



RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Committee Brief

The duties of the committee shall be:

- *prepare a draft Shire of Plantagenet Recreation Strategic Plan for the consideration of the Council;*
- *utilise the July 2008 Plantagenet Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment and any other report considered pertinent by the Committee; and*
- *liaise as necessary with community groups Recreation Centre Advisory Group, the Department of Sport and Recreation and other bodies.*

A meeting of the Recreation Advisory Committee
held in the Council Committee Room, Lowood Road, Mount Barker
at 9.30am on Tuesday 23 March 2010

Rob Stewart
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Committee Members:

Cr K Clements, Cr A Budrikis, Cr S Etherington JP, Cr J Moir, Cr S Grylls (Deputy) – 313/09, 232/08)

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1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

9.34am The meeting was declared open.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIESPresent

Cr Ken Clements - Chair
Cr Sue Etherington
Cr Jeff Moir
Mr Rob Stewart
Mrs Nicole Selesnew

Apologies

Cr Andrus Budrikis

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Cr S Etherington, seconded Cr K Clements:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Recreation Advisory Committee held on 21 December 2009, be accepted.

CARRIED

4 PRESENTATION BY THE KENDENUP COUNTRY CLUB COMMITTEE

Representatives from the Kendenup Country Club gave a presentation on the Club's plans to extend and renovate the existing Country Club building. The extensions will create a new room on the eastern end of the building where darts and pool tables will be located, a new Golf Captains Room and extend the verandah and covered area along the front of the building.

The toilet block will be demolished and replaced and the kitchen site renovated.

The exterior of the building will be reclad.

Plans for the building changes are being finalised and will be forwarded to a Quantity Surveyor for costing.

A Financial Assistance Grant seeking a contribution from the Council has been submitted.

5 PETITION – RECREATION PRECINCT PLAN FOR KENDENUP

File No: N14291
Responsible Officer: Rob Stewart
Chief Executive Officer
Author: Rob Stewart
Chief Executive Officer
Proposed Meeting Date: 23 March 2010

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee that the Council at its meeting held on 9 March 2010 received a Petition relating to the Recreation Precinct Plan for Kendenup, such petition being referred to the Recreation Advisory Committee.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting held on 9 March 2010 the Council resolved:

'That the petition delivered to the Council on 9 March 2010 be received and be referred to the Recreation Advisory Committee for a further report to be presented to the Council no later than its meeting to be held on 25 May 2010.'

The petition states:

'We, as members of the local community and users of sporting and other facilities, strongly urge that the Sport and Recreation Precinct Plan for Kendenup endorsed by Council on 13 October 2009 be altered to reflect the wishes of the community. We believe the proposed site for a Community and Recreation building is not ideal. We believe that our views have not been properly listened to and represented and that a better outcome can be achieved.'

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

The Council's Standing Orders Local Law at Clause 3.4 relates to petitions.

The petition is largely in accordance with the Local Law and contains 162 signatures mostly from the Kendenup locality.

CONSULTATION

The petition is actually questioning the consultation processes that have been undertaken by the Council with regard to the development of the Kendenup Recreation Plan.

Briefly that consultation involved the recruitment and appointment of an independent consultant qualified in the area of recreation and community consultation. A series of public meetings was held in both Mount Barker and

Kendenup to ascertain recreation needs and the subsequent development of a recreation plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The estimated cost of the proposed new building adjacent to the tennis courts at Kendenup is \$2.5m.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications for this report.

ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

This is an area that should be given some consideration by Councillors. Although the petitioners are indicating that the proposed site for a new community building is not ideal, Councillors are reminded that a building which to some degree serves the purposes of the community (the Country Club) is presently being utilised. Although this building is in need of some refurbishment, the construction of a new building will create asset management issues. Based on the rule of thumb that 2% of the capital cost of a new building should be put aside annually for asset renewal, new expenditure of \$50,000 should be acknowledged.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The Council's Strategic Plan (Key Result Area 3 – Community Services) notes the aim:

'to deliver, or facilitate the delivery of a range of services which responds to and reflects the physical, social and cultural well being of the community.'

OFFICER COMMENT

The receipt of this petition signed by a significant proportion of the Kendenup Community is a matter of some concern.

As noted earlier, the Council undertook extensive public consultation with regard to the development of the plan(s) and although the petition itself is seemingly innocuous, the comments that have been attached to it by the petitioners are somewhat more worrying.

There appears to be a good deal of community angst between different community groups and the goals of those groups. While this angst is in evidence, it is difficult to recommend to the Council to undertake any particular course of action which would involve capital construction. Although the Kendenup Recreation Plan has been acknowledged by the Recreation Advisory Committee as being only a plan for the future, there is a real expectation in the community that construction of the building is imminent. Notwithstanding this expectation within the community, the Council does not have access to sufficient funds to commence this structure in the light of hold ups to Royalties for Regions funding as well as the adoption by the Council of the Long Term Financial Plan. Also, from a priority point of view, development of Frost/Sounness Parks is seen as taking precedence. Therefore it is

suggested that the actual construction of a building is not urgent and that the Council should therefore re-examine the issues. From this point of view it will be recommended that an independent survey of Kendenup electors be undertaken by an external body to ascertain what are the community's expectations in regard to this matter. This may also present an opportunity for the Council to inform the community of its own expectations regarding priorities/funding.

The group advocating the construction of a new building has indicated that it is its belief that the Department of Sport and Recreation will not fund the refurbishment of an existing building, such as the Country Club. Nevertheless, the Country Club has indicated that it is prepared to commence extensions and refurbishment of that building to ensure proper kitchen and ablution facilities. Some draft plans have been prepared but are not yet costed.

To raise sufficient funds for the construction of a new building may require consideration of a special area rate pursuant to Section 6.37 of the Local Government Act 1995. This section provides that a local government may impose a specified area rate on rateable land within a portion of its district for the purpose of meeting the cost for the provision of a specific work, service or facility if the local government considers that the ratepayers or residents within that area have benefited or will benefit from or have access to that work, service or facility.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That:

- 1. As the Shire of Plantagenet Recreation Advisory Committee has formed the opinion that there is significant disagreement within the Kendenup community relating to recreation planning and facilities, the Committee will be recommending to the Council that a survey be undertaken of Kendenup electors to ascertain community attitude regarding recreation facilities and therefore asks the Chief Executive Officer to further develop the concept of a survey including potential survey questions, costs and appointment of consultants.**
- 2. Until the survey referred to in part 1 above is completed and analysed, the Committee will not be recommending any capital expenditure on new recreation/community buildings in Kendenup.**

Following considerable discussion, the Committee decided that a community survey would not be necessary.

Instead, it was agreed that the Committee is supportive of the Kendenup Community Recreation Centre initiative, however the realisation of an actual development should not be supported until such a time as the Council has

sufficient financial resources. The ongoing need for services in the Kendenup area is also recognised and therefore existing initiatives and service delivery areas should be supported.

Moved Cr J Moir, seconded Cr S Etherington:

That notwithstanding the completion of the Kendenup Recreation Precinct Development Plan, the Recreation Advisory Committee requests the Chief Executive Officer to prepare a report to the Recreation Advisory Committee indicating a timeline, based on the Long Term Financial Plan, for the development of recreation and community facilities in Kendenup.

6 NEXT MEETING

To be advised

7 MEETING CLOSURE

11.15am

CONFIRMED:CHAIRPERSON _____ **DATE:** ____ / ____ / ____