

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LONGFORD LOCAL DISTRICT HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LONGFORD ON WEDNESDAY 6 APRIL 2011 COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

1 ATTENDANCE

Mr R Archer – Chairperson, Mr L Harwood – Secretary, Cr M Brooks, Mrs E Seymour, W Chellis – Council Works & Infrastructure Manager, Mr Dr T Flanagan, Mr R Keam, Mr D Betts,

2 APOLOGIES

Ms R McKinnon, Mr L Grant, Mr H Galea, Mr T Simmons, Mr P Schild , Miss M Bricknell-Council's Corporate Services Manager

3 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

Mr Betts / Dr Flanagan

That the minutes of the meeting of the Longford Local District Committee held on Tuesday 22 February 2011 be confirmed as a true record of proceedings.

Carried

4 DECLARATION OF ANY PECUNIARY INTEREST BY A MEMBER OF A SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL.

In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, a member of a Special Committee must not participate in any discussion or vote on any matter in respect to which the member-

- a) has an interest: or
- b) is aware or ought to be aware that a close associate has an interest

A member has an interest in a matter if the matter was decided in a particular manner, receive or have an expectation of receiving or likely to receive a pecuniary benefit or pecuniary detriment.

It was **RESOLVED** that the information be received.

5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

i) Review of Memorandum of Understanding Version 3

The MOU was further discussed at the February meeting and it was agreed that the section relating to the “objectives” of the Committee be amended to read as follows:- (alterations highlighted)

- *To provide **advice**, focus, leadership and co-ordination at the local district level.*
- *To consider and report on any matters which may be referred to it by the Northern Midlands Council.*
- *To liaise with the community and special interest groups to ascertain their views/opinions on local issues and projects.*
- *To consider communications from the local community and special interest groups and forward comments and recommendations to Council.*
- ***Recommend** to Council in March each year a prioritised list of works and services to be considered for funding including projects that could be considered for funding under appropriate Federal and State Government schemes.*
- *Represent the Longford community's interests in land use planning matters - including, within the urban boundary and rural environs of the Longford township, planning permit applications, scheme amendments and non-compliance issues.*
- ***Contribute** to develop a strategic plan that addresses capital works routine and governance issues that would improve the amenity of the Longford community and such plan would feed into/aid the Northern Midlands Council planning and budget processes.*
- *The Committee's primary and priority focus shall be strategic and governance issues that affect the Longford community. Other matters shall be addressed by directly using the Council's existing structures - eg maintenance and routine issues.*

Dr Flanagan / Mr Keam

That the Memorandum of Understanding—Version 4 for the Longford Local District Committee be recommended to Council for approval.

Carried

ii) Walking Trails at Longford

Mr Harwood advised that Council's Corporate Services Manager, Maree Bricknell was unavailable but would attend a future meeting of the Committee to discuss proposed walking trails for Longford.

iii) Longford Main Street Committee

Mr Harwood advised that at the Council meeting held on 15 November 2010, a history of the Longford Main Street project was provided and it was agreed by Council to continue with the Longford Main Street Committee until such time as the Longford Local District Committee was formed and that the issue be re-visited

Following a discussion about this matter, it was **RESOLVED** to advise Council that the Longford Local District Committee is prepared to assume the role of the Longford Main Street Committee

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

i) Longford Economic Development Study

The following progress report was prepared by Council's Economic & Community Development Manager and discussed:-

Across September – November 2010, Council and the Northern Midlands Business Association undertook an economic development study for Longford. Thanks to the great response received from local businesses and residents, the study report provides an excellent overview of the current business environment in Longford, and holds many suggestions for how to improve the local business environment. Copies of the study report are available at the Council Offices or at www.northernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Longford residents and business owners/operators were invited to forums held March 16th and 17th where the report outcomes were presented and priority actions for improving the local economy and business environment identified.

The business owners/operators present at the business forum identified the following priority actions:

Top priority: Create a Chamber of Commerce to facilitate businesses working collaboratively and having a collective voice to Council/Government/ other agencies.

Second priority: Become a Recreational Vehicle (RV) –friendly town.

Third equal priority: Improve signage to, and within, the town.

Third equal priority: Promote the town in the media and online.

Fifth equal priority: Hold market days.

Fifth equal priority: Build on the town's automobile history.

Fifth equal priority: Develop off-street parking.

The community members present at the community forum identified the following priority actions:

Top priority: Enhance/protect the heritage look and free of the town centre.

Second priority: Redirect heavy vehicles around the town.

Third priority: Make the entrance to the town more attractive/capture the heritage feel

Fourth priority: Improve the appearance of the shops in the town centre

Fifth equal priority: Beautify the main street (improve pavements, add plants, alfresco dining etc..)

Fifth equal priority: develop an overall business plan for the town.

Council welcomes feedback on the priority actions identified by the forum participants. Feedback received by April 21st will be incorporated in the report to the Council May Meeting on the priorities for actioning.

Feedback is to be forwarded to Council's Manager Economic and Community Development, Lorraine Green, on ph 63 977 315, email Lorraine.green@nmc.tas.gov.au, or post to Council at PO Box 156 Longford TAS 7301.

Comments by members of the Longford Local District Committee

Concern raised about the consultation process and feedback

Real benefit of the small number of resident participants at community meeting

Returned surveys not representative of the overall business community

Summary—Longford Local District Committee appreciate the work undertaken with the economic study but believes further work is required with other strategies

ii) Development Plan For Longford

Mr Harwood advised that a draft plan was being prepared by Pitt & Sherry and expected to be completed in the near future. The document will be circulated for further input.

iii) General Issues

a) Speed Limit—Longford Shopping Precinct

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Council that DIER be invited to review a reduction of the speed limit to 40km/per hour in the shopping precinct at Longford.

b) Main Street Improvements

Council's Works & Infrastructure Manager Mr Chellis gave a powerpoint presentation on the Longford Main Street Project including information about replacing the street trees in Wellington St between Union St and Archer St as well as the extension of the Longford Main Street Signage. Other matter mentioned was the replacement of the brick footpath located in Archer Street adjacent to the Longford Village Green.

Mr Keam/ Mr Betts

That the Longford Local District Committee recommends to Council to:--

- i) replace the existing street trees in Wellington St (between Union St & Archer St) with a more suitable species and install in concrete surrounds with black tree guards.
- ii) extend the heritage signage in the town from Union St to High St

Carried

8 NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 4 May 2011 commencing at 7.30pm.

9 CLOSURE

Chairman closed meeting at 9.10pm