

MINUTES



URALLA TOWNSHIP AND ENVIRONS COMMITTEE (UTEK)

Date: Monday 14 October 2024 – Quarterly Meeting

Time: 06:00 PM

Meeting called to order by: Andrew Parker at 06:10 PM

IN ATTENDANCE: Andrew Parker (Chair) AP, Rob Valler (Secretary) RV, Bob Anderson BA, Cr Kath Arnold KA, Rob Bowie RB, Gai Buchanan GB, Marlene Jacobs MJ, Annie Mayo AM, Kent Mayo KM, Cr Lone Petrov LP, Mick Raby (Director Infrastructure and Development USC) MR, Jim Sinclair (via TEAMS) JS

APOLOGIES: Tony Lashlie TL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS QUARTERLY MEETING (3rd June 2024)

Moved:

Seconded:

CARRIED

Welcome to new Councillor Representatives and Chair's Report (AP). AP explained reasons for not re-nominating - potential conflict of interest due to negotiations around Stage 2 of the Fibonacci project in Pioneer Park.

ELECTIONS

1. Chair - Rob Bowie

Nominated: RV

Seconded: GB

CARRIED

2. Secretary – Jim Sinclair

Nominated: RV

Seconded: KM

CARRIED

3. Other matters

RV read letter of resignation from Beth Plattford.

[JS joined meeting at 6:27pm]

RV resigned citing disappointment that the committee had not achieved more results in the previous twelve months. RB agreed that the committee's lack of impact was frustrating.

[RV left the meeting]

Discussion on vacant positions. AP noted that Noelene Porter's leave of absence had expired and that she is likely no longer a member. AP to confirm.

MR advised that under UTEC's Terms of Reference, the term of the Committee concludes three months after the Council election with the new Council to determine its viability and terms. This will potentially happen at the November Council Meeting and until then, he recommends anyone interested in joining should contact him directly rather than go through the lengthy nomination process.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

4. Update on maintenance of blisters in main street

GB expressed concern that the sad state of the blisters and Visitor Information Centre gardens reflects poorly on us, especially in light of the upcoming New England Garden Festival and Open Gardens in Uralla, 01 Nov 24. MR said that the blisters would be addressed in the coming weeks with a team of three part-time workers with horticultural experience starting imminently. He advised that there is no masterplan which addresses ongoing maintenance and that it is Council's intention to commission a landscape designer/horticulturalist to produce one. He added that there was a fundamental design flaw in the lack of soil depth of the blisters. AP suggested that local experts should be encouraged to apply for this work as they could be called upon in the maintenance phase.

5. Advertising Uralla signage at The Glen

MR advised that they are waiting for UTEC to provide the final content. RB to follow up with RV who was leading this project for UTEC.

6. UTEC Vacancies

Covered in above discussion.

7. Request advice on Council action re SCCF Round 5A reallocation of funds proposal

GB asked for feedback following on from UTEC's submission. MR detailed the background of this grant for the information of the new Councillors. He reported that Council had resolved to proceed with the variation to direct funds towards the artwork and amenities which make up Phase 2 of the Pioneer Park Redevelopment. He said that the amendment was in mid-process with the State Grants Body.

GENERAL BUSINESS

8. Rotary – Signage to Town entrances

AP advised that Rotary had offered to present their signage options to UTEC at the next meeting. Following discussion, it was agreed to take up the kind offer. AP to respond.

9. Implementation of protocols to track recommendations from UTEC

AP suggested naming protocol to include date for easier tracking. JS to instigate.

10. Recommendations

- a. [01.10/24] That Council accept the Minutes from the UTEC Quarterly Meeting of 03 Jun 2024 and UTEC General Meetings of 01 Jul, 12 Aug and 02 Sep 2024.

Moved: KM
Seconded: AP
CARRIED

- b. [02.10/24] That Council take appropriate action, as an urgent matter of safety, to rectify any outage of street lighting, with particular emphasis on the main street and CBD.

Moved: AP
Seconded: RB
CARRIED

- c. [03.10/24] That Council reverse their former position and engage the services of the Work for the Community Program, through Corrections NSW, to undertake duties in the Open Spaces of Uralla; with particular focus on Parks and Gardens, to address the identified deficiencies in the Grounds Crew resourcing.

Moved: GB
Seconded: JS
CARRIED

- d. That Council formally write to the Uralla Neighbourhood Centre (UNC) requesting them to clean up the Uralla Community Garden.

MR advised that Council had been in contact and UNC were not in a position to manage the garden. He said that Council would do an initial cleanup but that they were on the lookout for volunteers or community groups to facilitate. He called for any interested parties to contact him at Council directly.

Next General Meeting: Monday 4 November 2024 - 4pm, Uralla Shire Council Chamber

Next Quarterly Meeting: Monday 6 January 2025 - 6pm, Uralla Shire Council Chamber

Meeting Closed: 07:19 PM