

**MINUTES OF THE BLAND SHIRE COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP MEETING  
HELD IN THE BLAND SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY 14  
NOVEMBER 2017 COMMENCING AT 6.30PM**

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**Present:**

**Amanda Stitt, Frances Jackson, Jill Funnell, Barry Cooper, Ron Cooper, Julie Sharpe, Cr Tony Lord (Mayor), Cr Jan Wyse (Deputy Mayor), Cr Kerry Keatley, Cr Bruce Baker, Cr Murray Thomas, Cr Brian Monaghan, Cr Liz McGlynn, Ray Smith (General Manager), Craig Sutton (Community Relations Officer), Rebecca McDonell (Community Development Officer).**

**WELCOME**

Mayor Tony Lord welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**APOLOGIES**

Cr Penny English, Cr Rodney Crowe

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Mayor Lord read out the Terms of Reference for the Community Reference Group and copies were provided to the gallery.

**BUSINESS ARISING**

**1. Stadium Handrails Update**

General Manager, Ray Smith advised that Council had approved funding to install handrails at the Stadium at its October meeting as supported by the Reference Group. He advised that the work will be carried out in the near future once a long term plan for the seating area is finalised in consultation with user groups.

**2. League of Extraordinary Communities**

The General Manager advised that a resident from Dull in Scotland, who had met the Mayor during this visit earlier this year, intends to visit the Bland Shire in early 2018. He also advised that Council is working with Charles Sturt University on developing a promotional campaign for the League of Extraordinary Communities at no cost to Council.

**3. Wyalong Art Group Mural**

President of the Wyalong Art Group, Frances Jackson, updated the group on the progress of the Main Street mural project. With funding support from Council, painting commenced on 4 November and the group hoped to complete the work by early December. Ms Jackson asked is a small official opening could be conducted to mark the completion of the project.

**4. 125 Year Anniversary Celebrations**

The General Manager advised that a staff project team has been created. All suggestions put forward by the community will be considered and referred to a Council workshop for feedback before coming back before the next meeting of the Community Reference Group.

**5. Bland Shire Signage Opportunity Update**

The Mayor advised that the matter was considered at Council's October meeting and Council opted not to purchase the "Bland" lettered sculpture/artwork discussed at the previous meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **6. Motorcycle Friendly Town Annual Event**

Cr Thomas raised the concept of an annual event in the Bland Shire to follow on from the successful launch of West Wyalong as a motorcycle friendly town. He put forward a number of suggestions including a scavenger hunt utilising the Izi Travel app and possible use and availability of a dynamometer to measure horsepower, torque, speed and RPM of any motorcycle. Cr Thomas also flagged the possibility of using the airport for speed trials depending on the logistics and costs of insurance etc. It was agreed to continue to investigate options for a motorcycle friendly event and report back to Council and the Community Reference Group.

### **7. Vegetation of Footpaths**

Barry Cooper said untidy nature strips at some Bland Shire residences are a poor advertisement to new residents and visitors. Mayor Lord said Council rely on residents to maintain their nature strips. The Mayor advised that Council's new street sweeper is expected to arrive in February and the situation will be monitored.

### **8. Bushfire Planning**

Barry Cooper enquired about local bushfire planning. Mayor Lord advised that bushfire prevention and planning is managed and carried out by the Rural Fire Service. It was agreed to post a reminder on Council's Facebook page and newspaper advertisements about how to report fires.

### **9. Community Survey**

Cr McGlynn suggested that Council survey the community about its preference and/or support for a heated indoor pool and Visitor Information Centre. Mayor Lord said Council is currently compiling costings and business cases for both projects and the community will be consulted once that information becomes available. Mayor Lord said Council has money allocated in the budget to explore two more large scale projects and is seeking ideas. Informal discussion followed.

### **10. General Business**

Amanda Stitt congratulated Council on the launch and success of the Izi Travel app and it was suggested that the initiative be promoted in local motels and businesses for the benefit of the travelling public.

Barry Cooper suggested Council install access handrails at a specific area of Ron Crowe Oval. Rebecca McDonnell offered to inspect the area with Mr Cooper and report back.

A discussion was held regarding grants and the proposed Community Cinema project. Council has two applications pending for the Community Cinema and will further consider its involvement in the project once the outcomes are known in the first quarter of 2018.

Barry Cooper enquired as to whether the campaign to have Local Government recognised in the Australian constitution was still active. Mayor

Lord said Council is monitoring the situation closely and added that one of the advantages of constitutional recognition would be that Councils would be eligible to receive disaster funding directly from the Federal Government.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Community Reference Group meeting will be held on Tuesday 13 March 2018 at the Bland Shire Council Chambers at 6.30pm.

**CLOSE**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.19 pm.