

PRESENT: Cllr Anne-Louise Capel, Noel Gilbert, Richard Tanner, Kathy Rindfleish, Leonie Hutchinson, Quinton Hutchinson, Michael White, Cllr Kodi Brady, Jill White, Sal Edwards, Rith Withers, Elly Cook, Adam Burgess, Kate Burgess, Margaret Vale, Ernie Fetch, Cllr Ambrose Doolan, Mick McLeod, Ted Miller, Leeanne Ryan (A/General Manager), Kevin Tighe (Director Technical Services), Aileen Bell (A/Director Development Services), Michael Jones (A/Director Corporate and Community Services), Louise Johnson (Manager Children's and Community Services).

CHAIR: Leeanne Ryan, A/General Manager

APOLOGIES: Cllr Peter Shinton, Greg Piper, Carol Richard, Chris Martin, Cllr Aniello Iannuzzi, Rose McDonald

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

A/General Manager, Leeanne Ryan, provided an overview of the purpose of the meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Community Consultation Meeting held in Coolah on Tuesday, 22 November 2016, were discussed with the following Business Arising.

BUSINESS ARISING

Town Water – Cemetery

Residents sought an update as to whether or not the request to install a town water tap in the Anglican section of the cemetery had been completed. Council indicated they would investigate whether or not this had been completed.

Stump 133

Coolah District Historical Society have secured a grant, with the assistance of Council's Heritage Advisor. A plaque has been purchased but is yet to be mounted.

Vinegaroy Road

Residents enquired as to when works on Vinegaroy Road would commence. Council indicated that signs were to be erected this week and preliminary works would commence soon after.

Coolah Library – Security

It was advised that Pandora Gallery has received funding for security cameras. The cameras are yet to be installed.

COUNCIL PROJECT UPDATES

Australia Day Awards

A/Director Corporate and Community Services, Michael Jones, provided an overview of plans for Australia Day 2018.

Community Financial Assistance Donations

A/Director Corporate and Community Services, Michael Jones, provided an overview of Council's Financial Assistance Donations and encouraged people to apply in the next round.

Budget Submissions

A/Director Corporate and Community Services, Michael Jones, reminded attendees of the opportunity to have input in to Council's budget planning process.

Regional Economic Development Plans

A/Director Development Services, Aileen Bell, provided information regarding the development of Regional Economic Development Plans and encouraged people to take part in upcoming consultations.

COMMUNITY MATTERS OF INTEREST / CONCERN

Update on Shared Bike Path

Residents sought up update on the shared bike path. Council indicated they that they don't have funds to complete this work at this stage and any further work would be subject to funding. Council indicated that they will consider improvements to the dirt section. A request was made to Council to consider allocating a small amount of funding to assist with funding applications.

Main Street Footpath – Bird Droppings

Residents raised concerns about the cleanliness of some areas of the footpath in the main street and requested guidance as to whose responsibility this was. Council indicated that these concerns can be reported to Council.

Water Quality – Drinking Water

Concerns were again raised regarding the quality of the drinking water in the town. Council indicated that investigations can be undertaken in to this, however indicated that the water meets water quality standards.

Wind Farm

Councillor Anne-Louise Capel declared her pecuniary interest in this matter and advised the meeting that she doesn't participate in Council discussions regarding this item. The meeting was advised that Epuron took 12 months to do a response to the submissions paper but this has now been released. Council is currently working through the Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) process with Epuron. It is understood that the Department of Planning and Environment is getting close to making a decision on this matter.

Mobile Phone Coverage

Residents advised that mobile phone coverage continues to be a key issue and asked is there anything Council can do to assist with mobile phone coverage. Residents were encouraged to report black spots to the Mobile Black Spot Program. The Mobile Black Spot Program, run by the Australian Government, is a program which seeks to improve mobile phone coverage in regional and remote areas.

Main Street Trees

There was extensive discussion around the trees in the main street. Council indicated that professional advice has been sought in relation to the trees. Residents indicated that they felt that if trees were removed that they should be replaced. Council indicated that the stump cannot be removed until it rots a bit more, otherwise it will disturb the road pavement. Residents requested that a report be sent to the local paper to let the community know what is happening with these trees.

Parking – Long Vehicles

Residents indicated that requests have been made previously for signage as to where long vehicles can park in Coolah. The request relates to signage to indicate to people with long vehicles where it is most appropriate for them to park. It was indicated that people feel that tourists / visitors with long vehicles are either parking in inappropriate areas or are not stopping in the town.

Snake Safety Workshop

A resident raised concerns about parents who are concerned about snakes and enquired about whether or not a workshop could be held for parents and children about snake safety.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Goddard Street

An update was requested on works in Goddard Street. Council indicated that the works are progressing now and they hope to be finished by Christmas.

Sir Ivan Fire Recovery

Council enquired as to how people are going following the Sir Ivan Fire and asked whether or not there is anything Council can provide assistance with at this time. Discussion around local events to say thank you and a local event around recovery and art. Concerns raised regarding mobile phone coverage both during and after the fire, including in relation to the BlazeAid volunteers working on properties with no mobile phone coverage. Residents indicated that anonymous letters were still being sent to people affected by the fire, and those who have provided assistance to those affected by the fire. Residents raised a number of concerns for Council to follow up with the Rural Fire Service and NSW Police.

Learn to Ride Track

Coolah District Development Group (CDDG) has established a Sub-Committee to work on the establishment of a multipurpose park, including Learn to Ride bike track, skate park, basketball court, playground equipment and BBQ facilities. Further discussion to occur with Council regarding this.

Coolah Swimming Pool

Residents thanked Council for works undertaken at the Coolah Swimming Pool, including heating of the pool. This has resulted in an increased number of members in the Swimming Club and increased use of the facilities.

Uarbry

Concerns regarding Uarbry were tabled via an email received from a local resident. Concerns raised in the email will be dealt with via Council and also the Sir Ivan Fire Recovery Committee.

Footpaths

Concerns were raised regarding the state of some of the footpaths in Coolah. This will be investigated and rectified as appropriate.

Coolah Home Base

Multiple concerns were raised regarding Coolah Home Base, including drainage, fire risk and the Coolaburragundy River. Council to investigate further and work with relevant Departments and Services to address these issues, where appropriate.

Letter

A letter from Coolah District Development Group was tabled. The letter thanked and commended Council for their assistance both during and post the Sir Ivan Fire. The letter also highlighted discontent regarding the removal of Council's General Manager and the lack of accountability regarding this.

Bowen Oval – Playground Equipment

Residents request that the playground equipment at Bowen Oval have lights installed to provide light in the playground at night. Residents indicated that they believed there was regulation and standards that required lighting of covered play equipment. Council indicated this will be investigated and appropriate action taken.

Lack of Communication – Removal of General Manager

Residents indicated that the community feel that they haven't been given an explanation as to why Council's General Manager was removed. Residents indicated that the community would like an explanation and felt that they deserved one. Council indicated that they were not in a position to provide this explanation but that this request would be passed on to Mayor Peter Shinton.

Council Communication

Residents questioned what has happened to Council's communication system and commitment. Residents indicated that they had contacted Council numerous times and had not received a response. Council advised what should happen when an email is received by Council. If residents have ongoing concerns regarding this they were advised to use Council's online feedback form, contact Council's A/Director Corporate and Community Services, Michael Jones, attend a Council Meeting and / or discuss with elected representatives.

Go To Place – Community and Government Services

Members of the community suggested a 'go to place' to help people access and navigate community and government services.

Local Infrastructure

Residents indicated their desire to focus on getting existing and planned local infrastructure sorted. The group indicated that a number of plans have been developed specifically for Coolah.

Large Items Pick Up Day

Enquiries were made as to when the next large items pick up day would be held. Council indicated that this will be scheduled for December.

Meeting Follow Up

Residents enquired as to how will people know about what happened at, and as a result of, this meeting. Council indicated that this will be discussed and considered by Manex as Council agreed that it is too long before the next meeting, in terms of providing updates and reporting back.

MEETING CLOSED: 8:00pm