

*** Please note: minutes are not final until confirmed at the following Dinner Plain Management Committee meeting.*



ALPINE SHIRE

DINNER PLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Minutes of the Dinner Plain Management Committee Meeting held at **Dinner Plain Community Centre, Dinner Plain** on **Wednesday 19 March 2008** commencing at **11.05 am**.

1. WELCOME

Chair, Neil Marshall welcomed the committee and observers to the meeting.

Present:

Neil Marshall – Chair
Tracy Squire
Malcolm MacPherson
Leanne Guy
Helen Moran
David Foster
Ian Nicholls – Chief Executive Officer
Cr Mario Vaccaro – Councillor

In Attendance:

Kirsten McDonald – Acting Manager Strategic Services
Lyn Blandford – Acting Manager Strategic Services, Engineering & Waste
Simon Jones – Strategic Projects Coordinator
Karin Grima – Dinner Plain Marketing Officer
Belinda Costenaro – Executive Assistant

2. APOLOGIES:

Simon Grant
John Castran

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Tracey Squire declared an interest in components of item 6.10 - the Dinner Plain Masterplan

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – ORDINARY MEETING 5 DECEMBER 2007

Moved

Tracey Squire / David Foster

That the minutes of the Dinner Plain Management Committee held on 5 December 2007 be confirmed

CARRIED

5. BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 Status Report / Action Items

Council's CEO, Ian Nicholls presented the Status Report.

Community centre: The committee discussed issues with storage in the community centre. It was determined that the lease / license arrangement with the Department of Education should be revisited to determine usage, storage, and management of the centre. Council will investigate this.

Meetings with Mount Hotham Resort Management Board (MHRMB): Chairman Neil Marshall has had discussions with Jim Atteridge from MHRMB about future meetings. Neil requested that the committee relay items that should be discussed, to him.

Dinner Plain Entry Cattle Grid: The cattle grid has had repairs as per the request last meeting, however the committee was informed that this may only be a short term solution to the problem. Leanne Guy requested that investigations into making the grid 'bicycle friendly' be made.

Tennis courts: Contact has been made with Strata Management regarding the lease of the tennis courts – there appears to be no impediments in the lease to upgrading the courts. The committee requested that investigations be made to determine issues such as ownership, community access, and revenue raised from this usage. Council will follow up with a letter to resolve these issues.

6. OFFICER REPORTS

6.1 Finance Report / Budget

Ian Nicholls presented the Finance Report on behalf of Luke Taberner, Manager Corporate Services.

The Dinner Plain Special Rate was discussed briefly. It is currently set at 86.5% of the General Rate, which is significantly lower than in the past. The special rate covers specific resort services. Capital Works are funded from operational funds plus the Dinner Plain reserve.

Under the Dinner Plain Strategic Plan to be adopted, a finance / business plan will be developed. The committee agreed that a forward estimate of costs was required to assist them with planning and the ability to alter the special rate.

The Link Road (capital work) has been delayed due to issues surrounding native vegetation, VicRoads and native title. These have now been resolved, and discussions between Council and owners of the section of land can progress.

The committee discussed fee for service provisions. They requested that a briefing note be presented to the committee (as was presented to the former committee) to determine the cost differentials between Dinner Plain charges / apportionments and those areas where Dinner Plain is not charged specifically.

Moved

Tracey Squire / Leanne Guy

That the Finance Report as presented be adopted.

CARRIED

6.2 Dinner Plain Planning Services

Ian Nicholls presented the Planning Services report on behalf of John Carter, Manager Technical Services.

Details regarding the current level of service for Dinner Plain planning were presented, including costs for the year to date. Current costs are over budget \$4,615 over budget (allowing for a correction of \$2,047 in the report presented). However the end of year budget will likely be adequate (\$55,000).

The committee were advised that the previous 12 month period has seen planning fee income for Dinner Plain projects of approximately \$30,000. Concern was raised over expenditure for planning services compared to the income received.

Moved

Mario Vaccaro / Malcolm MacPherson

That the Dinner Plain Planning Services report be noted.

CARRIED

6.3 Waste Management Operations Chronology

6.4 Waste Compacting Equipment Update

6.5 Cartage and acceptance of recyclable materials

Lyn Blandford, Acting Manager Strategic Services (Engineering & Waste) presented reports 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5.

There is strategic and government policy guiding Councils in their waste management operations. Government policies must be adhered to and outline targets for waste going to landfill and recycling that must be achieved for all locations.

Recycling in Dinner Plain needs to be promoted more to adequately achieve these targets. There will be an education campaign in the village prior to winter, including information in the new Village Guide, on the website, and visits to businesses to promote better waste management.

A 40m³ waste compaction unit is part of the new contract for Village Maintenance and Waste Management Services. This unit compacts and stores waste in the one unit and has been previously used and proven in Mount Buller. The unit requires a 4m x 4m extension to the existing waste / recycling area to house the compaction mechanism.

Baling of recyclables began in July 2007, meaning a clean storage area, no exposed waste and a reduction in bulk for transport. An invitation to tender is currently open (closing on 4 April 2008) for the cartage and acceptance of recyclable materials. It is likely that landfill charges will be increasing in the future, making recycling a much more important strategy.

Moved

Tracey Squire / Leanne Guy

That reports 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5 regarding waste management at Dinner Plain be noted.

CARRIED

6.6 Depot facilities

Lyn Blandford presented the report on Depot facilities. Storage areas in the Depot area have become an issue, with many pieces of equipment now having to be stored in the open, or in other storage areas of neighbouring businesses, which is not viable long term.

A concept plan for the whole depot area will be developed as part of providing suitable facilities in the depot.

Moved

Tracey Squire / David Foster

- 1. That Council officers proceed with the preliminary design and estimate for construction of additional undercover storage area and a wash down area at the Dinner Plain Alpine Village Depot, for consideration in the Alpine Shire Council's 2008/2009 Budget.***
- 2. That Council officers prepare a concept plan for the long-term development / improvement of the Depot Area to cater for future growth of the Village.***

CARRIED

6.7 Grass cutting and slashing

Lyn Blandford presented the report on grass cutting and slashing at Dinner Plain. The committee discussed the issues surrounding grass mowing on absentee owner land, and suggested that without the provision of this service, there may be more issues with village amenity and fire risk. This has been a historical provision, and is provided for through the village maintenance contract.

Visual amenity for buildings was also discussed. This is an area that may be outside of Council control, but could only be implemented by a Local Law modification. This may be investigated in the future.

Moved

Helen Moran / Malcolm MacPherson

That the Grass Cutting and Slashing report be noted

CARRIED

6.8 Dinner Plain Marketing Report

Karin Grima, Dinner Plain Marketing Officer, presented the Marketing Report.

There has been positive feedback received regarding the Cool Summer Festival held 29 February – 2 March. Artists have already been in contact asking to be rebooked for next year, and enquiries for ticket prices and the program for next year have been received. A sponsorship drive will begin before winter. The program finished within budget.

Comments from the gallery indicated that there was a nice vibe around the village, with good atmosphere during the weekend. It is believed that many locals made day trips up the mountain to attend the festival as well as visitors staying at Hotham and Dinner Plain.

The committee congratulated the organisers, Karin Grima and Jessica Rose from MHRMB, and indicated that the festival should be supported long term to grow into a bigger event in the future.

Moved

Mario Vaccaro / David Foster

- 1. That the Marketing Report as noted be adopted***
- 2. That planning for next year's Cool Summer Festival be endorsed***

CARRIED

6.9 Adoption of the Dinner Plain Strategic Plan

Simon Jones, Strategic Projects Coordinator presented the Dinner Plain Strategic Plan.

The revised Strategic Plan is a living document that will evolve as issues arise, and will be a guiding tool for decision making. Much of the direction for key issues and concerns has come through the consultation provided for the Dinner Plain Masterplan. The Strategic Plan provides the umbrella to the MasterPlan, Tourism / Marketing Plan and Business Plans as they are developed.

It was suggested that the document be reviewed annually to be expanded and updated. Also, that when Council Officers are preparing reports for the Committee, that their relevance to the Strategic Plan be noted. Twice-yearly reporting to the Committee on the progress of Actions within the plan was suggested.

There was some concern from the gallery that the lifespan of the document is until 2025, but that the actions and strategies were more in line with five year plans. It was suggested that the wording 'living document' be incorporated into the plan to ensure that it would be read with that in mind.

The document will be made available on the website, with an invitation to comment, either through Committee members, or back to Council. Incorporating details of it into the next Dinner Plain newsletter will ensure that all ratepayers are aware of its existence.

The committee requested that the document be reviewed in six months to incorporate input from the Dinner Plain community on its release.

Motion**Malcolm MacPherson / Tracey Squire**

- 1. That the revised Dinner Plain Strategic Plan as attached be adopted.**
- 2. That the plan be reported against twice annually.**

CARRIED**6.10 Adoption of the revised Dinner Plain Masterplan**

The review of the Dinner Plain Masterplan began in April 2006, with the consultant's report placed on public exhibition during June 2007. After consideration of submissions received in response to public exhibition of the Draft Masterplan the committee determined that modification was required to address the concerns raised.

Key differences in the current Masterplan from the consultants draft include: support for rural living in lots 1,2,3 and incorporation of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) principles into the Design Guidelines.

Further public exhibition will be required as part of the Amendment process to incorporate the revised Masterplan into the Alpine Planning Scheme following adoption by the Committee and subsequently the Alpine Shire Council.

The committee requested that the Strategic Framework diagram contained in the Strategic Plan also be included in the revised Dinner Plain Masterplan to indicate its relation to other strategic documents.

Tracey Squire left the room while the Committee resolved the following:

Moved**Leanne Guy / David Foster****That the revised Dinner Plain Masterplan as attached be adopted****CARRIED**

6.11 Hotham – DP Trail Update

Simon Jones presented the Hotham – Dinner Plain Trail Update.

It is anticipated that the section from JB Plain to Dinner Plain will be completed before winter. Issues surrounding new legislation associated with native title have delayed progression on the trail to date, although it is expected that this will now progress, with a Cultural Heritage Management Plan to be finalised.

The committee was advised that the general intent for usage of the trail was for general purpose walking / cycling trail, incorporating cross country skiing during winter. Council officers are aware that there will be a need for signage on the trail for the safety of all users, particularly to ensure that snow mobiles are prevented from using the trail. Use of snow mobiles is governed by the Dinner Plain Local Law.

Moved

Tracey Squire / David Foster

That the Hotham – Dinner Plain Trail Update be noted

CARRIED

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Concept plan for DP entry from GAR

Simon Jones presented the Dinner Plain Entry concept to the committee. This includes rock work along the Great Alpine Road on both sides of the entrance to create a sense of arrival, along with some changes to the entry to improve the village entrance.

The committee was generally in agreement that the addition of stone pillars and a stone sculpture reminiscent of early settlers along the Great Alpine Road was a good idea to create the sense of arrival. This coupled with the raising of the 'Alpine Shire – Dinner Plain' signs to be elevated on stone plinths would raise awareness of entering the Dinner Plain precinct.

The committee requested that a range of options be presented for the village entrance, in addition to the ideas presented, including a suggestion of extending the current stone walls further inside the entrance.

In the meantime, it was requested that the wooden hut at the entrance of Dinner Plain be repainted to blend in with colours of the current stonework, with the "Dinner Plain" lettering to be removed. This would retain just the Dinner Plain signs currently on stone walls at the entrance, and remove the duplication of the village name.

It was also suggested that some of the surplus signage along the Great Alpine Road be revisited, and in consultation with VicRoads consider some changes in positioning of signs to remain.

7.2 Proposed movement of Postal Boxes

Ian Nicholls and Belinda Costenaro discussed a proposal from Australia Post to relocate the current post boxes. Australia Post had contacted Council, with a request that the committee revisit a proposal presented in 2006 to relocate the postal boxes from the Brandy Creek Café to the entry foyer of the DP Hut. If this was unsuccessful, Australia Post requested that a free-standing structure be built in that vicinity to house the postal boxes.

Sue Gold (Brandy Creek Café) commented that there had been correspondence with Australia Post since that initial request, and that Australia Post were currently considering a proposal for a redesign of the postal box location, allowing for an increase in the number of post boxes, to be located at Brandy Creek Café.

The Committee determined that they would delay any decision on the proposed relocation of the post boxes, pending an outcome of the discussions between Australia Post and Brandy Creek Café.

7.3 Terra Australis Mountain Bikes

Karin Grima presented a proposal from Terra Australis, which is a proposed epic mountain bike stage race based on the hugely successful Trans Alp, Trans Rockies and Cape Epic races held overseas.

It is anticipated that the Terra Australis event would run from Falls Creek, with seven days and stopovers running through to Mount Buller – final details are yet to be confirmed.

Costs to Dinner Plain would be \$8,000 over two years, which would guarantee a stage stopover in 2009, 2010 and 2011. The first event is likely to be held in April 2009 (after Easter). The committee agreed that it sounded like a fantastic event to become involved in, and approved the \$8,000 for Dinner Plain to become involved.

7.4 Hut Acquisition

Ian Nicholls advised the committee that a hut previously used by Dinner Plain Central Reservations was now excess to their requirements, and was available for Council acquisition if interested. He requested that the committee consider whether Council should explore the possibility of acquiring the hut.

Motion

Tracey Squire / David Foster

That investigations be made into Council acquiring the hut previously used by Dinner Plain Central Reservations.

CARRIED

7.5 Fire Damaged Trees on Great Alpine Road between Harrietville and Hotham

Malcolm MacPherson raised the issue of dead and overhanging trees on the road between Harrietville and Hotham, particularly from the picnic area to the ticket booth. Helen Moran advised that the MHRMB had undertaken a project before last winter to have a tree specialist report on the risks and recommendations regarding these. The report was passed on to VicRoads, but it is believed that those recommendations have not been acted upon.

Moved

Tracey Squire / Malcolm MacPherson

That a letter be written from Council to VicRoads re: concern / risk of dead trees on the Great Alpine Road.

CARRIED

7.6 North East Motorcycle Leaflet

Cr Mario Vaccaro advised the committee that this leaflet will be reprinted next year, and if the committee had any information or areas of concern, to forward them to him. There was also a discussion on motorcycle safety, with the North East Roadsafe Alliance (of which Cr Vaccaro is a member) investigating the possibility of signage to alert motorcyclists of the dangers of mountain riding, and to advise travelling with their lights on. Assuming that permission could be granted by the appropriate authorities to install signs, it would be anticipated that there would be a sign near Harrietville, with the Gippsland Roadsafe group looking after the Gippsland side.

7.7 Terms of the Committee

Tracey Squire enquired as to the terms of the current committee. Current members retiring in June 2008 will still have one more meeting – the budget meeting in May. Affected members will be advised by email.

7.8 Indigenous Plants

Sue Gold commented from the gallery that she had been advised by Lynne Pepper that indigenous seed has been collected from the area, and there are now plants available to the community. It is not known whether there will be a charge for these plants. Sue requested that ratepayers are advised of the plant availability in a letter to ratepayers / newsletter. [Contact details provided after the meeting are as follows: Darren Wallace of Enviroworks mobile: 0428 102 148. Species available include: *Eucalyptus pauciflora*;

Prostanthera cuneata; Chrysocephallum semipapossu; Olearia phlogopappa; Callistemon seeberi.)]

7.9 Dinner Plain Community Association

A question from the gallery asked the committee if they had any details about a rumoured skatepark to be developed in the village. Ian Nicholls advised that it had not been a project that Council were aware of, and that it was not in current budgets.

Further committee discussion determined that it was the Dinner Plain Community Association who had first discussed the proposed skatepark. It is thought that the Community Association had conducted quite a bit of planning done towards this, with \$8,000 raised towards it, but an application for government funding in 2004 had been rejected.

Malcolm MacPherson was making further enquiries.

8. QUESTIONS

Nil

9. NEXT MEETING

Neil Marshall advised the committee that the next meeting would be likely to be in late May. The committee will be advised of an exact date closer to the date.

Meeting close: 2.40pm

Chairman

ACTIONS ARISING FROM MARCH 2008 MEETING

ISSUE	WHO	ACTION
Community Centre Lease / Licence	CEO	Investigate lease / licence with Department of Education to determine usage, storage and committee issues.
Meetings of Chairs of DPMC and MHRMB	Committee	Advise Neil Marshall of issues that the committee would like them to discuss
Entry Cattle Grid	CEO, Acting Mgr Strategic Services (Eng & Waste), Dinner Plain Services	Investigate Cattle Grid and need for a longer term solution. Include provisions for bicycle friendly entry.
Tennis Courts	CEO / Executive Assistant	Follow up letter to determine ownership, community usage and revenue from tennis court usage.
Forward Estimate of Costs	Corporate Services Manager	Provided to allow Committee to gauge future requirements on village finances, and allow setting of Special Rate and Capital Works.
Cost differential briefing note	Corporate Services Manager	Briefing note to next meeting to outline Dinner Plain costs, cost apportionment and income.
Preliminary design and cost estimate for DP Depot for consideration in 2008/09 budget	Acting Manager Strategic Services (Eng & Waste)	Present to next meeting
Concept plan for depot area	Acting Manager Strategic Services (Eng & Waste)	Present to next meeting
Visual amenity for buildings	Committee / Council	Consider in future
Dinner Plain Strategic Plan	Strategic Projects Coordinator / Executive Assistant	Update Strategic Plan to include the wording 'living document'. Advertise Strategic Plan in next newsletter and make available on website for public comment Review in six months taking into account public comment Report to committee on progress against Strategic Plan every six months.
Dinner Plain Masterplan	Strategic Projects Coordinator	Include Strategic Framework diagram into Masterplan Make available on website Implement documentation required for incorporation into planning scheme, including public exhibition periods.
Dinner Plain Entry Concept	Strategic Projects	Proceed with designwork for stone pillar / sculpture concept along Great Alpine Road

	Coordinator	Provide additional options for entry Liaise with VicRoads re: sign
Motorcycle safety	Committee	To advise Cr Vaccaro of any suggestions for incorporation into new leaflet
Committee Terms	Executive Assistant	To advise the Committee of their current terms – half of the Committee retire each year at June 30.
Dinner Plain Community Association	Committee / Council	Investigate DPCA's suggestion of skatepark, and planning.