

MINUTES



FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS (FCO) & BUSHFIRE BRIGADE (BFB) MEETING

Date: 14 March 2018
Time: 4.00 pm
Venue: Council Chambers, 89 Earl Street, Narrogin

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14 MARCH 2018

1. OFFICIAL OPENING

4.04 pm – President Leigh Ballard declared the meeting open and chaired the meeting until he had to leave at 4.33 at which time Richard Chadwick – Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (CBFCO) took the chair.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

2.1 Members present

- Leigh Ballard, Shire President
- Nathan Walker, Councillor (arrived at 4:12)

2.2 Staff Attending

- Azhar Awang - Executive Manager Development and Regulatory Services (EMDRS)
- Guy Maley - Ranger
- Wendy Russell – Executive Support Officer (ESO)

2.3 FCO's

- Richard Chadwick
- Vern Gibson
- Alistair McDougall
- Jon Rick
- Tim shepherd
- Bill Warren

2.4 Others

- Simon Vogel DFES

2.5 Apologies

- Stuart Moyses
- Russell Ashley
- Barry Hardie
- Brenton Hardie
- Pip Porter

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

MEETING RESOLUTION

Moved: R Chadwick

Seconded G Maley

That the minutes of the FCO Meeting held on 2 November 2017 be accepted and confirm them as an accurate record of proceedings.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

4.1 WAERN Radios

All green WAERN radios have now been replaced. Several repairs were also made to get all radios in good working order.

Richard Chadwick as some old racks to return to FESA – Simon to follow up

Guy now has four new hand held WAERN Radios they will be carried in the Shire Ute during fire season to be distributed on site as required.

It was recommended that radios be checked in August/September this year to ensure that they are all working before the start of the season.

Cr Nathan Walker arrived at 4.12 pm

4.2 PPE

All of the PPE has now arrived and can be collected after the meeting.

Wendy to send list of volunteers with PPE to collect to the FCO's.

4.3 Vehicle Register to Attend Fire Incidents

Nearly all volunteers with a fire fighting unit have been issued with a Vehicle Identification Sticker. Just waiting on a few more volunteers and the process will be completed.

New stickers will need to be issued this year.

Guy to review in August/September.

4.4 Narrogin Bush Fire Brigade Registration List 2015/2016 (Blue Book)

Wendy has been working on this, it was requested that this be produced and published and that it could be distributed with the rates notices or some other means. It was also suggested that it be included in an information pack for new residents.

Action : Wendy

4.5 FCO Daily Morning Radio Calls During the Fire Season

Thanks to Alistair for his efforts through the season.

4.6 Exemptions on Fire Bans

Exemptions to movement of vehicles during a total fire ban can be issued thru DFES, CBFCO, DCBFCO, Guy and Azhar

5. MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE DISCUSSION

5.1 Draft Bushfire Brigade Local Law 2018

There have been a few minor changes to the Local Law.

If anyone has any comments please submit them to Azhar.

5.2 Parameters Required For a Vehicle Movement Ban

There was some discussion on the parameters required to call a vehicle movement ban.

Our indicator is 32°. The weather committee are aware that there may be differing conditions in different areas of the Shire but if it is dangerous in one area then the ban must be put on the whole Shire. They are also mindful that the ban is not called too early as conditions could change and endeavour to lift the ban as early as possible.

It was also mentioned that the DPAW Website is a great source of information.

If conditions are dangerous and a ban has not been put in place it is up to the individual to stop work.

President Ballard left the meeting at 4.33 and CBFCO Richard Chadwick took the chair.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Amalgamation of Bush Fire Brigades

Bill Warren suggested that we look at amalgamating some of our BFB's. With improved communications there is no longer the need for so many Brigades.

MEETING RESOLUTION

Moved: A McDougall

Seconded B Warren

That a steering group be formed to look at the realignment of boundaries and the amalgamation of some of the Bush Fire Brigades and that the results of the steering group be presented at the next FCO meeting.

CARRIED

After some discussion it was determined that the steering group would meet on Monday 19 March at 4.00 pm and should be made up of the following:

R Chadwick	CBFCO
A McDougall	DCBFCO
Cr Nathan Walker	FCO
Azhar Awang	EMDRS

6.2 Fire Bans Over the Easter Weekend

Richard reminded everyone that there should be no Burning Permits issued for the Easter weekend being Friday 31 March to Monday 2 April inclusive.

7. NEXT MEETING

To be advised. August/September.

8. CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 5:09pm.