



PARKES SHIRE COUNCIL

LATE AGENDA

TUESDAY 21 DECEMBER 2004

Notice is hereby given that an Ordinary Meeting of Parkes Shire Council will be held at the Council Administration Centre, 2 Cecile Street, Parkes. commencing at 1:30 pm for the purpose of considering the items included on the Agenda.

GENERAL MANAGER: Alan McCormack

Ordinary Meeting Late Agenda

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7 COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

7.1 Report by Cr J M Magill - Rural Fire Services Volunteers' Meeting

Executive Summary

A meeting of Rural Fire Service volunteers was held at Parkes on Wednesday, 15 December 2004.

Background Information

The newly formed Volunteers Association has been formed to better represent volunteer bush fire fighters and their interaction with the Rural Fire Service. Councils in the area have provided financial support to help establish a secretariat for the Association.

Legislative, Policy & Management Planning Implications

Nil.

Budget & Financial Aspects

An amount of \$2,000.00 has been allocated in the budget.

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Report

On Wednesday, 15 December 2004 at 7.00 pm a meeting was held in the Parkes Shire Council Chambers. In attendance were a number of District Rural Fire Service (RFS) Captains, Deputy Captains and Group Captains. Mr Peter Cannon and Mr Tony Ellis were there to promote the newly formed Volunteer Fire Fighters Association (VFFA).

Including the above, there were eighteen present with three apologies. The Mayor, Councillor Robert Wilson OAM, opened the meeting expressing the need for such an organisation. Councillor John Magill chaired the meeting. Mr Ken Neville from RFS also attended for some of the meeting.

After lengthy discussion the meeting unanimously moved the following:

'That this group of Captains, Deputy Captains and Group Captains in the Parkes Shire support the concept of the VFFA as outlined by Mr Cannon and Mr Ellis'.

The meeting concluded at 9.25 pm.

Cr John Magill

8 INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE

8.5 The Hon Sandra Nori MP - International Womens Day 2005

Executive Summary

International Womens Day will be held on the 8 March 2005. The NSW Premier's Department, Office for Women are offering one-off grants of up to \$1,000.00 for Councils to work with community groups to celebrate the occasion.

Background Information

International Womens Day provides an opportunity for communities across NSW to celebrate local women's achievements and the contribution they continue to make to their area. Parkes Shire has a number of ladies organisations. One or more of the local organisations may wish to organise an event or project.

Legislative, Policy & Management Planning Implications

Nil.

Budget & Financial Aspects

Nil.

Recommendation

That an application for funding of up to \$1,000.00 be made to the Office for Women in conjunction with one or more of the Shire's ladies organisations to organise an event or project to celebrate International Womens Day in 2005.

Attachments

Letter from Sandra Nori MP

The Hon Sandra Nori MP
Minister for Tourism and Sport and Recreation
Minister for Women



Clr Robert Wilson OAM
Mayor, Parkes Shire Council
PO Box 337
Parkes NSW 2870

Dear Mr Mayor

International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated around the world each year on 8 March. It is an important occasion to celebrate the achievements and gains made by women and also to focus on those areas where more needs to be done to deliver equal status for women.

IWD provides an opportunity for communities across New South Wales to recognise and celebrate local women's achievements and the contribution they continue to make to their area. Through the Women's Grants Program, the Office for Women, NSW Premier's Department, is offering one off grants of up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for councils to work with local community groups to organise an event or project to celebrate the 2005 International Women's Day.

It is hoped that the grant will allow as many women and girls in your area as possible to participate in and celebrate International Women's Day in 2005.

I would like to encourage you to increase your participation in the 2005 IWD and develop a project or event in conjunction with a local community group, and apply for funding. A copy of the Funding Guidelines and a Request for Funding, including contact details, are attached. Please note the reporting and funds acquittal requirements for funded projects. The closing date for applications is 17 January 2005.

I look forward to many different activities and events across New South Wales as we celebrate IWD in 2005.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Nori".

SANDRA NORI MP
Minister for Tourism and Sport and Recreation
Minister for Women

9 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

9.7 Report of Senior Staff Committee Meeting held 7 December 2004

Executive Summary

The Senior Staff Committee met on 7 December 2004. The report and recommendations (attached) of the Committee are submitted to Council for consideration.

Background Information

The Senior Staff Committee has, as its charter, contract arrangements for the General Manager, and review of performance of the General Manager.

Legislative, Policy & Management Planning Implications

Council must appoint a General Manager, on a fixed term contract, for a contract term not exceeding five years.

Budget & Financial Aspects

1. Salaries are covered by annual allocations
2. The question of an indenture scheme will be evaluated.

Recommendation

That the minutes of the Senior Staff Committee meeting held on 7 December 2004 and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

Attachments

1. Report to Senior Staff Committee
2. Minutes of Senior Staff Committee meeting held 7 December 2004.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO SENIOR STAFF COMMITTEE

The Mayor and Councillors
Senior Staff Committee
Parkes Shire Council

The following items are listed for discussion:

1. Annual Performance Review Of General Manager

The annual performance review by the Senior Staff Committee produced a rating of 4 on a scale of 5. This is defined as 'Creditable - performance has exceeded Council's expectations'.

A rating of 4 has been consistent for a number of years.

2. Staff Contracts

The General Manager and Directors are employed on five (5) year, performance based contracts. The Directors' contracts have been reviewed and renewed this year.

The opportunity was taken to adjust the contracts to reduce Council's FBT obligation in regard to motor vehicles.

3. General Manager's Contract

The General Manager's contract expires on 31 October 2005.

Clause 3.1 of the contract reads:

'At least 9 months before the date of termination the Council and the General Manager shall confer with a view to reaching agreement as to whether the employee should be re-appointed for a further period, and if so, the period of the re-appointment and the terms and conditions of such re-appointment'.

The committee is respectfully asked to consider recommending an extension of the contract.

4. Staff Shortages

Local Government generally is suffering a shortage of key staff (recently discussed in Council). Parkes Shire Council has the advantage of a relatively stable staff which assists in times of high workload. The situation is constantly monitored. The departure of Council's Planner will create a gap which may be difficult to fill.

5. Staff Education

The possibility of CSU Mitchell establishing in Parkes gives rise to speculation on what courses will be offered. One wonders what influence Parkes Council can have on course curriculum. Certainly discussions so far have been amicable and Council's suggestions well received.

Occurring at the same time are comments from the Local Government Minister regarding the lack of basic Local Government knowledge within the ranks of some senior management.

There is also the problem of staff shortages in Local Government. The shortages are 'across the board' eg planners, engineers, finance professionals.

There is probably an opportunity for this Council, or CENTROC, to move closer to CSU given the current situation. Julie Arthur from the Community Partnerships Program is conducting a survey of the shortages and would be a useful conduit.

6. Office Arrangements

The next stage of the office upgrading is about to commence. This will be a refurbishment of the front counter and administration section. Plans of the proposed improvements will be available at the meeting.

Alan McCormack
GENERAL MANAGER

Attachment: Report of Senior Staff Committee meeting held on 7 December 2004

**REPORT OF THE SENIOR STAFF COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 7 DECEMBER 2004 AT 1.10 PM
IN THE MAYOR'S OFFICE**

PRESENT: Councillor R Wilson (Chairman)
Councillor K Keith
Councillor J Magill
Also present was the General Manager (Mr A McCormack)

.. The General Manager submitted a report, which is attached.

Recommendations

- 1 That the General Manager's report be received and noted.
- 2 That the General Manager be offered a contract extension to twelve months after the date set of the next Council General Election.
- 3 That Council investigate indentures or sponsorship arrangements to attract staff, and that funds be set aside for this purpose. (*Note: it was felt that 2nd or 3rd year university students should be targeted.*)

The meeting closed at 1.30 pm.

11 DIRECTOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT'S REPORT

11.3 Impounding Report-September, October, November 2004

Executive Summary

A regular report is provided to Council on Ranger activities including impounding statistics.

Background Information

Nil

Legislative, Policy & Management Planning Implications

Nil

Budget & Financial Aspects

Nil

Recommendation

That the information be noted.

Report

IMPOUNDING REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2004

Parkes

For the month of September a total of 25 dogs were impounded from the area. Three dogs were released and the remaining dogs were destroyed along with ten cats.

Peak Hill

Five dogs were impounded and all dogs were later destroyed.

Tullamore/Trundle

There were two dogs impounded from Trundle and one dog from Tullamore. All three dogs were destroyed.

Roads Patrolled

76, 8, 10, 84, 12, 354, 360, 186, 104, 350, 101, 2, 12, 84A.

Towns Patrolled

Parkes, Peak Hill, Trundle, Tullamore, Bogan Gate.

IMPOUNDING REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2004

Parkes

A total of 18 dogs were impounded from the Parkes area, all dogs were later destroyed.

Peak Hill

There were three dogs impounded from the Peak Hill area and all were destroyed.

Tullamore/Trundle

Four dogs were impounded from Tullamore along with two from Trundle all dogs were destroyed.

Roads Patrolled

76, 18, 7, 104, 64, 84, 364, 308, 2.

Towns Patrolled

Parkes, Peak Hill, Tullamore, Trundle.

Cats

Ten cats were impounded and all were destroyed.

IMPOUNDING REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2004

Parkes

A total of 20 dogs were impounded from the Parkes area during November, one dog was release the remaining dogs were destroyed along with 15 cats.

Peak Hill

Six dogs were impounded all dogs were destroyed.

Tullamore/Trundle

One dog was impounded from Tullamore and released back to its owner. There were no dogs impounded from Trundle.

Roads Patrolled

350, 64, 108, 19, 2, 12, 76, 354, 1, 104.

Towns Patrolled

Parkes, Tullamore, Trundle, Peak Hill, Alectown and Bogan Gate.

Attachments

1. Summary of Companion Animals impounded to date for 2004.

Attachment: Dogs & Cats Impounded 2004 (to date)



Dogs & Cats Impounded 2004 (to Date)

Dogs

Month	Impounded	Released	Destroyed	Other
January	35	1	34	
February	24	2	21	1
March	27	2	23	2
April	33	3	30	
May	29	7	18	4
June	32	10	22	
July	28	3	25	
August	36	4	32	
September	33	3	30	
October	27		27	
November	27	2	25	
December	12		2	
Total	343			

Cats

Month	Impounded	Released	Destroyed	Other
January	10		10	
February	11		11	
March	15		15	
April	17		17	
May	8		8	
June	14		14	
July	10		10	
August	15		15	
September	10		10	
October	10		10	
November	15		15	
December				
Total	135			

12 DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS' REPORT

12.7 Request for Council Assistance to Replace Hedge - Parkes Bowling Club

Executive Summary

Councillor George Pratt, The Parks and Gardens Supervisor, and the Director of Operations met with representatives of the Parkes Bowling Club on Friday 17 December 2004 to discuss the Club's request for assistance to replace the hedge between the Club, the Girl Guides Hall and the netball courts. The Club wish to proceed with the hedge removal and request that Council assist by providing a truck and contribute to half cost of the fence materials.

Background Information

The Parkes Bowling Club had requested Council's assistance to remove the hedge between the new Guide Hall and their No 1 Green facing Cecile Street, and between the Netball Courts and their No 3 Green, and replace with a colourbond fence. Council considered the request at the 7 December 2004 meeting where it was felt that the hedges should remain unless they adversely affected the Club's facility. It was subsequently resolved for Council and the Club's representatives to meet to discuss the request further.

At the meeting, the Club reiterated its concern with the safety issue of the hedge with the Guides now next door and with netballers/general public using the netball courts adjoining the other hedge. The Club also noted that the hedges were drawing much needed moisture from their lawns. The Club wished to proceed with the removal and would be happy to remove the hedge and construct the fence, with Council providing a truck to take away the rubbish and to meet half cost of the materials.

Council, in the past, has not contributed to fencing costs where they were exempt under the Dividing Fences Act. However, Council has contributed to carpark costs given the use of the Club's carpark by netballers using AE Fox Park.

It should also be noted that there was a condition of consent on the Girl Guides Hall to provide landscaping at the front of the Hall to suit the hedge. However, this was not considered a problem if the hedge was to be removed.

Legislative, Policy & Management Planning Implications

Under the Dividing Fences Act 1991 Section 25(1), the Act does not apply to Council given that the properties are used for public purposes or a public reserve, and consequently Council is not required to contribute to the cost of fence replacement.

Budget & Financial Aspects

If Council approved half cost of materials, and provided a truck, the estimated cost would be \$1,800. This would be apportioned to AE Fox Park and the Guide Hall property.

Recommendation

1. For the consideration of Council.
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Attachments

1. Nil.