

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LONGFORD LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD AT THE HAPPY CHEF, WILLIAM STREET, LONGFORD ON WEDNESDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2014, COMMENCING AT 6:30 PM

1. PRESENT

Mr Hugh Mackinnon (Chair), Mr John Cauchi, Mr Robert Henley, Mrs Margaret Stebbings, Ms Dee Alty, Mr Linus Grant (7:05pm)

2. IN ATTENDANCE

Cr Mary Knowles, Cr Michael Polley, Cr Dick Adams, Mrs Kim Polley, Mr Des Jennings (General Manager), Miss Amanda Mason (secretary)

3. APOLOGIES

Mrs Vanessa Thirkel-Johnston, Mr Harry Galea and Mr Robert Thomas who send their well wishes to the Committee for the festive season

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Ms Dee Alty/Mr John Cauchi

That the Minutes of the Longford Local District Committee Meeting held at the Council Chambers, Longford on 1 October 2014 be confirmed as a true record of proceedings.

Carried

5. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Nil

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

6.1 Longford signage review

Mr Henley reported that he had met with Miss Mason to discuss the signage review and recommendations therein. It is recommended that consistency and uniformity of the signage within Longford be encouraged, with street signs returning to the standard white with black print and information signs be blue with yellow print. Further, in future when signs are replaced they be consolidated onto one or two signs (eg. at the entrance to Longford).

Mr Robert Henley/Ms Dee Alty

That the Longford Local District Committee agrees with the principles of simplification of the signage system within Longford and that the standard white signs with black print be maintained outside of the heritage precinct area, and the heritage street signs be kept within the heritage area.

Carried

The Committee resolved that Ms Dee Alty or Mr Robert Henley would liaise with Council until the new committee is appointed.

6.2 Visitor Information Hut

The Committee resolved that Ms Dee Alty, Mrs Margaret Stebbings and Mr Robert Henley act as a liaison with Council until the new committee is appointed.

6.3 Longford Motor Sport Legacy Working Group

It was resolved that the incoming Committee decide whether they wish to be part of the Motor Sport Legacy Working Group.

6.4 Matters pending

See attached list of motions from the Longford Local District Committee to Council and their status.

6.5 Tourism

Local businesses have been visited to seek their interest in a tear off map for Longford. Works at the Memorial Hall are looking good.

Mr Robert Henley/Mr John Cauchi

The Longford Local District Committee recommends to the incoming committee that a Tourism Committee and a standalone Visitor Information Centre are of critical importance to Longford.

Carried

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Infrastructure Sub-Committee Report

Key projects of the sub-committee were pushing a traffic study in Longford, in addition to promoting walkways in the town. Sub-committee is also looking at other projects such as a sculpture trail.

7.2 Tourism Heritage & Culture Sub-Committee Report

The sub-committee has worked closely to achieve the Longford Blooms weekend in November which was a success. The group has also promoted uniform signage in Longford and the installation of street trees. It was noted by the Committee the increase in the village atmosphere in Longford.

7.3 Economic Development Sub-Committee Report

There has not been a significant amount achieved in respect to economic development. A number of good ideas have been raised, however, in order for progression, a strong working relationship needs to be able to be built with businesses in the area.

It was noted the 200 Year Celebration and "The Cleaner" celebrations were very successful.

7.4 Longford Planning Applications

Nil.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Art in Action Weekend – Feb 27 – March 1 2015

Information provided for the Art in Action weekend next year. It was resolved the Committee supports the event.

8.2 Guests to address Longford Local District Committee

Cr Knowles, Cr Polley, Cr Adams and Mrs Polley were invited to address the committee:

- Enthusiasm of the committee is positive;

- Longford Blooms was a credit to those who worked on it;
- The Committee was congratulated on the achievements it has made and progressing forward over the past two years;
- Focus was recognised to link health, tourism and the local community.

8.3 Other items

- It was recognised by the committee that a number of buildings have been painted in the main street and resolved that a letter of commendation be sent to those businesses from the Longford Local District Committee.
- It was suggested that a relationship be established between the Economic Development Committee and the Longford Local District Committee.
- Nominations for the new committee are now open.
- A concept has been identified to move the powerlines in the main street underground. It was resolved to pass this project to the new committee.

9. NEXT MEETING:

Next meeting to be held at the Council Chambers, Longford on **2 February 2015**, following the **Annual General Meeting**.

10. CLOSURE

The Chairman thanked the Committee, Council and staff and wished everyone a merry Christmas, and closed the meeting at 7:18 pm.

MATTERS PENDING		
Date Moved	Motion	Status
3 September 2014 H Galea/D Alty	That Council staff prepare a draft terms of reference for a Longford Traffic Study for consideration by the Committee	Will be considered by Council in the new year.
3 September 2014 D Alty / J Cauchi	That the Committee support Council with regard to the free Wifi proposal	Council proceeding with Wifi hotspot trial in Longford, awaiting planning approval.
6 August 2014 D Alty/R Henley	That the Committee refer the matter of traffic counts, load limits and other traffic issues to Council's traffic engineer to report back at the next meeting.	To be considered through the Traffic Study Committee Council decision on whether study will proceed pending outcome December Council meeting
2 July 2014 R Henley / M Stebbings	The Longford Local District Committee recommends to Council that Lorraine Green & Fiona Dewar formally host a meeting of interested people with the view of establishing a Longford Tourism/Promotions Group. This could be done using the First Impressions Report as a basis for the meeting, along with an extension of the current Tourism Information Centre.	To occur as part of the Longford Visitor Appeal Study. Committee welcome to organise meeting independently of this.
4 June 2014 D Alty/J Cauchi	The Committee recommends to Council that the system of signage in Longford be simplified and made coherent by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Being in sympathy with the entrance to the town b) Being in sympathy with the historic precinct and social viability of the town c) Removing outdated signs d) Signs be grouped in like colour and font according to the category of the sign. 	Signage review conducted July 2014. Committee have been given opportunity to review and endorse recommendations. Review to go to Council to be considered.
4 June 2014 D Alty/V Thirkel-Johnston	The Committee recommends to Council that they identify funding, location and implementation of a standalone visitor information centre as a matter of priority.	To be considered as part of the Longford Visitor Appeal Study.