

Shire of Denmark

Minutes



BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD IN COUNCIL RECEPTION ROOM
953 SOUTH COAST HIGHWAY, DENMARK
THURSDAY 17th JUNE 2021

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Presiding Person opened the meeting at 6:35 pm.

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

MEMBERS: (*Voting*)

Cr Mark Allen (Council Delegate / Chairman)
Mr Nigel Marsh (DCBFCO)
Mr Craig Lilley (Kordabup FCO)
Mr Murray Brooker (Mt Lindesay FCO)
Mr Hank Williams (Ocean Beach FCO)
Mr Trever Brown (Peaceful Bay Captain)
Mr Callum Baxter (Somerset Hill FCO)
Mr Kevin Hard (Parryville FCO)
Mr Lee Shelley (VFRS Captain)
Mr Paul Harbron (VFRS)
Mr Neville Brass (Nornalup FCO)
Mr Simon Coppock (William Bay FCO)
Mr Craig Hughes (Carmarthen FCO)
Mr Carl Wesley (Mt Shadforth FCO)
Mr Paul Moncrief (Mehniup FCO)
Mr William Miller (East Denmark FCO)

MEMBERS: (*Non-Voting*)

Mr Wes Bailye (DFES Area Officer)
Mr Paul Ashton (Australian Bluegum Plantations)

STAFF: (*Non-Voting*)

Mr Lee Shelley (Acting Community Emergency Services Manager)
Please note: Mr Shelley is also noted above as a voting member in his capacity as the FCO for the Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS).
Ms Melanie Haymont (Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator)
Ms Renee Wiggins (Acting Manager of Community Services)
Mrs Charmaine Shelley (Senior Ranger)

VISITORS:

Cr Roger Seeney (Deputy Council Delegate)
Mr Richard Stanley (Denmark Support)
Mr Ian Thompson (Harewood Bushfire Brigade (incoming FCO))
Francis Amess (Parryville (incoming Captain))
Cr Geoff Bowley (Denmark Shire Councillor)

APOLOGIES:

Mr Alex Williams (Hazelvale FCO)
Mr Brian Vigus (Tingledale FCO)
Mr Adrian Kranendonk (Fire Weather Officer)
Mr Lez Baines (CBFCO)
Mr Bryce Edwards (DCBFCO)
Mr Mike Hills (Harewood FCO)
MS Nikki Rouse (DBCA)

ABSENT:

Nil

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Nil

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING

Councillor Mark Allen thanked BFAC for last year's contribution and looked forward to working the committee this year

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING – 22 APRIL 2020

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION	ITEM 4.1
MOVED: CRAIG LILLEY	SECONDED: CRAIG HUGHES
That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held on the 22 nd April 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.	
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY	

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Wes Bailye reported:

Working towards more prescriptions to burn later this year

Albany RUI cancelled due to poor weather, rescheduled for October 2021

Proposed RUI for Denmark September 2021 TBA

Can brigades please send updated committee details to CESM ASAP

Some Brigades have not fully used their fuel vouchers, used to completed by June 30

Steve York A/O has resigned from DFES

Please check for updated circulars on the DFES Hub

5.2 DEPARTMENT OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION & ATTRACTIONS

Nil

5.3 AUSTRALIAN BLUEGUM PLANTATIONS

Quite time now that harvesting has been completed, now focusing on establishment and vehicle maintenance.

5.4 CHIEF BUSHFIRE CONTROL OFFICER

Not too much to report from the last 3 months. As I would have been mentioned at the AGM, Bryce is stepping down as Deputy Chief. Also, Kevin Hard and Mike Hills are stepping down as FCO's this next year.

Welcome to our new Fire 3 and Ian Thompson who has been nominated as the new Harewood FCO. Scotsdale will not be having a FCO and Carl (Mt Shad FCO) is going to issue permits required for Scotsdale area in the next season. Parryville have not elected an FCO this year to enable their Captain and crews to gain more training and qualifications over the next 12 months, likewise Peaceful Bay also have a Captain only.

Also, a reminder that should I receive a triple 000 call for a Structural Fire then I will automatically request VFRS to be turned out as primary agents due to their specialised structural training. This means that the Incident will be controlled by VFRS and that they are responsible for the tasking of BFB crews who are in attendance. No action is to be undertaken by BFB's unless a request or permission is given by the VFRS Officer in Charge. will state this more clearly by handing over the responsibility to VFRS over the radio to clarify the Command Structure of the Incident.

Moving forward I am encouraging Brigade training including multiple Brigades training together in the next year. I will also be conducting Skills Refresher Training pre-season to ensure our safety and to ensure that we are ready for the summer period.

5.5 ACTING COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES MANAGER

Mr Lee Shelley provided the following report to the committee:

Preparedness

- Thank you to the outgoing BFB Leadership members for your dedication and commitment during the past year and congratulations to the new members.
- Most of the PPC and PPE on order has arrived, if you have members still waiting on some items, please let me know. During the winter months can FCO's and Captains start a PPE order for their members so that we can get an early start to next year and I can place one large order as there can be long lead times for delivery of some items.
- Most brigades have held their AGM's, please send updated Brigade committee contact details and AGM minutes through to me as soon as they are finalised.
- LG BFB Monthly Report Membership details, please amend your BFB membership lists to reflect current members, The CBFCO and myself are happy to come out and go through the process with you.
- A Bushfire Ready Group facilitators and coordinators sundowner was held.
- at the Shire offices on 21st May 2021 a good number attended and positive feedback received.
- Hazard Reduction Burn the Water Corp Burn did not go ahead as the conditions were not favourable.

Training

- Volunteer Hub and Eacademy. There is increasingly more course availability, all volunteers are encouraged to access the Hub and Eacademy to assist in their access to information and training.
- With the winter months approaching would encourage brigades to keep up regular training where possible

Response

- There have been no major incidents recorded in the shire of Denmark during the last reporting period

5.6 BUSHFIRE RISK PLANNING COORDINATOR

Melanie Haymont reported:

The shire of Denmark submitted an application for funding to the Mitigation Activities Fund (MAF) to complete 81 treatments during the 21/22 financial year at a cost of \$497900K, we will be advised of the result of this application by mid-July.

It is proposed that there will be meeting of the mitigation working group on the 20th of July to discuss the bushfire mitigation Plan for the upcoming year. Once that process is finalised, we will send the program out through the Shires Request for Quote process (RFQ).

On the 26th of May we held a meeting with Noongar elders on the Wilson inlet below the Cove to discuss the principles of Cultural burning and the potential to integrate these practices on our reserves particularly in areas with substantial fuel loads and high risk to the community. The meeting was well attended by Minang Elders from Albany, Shire Staff, Denmark Bushfire volunteers and UWA staff. It was agreed to collaborate to carry out a burn over a small section of the foreshore when the weather allows.

Our sustainability officer has carried out an environmental impact assessment to advise this process.

A presentation on the "Bushfire Resilience in the Great Southern" (BRIGS) Project was given at the combined Ocean Beach & Scottsdale/Mt Shadforth training on the 5th of June. This project aims to advise evacuation planning Risk assessment and Bushfire

Mitigation planning within the Shire. If any other brigades would like a presentation, please contact Mel Haymont

5.7 FIRE COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Will Miller reported:

Compliance was better this year with more people requesting information and actively trying to reduce their risk

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

VOLUNTEER INSURANCE

Question on notice:

Mike Hills Harewood FCO requested further information on pre-existing medical conditions and legal support if needed around and incident.

RESPONSE: Further information is available from the Shire of Denmark HR department upon individual request on a case-by-case basis.

FIRE MANAGEMENT NOTE 2021/22

A subcommittee of Mike Hills, Lez Baines, Nigel Marsh, CESM, Senior Ranger, Renee Wiggins, Mark Allen met and finalised the Fire Management Notice (FMN). Please see attached the revised DRAFT Fire Management Notice (FMN), The FMN will be sent out with the 2021/22 Rates Notice

IS IT POSSIBLE TO COMPEL RURAL LAND HOLDERS TO HAVE FIRE UNITS ON THEIR PROPERTY:

Some wheatbelt shires have minimum water requirements around harvesting machinery.

LGGS SHED AND VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

Carmarthen BFB has been listed for renewal; the Shire is going through the process of obtaining a suitable site. No new vehicle builds for Denmark are currently underway for this financial year.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

- Request for precise BFB Boundaries to be circulated to all brigades.
- Will Miller thanked Somerset Hill and Harewood Brigades for assisting SES with a flooding incident.
- Richard Stanley - implored all members to get the Covid 19 vaccination.
- Paul Moncrief - asked about new fire signage.
Response: Shire is conducting a sign audit and will review once completed
- Simon Coppock – FMN FAQ/s.
Response: will be sent out to FCO's and Captains for input
- Roger Seeney suggested a brief of incidents be incorporated into the agenda
Response: This will be actioned
- Application for Sid Marshall's 60 yr. service medal has been made to DFES. And a token of appreciation from the Shire will be presented to Barbara Marshall at a time to be confirmed with Adrian Kranendonk
- Shane Howlet - Request brigades familiarise themselves with Eacademy and courses where appropriate and maintain training.
- Lee Shelley- requested for ideas and suggestions input from the committee to make meetings more engaging and to tap into the vast experience and knowledge of its members.

8 NEXT MEETING

It is recommended that the next meeting of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee be held on 2th September 2021 at the Shire of Denmark Reception Room commencing at 6.30pm.

9 CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business to discuss the Presiding Person closed the meeting at 7.33pm.

These minutes were confirmed at the meeting of the

Signed: _____

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