



PARKES SHIRE COUNCIL

LATE AGENDA

TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2006

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

Order Of Business: Tuesday 17 October 2006

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5 MAYORAL MINUTES

5.4 Mayoral Minute - Federal Government Drought Assistance

Executive Summary

Councillors will recall that at a recent meeting Councillor Magill raised the dire circumstances the rural community was in with the realisation that the current cereal crops have failed. At that time work commenced on the preparation of a submission to the Federal Government following discussions with the Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Mark Vaile MP, while he was in Parkes for the Rail Conference.

Background Information

At the behest of the Deputy Prime Minister Council commenced work on a submission detailing priorities for various levels of assistance from the Federal Government to help rural people and rural communities during the current drought crisis. A meeting was held with the Mid Lachlan Alliance Councils (Parkes, Forbes, Weddin, Lachlan) on the 11 October 2006 in Forbes. Bland Shire Council was also represented at the meeting. At that meeting a list of priorities was agreed to for assistance from both Federal and State Governments with Parkes Shire Council undertaking to prepare a detailed submission in relation to the matters raised.

On Friday, 13 October 2006 the Prime Minister, the Hon John Howard MP, foreshadowed the Federal Government's response to the worsening drought conditions when he announced that Cabinet would be considering a package of extended measures to assist rural families. Due to the announcement Council reworked its submission and reduced it to bullet point form and forwarded it to the Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Mark Vaile MP, on Monday, 16 October 2006. Council called for the establishment of a reseeding grant to assist farmers with next year's crop, the extension of Exceptional Circumstance (EC) drought relief for a further 18 to 24 months, the relaxation of the criteria to permit eligible families to have access to EC as well as calling for a number of assistance measures for rural businesses and businesses which rely on the rural and agricultural sector for their existence.

The submission was also forwarded to the NSW Farmers Association and the Vice President of the Shires Association for their information. Jock Laurie, President of the NSW Farmers Association, has also announced that his organisation has released a strategy for the consideration by the Government to assist rural people and rural communities through the current dry conditions.

On Monday, 16 October 2006 the Prime Minister announced that a further \$350 million would be made available to eligible farmers through the EC Assistance program and that the assistance would be available to 31 March 2008.

The Prime Minister also stated that 'this week the Government will be looking at whether there should be any changes to our drought assistance. If it can be responsibly enhanced, that will happen'.

With this in mind, a letter and a copy of the Mid Lachlan Alliance submission was forwarded to all rural (non-metropolitan) Councils in NSW requesting support for the priorities therein and suggesting to Councils that they also provide the Federal Government with suggestions on ways the Council's drought assistance program can be enhanced.

Suggestions relating to assistance which can be provided by State Government will be discussed with the Premier during his forthcoming visit.

Legislative, Policy & Management Planning Implications

Nil.

Budget & Financial Aspects

Nil.

Recommendation

1. That the information be received and noted.
2. That a similar submission be made to the State Government following a meeting between the Alliance Council Mayors and the Premier of NSW during his visit to Parkes later this week.

Attachments

Nil.

5.5 Mayoral Minute - NSW Premier's Visit 20 October 2006

Executive Summary

The Premier of NSW (the Hon Morris Iemma) will visit Parkes on Friday, 20 October 2006, primarily for the opening of the SCT freight logistics centre. Thanks to the efforts of the Local Member, the Premier will spend three hours in Parkes and will also visit TransTank, Henry Parkes Museum and the Coventry Room for a civic reception at 12 noon. Councillors and their partners and senior staff have been invited to attend the SCT opening at 10.30 am and the civic reception.

Background Information

For some time the Local Member has been endeavouring to secure the Premier for a first hand appraisal of projects in Parkes. Opening of the first stage of the very impressive \$15 million SCT facility provided the ideal catalyst for such a visit which represents another significant promotional opportunity for the Shire.

Legislative, Policy & Management Planning Implications

Nil.

Budget & Financial Aspects

Some costs associated with the conduct of the civic reception to which school principals and captains from across the Shire have been invited.

Recommendation

1. That the information be received and noted.

Attachments

1. Premier's itinerary

ITINERARY PREMIER'S VISIT TO PARKES FRIDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2006	
10.00 am	Premier arrives at Parkes Airport, met by Dawn Fardell MP, Member for Dubbo and Cr Robert Wilson OAM, Mayor of Parkes.
10.15 am	Arrive TransTank for inspection of factory. Met by Director Neil Harrison and Administration Manager Andrew Macdonald who will explain why the company relocated from Bendigo to Parkes in January 2004, initially investing \$4 million to capitalise on Parkes rail access. Currently employing 30 people in Parkes and over 100 in China; but under achieving in Parkes because of its inability to attract and retain skilled labour. No speech required by Premier but opportunity to meet a cross section of the work force
10.35 am	Depart TransTank
10.40 am	Arrive SCT intermodal terminal for official opening. Met by Mr Peter Smith, Managing Director and Mr Geoff Smith, Chief Executive Officer and introduced to senior company management. Premier invited to respond and to officially open the project and unveil a plaque. Official party will proceed to front section of warehouse for Premier to cut a ribbon through which a newly painted Perth bound SCT locomotive and wagons will proceed. Morning tea provided.
11.30 am	Depart SCT
11.40 am	Arrive for inspection of \$2 million Parkes Regional Museum nearing completion and inspection of Moat House Cottage which will replicate the birthplace of Sir Henry in Canley, Coventry, in 1815.
10.50 am	Depart Museum
12 Noon	Arrive Coventry Room, Parkes Shire Council for civic reception. Introduced to principals and school captains from schools in Parkes Shire. National Anthem performed by choir of Parkes primary school students. Welcome by Town Crier. Welcome addresses provided by the Mayor, supported by Mrs Fardell. Response by Premier. Presentation of gift. Light lunch provided.
12.45 am	Depart for Airport.
1.00 pm	Depart Airport. Farewelled by Mrs Fardell and Cr Wilson

5.6 Mayoral Minute - Meeting with NSW Health Minister

Executive Summary

NSW Health Minister (the Hon John Hatzistergos), accompanied by Local Member, Dawn Fardell MP, visited Parkes on Wednesday, 11 October for discussions on a range of health issues.

Background Information

Council for some time has been seeking Government endorsement of redevelopment plans for the Parkes hospital and discussions with the Minister on relevant health issues.

Legislative, Policy & Management Planning Implications

Nil.

Budget & Financial Aspects

Nil.

Recommendation

1. That the information be received and noted and that the Minister be thanked by letter for the visit to Parkes.

Report

The General Manager and Director of Planning and Environment also attended the meeting which provided frank discussion on three key issues:

1. Redevelopment of the Parkes hospital announced in June 2004 by the then Minister (the Hon Morris Iemma). Mr Hatzistergos confirmed that design and planning measures for Parkes hospital would continue in 2006/07.
2. Difficulties being experienced by Parkes dialysis patients in accessing facilities at Orange and the need for extended hours to be made available in the Parkes/Forbes area.
3. The shortage of rural General Practitioners; the importance of providing walk-in-walk-out medical centres to alleviate the shortage of doctors and their increasing workload in both their surgeries and the local hospital.

The Minister also inspected new digital ultrasound equipment at the Parkes hospital and met with Mr Malcolm Stacey of the Parkes Health Council before visiting Forbes.

The Minister's visit proved productive in clarifying a range of issues of concern to both Council and the community.

Attachments

Nil.

8 INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE

8.8 (ICR) Peak Hill Gold Mine - Open Cut Experience

Executive Summary

Advising that the organisers of the Peak Hill Spit and Spud weekend have requested that the Open Cut Experience be opened over the weekend of their planned event. The operators of the Open Cut Experience, the Peak Hill Gold Mine has asked if Council would be prepared to underwrite the costs associated with opening on the weekend. The mine owners advise that costs will be minimal and would only include staffing costs.

Background Information

Council is working with the owners of the Open Cut Experience to continue the provision of the facility as a tourist attraction in the Peak Hill area. By way of Mayoral Minute, Council has also been requested to provide \$1,500.00 to the Spit and Spud Committee to assist with start up costs for the event.

Legislative, Policy & Management Planning Implications

Nil.

Budget & Financial Aspects

It is estimated that the cost of underwriting the staff expenses for a weekend would be approximately \$300.00.

Recommendation

1. For the consideration of Council.

Attachments

Nil.

8.9 (ICR) Apex Christmas Street Parade Committee - 2006 Parade

Executive Summary

The organising committee of the 2006 Apex Christmas Street Parade has asked for assistance from Council in staging the community concert aspect of the carnival. The committee has also requested permission to use Cooke Park for the purpose of the festivities.

Background Information

The Apex Christmas Street Parade is organised by a small band of volunteers with the day's festivities broken up into different areas of responsibility. The street parade is organised by the Apex Club of Parkes with the festivities which take place in Cooke Park being organised by the committee. The committee has requested assistance with the costs of obtaining a stage and lighting for Cooke Park for the community concert which is held at the conclusion of the street parade. Last year Council supported the parade by making a contribution of \$400.00.

Legislative, Policy & Management Planning Implications

Section 356 Contribution.

Budget & Financial Aspects

Funds are available from the Section 356 Vote for the contribution requested.

Recommendation

1. That Council make a financial contribution of \$400.00 to the Apex Christmas Street Parade Committee to assist with the costs of the evening's events.
2. That the State Emergency Service and Coates Hire be approached with a view to obtaining suitable lighting for the event in Cooke Park as a community service.
3. That permission be granted for the Apex Christmas Street Parade Committee to use Cooke Park for the purposes of a community concert and associated activities following the 2006 Christmas street parade subject to the area being left in a clean and tidy condition, the provision of evidence of public liability insurance of not less than \$10 million to cover the event, and no stakes be driven into the surface without prior consultation with the Parks and Gardens Supervisor.

Attachments

Nil.

8.10 (ICR) Trundle Community Consultative Committee - Support of Upgrade to Cricket Nets

Executive Summary

The Trundle Community Consultative Committee (TCCC) advises of their support for an allocation of \$5,000.00 from the Trundle Town Improvement Fund to assist with the upgrading of the town's cricket nets.

Background Information

The Trundle Junior Cricket Club is currently undertaking improvement works valued at \$15,000.00 of which \$7,000.00 has been provided by Country Cricket NSW. The \$3,000.00 shortfall will be met by the Junior Cricket in cash and in-kind contributions.

Junior cricket is thriving in Trundle at the moment and the improvements requested would reflect interest being generated by the sport at both junior and senior levels.

Legislative, Policy & Management Planning Implications

Nil.

Budget & Financial Aspects

Uncommitted funds are available in the Trundle Town Improvement Fund for the purpose.

Recommendation

1. That Council agree to the request for the allocation from the Trundle Town Improvement Fund.

Attachments

Nil.

8.11 (ICR) Public Holidays - 2007

Executive Summary

Council has received applications from the Parkes, Peak Hill and Trundle P A & H Associations for the days required to be gazetted as local public holidays in 2007. The dates to be submitted are as follows:

Time	Date	Place
Half Day from noon	Tuesday, 28 August 2007	Town of Parkes
Half Day from noon	Wednesday, 15 August 2007	Town of Trundle
Full Day	Wednesday, 22 August 2007	Town of Peak Hill

Background Information

In November of each year, the Department of Industrial Relations invites Councils to submit dates to be observed as public holidays and half holidays within the respective Council areas. All local holidays in New South Wales for the forthcoming calendar year are then considered and appointed by the Minister in the one Government Gazette notice. This notice is published in the Government Gazette in December. Confirmation advice of the Minister's approval is forwarded to Council in advance of the Gazette publication date.

Frequently, Council receives enquiries from employees and owners of businesses questioning the payment arrangements for staff on public holidays. They are referred to the Department of Industrial Relations' website which has information on local public holidays in relation to the industrial relations aspect of payment of wages on the gazetted holidays.

When considering last year's applications, Council asked that the organisers in Peak Hill and Trundle be requested to consider applying for half day show holidays. On this occasion, Trundle has reverted to a half day whilst Peak Hill continued with a request for a full day holiday.

Legislative, Policy & Management Planning Implications

Nil.

Budget & Financial Aspects

Nil.

Recommendation

1. That Council make application to the Department of Industrial Relations for the gazettal of public holidays and half holidays for the Shows in the Parkes district for 2007 as requested by the various P A & H Associations.

Attachments

Nil.
