13th .JULY , 1920.

Minutes of the ORDINARY MEETING of the COUNCIL OF THE Shire of KORONG held at the SHIRE HALL , WEDDERBURN on TUESDAY the 13th .JULY 1920 , at 11 a.m.

PRESENT :- Crs. Kiniry (President) White , Chalmers , Andrews , Thomas , Hendry O'Brien , Kelly and Howe .

MINUTES of the previous meeting were read and confirmed on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Kelly.

CORRESPONDENCE.

1—Aviation Limited, re the Wedderburn racecourse as a suitable landing ground for aeroplanes, stating that one of their experts will make an inspection at a later date—

2—From Blind Institute acknowledging with thanks receipt of £50, and intimating that the donation enables the board to offer the shire President a Life Governorship. The board invites members of the council and their friend to visit the Institution when in Melbourne—

3—From Taxpayers' Association, inviting council to send a delegate to a conference of bodies protesting against the Salary Grab—

4—From Health Committee, submitting copies of regulations relating to prevention of diphtheria—

5—From French National Day Society, bringing under notice the claims of the day and asking support—

6—From Closer Settlement Board, intimating that the Government desires that purchases of land under section 20 be limited—

7—From head teacher S. S., Arnold, reporting a case of measles in that school—

8—From Constable Ford, resigning the position of Inspector at Korong Vale, owing to transfer, and intimating that Constable D. Mackay had been appointed at Korong Vale—

9—From State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, forwarding copy of letter sent to the Trust engineer, advising that the Commission, on the strong recommendation of the engineer, would not insist on additions to the present puddle wall at reservoir—

10—From Railway Commissioners, authorising council to extend the dam at Mysia as shown on plan submitted—

11—From W. A. Shelton, requesting permission to cut down and clear away all dry trees close to fence around his property at Berrimal—

12—From Country Roads Board, requesting estimates of requirements for the maintenance of main roads in the Shire for 1920-21—

13—From Health Department approving of the appointments of Drs Taylor and Rennick as Health officers for the Central and North Ridings respectively—

14—From Felix McLinden requesting repairs to the main road from Salisbury State School to the finger post near Sandy Creek—

1. Received.

2. On the motion of Crs White and Thomas it was resolved to nominate the President Cr. Kiniry for a Life Governorship .

3. Received.

4. Left in the hands of the Secretary to ascertain if the Health Officers have been supplied with copies of the regulations.

5. Received.

6. Received.

7. Received.

8. On them motion of Crs. Kiniry and Hendry the resignation was accepted and it was resolved to invite Const.Mackay to accept the position.

9. Received. The Engineer was instructed to keep the bank under close observation when the reservoir is nearly full.

10. Received.

11. On the motion of Crs White and Hendry it was resolved to advise Mr .Shelton that the Council will offer no objection providing the stumps are removed to the satisfaction of the Shire Engineer.

12. It was resolved to recommend that the undermentioned amounts be provided . Borung Hurstwood Rd.£220 -- Bendigo-Charlton Rd.£443. Serpentine Rd.£300--Total £963

Motion of Crs O'Brien and Howe.

13. Received.

14. Referred to the Shire Engineer.

15. W. CRISP requesting an increase in wages , owing to increased cost of living.

It was resolved on the motion of Crs White and Hendry to pay the applicant the rate set out by the municipal award.

16. Forests Commission of Victoria.- giving particulars of trees which can be supplied and of the prices of same.

ENGINEER' S REPORT.

NORTH RIDING.

1—Re J M Castleman's contract N 19, formation and metal between Laidlaw and Speer on the Borung-Wdddderburn road. I have inspected this work, and find that it is not up to specifications, formation and metal each are 2 feet too narrow

CENTRAL RIDING

2—Metalling on the Korong Vale-Kinypaniel road near the R.C. Church, Korong Vale, 9 chains Specifications prepared, and tenders called for the work.

3—Township of Korong Vale, north side of Vernon street, 20 chains of side drains and two check banks required; Gibson street, 10 chains of side drains required. Cost £12

4—Metalling on the Richmond Plains road between Gould and Turnbull. Specifications prepared and tenders called for work

5—Road from Wedderburn Junction to Wedderburn-Inglewood road requires maintenance gravel spread near O Gray's

6—Main road from Wedderburn to to Glenalbyn rebuires maintenance metal and gravel spread and side drains cleaned out—£50

7—I have inspected road known as the South Nine Mile road near Snake Hill. At places the water is scouring the centre of the road, and it will be necessary to cut about 30 chains of side drains and construct check banks. Cost £15

8—St Arnaud road from Camp Hill to Green's. I have inspected this portion of road, which is in very bad condition. The formation has worn through, and in wet weather it is a very dirty piece of road. Owing to the heavy traffic, this road will require a new metal formation, therefore I recommend that 16 chains of metalling be done

9—St Arnaud road, between Pound dam and Galloway I have inspected this road, During wet weathee it is bad, the surface being of red clay and 1in in 27 is the grade of the steepest part, the sideling slope 1 in 18. I understand that a report was called for on this road, and a plan was prepared for r grading the hill. Before commencing any road work it will be necessary to first consider the question of regrading. To carry out the werk proposed will mean the expenditure of L350

10—Road running south from Wedderburn Junction railway station. I have inspected this road, and it is in fair condition. Near the Junction with the Inglewood-Wedderburn Road the traffic is light, and such as not to justify the laying down of any new formation.

SOUTH RIDING

11—Main road between Glenalbyn and Bridgewater requires maintenance metal and gravel spread and side drains cleaning out, L60.

12—Kurting-Scott Road requires repairs to existing gravel formation between Harrison's Bridge and Kurting. L20.

13—I have inspected the road known as Kelly's Lane, running south from main Wedderburn-Inglewood Road. This road requires 21 chains of side drains cut and the filling of a a scour. L6.

14—Road running west from Harrion's Bridge, Kurting to Adam's entrance gate. I recommend that a strip of clearing and grubbing be done near the bridge ½ chain wide by 10 chains long. L3.

15—Re the necessity of cutting down the hill near J Cornish, Brenanab. The hill in question carries very little traffic; in fact, at the bottom of the hill, the road is closed, therefore I consider the traffic does not warrant the expenditure.

1. On the motion of Crs Chalmers and Thomas it was resolved to withold payment of the unpaid balance and to give the Contractor till 30th.August to complete the work to the satisfaction of the Engineer , failing this contract to be determined and deposit forfeited

2. Received.

3. On the motion of Crs Kiniry and White it was resolved to call tenders for the work.

4. Received.

5. On the motion of Crs White and Hendry it was resolved to call tenders returnable in 14 days

6. On the motion of Crs Kelly and Howe it was resolvedthat the work be done.

7. On the motion of Crs.White and Hendry it was resolved that the work be done.

8. Cr.Hendry moved that the work be done . Cr.White seconded . On the motion being put the voting showed For the motion 4 - Against 5. The motion was lost.

9. HELD OVER.

10. Received.

11. On the motion of Crs Howe and Kelly it was resolved to call tenders for the side drains and to ~~call tenders for the~~ have the remainder of the work carried out by day labor.

12. On the motion of Crs Kelly and Howe thewas Engineer was authorised to have the work done.

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14. On the motion of Crs Kelly and Howe the ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Engineer was authorised to have the work done.

15. The report was received , and the Secretary was instructed to send a copy of the report to Mr.Cornish.

13 JUL 1920

SECRETARY' S REPORT.

month of June—Rates, current, £2586/14/6; arrears, £18/16/9; interest, 16/4; pan fees, Wedderburn, £53/13/; do., Korong Vale, £5/7/6; engineer's commission from Country Roads Board, £26/11/9; half cost of telephone installation at Korong Vale Hospital from Health Department, £1/14/5; rate certificate, 1/; paid to bank, £2693/15/3; credit bank balance, as per pass-book £2748/0/5; less outstanding cheques, £6/6/— £2741/14/5; add cheques issued, £289/13/7, balance as per cash book, £3031/8/.

Financial position of ridings.—North, credit, £1159/8/1; Central, debit, £28/6/1; South, credit £1859/ trust account, £41/5/4.

Rates Outstanding.—Current rate uncollected, £724/0/4; arrears rates, uncollected, £93/18/5; total, £817/ 19/.

Water Account.—Receipts for April, May, June—Wedderburn, current rate, £108/10/; arrears, £12; interest, 5/; water from hand pipe, 4/. Korong Vale—Current rate, £45/2/; arrears, £11/10/9; interest, 7/6; meter installations, £22/3/5; interest, £2; charges for excess water, £7/ 15/. Total, £209/17/8. Bank account, debit balance, £944/6/1. Reservoir works, cost to date, £1153/ 0/4.

Wire Netting Account.—Receipts for half-year ending 30th June—Instalments, £112/8/6; interest, £16/ 12/8; total, £129/1/2. Since last meeting £150/14/9 has been paid to the Public Works Department for instalments and interest due at 30th June. This will leave the wire netting account with an overdraft of £46/12/—Secretary's report received and adopted.

FINANCE .

On the mtion of Crs Thomas and Howe , accounts amounting to

£578:10:1 on the General a%c of the Shire.

£150:14:9 on the Wire Netting a/c " "

£65:10:3 " Country Roads Bd. a/c of the shire

£50:10:3 on the water account ------ were passed for pa

TENDERS.

Contract No.94 -17 chains of metalling on the Richmond Plains

Turnbull and Gould .

On the motion of Crs.White and Hendry it was resolved to acc

of Thomas Waters at £158:17:8

Contract No.95 -- 9 chains of metalling on the E.& W. Rd. fro

to Korong Vale near the R.C.Church .

Only one tender was received and it was resolved on the motion

and White to invite fresh tenders returnable within 14 days

ORDINARY BUSINESS.

3 Chain Rd. Running North from Thompson Bros. On the motion o

and White it was resolved to call tenders for 80 chains of c

grubbing on the above road .

GRAVEL RESERVE BORUNG . The Lands Department having notified t

desired was for temporary reservation as a gravel reserve ,

was instructed to again communicate with the Lands Dept. and p

the Council proposed to build a tramway into the reserve and d

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WAR TROPHY for WEDDERBURN. The public meeting called for the pu

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and also that Wedderburn, the center of the Shire , claimed the

Australian V.C. winner . On the motion of Crs White and Thomas

olved to bring these facts under the notice of the War Trophies

and to request that a Field Gun be alotted to Wedderburn.

Re-Division of Korong Shire.

:o:

PROPOSAL DEFEATED.

In moving that the committee appointed some time ago, with the officers, draw up a scheme for a re-adjustment of the Ridings, Cr Kiniry (president), stated at Tuesday's meeting of the Korong Shire Council that this was a matter that had been considered previously, and one he had often heard discussed when moving about the shire. Action previously had been delayed owing to the fact that a re-valuation was contemplated, and now that this had been completed he thought it was time to move, and to give the ratepayers, if they wanted it, something to go upon. While the request must come from the ratepayers in the form of a petition they, as councillors, should be able to give them a lead if it was thought advisable. The original disposition of the shire had been altered by the formation of the Charlton and Gordon shires, and consequently it was not as satisfactory now as it was then. The South Riding extended as far north as Borung, and the Central as far south as Logan, consequently they were wrongly named. He considered that they should draw the lines from east to west, and apportion as equally as possible roads on which there was heavy traffic and which led to the railway stations. He did not wish to go into the whole matter, but considered it would be wise to have a plan prepared if action was wanted. He had been coming to the council for some time and spending several hours each day in discussing semi-public matters which did not directly concern ratepayers, and thought that anything directly affecting them should receive attention.

Cr White seconded the motion, but stated that, in view of the fact that a committee had been appointed some time before, it was their duty to report to the council without any further instruction. The Ridings were very ill-balanced, and he had felt very sore on the point for a long time. Anything that could be done to equalise matters would be to the advantage of the shire.

Cr Andrews stated that, as one of the committee appointed, he had made enquiries among ratepayers. All he had spoken to were against it. Even in Korong Vale they said they did not want any change, while in the North Riding, almost to a man, they were against it.

Cr O'Brien, also a member of the committee, said this was the prevailing opinion. There seemed to be no outside desire for it among ratepayers. Probably they had arrived at the decision that the Ridings were fairly well divided as they were. When he had first entered the council it had struck him that they might be improved, but the more he had looked at the plan the more he believed that the division was a fair one, and he complimented the men who had been responsible. He thought they would have great difficulty in making a better arrangement. Community of interest was one of the first essentials to be considered. Where did Wedderburn suffer from the traffic of other Ridings? Proceeding, Cr O'Brien pointed out that the valuation of the South Riding was L27,000, and it contained 449 square miles, out of which 92 were Crown land and consequently non-productive. The Central Riding had only 25 miles of Crown lands, so with a re-division it would have to take its share. The South Riding had 605 miles of roads, the Central 497, and the North 330. The proportion of Country Roads Board was 35, 17 and 10 miles respectively. There were 20½ miles of railway in the South Riding, 16¾ in the Central and 17¼ in the North. The valuation of the South Riding was L38,000, of the Central L32,000, and of the North L27,000. In any new division he considered that the South Riding would be the Cinderella of the shire because of the enormous area of Crown lands given it, and the roads it would have to maintain. A little increase in valuation would be no compensation. The financial position of the Central Riding could not be made any better in a fair distribution—it would have to take its proportion of Crown lands. Community of interest must be considered, and the districts served by Wedderburn should be placed in the Central Riding.

The president: It is not a case of community of interest from a business point of view—only from a road standpoint.

Cr O'Brien continued with a lengthy comparison of the burden carried by the South Riding as compared with the other two, and pointed out that owing to various causes—the preparation of the new plans, re-valuation, and war and influenza expenditure—any fresh undertaking should be delayed until matters were put properly in order.

The president: He did not intend it to be done at once, but thought the officers should do it at their leisure.

Cr White: What about the provision of a fourth riding?

The president: That, he would leave to the committee and officers, together, with the suggestion that the shire be converted into a single riding.

Cr Hendry stated that while he believed that there could be a more equitable adjustment, he agreed that they should hold the proposal over until shire affairs became properly settled.

The motion was lost, only the president and Crs White and Hendry voting for.

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GRAVEL RESERVE BORUNG . The Lands Department having notified that the survey desired was for temporary reservation as a gravel reserve , the Secretary was instructed to again communicate with the Lands Dept. and point out that the Council proposed to build a tramway into the reserve and desired some title to the area.

WAR TROPHY for WEDDERBURN. The public meeting called for the purpose having requested the Council to take steps to endeavor to obtain a Field Gun , Cr.White brought under notice that the Shire had a population of over 6000-- and also that Wedderburn, the center of the Shire , claimed the first Australian V.C. winner . On the motion of Crs White and Thomas it was resolved to bring these facts under the notice of the War Trophies Committee and to request that a Field Gun be alotted to Wedderburn.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

MOTION TO MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION - FOREST REVENUE . On the motion of Crs White seconded by Cr.Thomas it was resolved to submit to the Muncipal Assn . a motion to be placed on the Agenda Paper at the next conference as under :-

" That the Government be urged to make provision for the great hardship inflicted on many country municipalities , owing to heavy wood traffic from forest areas , by adopting scheme outlined by the deputation of country shires which waited on the Hon. the Premier in March , 1919.

Note :- At a conference of many Shires it was decided to wait on the Hon . Premier and urge that the Railway Dept. pay to every shire 6d. per ton for every ton trucked from within the Shire , to be paid out of the already large revenue derived from timber or by increasing the railway charge 6d. per ton.

WIDTH OF TYRES ACT. Cr.Andrews brought under the notice of the Council the advisability of some amendment that would allow a larger amount to be carried to the inch of bearing surface than on the narrower tyres. This he claimed would encourage the use of wider tyres .

After discussion Cr.Andrews was requested and agreed to daft a motion for submission to the Municipal Assn.

FLOATING ARM , WEDDERBURN RESERVOIR. It was resolved to accept delivery of same and that the account be paid.

ENGINEER'S COMMISSION -WATER LOAN WORKS . The a/c rendered by A.J.E.Gourlay the trust Engineer was held over for further consideration.

RETURNING OFFICERS for ensuing year. CRS. Thomas , Kiniry and O'Brien were appointed returning officers on the motion of Crs Kelly and Howe.

REVISION COURT. On the mtion of Crs O'Brien and White it was resolved to hold a court for revising the voters' lists at the Shire Hall , Wedderburn on Saturday the 24th.July at 12 noon

SPEER & LEECH ROAD. On the motion of Crs Andrews and Thomas it was resolved to call tenders for 40 chains of formation on thw E.&.W. Rd. between Spear and Leech - Borung.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ENGINEER.

CR.KINIRY. Inspect and report on the 3 chain road east from Korong Vale to Kinypaniel.
Inspect the road along the Charlton Rly.Line near H.Neals - Woolshed Flat.

CR.THOMAS :- Inspect and report on the necessary work on the 3 chain rd. between G.Hampson and L. Hurley from the East corner of Hurleys for about 20 chains West. Parish of Buckrabanyule.

JULY 13th. 1920.

MOTIONS UNDER NOTICE.

CR.KIniry mover " That the committee ap ointed for the purpose , with the officers of the Council , draw up a scheme to present to the Council with a view to a re-adjustment of the ridings bounadries of the Shire.

Cr.White secodded the motion . Cr.Hendry supported .

Crs O'brien and ~~XXXXXX~~ Andrews spoke against the motion .

Voting :- For the motion 3 . Against the motion 6.

The motion was lost .

The motion of which notice had been given by Cr.Hendry that a committee be appointed to report on the practicability and approximate cost of removing the Shire Hall to the new site recently purchased by the Shire,

WAS WITHDRAWN.

On the motion of Crs O'Brien and Kelly the Secretary was authorised to place at fixed deposit in the Bank of A/sia or in the Savings Banks the portion of the credit balance at the bank not required for working expenses.

Confirmed:-

10-8-20

H M O'Brien