

# MINUTES



## URALLA TOWNSHIP AND ENVIRONS COMMITTEE (UTECH)

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**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – General Meeting

**Time:** 04:00 PM

**Meeting called to order by:** Andrew Parker

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### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Andrew Parker AP (Chairperson), Rob Valler RV (Secretary), Bob Anderson BA, Cr Robert Bell RBM (Mayor) RBM, Rob Bowie RB, Cr Tim Bower TB, Gai Buchanan GB, Cr Sarah Burrows SB, Marlene Jacobs MJ, Tony Lashlie TL, Kent Mayo KM (The Courthouse only), Annie Mayo AM, Beth McGrath BM, Cr Tom O'Connor TO (The Glen only), Cr Lone Petrov LP, Mick Raby MR (Interim Director Infrastructure and Development USC) Cr Tara Toomey TT, Dean Weiley (Manager Assets USC)DW.

**APOLOGIES:** Jim Sinclair (JS)

### **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

Tour of 3 sites hosted by MR as agreed in previous General Meeting:

1. The Glen
2. The Courthouse
3. Pioneer Park

#### **1. The Glen**

Works at The Glen continue as approved. A further extension for physical works to be completed has been granted by the funding authority up to 30 Apr 24 (this also includes Rotary Park and Pioneer Park). 'Constellations of the South' are continuing to be installed with 'The Observer' and 'The Phoenix' now installed. Remainder of sculptures yet to be fabricated and installed – 2 sculptures are anticipated to be installed by W/E 13 Jan 24. Earth works are still to be undertaken which will result in the concrete bases of the monoliths to be covered with soil and turfed.

Information Board – Draft design/wording for the information board shelter is being prepared by USC; this will be brought to UTEC for discussion/input before finalization. QR codes and local business (user pays) to be considered for inclusion.

Unfinished paths – Paths which are currently gravel will be sealed with hot mix at the time that rectification works are undertaken at Rotary Park (Rotary Park will have works undertaken to allow greater access for caravans).

The question of who undertook works at The Glen was raised by RV. MR confirmed that works were undertaken by USC and that this was funded through the grant under capital expenditure.

## **2. The Courthouse**

Significant funding remains – physical works to be completed by 30 Apr 2024

Matter discussed included:

- Stage to be moved out by approx. 1mtr from current position.
- Flooring restored using the floorboards currently in the area with a kitchenette. The flooring in the kitchenette room will be replaced with new like for like boards.
- Accessibility ramp will be installed. Further to this, there will be an accessibility bathroom (currently the Magistrates bathroom) and to allow access to this area the walls between the various courtyards will be interconnected with doorways.
- Rewiring to the building has occurred and 3 phase is now in place. The rewiring of the internal aspects of the building is next to be completed.
- Council has resolved that the Courthouse will be a multipurpose facility to allow for art exhibitions, weddings, meetings, performances etc. It will not be a single use facility.
- A consultant will be engaged to provide professional advice for lighting/sound/seating/curtains to find a happy medium for a multipurpose facility.
- Fireplaces throughout the building will be restored to original look although will not be used as a heating source.
- Bathrooms will be renovated to allow for male/female/accessible facilities.
- Management of facility was raised by RB. It was noted that Council needs to clearly identify governance structures for the booking/management/caretaking of The Courthouse as a 'going concern'.
- Hardware/windows/tuckpointing/French polishing was raised by RV. The heritage fabric of the building requires significant attention to refurbishment. RV offered to provide a list of professional services to undertake such works.
- The front fence is to be reinstated as per the original design. KM has 2 of the original fence posts in his possession which can be used to take patterns from in conjunction with historical photographs.
- The Casuarina/She-oak trees will be removed.
- Council has endorsed that a minimalistic kitchen be installed. Concerns were raised that whilst a commercial kitchen would not be needed a greater than 'minimal' model would be needed to attract greater usage of the facility.

## **3. Pioneer Park**

The following observations were made at Pioneer Park:

- The spiral path to the west of the toilet block has been completed and the artwork laid, stamped and scratched into the surface of the path. All schools in Uralla Shire were approached and many contributed ideas for images. School children attended and worked directly on the first panel of the path.

- Members, many for the first time, at the top of the path were able to look out over the park down towards the intersection and supermarket and other buildings beyond. Many expressed delighted surprise at the new perspective and the layout of the park below them. MR described how the seating was to be set out at the base of the amphitheatre style walls facing the centre of the spiral path.
- The irrigation trenches were open as were the lighting power trenches. MR how the area would be turfed and the future mosaics on the walls would be illuminated.
- Stage 1 funding now includes the construction and mosaics of the 2-3-5-8 entry statement blocks.
- Questions were asked about fencing (of which there will be none at this stage) and of the feature deciduous trees (the majority of which have been planted).
- Centre of the spiral will potentially be used for a future community Christmas Tree.

### **NEXT MEETINGS:**

Next General Meeting: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – 4pm Uralla Shire Council Chamber

Next Quarterly Meeting: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024 - 6pm, Uralla Shire Council Chamber

Meeting Closed: 05:20pm