
Minutes of an Annual General Meeting of the Central Coast Council held in the Gawler Room at the Civic Centre, 15 King Edward Street, Ulverstone on Wednesday, 28 November 2018 commencing at 7.00pm.

Present

Cr Jan Bonde (Mayor)
Cr John Beswick
Cr Cheryl Fuller
Cr Annette Overton

Cr Garry Carpenter (Deputy Mayor)
Cr Amanda Diprose
Cr Casey Hiscutt
Cr Philip Viney

General Manager (Ms Sandra Ayton)
Director Community Services (Mr Cor Vander Vlist)
Director Infrastructure Services (Mr John Kersnovski)
Director Organisational Services (Mr Bill Hutcheson)
Executive Services Officer (Mrs Lou Brooke)

Mr Jake Weeda
Mr Ian England
Ms Patricia Charlton
Mr Bill Koetsier
Mrs Jeanne Koetsier
Mr Nathan Kelly
Mr Howard Smith

Apologies

Mr John De Jong
Ms Yolande Vandenberg
Cr Tony van Rooyen

Media attendance

The media was not represented.

Opening of meeting

The Mayor, in opening the meeting and welcoming those in attendance:

. advised that the Annual General Meeting had been called in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*;

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- . advised that notice of the Annual General Meeting was given in The Advocate newspaper on Saturday, 10 November 2018.
 - . referred the public in attendance to the agenda prepared for the meeting and which incorporated procedures for the conduct of the meeting.

Introduction of councillors

The Mayor introduced the attending Councillors to the meeting.

Confirmation of the Minutes

- Cr Viney moved and Cr Hiscutt seconded, “That the minutes of the annual general meeting held on 7 November 2017, as circulated be confirmed.”

Carried unanimously

Annual Report

The Mayor reported that the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2018, including financial statements and audit opinion, had been advertised as available to the public from the Administration Centre and Service Centre and on the Council’s website. Electors were invited to make written submissions relating to the Annual Report.

The Mayor spoke in support of the Annual Report.

Additional comment was provided by the General Manager with a PowerPoint display of highlights from the report.

Submissions

One written submission was received (via email) from Mr Jacob Weeda, JP and is reproduced below along with responses to his questions.

Submission opening:

Firstly, congratulations to all elected Councillors. The new Councillors have a lot of processes and knowledge to absorb but there is a solid residual team to mentor you.

We live in a pleasant and affluent area of Tasmania with much to be proud of. I have read the Annual Report which has been incredibly well produced and the staff who have brought this together is really to be congratulated. I would like to speak on behalf of all Ratepayers, Mayor Bonde, please pass that on.

I deal with eight Councils on an irregular basis and I can confirm that the Central Coast Council does business better than any across most divisions.

Below is a list of items that I wish to raise with the Mayor, Councillors and the Council staff where it fits. Mostly these are accolades, some brickbats and the majority suggestions for Council to consider over the immediate short term as you tackle the future governance of our amazing municipality.

Item 1

The Leven River silting is becoming critical. Serious approaches should be made to TasPorts to get this fixed urgently.

Response

The Leven River is in a dynamic state like most rivers with a constantly changing flow regime, resulting in differing silt and sand levels and the weather. The Council has not received complaints about siltation but will discuss the matter with the Department of Primary Industry Parks Wildlife and Environment and Marine and Safety Tasmania.

Item 2

Camp Clayton/Maskells Road junction. There have been two fatalities here over the past fifteen years. With a Federal election within six months, I'd like to suggest that the Central Coast Council ask for \$3.5m. to construct a roundabout here that picks up the Bass Highway; the extension to Industrial Drive; Maskells Road, Camp Clayton Road and even include Westella Drive. This roundabout to be similar to the one at Howth which has been extremely successful.

Response

The Council has sought the construction of a grade separated intersection previously, however, this was not considered necessary by Government and

did not proceed. A roundabout to the latest National Highway Standards (i.e. Bass Highway is a National Highway) and in order to meet this, \$3.5m. would be insufficient to construct a roundabout at the intersection. Closing of the break in the centre median would be appropriate to increase traffic safety, however this would mean that Maskells Road would become a left in – left out road.

Item 3

The Furners Hotel/Coles Carpark is excellent. The new toilets are great, but someone forgot to include a modesty screen. This would not take much effort or cost and could be similar to the one at front of the "Pier One" public toilets. Shielding but opaque.

Response

The design and installation of the toilets in the Furner's/Coles Car Park meet the National Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) requirements.

CPTED aims to have no blind spots in public places including screens in front of toilets where people can hide from view and create unsafe situations.

A heavy-duty metal screen is being installed in front of the toilets after a recent decision of the Council. This will not be a solid screen but rather a specific metal structure, which offers privacy to those entering or exiting the toilets, whilst allowing those in the vicinity to note anyone hiding behind the screen.

Item 4

The alley between Coles and Telstra shop right back to the new Toilets now sealed with hot mix bitumen is very neat & functional. However, the polycarbonate roof desperately requires a pressure clean as do the sides of the adjacent buildings.

Response

It was hoped that as part of the surfacing of the laneway through to the Furner's/Coles Car Park that the roof would also be cleaned. As additional works were required to complete the laneway, funding for the roof cleaning was not available however, will be accounted for in the next budget.

Item 5

The chemically damaged clay pavers in Reibey Street in front of Coles and other smaller areas were going to be replaced two years ago when the Coles Arcade was refurbished. The pavers were bought but are still not in place. Any news on this?

Response

It was intended to replace the pavers in conjunction with the replacement of the concrete pathway/pavers in the laneway. The pavers had been ordered but when issues arose with the new pavers in the laneway, the order was cancelled.

Consideration of replacing the pavers was delayed until after the 7 Day Makeover and Place Making framework of the CBD had been undertaken. Other sections of pavers in Reibey Street are also in need of replacement.

Improving the CBD streetscaping in accordance with the Place Making framework will be considered in the next budget and the replacement of the pavers will form part of the proposed projects.

Item 6

Three years ago I made application for a 7.2 metre extension to the "Subway" awning along with the request to have a glass screen 1500 high, a half metre in from the King Edward street kerb to include some small Alfresco tables. The canopy extension was approved. However, Council advised me that a policy had been written six years prior to cover hoardings, sandwich boards and Alfresco seating in Reibey & King Edward Streets. This policy has not yet been placed on the Council meeting agenda. Any chance of some action soon?

Response

The Outdoor Dining Policy is part of the Council's actions for consideration this financial year.

The application for the shop awning at Subway was approved, however, the glass screen was not due to its proximity to the trafficable area of the road, as well as the intersection.

Although the glass screen is not considered appropriate at this time in the location proposed due to traffic and footpath user safety, the matter has been held in abeyance until advice on the matter is received from the Council's insurer and the Outdoor Dining Policy has been adopted.

Item 7

Wongi Lane, again an excellent result. However, there are two ugly Container storage units sitting in the Carpark behind Harris Scarfe. These containers seriously detract from the aesthetics of the area.

Response

The placement of containers on the Ulverstone Club's land was approved after the Council received a Development Application.

Item 8

Main Street from Victoria Street to The Quadrant. Superb job. Question? Why doesn't Council plant deciduous trees instead of evergreens in the nature strips?

Response

Planting of trees on footpaths in the CBD is the subject of the Council's Street Tree Strategy. As part of the Victoria Street and Main Street projects the variety of trees approved to be planted on the footpaths were reviewed. The Strategy states that deciduous trees are to be planted (generally) unless the trees have a significance to the area, e.g. flowering gums. The trees on Hobbs Parade were replaced with flowering gums to keep the area in theme with its original intent. The type of trees planted in Main and Victoria Streets were recommended by Council's contracted arborist.

Item 9

In the Annual Report it is great to note that the walking/cycle tracks from Sulphur Creek to Devonport closer to reality.

Item 10

The half container in Reibey Street in front of Apex Park. Please donate this to someone to be parked somewhere else.

Response

The parklet was suggested as part of the community-led 7 Day Makeover in the Ulverstone CBD in June 2018. The Council has determined that its use is to be monitored over the summer period before its final location is determined.

Item 11

Beach Road from the Waterslide to the raised car park near the Skate Park. Please fit this on the next budget to have a new kerb and channel with a concrete footpath for this extent.

Response

The Council's kerb and channel and pathways construction priorities are determined in the Long-term Financial Plan each year. Currently an audit of footpaths is being undertaken within the municipal area to determine priorities for construction over the next five years. It is anticipated that the Council will decide on footpath priorities at a Council meeting early in 2019.

Item 12

Beach Road near Buttons Creek. A marvellous new Bar-B Que Pavilion. However, it's been placed back to front. The low side should face into the prevailing weather. However, it's easily fixed by undoing the 24 anchor bolts and turning it around.

Response

The location of the shelter was determined in conjunction with a community group and community members. The suggestion will be considered.

Item 13

Beach Road from the Buttons Creek bridge to the Leighland Christian School railway crossing pedestrian entrance. The road shoulders on both sides have deteriorated badly and I would like to suggest that the shoulders be bitumen sealed before the summer tourist influx. The native plantings have started to take well, and that experiment could be continued in other similar areas.

Response

The need for maintenance to the road shoulders has been noted. This type of maintenance is usually planned prior to the summer season if necessary. Sealing of the shoulders will not be undertaken this year as it has not been programmed in Council's Roads capital works program.

Item 14

Beach accesses at the Water Slide shop and also at the Leighland Christian School railway entrance. Please attend to these as a matter of urgency.

Response

Considerable damage resulted to beach infrastructure along most of the coastline within the Central Coast municipal area during the July and August 2018 severe weather events. Damage amounting to over \$100,000 occurred and is not covered by Natural Disaster Relief arrangements. Consequently, other Council projects have had to be deferred this year to allow the replacement or repair of infrastructure such as the beach access at the end of Victoria Street.

New infrastructure has either been ordered or is being manufactured by staff and will be erected prior to the summer season. All infrastructure on the coastal dunes is on Crown reserves and so approval is required to install the equipment. Where existing beach access was by walking tracks and there is now a considerable drop onto the beach, there are no plans to construct any infrastructure until the long-term sand levels of the beach are assessed and a new access is deemed necessary.

Item 15

The CC Council Planning assessment fees for the "No Planning Permit Required" determination (NPPR) are the most expensive on the Coast. At \$90 for a Counter top assessment, it is excessive. Only Devonport charges a fee of \$50. All other Councils that we deal with are Nil.

Response

The No Permit Required – Assessment and Certificate fees are calculated against the actual cost of undertaking the assessment. No profit margin is included.

Item 16

Two years ago I asked a question at the AGM regarding the wood debris on the beach along the CC Council coastline. The Mayor deferred to the GM who stated that if it were on the wet sand, the wood could be removed by anyone. Most of the flood wood debris has now gone but could the Council produce an article in the Monthly newsletter to that effect. (On a rainy day it would all disappear.)

Response

The Council has been in discussions since 2016 with Crown Land Services and Department of Primary Industry Parks Water and Environment on their policy of the removal of timber debris from beaches. The Council is awaiting a Government determination on the removal of timber debris, this has not been received to date. It would be inappropriate to comment publicly on the issue until the Government has finalised its policy.

Item 17

The derelict service station at No 1 Turners Beach Road. The question is; "why has crown lands apparently taken this over?"

I have a client who is very keen to develop this site but it's all hamstrung. Please confirm my information on this and see if something can be done, otherwise it will be a blot on the landscape for the next ten years.

Response

Crown Land Services have not taken over the site, the site was relinquished to the Crown, by the owners. The Council is currently undergoing a legal process to gain control of the site. Once the site becomes Council property, the Council will auction the property to recover unpaid rates and any costs that the Council incurred as part of this process.

The Annual Report.

Item 18

In future reports please include the names of the people in the photographs.

Item 19

Page 38. There are four levels of government in Tasmania. No, I'm not being facetious. I deal with TasWater on a daily basis and although they employ some competent staff, as an organisation they are a money grabbing lot with a serious dearth of leadership. They have more power than the State Government and have delayed several projects to the detriment of development along the NW Coast.

Item 20

Page 65; the Statewide Planning Scheme. If this document ever is gazetted, it could well be the death knell of development and the Planners will all be seriously stressed out. I have served on the HIA Planning Committee for several years but gave up as it's Hobart-centric & at over 600 pages, it will be an unworkable document.

Item 21

Page 82. Weed Control. I have raised this matter for several years but very little is being done about the Gorse around the Municipality. It is becoming chronic and must be costing our Farmers dearly. Also, Cape Weed. The Annual report is not correct is this.

Response

The Council has an ongoing weed eradication program. As mentioned on page 82 of the Annual Report, the Council has adopted a new Weed Management Strategy and funding for this will be considered in the next budget.

Item 22

An excellent result.

To all stakeholders, keep up the superb work.

Regards, Jacob Weeda, JP

Other Business

The Mayor invited questions or comments from the floor.

- Mr Weeda noted the parklet located in Apex Park in his submission, however questioned why it still remained in place on Reibey Street as it has received numerous negative comments and felt it doesn't belong in the parking space as it reduces available car parking.

In responding to Mr Weeda, the Mayor advised that the parklet was an idea developed during the Ulverstone 7 Day Makeover, with the idea that it would increase activity in the area and assists in slowing 'people' traffic down, encouraging people to stay in the CBD longer. Various comments and compliments have been received, as it is a new concept for the community and that the Council will reassess its location after the summer months.

- Mrs Jeanne Koetsier wanted clarification as to why the Penguin Market was the only activity marketed by the Australian Masters Games Committee, noting that the Penguin History Group and Uniting Church also had activities available for visitors to the community.

In responding, the Mayor advised that promotional material for the Australian Masters Games (AMG) was a regional approach, each community was offered the opportunity to provide documentation. The Mayor then referred to Cr Garry Carpenter who advised that the Caves to Canyon Tourism Association invested considerable time with the Committee to negotiate additional marketing information being included. The AMG Committee's marketing had to be fair across the board as it was an unbiased broad-spectrum event.

- Mr Nathan Kelly proposed a suggestion of the Central Coast Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Council work together in the coming year on community engagement and development of a marketing push for dissemination of community information. Mr Kelly reiterated that discussion is required to increase community reach, without focusing on the website.

In response, the Mayor noted her disappointment in not being able to reach the entire community, the Council uses various mediums to communicate, however it does not always ensure information reaches everybody. The Council is accepting of new ideas and suggestions on how it can improve in this area.

- Mr Weeda moved and Cr Carpenter seconded, "That the Annual Report be received."

Carried unanimously

Close of meeting

The Mayor closed the meeting at 8.12pm and, in doing so, thanked those in attendance for their participation.



Sandra Ayton
GENERAL MANAGER