

PRESENT: Cr Anne-Louise Capel, Matty White, Jill White, Jenny Auld, Sal Edwards, Peter Gilmore, Margaret Vale, Quinton Hutchinson, Leonie Hutchinson, Randolph Rindfleish, Noel Gilbert, Peter Manning, Sally Staniforth, Steve Billett, Richard Tanner, Ted Miller, Carol Richard, Ron Gilles, Roger Bailey (General Manager), Leeanne Ryan (Director Development Services), Kevin Tighe (Director Technical Services), Louise Johnson (Acting Director Corporate and Community Services), Liz Webster (Minutes)

APOLOGIES: Cr Kodi Brady, Cr Ambrose Doolan, Cr Aniello Iannuzzi, Cathy Rindfleish.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

General Manager, Roger Bailey, introduced himself and provided an overview of the purpose of the meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Community Consultation Meeting held in Coolah on Monday, 30 October 2017, were discussed.

BUSINESS ARISING

No Business Arising

COUNCIL PROJECT UPDATES

Stronger Country Communities Fund

Acting Director Corporate and Community Services (ADCCS), Louise Johnson, provided an overview of the Stronger Country Communities Fund – Round Two. Various projects were discussed.

Project suggestions were discussed. ADCCS, Louise Johnson, suggested people contact Community Development Coordinator, Sal Edwards, for assistance if required.

COMMUNITY MATTERS OF INTEREST / CONCERN

Main Street Cleaning

Council was advised that birds are nesting in the trees along the main street. It was requested that Council inspect the footpaths and clean up the droppings.

Rural Fire Service – Equipment

Concerns were raised regarding equipment not being upgraded by the Rural Fire Service.

Water Leak / Main Break

Attendees advised Council that there appears to be a major leak / main break in Yule Street. The issue has been reported to the office. Council advised they would follow this up.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Stronger Country Communities Fund

A presentation was made to the meeting on behalf of the Bowen Oval Committee regarding their intention to apply for funding in Round Two of the Stronger Country Communities Fund. The proposal is for new lighting. It was noted that the application has the support of all the user groups as well as the Bowen Oval Committee.

Main Street Replacement Trees

An enquiry was made regarding the replacement of trees in the main street. Director Technical Services (DTS), Kevin Tighe, advised the meeting there were four (4) locations for the trees to be planted. The meeting discussed what variety should be planted with Council to investigate further.

Footpath Maintenance

Council was advised that a leak had been fixed in Binnia Street opposite the bus stop approximately four (4) weeks ago but had not been filled in as yet. It was requested that the holed be filled.

Street Trees

Concerns were raised regarding Kurrajong trees lifting the footpaths in Coolah. Areas noted were Goddard Street in front of NRMA as well as in front of the Bowling Club and old nursery. The meeting also discussed other street trees causing damage to various footpaths as well as low overhanging branches. Further it was noted that Essential Energy had contracted out it tree trimming and it had not been completed properly. Council advised that it has no control or input to these works

Coolah Tops – Road

The meeting was advised that the road to Coolah Tops was in need of maintenance with large rocks causing damage to vehicles. The NRMA advised that they are considering limiting their service provision to that area due to increased risks. The meeting was advised that the road is the responsibility of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Parking – Long Vehicles

Residents indicated that requests have been made previously for signage as to where long vehicles can park in Coolah. Suggestions were made for various locations close the main shopping / business area of Coolah. It was indicated that signs could direct long vehicles to an off street then back to he highway.

Water Quality

Meeting discussed the water quality in Coolah. DTS, Kevin Tighe, assured the meeting the water was safe to drink and monitored. Meeting also discussed the pressure issue in certain parts of town. It was noted since Council had been informed of a leak at the meeting in Yule Street this may be the cause of the loss in pressure. Council will investigate. Members of the community were requested to follow up with Council if the pressure issue is not resolved.

Skip Bins

A question was raised in regards to the return of the skip bins to the Waste Transfer Stations. The meeting was advised that the skip bins will be returning shortly. The contactor is awaiting the manufacture of bins which will be fit for purpose.

Internet

The meeting was advised about an online survey regarding the provision of better internet services for rural and regional Australia. People were encouraged to complete the survey.

Recycling

Questions were asked about the Container Deposit Scheme, including whether or not there is the possibility of having a place to return containers in Coolah. The meeting was advised that currently, people can return containers in Coonabarabran and Dunedoo. Council is looking at expanding the program with the potential for Coolah to be a site in the future.

Rural Fire Service – Community Input

Concerns were raised by a resident regarding a perception of a lack of community input in to the Rural Fire Service and their operations, and a lack of recognition of local volunteers.

Roads

Concerns were raised regarding current road works being completed and the potential impact on other roads in the Shire. DTS, Kevin Tighe, advised the meeting that there is a process in place for monitoring roads in the Shire, including in regarding to weight and size limits of trucks. Attendees were asked that if they were aware of any issues to contact Council in the first instance.

Supplementary Bore

A question was raised regarding the supplementary bore and if the water had been tested and is suitable for consumption. DTS, Kevin Tighe, advised the meeting it had been tested and was suitable for human consumption. Council is currently still waiting for the Bore Licence to be approved. It was also explained the site was chosen by a hydro-geologist as the most suitable location. The bore, once approved, would be tested regularly to ensure the water quality is sufficient.

Wind Farm

A question was asked about the wind farm development and Council's role in the Community Enhancement Fund. Director Development Services, Leeanne Ryan, advised that the Community Enhancement Fund will be implemented under and Voluntary Partnership Agreement with the Community Consultation Committee and will be a Section 355 Committee. Attendees were advised that if this process is implemented, members of the community would be able to propose projects to the Committee.

General Manager

Members of the Coolah community welcomed new General Manager, Roger Bailey.

MEETING CLOSED: 6:55pm
