



BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

Thursday 11 April 2019

4.00pm

Venue: Community Resource Centre, 55 Larke Crescent, Corrigin

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Chairperson, President Lyn Baker opened the meeting at 4.05pm.

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendance

President	Cr Lynette Baker
Chief Executive Officer	Natalie Manton
Councillor	Rick Gilmore
DFES	Grant Hansen 4.12pm
Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	Greg Evans 4.23pm
Bush Fire Control Officers	Sadow Jacobs
	Craig Jespersen
	John Hewett
	Tim George
	Bruce Talbot
	Ray Hathaway
	Bruce Mills 4.11pm
	Paul McBeath
	Greg Doyle
	Kim Courboules
	Braden Grylls
	Garrick Connelly

Apologies

Manager Works and Services	Greg Tomlinson
Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	Andrew Szczecinski
Bush Fire Control Officers	Tony Guinness
	Adam Rendell
	Paul Baker
	Steven Bolt
	Bryce Nicholls

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Moved – R Gilmore Seconded C Jespersen

That the minutes of the Shire of Corrigin Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting held on 12 October 2018 be accepted as a true and correct record.

Carried

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Query regarding cost of Telstra text messages. To be discussed in general business.
Question regarding any fines for breaches of bush fire letters. No fines were issued.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chief Fire Control Officer

Recommendation 1

Moved G Doyle Seconded B Grylls

That Greg Evans be appointed Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for 2019/20.

Carried

Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer

Recommendation 2

Moved S Jacobs Seconded G Connelly

That Andrew Szczecinski be appointed Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for 2019/20.

Carried

Recommendation 3

Moved S Jacobs Seconded G Connelly

That Steven Bolt be appointed Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for 2019/20.

Carried

Fire Control Officers

Recommendation 4

Moved K Courboules Seconded J Hewett

That the following people be appointed as Bush Fire Control Officers for 2019/20:

Bilbarin Brigade

Sadow Jacobs	PO Box 37, Corrigin	9065 2042	0427 652 042
Bruce Mills	Post Office, Corrigin	9062 9012	0428 956 779
Steven Bolt	PO Box 226, Corrigin	9065 2043	0427 652 043
Paul McBeath	PO Box 87, Corrigin	9062 9024	0427 629 024

Bullaring Brigade

Andrew Szczecinski	PO Box 124, Corrigin	9065 7014	0429 657 014
Greg Evans	Post Office, Bullaring	9065 7021	0429 657 021
Greg Doyle	PO Box 109, Corrigin	9880 9048	0427 809 044
Craig Jespersen	PO Box 18, Yealering	9888 7075	0427 887 075
Bryce Nicholls	PO Box 71, Corrigin	9063 7014	0429 883 799

Bulyee/Kunjil Brigade

Ray Hathaway	PO Box 90, Brookton	9642 7045	0488 138 904
Tony Guinness	PO Box 35, Corrigin	9065 7079	0429 657 004
John Hewett	PO Box 239, Corrigin	9063 2480	0427 632 480
Braden Grylls	PO Box 115, Corrigin	9065 8006	0428 658 048

Corrigin East Brigade

Tim George	PO Box 159, Corrigin	9065 5045	0427 655 045
Kim Courboules	PO Box 79, Corrigin		0427 632 624
Bruce Talbot	PO Box 75, Corrigin	9063 2132	0427 632 224

Central Brigade

Garrick Connelly	PO Box 26, Corrigin	9063 2956	0488 632 107
Adam Rendell	PO Box 200, Corrigin	9063 2291	0427 632 291
Natalie Manton	PO Box 221, Corrigin	9063 2203	0427 425 727

Carried

Fire Weather Officers

Recommendation 5

Moved T George Seconded B Talbot

That the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, the two Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officers and Sadow Jacobs be appointed as Fire Weather Officers for 2019/20.

Carried

Harvest Ban Officers

Recommendation 6

Moved P McBeath Seconded C Jespersen

That Council appoint Natalie Manton, Adam Rendell, Garrick Connelly (if Adam Rendell unavailable), Sandow Jacobs, Steven Bolt (if Sandow Jacobs unavailable), Paul Baker, Andrew Szczecinski (if Paul Baker unavailable), Ray Hathaway, Braden Grylls (if Ray Hathaway is unavailable) as authorised Harvest Ban Officers for 2019/20.

Carried

Training Officer

Recommendation 7

Moved G Doyle Seconded S Jacobs

That that Greg Evans be appointed as training Officer for 2019/20.

Carried

Dual Fire Control Officers

Recommendation 8

Moved G Connolly Seconded J Hewett

That the following people be appointed as Dual Fire Control Officers for 2019/20:

Dual Fire Control Officers

Quairading Shire	Bruce Mills, Ray Hathaway
Wickepin Shire	Craig Jespersen, Greg Doyle
Bruce Rock Shire	Sandow Jacobs, Tim George
Narembeen Shire	Tim George
Kondinin Shire	Bruce Talbot, Tim George
Kulin Shire	Greg Doyle, Bryce Nicholls
Pingelly Shire	Greg Evans, Braden Grylls
Brookton Shire	Ray Hathaway, Braden Grylls

Carried

Note: Bruce Rock does not appoint Dual Fire Control Officers. The Shire of Corrigin Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC) considers it appropriate to continue to recommend to Council that Dual Fire Control Officers be appointed to all neighbouring local governments.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Fire Reports

A total of eight fires this season with a variety of causes including:

- 1x smouldering chaff heaps May 2018
- 4 lightning fires Nov 2018
- 1x machinery/ crop Dec 2018
- 1x Motorbike Jan 2019
- 1x Road verge Feb 2019

Discussion on communication methods – FCO's to look into What's App and other communication tools.

2. Fuel Cards

Volunteer fuel cards for the 2018/2019 financial year have been available at the Great Southern Fuels Corrigin Office since 29 November 2018.

Each Bushfire Control Officer's is allocated the following amount as in previous years:

Bushfire Control Officers -2018/2019
Volunteer Fuel Card Distribution List

Name	Amount
Greg Evans	\$ 1,000.00
Andrew Szczecinski	\$ 500.00
Steven Bolt	\$ 500.00
Sadow Jacobs	\$ 266.67
Bruce Mills	\$ 266.67
Paul McBeath	\$ 266.67
Greg Doyle	\$ 266.67
Craig Jespersen	\$ 266.67
Bryce Nicholls	\$ 266.67
Ray Hathaway	\$ 266.67
Tony Guinness	\$ 266.67
John Hewett	\$ 266.67
Braden Grylls	\$ 266.67
Tim George	\$ 266.67
Kim Courboules	\$ 266.67
Bruce Talbot	\$ 266.67
Garrick Connelly	\$ 266.67
Adam Rendell	\$ 266.67
	\$ 6,000.00

The preferences for collection are as follows:

1. Bulk pick up using personal fuel trailer/jerry cans/vehicles/boats.
2. As part of a bulk delivery – please note that Great Southern Fuels will not be offering special deliveries for the allocated amount as it's not financially viable for them for such a small amount.
3. Bulk drop – Great Southern Fuels are willing to do a 'drop' to the most central farm in each brigade where BFCO's can meet and collect their allocated amount. This is to cater for those BFCO's that do not have road worthy/licenced fuel trailers to collect their allocated amount in Corrigin. This will need to be pre-arranged.

The fuels cards will expire in June 2019 so please collect your allocation as soon as possible.

3. Firebreak Order 2019/2020

Fire break order for 2019/2020 was reviewed and there were no changes except to dates.

Text message notice to be sent out prior to Easter advising that no burning is permitted from midnight Thursday 18 April to midnight Sunday 21 April 2019 due to the dry conditions.

4. Bush Fire Radios

BFCO's reviewed list of bush fire radios within the shire and updated details.

5. Burning Permits

CEO requested that BFCO please tick box on permit requiring landholder to notify shire on the day they are burning for early permits. This is very helpful when calls are received from members of the public asking if help is required at a fire.

6. Text Messages

Many people are using phones instead of two way now and messaging services can be useful when attendance at a fire is required. The shire messaging service is sent to 683 people including local farmers, as well as CBH, Western Power, DFES etc. This service costs approx. 22c per text so approximately \$150 per message. The service is set up so that messages can be sent to a specific brigade only if required.

The database is set up on a web based messaging service that can be accessed remotely and is not specific to one person's phone. Brigades may wish to set up their own What's App messaging groups but this will not be maintained by the Shire.

Shire staff will continue to maintain the Telstra SMS messaging service.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Responsibility and Chain of Command at Fires

The Chief BFO, Greg Evans raised issue of brigade members taking charge of fires and requesting help without the knowledge or permission of a Fire Control Officer.

Fire Control Officers to remind brigade members that the designated BFCO should be notified as soon as possible of a fire. The BFCO will assess the situation and determine what personnel and resources are needed and call for assistance from the shire or other sources if required. There may be legal, financial and/or safety issues if this process is not followed and brigade members operate outside the guidelines.

Grant Hansen DFES report

- New staff member in office and Anika can help with paper work, memberships, etc.
- Quiet fire season- no major incidents but did send people outside region.
- Preseason report and late season report what is happening in shire, rainfall, soil dryness, fuel loads and BOM data. To try to determine what fire season is likely to be like pre fire season and then late in the fire season. Will be looking for some feedback.
- Albany fires May 2017
- Review section 46 Bush Fires Act prohibit lighting of fires at any time of the year and ask people to put fires out outside of the prohibited or restricted period.
- Can extend restricted burning period but cannot reduce it by more than 14 days.
- DFES looking into SMS for severe weather warnings to Chief Bush Fire Control Officers and shires.

- New fire truck (broadacre 4x4 4000ltr) due soon but is still a back log in building trucks.

8. MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chairperson thanked everybody for their attendance and closed the meeting at 4.30pm.