

# Access Committee

3 March 2014



## MINUTES

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HELD AT **BVSC Chambers**

### Action items

#### BVSC

- Item 3.1  
Change Councillor Tapscott's first name in the previous meeting minutes to Sharon. It currently says 'Sue Tapscott'
- Item 3.2  
Obtain concept drawings for Ford Park and place on public exhibition for final round of consultation.
- Item 3.3  
Funding of the Bruce Steer Pool project – determine if Council will 'fill the gap' of the cost?
- Item 3.4  
Further review of the Inclusive Communities strategic plan to broaden the focus of the plan.
- Item 3.6  
Distribute final version of barriers register
- Item 3.9  
Provide an update on the progress of this Development Application for Bega Urologist facility
- Item 3.13  
Review the Committee Guidelines to reflect new holistic approach for the group. Draft an EOI and present to Access Committee at June 2 meeting.

#### Access Committee

- Item 3.5  
Continue developing the Better Business Project brochure

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## MINUTES

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### Present

Simon Schweitzer	Jeff Tipping	Mark Irvin
Nathan Johnston	Cr. Tapscott	Ron Finneran
Colin Dunn	Cathy Koukoumaftsis	Jamie Aubrey
Neroli Dickson		

### 1 Apologies:

Chris Sparks	Clare Blewett	Sue Thomas
Leah Odgen		

### 2 Confirmation of minutes

The Minutes of the 2 December 2013 Committee were taken as read.

### 3 Business arising from last meeting

#### 3.1 Councillor Tapscott's name

Please change Councillor Tapscott's first name in the previous meeting minutes to Sharon. Currently says 'Sue Tapscott'

#### 3.2 Ford Park

Council is currently waiting for concept drawings to be provided by the architect. Once the drawings are received there will be a final round of consultation and the plans will be placed on public exhibition for comment.

#### 3.3 Bruce Steer Pool

Plan has been developed and put forward to the Access Committee.

Further discussion to be held regarding funding from 2013/14 budget - the Access Committee allocation of \$20,000.00. Funds from the Access Committee have not currently been allocated to a particular project for the current financial year.

Consideration was given to allocating the \$20,000.00 amount to the Blue Steer Pool.

Total cost of the pool is approximately \$50,000.00. Question was raised from the floor if Council will 'fill the gap' of the cost. This matter will be followed up.

### **3.4 Inclusive Communities Strategic Plan**

Decision made some time ago to develop a disability action plan. Further consideration is being given to the possibility of broadening the scope of this plan to cover inclusive communities in its entirety, as opposed to focussing only on disability access.

### **3.5 Better business project**

A brochure is currently being developed by the Access Committee and is still a work in progress. Consideration is being given to including a section in the brochure for testimonials from businesses that have completed works to improve access to their premises, which resulted in improved business results. This item will be included for follow up at the next meeting.

### **3.6 Barriers register**

An "access audit" has been carried out by Access Committee Members, which has resulted in the culmination of a presentation to Council. The same presentation was made to the Access Committee at this meeting. Any items identified in the audit will be considered for inclusion in a reviewed barriers register. Council is currently creating a works schedule which will classify items as either maintenance matters or items to be included in the barriers register.

As a follow up to the presentation made to Council, the Access Committee submitted a letter to the General Manager on 18 February outlining the four main focus areas, each with suggested recommendations.

The updated register will be distributed accordingly.

### **3.7 Grant Funding opportunities**

This is an ongoing issue for committee members who are regularly looking for funding opportunities. The committee and Council staff will continue to monitor grant funding opportunities.

### **3.8 Liaising with local Service Clubs**

Access Committee members have been making a concerted effort to liaise more directly with local service clubs. Presentations have been made on several occasions to help increase awareness of access issues in the community.

### **3.9 Development Application for Bega Urologist**

Access Committee requested an update on the progress of this Development Application. No update was available at this time. The initial application was approved in December 2013 with a number of conditions attached, one of which

was to consider access. Council staff confirmed that Conditions of approval must be met within a three month timeframe. Council staff will follow up this matter.

### **3.10 Access to Westpac Bank – Bega**

At the time of the meeting Council representative was unaware of any Development Application being submitted to Council to improve access to the Westpac Bank in Bega.

Access Committee has written to the Westpac representatives, asking for consideration to be given to improving access to the bank. Committee members have also written to the NAB bank in Bega asking for the same consideration to be made in that location.

This is an ongoing matter and will continue to be worked on by the committee.

### **3.11 Access Committee Meeting correspondence**

Committee members asked that information be distributed to them at least one week prior to meeting. Council staff agreed to fulfil this request in future and apologised for any inconvenience caused previously.

### **3.12 Access to Bar Beach Merimbula**

Correspondence had been received from Council's Asset Engineer regarding access to Bar Beach in Merimbula. Council is still awaiting a permit from the Office of Environment and Heritage. Works intended to commence by May 2014 and be completed by the end of the 2013/14 financial year.

### **3.13 Committee Structure, Recruitment and Guidelines**

Each committee has a 2-year term. The committee will be seeking to renew membership and recruit new members at the end of the 2013/14 financial year. Existing members can re-nominate, but new and external candidates can also apply.

The committee is focussing on access at a strategic level to help increase awareness and improvement of access in the Bega Valley Shire. The committee will focus on a more holistic approach to access, not just access for people in wheelchairs or with a disability.

There is a limit of 11 members on the Access Committee.

Council to include a statement in the Expression of Interest to clarify the Access Committee is not just for people with a disability. Council will also review the Committee Guidelines to reflect this new holistic approach.

A draft Expression of Interest will be presented to the Access Committee for approval at the next meeting.

### **3.14 Staff attendance at Access Committee meetings**

The Access Committee will belong in the portfolio of the Group Manager of Community & Relationships. There has been a commitment from the General

Manager to include a broader representation of Council staff at Access Committee meetings as required.

## **4 New business**

### **4.1 Bruce Steer Pool**

Motion put forward from the Chairperson of the Access Committee that the nominated amount of \$20,000.00 from Council's 2013/14 Budget to the Access Committee be allocated in its entirety to the Bruce Steer Pool to improve access to the facility.

This motion was seconded by Neroli Dickson and approved by all.

A second motion was made by the Committee that Councillor Tapscott propose to Council that the allocated funds for the Access Committee in the 2014/15 budget to be increased to \$40,000.00. This motion was moved by Colin Dunn, and seconded by Cathy Koukoumaftsis. The committee voted on this motion resulting in:

For: Nathan Johnston, Ron Finneran, Colin Dunn, Cathy Koukoumaftsis

Against: Jamie Aubrey

## **5 Closure**

The meeting was declared closed at 12.55pm.

## **6 Next meeting**

The next meeting is to be held at Bega Valley Shire Council Chambers on 2 June 2014.