



SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

SECTION 5.9(2)(c) LGA 1995

Committee Brief

The duties of the committee are:

- a) Examine services provided to seniors in the Shire of Plantagenet.*
- b) Monitor the change in service providers and actual services to aged care.*
- c) Report back to the Council by 26 March 2019.*

A meeting of the Seniors Advisory Committee was held at the Shire of Plantagenet Committee Room, Mount Barker at 3:00pm on Wednesday 27 February 2019 and adjourned to Wednesday 13 March 2019 commencing at 3.00pm.

Rob Stewart
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Committee Members:

Cr K Clements, Cr S Etherington, Mrs L Sounness, Mrs J Leahy, Mrs B Mulvihill and Manager Community Services (vacant) - (Resolution No. 201/18)

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Membership

Cr K Clements

Cr S Etherington

Mrs L Sounness

Mrs J Leahy

Mrs B Mulvihill

Manager Community Services (vacant)

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

3.00pm The Presiding Member declared the meeting reconvened.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

Members Present

Cr K Clements (Presiding Member)

Cr S Etherington

Mrs B Mulvihill

Mrs J Leahy

Mrs L Sounness (Deputy Presiding Member)

Visitors

Mr R Stewart

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Cr S Etherington, Seconded Mrs J Leahy:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Seniors Advisory Committee held 13 February 2019 as circulated, be taken as read and adopted as a correct record.

CARRIED

4 FINAL REPORT

Members discussed the Draft Final Report of the Committee as previously circulated.

Members were concerned that the actual number of HACC clients was most likely substantially less than the numbers referred to in the Report. Members however considered that as those numbers had been given by a third party they must be assumed to be true at that time. Members noted that at present clients probably numbered no more than 80, with most of those getting gardening assistance.

Members also considered the inclusion of anecdotal reports that Councillor Etherington had gathered. Members indicated some concerns relating to privacy but ultimately believed that there would be benefit in including these anecdotal reports as an addendum to the Final Report.

The CEO mentioned that he had attended the recent Age Friendly Agency Panel and believed that benefit would accrue to the Council if he continued to attend these meetings and potentially this could be included in the Committee's Final Recommendation to the Council.

Members also discussed the need for more than simply advocacy regarding the declining condition of the Mount Barker Hospital.

Mrs Mulvihill indicated that with regard to the fourth dot point relating to the Plantagenet Village Homes Seniors Survey that the words ‘...who responded...’ should be added after the word ‘seniors’.

Members agreed to this request.

5 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Moved Cr S Etherington, seconded J Leahy:

That the Draft Final Report of the Seniors Advisory Committee be amended by:

1. Under the heading Plantagenet Village Homes Seniors Survey, dot point four; the words ‘...who responded...’ be inserted after the words ‘seniors’.
2. That a new point 4 be added to the motion as follows:
‘Officer involvement with the Age Friendly Agency Panel continue with a view toward the development of an Age Friendly Charter;’
and the motion be re-cast accordingly.
3. That the report of anecdotes prepared by Cr Etherington be attached to the Final Report as an addendum.

6 RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL

That:

- 1. The final report of the Seniors Advisory Committee be received;**
- 2. All members of the Committee and those who presented to the Committee be thanked for their contributions**
- 3. The Council acknowledges that the investigations of the Seniors Advisory Committee have identified a number of critical factors central to services provided to seniors in our community including:**
 - a) Changes to the funding regime for the provision of services are creating confusion for some seniors and their carers;**
 - b) Provision of services by private enterprise;**
 - c) A greater reliance on the internet and websites;**
 - d) The reduction in services provided by the Home and Community Care Service and its forthcoming closure;**
 - e) Seniors on lower level care packages than assessed due to artificial limits being placed on availability;**
 - f) Lengthy waiting times for re-assessment of packages to take effect;**

- g) Unreliable transport options;
 - h) Inadequate hospital discharge care regimes;
 - i) No recognition of the social needs of seniors; and
 - j) A reduction in transport services resulting in some seniors not being able to attend medical appointments or being isolated.
4. Officer involvement with the Age Friendly Agency Panel continue with a view toward the development of an Age Friendly Charter;
5. A Seniors Expo day be sponsored for Seniors Week 2019;
6. The Chief Executive Officer be requested to prepare a Seniors' Service Directory for general dissemination to seniors, listing key services available and contact details;
7. The Council notes the critical importance of the services provided by the Plantagenet District Hospital and the vital need for such services to continue not only for seniors but the whole community; and
8. Advocacy be undertaken with the;
- a) WA Minister for Health for maintenance of and improvements to the Plantagenet District Hospital facilities; and,
 - b) Federal Minister for Health for appropriate referral mechanisms to aged care services.

7 MEETING CLOSURE

4.20pm The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED:

PRESIDING MEMBER _____ DATE: ____/____/____