



BRRAG

Belmont Resident and Ratepayer Action Group Inc.

“To provide an effective voice for the people of Belmont”

4th May 2019

The Mayor
City of Belmont
Belmont WA 6104

Dear Mayor Marks

One of our members Janet Gee, sent an email to all councillors on 15th April (attached), prior to the last council meeting in regards to the minutes of the previous meeting. It indicated her belief, that the minutes you would have to pass as true and correct were not. At the council meeting on the 16th April, she asked again in Public Question Time. The CEO responded “Officers have listened to the recording of Public Question Time and transcribed what was said.”

Ms Gee has subsequently asked to listen to the recorded minutes. This had to be done under Freedom of Information according to staff and subsequently she had to pay \$30. It also takes up to 45 days to obtain such information.

As you are aware, there has been a number of complaints from members of the public, regarding what they believe were inaccuracies in the minutes relating the Public Question Time. Late last year this was acknowledged by the Council when they voted to support only the recording of Public Question Time.

As a result of the past issues with the minutes, given some of our members attend meetings with questions, BRRAG would like to request from you, as Presiding Member, permission to record Public Question Time in the future. We would be happy to have supervision of council when switching the recording on and off after this item is finished. They will not be used on our website. Section 6.11 of the Standing Orders reads as follows:

Recording of proceedings (1) A person must not use any electronic, visual or audio recording device or instrument to record the proceedings of the Council without the permission of the Presiding Member or by a decision of the Council.

On a personal level, I also requested a copy of the Employment Contracts of the CEO and the Director of Statutory and Community Services, in accordance with the Act. On the basis of the response I got when I attended the City of Belmont, as to what I would be able to have access to, I have taken the liberty of making further enquiries on it. I have viewed correspondence from a CEO to a Ratepayer from another locality, who sought clarification on what could be given. The response from the CEO stated “WALGA and the Department of Local Government have advised that the employment contract can be given to the public minus personal details.” It also stated it was not charged under FOI

I have taken the matter of the Employment Contracts to BRRAG, who have supported my personal

request to obtain them. As the request was made on the 30th April and only personal details have to be removed, it would not be unreasonable to request that this is available by the 7th May. It would be appreciated if you could assist by ensuring staff get this to me by the 7th May.

Please be advised this letter will be made available to the Residents of Belmont on the BRRAG website.

Kindest regards

Lisa Hollands
Chairperson BRRAG