
PRESENT: Clr Victor Schmidt(Chair), Clr Peter Shinton, Kevin Tighe (Acting General Manager), Rebecca Ryan(Director Community Services), John McHugh(A/Director Corporate Services), Graham Charlton, Karen Weatherall, Theresa Rice, Lee Britton, Kaitlyn Estens, Joel Amiet, Donna Harper, Rhonda Jewiss, Gordon Jewiss, Dian Smit, Aileen Bell, Cheryl Wasley, Maureen Sulter, Ann Savage, Ken Smith.

APOLOGIES: Clr Ron Sullivan, P Nies.

AGENDA ITEMS

New building and its status and whether site can be cleaned up and fence taken down

The meeting was advised that the building project is progressing and final plans are nearly completed. Once specifications are finalised tenders for construction will be called and this is expected within three to four months. Also, the meeting was advised that it is not practical to remove the fence and use the site for a car park.

Council's 2011/12 Budget Process

The Acting General Manager spoke about the process associated with preparation of the 2011/12 budget. In particular, the preparation is based upon the forward works programme and the many requests received throughout the year. It is expected that the draft management plan will be on display from 12 May 2011 and this will provide an opportunity for submissions from all in the community. Also explained was a revised approach to consideration of donations or financial assistance to community groups. Council recently updated its policy on financial assistance and a call for applications will now be made in August and February each year.

CBN 01 RECOMMENDATION that Council allocate \$1,000 as financial assistance towards the upcoming Bunny Bazaar held over Easter and that this be an annual contribution.

Amiet / Harper

New General Manager Appointment

The Chairman outlined the process associated with appointment of the new General Manager. The new General Manager is Mr Steve Loane and he will commence duties on the 2 May 2011.

Warrumbungle Regional Council Proposal

The Acting General Manager outlined the reasons for a proposal by Council to rename itself as Warrumbungle Regional Council. In particular the change from 'Shire' to 'Regional' is expected to better promote Council and provide more emphasis to funding applications to State and Federal Governments.

Community Strategic Plan

The Director Community Services spoke about development of a Community Strategic Plan and how it will be a visionary plan for the Shire for the next 10 to 20 years. Preparation of the plan cannot occur without extensive public consultation and this will occur between July and December 2011.

Roads – Flood Funding

The Acting General Manager spoke about the flood damaged roads and the claim for funding assistance that has been made to the State Government. The assessment of the claim is expected to be finalised by the RTA in the coming weeks.

Swimming Pool Proposal

Mr Charlton spoke passionately about the benefits of one (1) 50m pool as a replacement for the current facility in Coonabarabran, in comparison to the concept proposal now on exhibition which indicates two (2) 25m pools. The meeting was advised that submissions on the concept are due by 27 April 2011.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Current Roadworks Occurring in John Street.

The Acting General Manager provided an explanation on why current roadworks in John Street are occurring during the first week of School Holidays.

Aboriginal Community Working Party.

Mrs Sulter advised that the Community Working Party has reformed.

Condition of Footpaths in Coonabarabran.

Concern was expressed about the large number of trip hazards identified by yellow paint on footpaths in Coonabarabran, yet very little repairs have occurred.

Riding of Scooters on Footpath in John Street

Concern expressed about the use of scooters by children on the footpath in John Street. Council to advise Police of the issue.

Maintenance Issues

- The Chappell Avenue sign is missing
- The street sweeper is removing house numbers that have recently being painted on the kerb in some streets.
- In response to a question, there are no plans to upgrade the Dramatic Society Building.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 8 November 2011

Meeting finished: 7.30pm

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Chairperson