MINUTES 4/11/26	**GENERAL MEETING, BALINGUP PROGRESS ASSOC. INC.**	
Meeting opened	6.00pm	
Present	J.Hornum, W.Trow, R.Benson, J.Pyrchla, I.Massey, J.Hawter, B.Slava, M.Smart, R.Thomas, D.Cameron, R.Knopper	
Visitor	R.Wilson MP	
Apologies	T.Saggers, H.Christenson, G.McMullen, Cr L.Wringe, K.Menard, T.Benson, S.Noonan, C.Maddison	
NEW BUSINESS		
Shire Economic & Tourism strategy	The Shire has requested feedback on the draft copy of the Lucid Economic & Tourism Strategy. Below is our response: "Balingup Progress Association, Tourist Committee and Medieval Carnivale wish to provide the following feedback on the Lucid Economic and Tourism Strategy: This is an overarching document that recommends the Shire proactively engages with business and community as a facilitator, regulator, promoter and advocate. We therefore look forward to receiving more information about how each of the Action Items will be implemented, who will be responsible, a proposed timeframe and budget". In addition, Donnybrook-Balingup Chamber of Commerce has submitted a thoughtful and comprehensive report outlining report shortfalls and solutions. This will be distributed with the BPA Minutes. I.Massey (DB Chamber Commerce President) advised he has met with the Shire and felt he had a fair hearing. He agreed that, as per BPA statement above, we need names, dates etc. S.Peppler (Shire) has requested a meeting with BPA representatives. J.Hornum will coordinate this.	J.Hornum
Staying in Place	W.Trow advised that Balingup has assisted its first Support at Home client to secure funding/services. BPA will start to receive 50% of the administration fee from Busselton SIP and this money will be put into the account previously known as 'BPA- Event Coordinator'. This account will now be referred to as 'BPA -Balingup SIP'. We eventually hope to be able to use this money to employ someone to take on the role that volunteers are currently performing.	Information
Shire Lease Agreement	The Shire sublets the community grounds from ARC Infrastructure and BPA sub-sub leases the land from the Shire. The Shire has sent a draft lease agreement to BPA for consideration and meeting has been held to discuss. Queries have been identified so an onsite meeting with the Shire has been requested (planned for 14th December) with a representative from BMC and BPA.	W.Trow
Christmas drinks	It was moved that $200 be allocated to provide drinks and nibbles at the December BPA meeting. Jay Pyrchla offered to organize. Moved R.Benson Seconded J.Prychla. Carried.	J.Pyrchla

CISCO	W.Trow reminded all that the Community Information & Social Centre will be available during times of community stress this bushfire season. Information is being shared electronically this year (no hard copy mail out). Anyone wanting to know more should contact Wendy.	Information
Starlink	The Starlink satellite dish has been permanently installed on the roof of the community centre. (Note: The BFB requested approval to install the unit on their roof several months ago but were not able to secure approval from the Shire). Fixing the unit permanently on the community centre makes it difficult to share with other users so W.Trow: • investigated costs to buy a Starlink Mini (mobile unit), and • asked the Shire if they would pay. The Shire CEO has advised it is not a cost that Council would be able to meet (they have however, been advocating for Starlink to be included as an eligible item under the State's LGGS scheme). It is highly desirable to have Starlink for the upcoming fire season so BMC has been requested to: • Continue to pay the monthly service fee for the Starlink unit that is affixed to the community centre, and • Purchase a (mobile) Starlink mini for use by the SFFD, CISCO and BMC (to be stored in BPA office). Cost around $600. It was moved that BPA pays $15 per month fee for the Starlink Mini (mobile) service fee. When the unit is turned on, the fee increases to $85 for that calendar month. BMC will be requested to take these new charges into account when allocating annual funds to BPA. Moved W.Trow Seconded R.Thomas. Carried	W.Trow
Curtin volunteers weekend	Student volunteers helped W.Trow and D.Cameron reorganise the Carnivale workspace storage areas on the weekend of 25-27 Sept. Feedback from both sides was very positive, with one (Chinese) student saying "I really enjoy, love and remember this experience in my life". It's a reminder of the benefits of volunteering.	Information
Main street rejuvenation project	W.Trow advised that, as a result of her attending the National Small Towns Conference in September, she wishes to invite the conference organiser, Peter Kenyon, to run a main street rejuvenation workshop in Balingup. The aim of this workshop will be to discuss what we currently have and identify possible improvements. It was moved that $800 be allocated to pay for the visit ($600 for facilitation fees plus $200 for room hire costs and snacks). Moved: W.Trow Seconded: R.Benson Money to be taken from the unused portion of the Community Trust fund (one applicant has advised she will not use the grant allocated).	W.Trow
Balingup Acorn Fund	W.Trow advised that two information sessions were held in October to explain a proposal to establish a new community fund (Balingup Acorn Fund). These sessions were well attended. It is moved that the Community Fund sub-committee be authorised to submit an application to establish Balingup Acorn Fund as a sub-fund of Fremantle Foundation.	W.Trow

	Moved W.Trow Seconded J.Hawter	
Shire Budget	Detailed information about projects is not available in the Shire budget therefore W.Trow has asked the Shire to provide information about proposed expenditure/projects in Balingup in 2026-27. A summary of the questions asked/responses given are at Annex C. For more information, please contact your Councillor or Shire offices.	Information
Seniors Week event – Navigating Retirement	The Shire and Donnybrook CRC are holding an event at VC Mitchell Park on Friday 13th November 9am -12pm and a bus will transport guests from Balingup. The event will include information sessions, a mini expo and morning tea. Registrations essential – call Shire on 97804200. The organisers have invited community groups to showcase products, services etc.	Information
Townscape	Council has made a decision to disband Balingup Townscape as a Shire sub-committee. Townscape wrote to the CEO to express concern that the committee was not consulted and that, after 30 years of service, this seemed disrespectful. An email has been received from the Shire acknowledging the work of the committee and encouraging the committee to continue to liaise closely with Shire staff regarding proposed projects.	Information
Grimwade Settlement	Grimwade Settlement Preservation Group is holding its AGM at the top dam (the swimming pool dam) at Grimwade on Sunday 29/11/2026 commencing at 10.30 am. They will advise progress that has been made in 2026 in cleaning up the old Settlement Area and bringing its beauty back to life.	All
Report on Action Items **Annex A**	Ongoing (tabled) Complete (tabled)	Chair
Correspondence list	Correspondence list accepted and received Moved: W.Trow Seconded: R. Benson	Secretary
Umbrella Group Reports	None received	Secretary
Confirmation of minutes previous meeting	Amendments (N) Moved: J.Hornum Seconded: M.Smart	Carried (Y)
Treasurer's Report	<u>Bank account balances as of 04/11/2026</u> Operating Account $6573 Trust Fund Account $38175 Term Deposit Insurance Reserve Account $40,174 ($3000 to be transferred to Trust Fund Account on next renewal) Term Deposit Future's Fund Account $37,072 SIP Account $1.21 Treasurer's Report on bank balances accepted and received. Moved: J.Hornum Seconded: R.Thomas Carried	T.Benson
Reminders	• Friday 13th Nov 26 Seniors Weeks event at VC Mitchell Park (contact Shire) • Saturday 28th Nov 26 Swing Social 7pm at Town Hall • Sunday 29th Nov 26 Grimwade Settlement AGM 10.30 am. • Saturday 12th December Balingup Landcare forum 12.30 – 4.30pm Balingup Community Centre.	

Meeting Closed	6.37pm
Next Meeting	**Wednesday 2nd December 2026 at 6pm**

ANNEX A

<table>
<tr><td>as of 4/11/26</td><td colspan="2">ACTION LIST, BALINGUP PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC</td></tr>
<tr><td>MEETING
DATE PERSON
RESPONSIBLE</td><td>ITEM</td><td>STATUS</td></tr>
<tr><td>Resilience

Sept 26/
W.Trow</td><td>As agreed at the September meeting BPA wrote to the Shire asking Council to:
• evaluate the effectiveness of fixed infrastructure (scheme water) and better inform the community about current limitations of the scheme water supply when responding to bushfire threats,
• determine the process needed to redirect water, from the Kirup line into Balingup, if/when it is needed,
• lobby Water Corporation to improve fixed infrastructure as required, and
• carry out bushfire mitigation work along Jayes Road.
Shire advises water supply reliability, hydrant availability and firefighting operations had been the subject of ongoing discussion with Water Corporation. They will continue to advocate on behalf of the community and are also developing bushfire mitigation plans. Full Shire response, including firefighting assets, is at Annex D.</td><td>Completed</td></tr>
<tr><td>Playground Committee

Sept 26/
K.Magi</td><td>K. Magi has reported that the Shire plans to demolish the existing playground. BalingUpcycle are seeking community response and support for it not to be removed.
On 28 Oct 26, the Shire CEO advised that ‘no decision has been made, let alone a planned formal report to Council. A further round of consultation is planned for Balingup Sport and Recreation Master Plan, perhaps that is the appropriate mechanism for community members to provide views on the future needs of formal and informal sport and recreation in the district”.
A full copy of the CEOs response is at Annex D.
This project is being managed by Karen Magi/ BalingUpcycle who confirmed that plans have been verbal and nothing has been submitted to Council.</td><td>Completed</td></tr>
<tr><td>Recreation Plan
Jul 26/
A.Shah
T.Saggers
W.Trow</td><td>At the August meeting we discussed the Shire timeline for consultation for the Balingup Recreation Plan and agreed to:
• liaise with the Shire to ensure that all Shire Councillors are invited to attend the workshop in November.
• Widely advertise the workshop and encourage residents to attend.
<table><tr><td>Aug 7th – early Sept</td><td>Draft Plan is expected first week in August and will be issued to Councillors and Shire Executive for review.</td></tr><tr><td>Sept</td><td>Consultant will facilitate a workshop with Council receive feedback and update Plan.</td></tr><tr><td>Oct</td><td>Plan endorsed at Council meeting and issued to community.</td></tr><tr><td>Nov</td><td>Community Comment period will be 4 weeks throughout November, and will include a Community Workshop in Balingup.</td></tr><tr><td>Dec/Jan</td><td>Consultant will update, based on feedback.</td></tr><tr><td>Feb</td><td>Final report will be issued to Council.</td></tr></table>
Update 21 Oct 26. Shire has advised “the Exec team is currently reviewing the draft actions and indicative costings for the component elements. As such, it will not go to Council for endorsement for further consultation this month. We are hoping on presenting the updated draft at the November OCM”.</td><td>ONGOING</td></tr>
<tr><td>Shire sub-lease agreement
Feb 26</td><td>The Shire has issued a draft sub-lease agreement for the community grounds (Brockman St). This has been reviewed and a ‘plain English’ version drafted by W.Trow. See General Business.</td><td>ONGOING</td></tr>
</table>

W.Trow		

ANNEX B

Emails/Letters In

Note: This list does not include newsletters/general updates from other organisations.

Date	From	Subject	Action
1 Sept	T.Benson	Request Starlink be installed at Community Centre	JH
2 Sept	K.Magi	Playground project	JH
2 Sept	W.Trow	Shire sub-license	WT/JH
3 Sept	G.Hodge	Final report SLA BACH	Information
4 Sept	K.Menard	Shothole borer workshop	KM
4 Sept	T.Benson	ATO guidelines superannuation	TB
5 Sept	R.Cole (BACH)	Insurance payment	JH
7 Sept	S.Franks	Staying in Place enquiry	WT
7 Sept	T.Francis (7 news)	Request interview playground	JH
8 Sept	Western Power	Outage 22 Sept	HC
10 Sept	BalingUpcycle	Annual report/insurance	WT
11 Sept	Jeremy	Request BPA membership	JH
13 Sept	K.Menard	New email address	JH
12 Sept	J.Pyrcha/T.Saggers	Feedback BPA minutes	WT
13 Sept	BMC	Invite feedback session 24 Sept	JH
15 Sept	Volunteers SW	Online leadership training	Info
16 Sept	G.Hodge	BRG website update	To P.Williamson
20 Sept	J.Pyrchla	Balingup Landcare Newsletter	To all BPA
21 Sept	R.Thomas	Request financial reports	WT
23 Sept	B.Chia	Decline community trust grant	JH
22 Sept	BACH	Insurance invoice paid.	JH
23 Sept	J.Hornum	Example of SIP job advert	WT
24 Sept	S.Delaporte	Seniors week event	To all BPA
24 Sept	R.Thomas	BPA financials	JH
25 Sept	BACH	October events	To all BPA
25 Sept	B.Hindocha	AGM report – Community Garden	WT
27 Sept	N.O'Connor	AGM apology	WT
27 Sept	Webcentral	Website verification	To P.Williamson
27 Sept	P.Williamson	Webcentral invoices	To JH & TB
1 Oct	BACH	Request letter support	WT
1 Oct	R.Wright	GVTP fundraiser	To all BPA
1 Oct	J.Pyrchla	Invite to BBL/bridal creeper	WT
2 Oct	W.Irvine	Annual report – Avenue of Honour	WT
1 Oct	Bendigo	Statement xx825	To TB
4 Oct	S.Franks	Query re GVTP Go fund Me	WT
5 Oct	N.O'Connor	Response re resilience query	See Action List
6 Oct	BACH	Spring picnic details	To all BPA
6 Oct	P.Williamson	Website login details	JH
6 Oct	A.Scott	SFFD update and apology	WT
6 Oct	Cr. L.Wringe & A.McNab	AGM apology	WT
7 Oct	Tourism Committee	AGM report & financial	WT
7 Oct	Townscape	AGM report	WT
7 Oct	E.Gerritson	AGM report Carnivale	WT
7 Oct	B.Hindocha	AGM apology	WT
7 Oct	J.Hornum	Annual update – Academy	WT
8 Oct	I.Massey	DBCC economic strategy response	General business
8 Oct	BFOF	AGM Report	WT
9 Oct	SFFD	Insurance response	WT
11 Oct	Townscape	Insurance response	WT

11 Oct	BACH	BACH insurance payment	Jh
11 Oct	BACH	Telling Tales budget details	JH
11 Oct	BACH	Telling Tales forecast and actuals	Jh
13 Oct	Mens Forum	Membership list	JH
14 Oct	Water Corp	Bill	TB
16 Oct	J.Pyrchla	Balingup Landcare forum	To all BPA
16 Oct	Shire (K.Murphy)	Family Daycare event	To all BPA
19 Oct	N.O'Connor	Recreation Plan	See Annex A
20 Oct	AON Insurance	Renewal	JH
22 Oct	Synergy	Electricity bill	TB
28 Oct	N.O'Connor	Playground status	See Annex D
28 Oct	Shire	Draft lease (hard copy in mail)	General business
28 Oct	S.Peppler	Economic Tourism Strategy	JH
28 Oct	R.Wilson	Request to attend BPA meetings	WT
28 Oct	N.O'Connor	Townscape status (from H.Christensen)	General business
29 Oct	T.Saggers	Questions for R.Wilson	WT
29 Oct	BACH	Event – Swing social	To all BPA
30 Oct	Talison	Community Grants	To community groups
30 Oct	K.Magi	Playground	Action Plan
1 Nov	Bendigo	Statement xx825	TB
2 Nov	C.Matthews	Staying Alive Health	To BADSA and BUFC
3 Nov	J.Stanley	Farm trails	WT

Letters/emails Out (in addition to those above)

Date	**To**	**Subject**	**Actioned by**
15 Sept	All umbrella groups	BPA AGM/insurance reminder	WT
12 Sept	All BPA	September minutes	JH
16 Sept	M.Irving (Water Corp)	Expedite response to questions	WT
17 Sept	T.Saggers	Playground	WT
17 Sept	BMC,SFFD, BACH	Economic tourism strategy feedback	General business
18 Sept	All BPA	AGM notice	JH
19 Sept	Shire CEO	Invitation to AGM (+ Councilors)	WT
23 Sept	Shire CEO	Balingup resilience/water (letter)	WT/JH
23 Sept	BMC,SFFD, BACH, TC, Historical	Request financial report at AGM	WT
21 Sept	B.Chia	Community grant	JH
24 Sept	Shire	Feedback on Lucid Strategic Plan	General business
28 Sept	S.Dellaporte	Acquittal Curtin weekend	WT
30 Sept	N.O'Connor	Infrastructure/bushfire letter	WT/JH
30 Sept	All BPA	AGM reminder	WT
30 Sept	All BPA	Invite to Community Fund	WT
1 Oct	BACH	Letter of support	WT
4 Oct	J.Pyrchla	BBL/bridal creeper	
5 Oct	S.Franks	Response re GVTP Go Fund Me	WT
17 Oct	N.O'Connor	Request date for Recreation Plan Workshop	WT
17 Oct	Premier of WA	Invite to Tour of the Town	WT/JH
27 Oct	All BPA	Meeting reminder	WT
29 oct	K.Magi	Playground	WT
29 Oct	All BPA	Advice of R.Wilson attendance at BPA meeting	WT

Shire Budget Allocation 2026/27

Expenditure proposed for Recreation Facilities is $2.28m – how much is being provided in Donnybrook/ how much in Balingup/anywhere else and are any special projects/major maintenance being carried out?	Recreation expenditure for Balingup is; • Balingup recreation expenditure $109,310, (I believe this is on hold pending the Balingup Sport and Recreation Master Plan completion to ensure it aligns with the current priorities) • Balingup transit park toilet refurbishment $20,646 • Balingup oval toilets $16,550 • Balingup Library $31,934
How much is being allocated to support: - community programs, projects and events? Will any specific programs, projects and events be targeted? - tourism and economic development.	Overall support for community groups is $117,000 plus: • in-kind support (outside staff) S35,000, and • internal staff working on community projects (hard to put a dollar figure to it, but would be over $150,000 per annum). In addition we have $96,000 for various plans and strategy's within the budget for tourism and recreational pursuits. One of which is the Economic Development and Tourism Strategy which will have identified areas for future expenditure to enhance development and tourism within the Shire.
Can you confirm that Balingup will retain two full time gardeners in 26/27?	Can confirm that we will definitely be retaining two Parks & Gardens staff members based in Balingup. In addition to these positions, there will be a third Parks & Gardens employee who will operate in a flexible capacity and move between all Parks & Gardens sites across the Shire as operational requirements dictate.

Future possible projects for Balingup

Included in the Asset management plan over the coming years are; **2027/28** • Balingup Recreation Centre reroof, 369,859 • Memorial Park 12,000 • Skate Park 69,000 **2028/29** • Balingup Oval 50,000 **2029/30** • Balingup Rec Centre, painting 54,273 • Tourist Bay Bibbulumun track 6,500 I also note in 2030/31 & 31/32 there is 150,000 allocated to memorial park upgrades.	Total capital expenditure for the 2026/27 financial year is 10.396M excluding plant and equipment. Capital expenditure outside Donnybrook is 7.619M. Major Projects to note are the Argyle/Irishtown fire shed and a roads program of 6.895M, The below link has the budget detailed information (attachment 8.2.1(2)) if you are interested in it. scm-attachments-15-july-2026.pdf *Note: This attachment does not provide detailed information about projects*.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED TO SHIRE:

Water security/ bushfire	As agreed at the September meeting BPA wrote to the Shire asking Council to: • evaluate the effectiveness of fixed infrastructure (scheme water) and better inform the community about current limitations of the scheme water supply when responding to bushfire threats, • determine the process needed to redirect water, from the Kirup line into Balingup, if/when it is needed, • lobby Water Corporation to improve fixed infrastructure as required, and • carry out bushfire mitigation work along Jayes Road. Emails received from the Shire include: • CEO advising 'water supply reliability, hydrant availability and firefighting operations had been the subject of ongoing discussion with Water Corporation'. They will continue to advocate on behalf of the community. They are also developing bushfire mitigation plans. • CESM advising that a plan is being developed to carry out bushfire mitigation work along Jayes Road. A Facebook post provided information about the movement of bushfire brigade resources and the email from the CEO advised: Should a structure fire be reported within the Balingup townsite, the following resources are typically mobilised: • Balingup Bush Fire Brigade, whose appliance contains approximately 3,800 litres of water. • Donnybrook Volunteer Fire and Rescue, whose main structural appliance contains 3,800 litres of water. • Bridgetown Volunteer Fire and Rescue, whose rescue and structural appliance contains 900 litres of water. • The DFES Bulk Water Tanker (housed in Bridgetown), which contains 12,000 litres of water. Other resources that will also be considered are: • Ferndale and Kirup Bush Fire Brigade, who main trucks contain 2,400 litres of water apiece. • Greenbushes Bush Fire Brigade, whose main truck contains 3,800 litres of water • Talison Emergency Response team • External water carting providers.
Playground	K. Magi has reported that the Shire plans to demolish the existing playground. . On 28 Oct 26, Shire CEO advised: "Council has not made a decision on the playground referred to below, and apart from the broader Balingup Sport and Recreation Master Plan project which is under development, there is no foreshadowed officer report/recommendation on the playground. I believe there have been discussions within the community-led project working group on the options for the existing playground, but no decision has been made, let alone a planned formal report to Council. My understanding is that the working group has placed the playground project 'on hold'. I have invited Elaine Lucas from the project working group to provide a project update to Councillors on 11 November. A further round of consultation is planned for Balingup Sport and Recreation Master Plan, perhaps that is the appropriate mechanism for community members to provide views on the future needs of formal and informal sport and recreation in the district".

	Email from K.Magi 30 Oct confirmed above email is correct. A verbal proposal was made by R.Marshall, who has spoken to counselors but it has not gone a Shire meeting. The application to Talison (for funding the older children playground) is on hold because Talison is setting up a new funding process.