to ensure they have been reviewed regularly and align with contemporary best practice and legislative intent.
7. Council's compliance with interest declaration requirements, including the intent of Local Government Regulations and Best Practice Guidelines for conflicts of interest to be managed during forums and workshops, and when representing the Shire to external bodies.
8. Governance or resourcing gaps that may affect Council's ability to manage emerging risks and community concerns in a timely and lawful way.

And that the findings of the Audit be reported publicly and used to guide future decision-making, policy development and resourcing priorities including:

1. A review of the Shire's Strategic Community and Corporate Business Plan to ensure it is supported by evidence-based assumptions, includes 'Community First' in its values, recognises challenges and community needs, and is focussed on measurable outcomes and deliverables to improve liveability.
2. A review of Annual Report format and content to ensure inclusion of clear deliverables and outcomes with performance measures to demonstrate continuous improvement and progress towards increased liveability within the Shire.
3. Inform the development and implementation of Council's Long Term Financial Plan.
4. Inform development and implementation of the Shire's Public Health Plan.
5. Inform reviews of Council's Community Safety Plan, Workforce Plan and Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.

DISCUSSION

Ms Bessell-Browne spoke to the motion.

Ms Paulley advised she had no further comments to add.

Speakers against the motion raised concerns regarding potential referral to the Department of Local Government, possible duplication of existing audit processes, associated financial cost, and whether some matters raised were outside the Shire's direct control.

The Presiding Member noted the Shire undertakes ongoing audit and assurance activity and advised audit expenditure in the previous year was approximately \$60,000.

Ms Bessell-Browne exercised her right of reply.

5 CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Shire President declared the meeting closed at 8:13pm.