

1 PRESENT

Cr E Sudlow	President	Northampton Ward
Cr R Horstman	Deputy President	Northampton Ward
Cr S Stock-Standen		Northampton Ward
Cr T Hay		Northampton Ward
Cr D Pike		Kalbarri Ward
Cr R Burges		Kalbarri Ward
Cr T Gibb		Kalbarri Ward
Cr P Stewart		Kalbarri Ward
Mr G L Keeffe		Chief Executive Officer

2 APOLOGIES

Cr R Suckling	Northampton Ward
---------------	------------------

3 OPENING OF MEETING

The President, Cr Sudlow, declared the meeting open at 1.38pm.

4 QUESTION TIME

Being a special meeting and held by electronic means there was no questions put to Council.

5 NORTHAMPTON OVAL REFURBISHMENT – WAFL FIXTURE

Cr Sudlow thanked all Councillors in attendance at such short notice and advised that the reason for the Special Meeting is for Council to determine if it is to expend funds to upgrade the Northampton oval to allow for a Western Australian Football League fixture to be held at Northampton on 30 April 2022.

For the fixture to occur the oval in its current condition is not suitable and requires the removal of the concrete cricket pitch, removal of a large section of grass in the central oval area to level the surface then re-grass this area and top dress the oval. It was initially thought that when this proposal was being considered that there would be no cost to the Council as costs would be covered from the AFL RAMS Supporters Group, the WA Football Commission and the East Fremantle Football Club, however this is now not the case.

The State Government has provided funding of \$100,000 to cover travel, accommodation and other costs for the two clubs who will play the fixture, being East Fremantle and Swan Districts.

Whilst the clubs are in the area they will undertake football clinics at schools and clubs with the region and Northampton.

The fixture will involve a league and a women's WAFL game.

The cost to refurbish the oval from a quote supplied is \$54,080. In addition to this cost the Council will also be required to re-instate the cricket pitch, no cost for these works are available however have been requested.

Reason for the urgent Special Meeting today is that this evening the East Fremantle Football Club will be making a final decision if the fixture is to proceed at Northampton or be relocated to a Geraldton oval and is dependant if the Northampton oval refurbishment is to proceed. In addition for the oval refurbishment to occur, the contractor to undertake the works needs to be advised on Friday 28th January 2022 to commence the required works to ensure the oval is ready for the 30 April 2022.

The CEO provided the following additional requirements for the fixture:

Possibility of the need to employ a person by Council to help with organising of event in liaison with the WA Football Commission, Great Northern Football League, Northampton Football Club and the East Fremantle Football Club, however this will be minimal due to short time period that person is required for.

There will be a requirement for additional toilets, engagement of security personnel, raised coaches' boxes, scissor lift for WAFL cameraman, 6 x 3m marquee for umpires. The organising committee is responsible for these costs which will be covered by ticket sales to the game.

Management of car parking and crowd placement/control.

CEO also advised that the new RAM Shed will not have commenced construction by this date and therefore the existing concrete pad can be used for additional food/drink areas, seating etc.

Benefits from the event to the Shire and Community:

- Good promotion of the Shire and the Northampton town
- Bring an economical benefit from visitors to the town for the event
- Catalyst for other possible large scale events
- All ticket sales go to the organising committee, which in this case be the Northampton Football Club and other local organisations that the club may use
- A refurbished playing surface to the oval
- New to standard goal and point posts

Risks associated with this proposal are:

- Game could still be cancelled due to playing surface not achieving the required standard for the game
- COVID pandemic could affect the conducting of the game

CEO reported that the WA Football Commission has now confirmed that part of the \$35,000 that the AFL RAMS Supporters Group have contributed to the fixture, \$10,000 of that contribution will now be provided to the Council to assist with the oval upgrade and they are also endeavoring to source other funding to assist the Council.

The CEO therefore recommended to Council that based on the discussions on the matter and advice provided and that the Council was in favour to have this WAFL fixture in Northampton that Council resolve to progress with the oval refurbishment at an estimated cost of \$54,080 and authorise funding of an estimated \$44,000 to undertake the refurbishment works and advise the WA Football Commission accordingly.

This expenditure will need to be declared as authorised expenditure and to be carried by an absolute majority.

Moved Cr BURGES seconded CR STOCK-STANDEN

That Council approve the expenditure, estimated \$44,000, to refurbish the playing surface of the Northampton Oval to allow for a WA Football League fixture to be played on the oval on the 30 April 2022 and continue to seek other funding to assist towards this cost.

CARRIED BY AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 8/0

6 CLOSURE

There being no further business for discussion, the President thanked those members present for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 2.05pm.

THESE MINUTES CONSISTING OF PAGES 1 TO 3 WERE CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD ON FRIDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2022

PRESIDING MEMBER: _____

DATE: _____
