

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LONGFORD LOCAL DISTRICT HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LONGFORD ON WEDNESDAY 4 MAY 2011 COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

1 ATTENDANCE

Mr R Archer – Chairperson, Mr L Harwood – Secretary, Dr T Flanagan, Mr R Keam, Mr H Galea, Mr L Grant, Mr P Schild, Ms R McKinnon, Miss M Bricknell-Council's Corporate Services Manager, Ms L Green – Council's Economic and Community Development Manager, Cr M Brooks,

2 APOLOGIES

Mrs E Seymour,

Mr Harwood tabled a letter of resignation from Mr T Simmons.

3 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

Dr Flanagan / Mr Keam

That the minutes of the meeting of the Longford Local District Committee held on Wednesday 6 April 2011 be confirmed as a true record of proceedings.

Carried

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 4

Comment

Council approved the contents of the document which will be tabled at the meeting for signature

ii) Longford Main Street Committee

Comment

Council accepted a proposal for the Longford Local District Committee to assume the role of the Longford Main Street Committee with Council officer support.

iii) Speed Limit—Longford Shopping Precinct

Comment

A proposal to reduce the speed limit to 40km/per hour has been referred to Council's Traffic Committee.

iv) Main Street Improvements

Comment

Council accepted the recommendation from the Longford Local District Committee to:-

- i) Replace the existing street trees in Wellington St (between Union St and 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 .

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

a) Floods—March 2011

Listed hereunder is an extract of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 April 2011;-

"1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

Councillors have requested that the matter regarding the March 2011 flood be placed on the Council agenda for discussion.

2 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

On the evening of Friday the 25 March 2011 flood waters peaked at 6.4 metres in Longford after days of torrential rain had caused flooding in the South Esk and Macquarie Rivers. The South Esk and Macquarie Rivers meet at Longford and the catchment area of the rivers is equal to 11% of the area of Tasmania.

During the past 99 years at least 15 notable floods have been recorded at Longford, the largest considered to be a 1 in 100 year flood event occurred in 1929.

Initial predictions of a flood peak of 7.6 to 7.9 metres as per Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology Tasmania flood warning number 17 issued at 10.16am on Friday 25 March 2011 raised concerns within the community that this flood was equal to the devastating 1969 floods where over 50 houses were inundated.

3 STRATEGIC/OPERATIONAL PLAN

In the Strategic Plan: 2007-2017 – Volume 1: Mapping our Direction Part 5 – Focus on Physical Assets, 5.6 Emergency Management

- ◆ *Plan for major emergency events and developing precautionary strategies*
- ◆ *Endeavour to protect the community and the environment from foreseeable risks*

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no potential financial implication to the budget.

5 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Longford Flood Protection Action Plan was prepared under the direction of the Northern Midlands Council Emergency Management Committee. The plan provides vital information for the proper operation of the Longford Flood Protection System whether during or outside an emergency event.

Upon the declaration of an emergency event the actions listed in section 7 "Response" of the Longford Flood Protection Action Plan are put into operation.

The response phase involves the actions needed to erect all of the relevant components of the flood protection system at the time of the declaration of a flood event.

The response tasks have been categorized in the following five sections:

- ◆ *Notification of stakeholders*
- ◆ *Management of resources*
- ◆ *Management of internal stormwater*
- ◆ *Erection of temporary flood protection system*
- ◆ *Back Creek flood gates operating procedures*

Section 7 "Response" of the Longford Flood Protection Action Plan was put into operation on Friday the 25 March 2011 after Council received a call from Ms Mhairi Revie State Emergency Service Regional Manager (North) at 5.15am.

6 RISK ISSUES

A major flood would pose many significant risks for Council, hence Council in 2007 developed the Longford Flood Protection Action Plan.

7 ATTACHMENTS

- ◆ *Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology Tasmania flood warning number 17 issued at 10.16am on Friday 25 March 2011.*
- ◆ *State Emergency Services Regional Management Meeting 10.30am 25 March 2011.*
- ◆ *State Emergency Services Regional Management Meeting 2.00pm 25 March 2011.*
- ◆ *Bureau of Meteorology – South Esk Flood graphs March 2011 and May 1969.*
- ◆ *Northern Midlands Emergency Management Committee minutes 30 March 2011.*
- ◆ *Flood debrief action plan.*
- ◆ *Longford flood alternative access plan.*
- ◆ *Emergency flood kit.*
- ◆ *Invermay / Inveresk flood evacuation standby notice.*
- ◆ *Section 7 “Response” of the Longford Flood Protection Action Plan.*

COUNCIL DECISION

Cr Brooks/Deputy Mayor Downie

That Council discuss this issue.

Carried unanimously

Deputy Mayor Downie/Cr Geeves

That Council:

- (i) amend the Longford Flood Protection Action Plan and bring back to Council for approval*
- (ii) prepare a flood plan for breach of the Longford Flood levee*
- (iii) prepare a plan for removal of flood waters inside the levee if the Longford Flood levee’s are breached.*

Carried unanimously”

Mr Archer referred to concerns from property owners (outside the levee bank) about the construction of the Longford flood levee .

b) Longford Development Plan

Mr Harwood advised that a progress report about this matter was sought and the following response was received from Council’s Senior Planning Officer, Mr Paul Godier:-

“Our intention is to have the draft plans discussed at the Council workshop of the 6th June.

If the workshop approves of the plans we will then put them on public exhibition for 3-4 weeks, calling for public comment on the draft plans.

I can attend the Longford Committee meeting following the Council workshop”

It was noted in an email from Mr Richard Archer dated 1 May 2011 that in regard to the Longford Development Plan, the item needs to be included in each agenda showing goals, process and timeframes.

General discussion took place about the proposed Longford Development Plan and included a reference to:-

The validity of the process

Need for development rules for Longford so that there are clear articulated guidelines from a business perspective

Need to extract the strengths and build upon in the development of a strategy

It was **RESOLVED** to invite Council's Planning staff to the June Longford Local District Committee meeting to provide a comprehensive briefing on the Longford Development Plan – including heritage development guidelines

c) Northern Midlands Trails & Bikeways Strategy

Matter discussed as an "In-Committee" item at the April Council meeting. At this stage further information is being sought from a Council Officer.

It was **RESOLVED** that the information be received and that input be provided by the Longford Local District Committee on the strategy prior to the matter being formally considered by Council.

d) Proposed Longford Public Aquatic Facility

The following report about a public pool at Cressy was considered at the April Council meeting:-

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek a direction from Council about advancing the idea of constructing a public swimming pool in the township of Longford

2 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

At the request of Cr Carins, a proposal to provide a pool at Longford has been listed on the agenda for discussion.

In the year 2000, a local entrepreneur offered financial assistance to Council to construct a pool at Longford and although several discussions were held with key stakeholders including the Office of Sport & Recreation, the matter did not proceed.

For information purposes, there are three Council owned pools in the Northern Midlands area (Campbell Town, Ross and Cressy and each facility is managed and maintained by a Special Committee of Council via a Memorandum of Understanding.

3 STRATEGIC PLAN 2007/2017

In the Strategic Plan: 2007—2017 Volume 1: Mapping Our Direction Part 3, Recreation & Leisure, the following strategies were identified:

- *Promote and where appropriate provide a wide range of facilities and opportunities for indoor and outdoor recreation for all sectors*
- *Provide financial assistance to local community groups through Council's grant programs*

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financing of the construction of a public pool can be undertaken by various means including government grants, Council and public donations however until feasibility study is undertaken and costs identified, the matter has not been addressed in this report.

The operational costs would depend upon the type of facility provided (indoor/outdoor) and costs would vary dependent upon opening hours. As a matter of interest the cost of operating the Ross, Campbell Town & Cressy pools is estimated to cost \$112,000 for the 2010/2011 season.

Major costs for capital improvements over the last three years related to heating the pool at Campbell Town, and re fibre glassing and the reconstruction of the change rooms at the Cressy pool amounting to \$475,000.

5 RISK ISSUES

When a pool was previously considered for Longford, concern was raised by the Cressy Pool Management Committee that the availability of a similar complex would result in a reduction in the number of patrons visiting their centre and would impact on its overall viability.

6 CONSULTATION WITH STATE GOVERNMENT

Consultation with the State Government and the Australian Government would be required should Council decide to progress the initiative.

7 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The need to consult with the community is certainly recognised as an integral component of the project. Launceston City Council has recently constructed a new aquatic facility capable of providing high level regional swimming facilities.

8 OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

- i) Take no action at this stage to progress a proposal to construct a public swimming pool at Longford or*
- ii) Establish a sub-committee to progress the idea of constructing a public pool at Longford, or*
- iii) Establish a sub-committee to consider improved access for Longford residents to the Cressy pool and Launceston Aquatic Centre.*

9 OFFICER'S COMMENTS/CONCLUSION

The idea of providing a pool at Longford is a project that would provide an opportunity to the community to engage in a healthy lifestyle in a safe and controlled environment, however, the on-going maintenance costs associated with this type of development is a major concern and must be carefully evaluated.

DECISION

Deputy Mayor Downie/Cr Geeves

That Council discuss this issue.

Carried unanimously

Ms Green attended the meeting at 7.18 pm.

Cr Carins/Deputy Mayor Downie

That Council establish a sub-committee comprising of Councillors Carins, Brooks, Calvert and Mayor Polley, Council staff, a member of the Longford Local District Committee, and a member of the Longford Primary School to progress the idea of constructing a public swimming pool at Longford.

Carried unanimously

It was **RESOLVED** That the information be noted and that Dr T Flanagan be appointed as the Longford Local District representative on Council's sub-committee who will evaluate a proposal to construct a public pool at Longford

d) Longford Economic Development Strategy

The following update about the Longford Economic Development Study was recently circulated by Council's Economic & Community Services Manager, M/s Lorraine Green:-

"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.

At the suggestion of Mr Archer, the following rankings were agreed upon re actions identified by:-

Business Owners/Operators

No 1 Establish a Chamber of Commerce to facilitate businesses acting as a collective voice

No 2 Longford township to become an RV Friendly town

No 3 Build upon the town's automobile history

Community Members

No1 (a) physical amenity of the main street

(b) preserve heritage look of the town

No 2 Make the entrance to the town more attractive

No3 Manage the heavy vehicles travelling through the town

Dr Flanagan/Mr Grant

That Council be asked as a matter of priority to consider options that will encourage occupancy of vacant commercial buildings within the CBD area of Longford.

Carried

CONCLUSION

Council's Economic & Community Development Manager , M/s Lorraine indicated that she will be working through the priorities identified by the business owners/operators as well as the community so that Council can agree upon a way forward that will assist in achieving positive outcomes.

9 NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 1 June 2011 commencing at 7.30pm.

10 CLOSURE

Chairman closed meeting at 9.15pm