

Meeting Minutes



Alpine Shire

Dinner Plain Advisory Committee

Castran Real Estate office, Dinner Plain
10am – 12:30pm
26th November 2015

Leona Turra (chair)
Belinda Trembath
Shelley Holah
Lee Rourke
Gary Battershill
David Chlebna
Colin McDonald

Invitees:
Hotham CEO Jon Hutchins

1. Welcome

The chairperson Colin McDonald welcomed committee members, councillors and attendees from the community.

2. Apologies

Elaine Burridge
Jon Hutchins

3. Previous minutes acceptance

The previous minutes were accepted as a true and accurate representation of the previous meeting.

4. Business arising from previous minutes

4.1 DP Finances/special rate Dave Barry CEO

Dinner Plain represents 6% of the number of properties within the Alpine Shire.

Mark Hubbard made comment that the greatest concern amongst ratepayers is that funds not spent from the special rate are not placed in an interest bearing account or returned to the ratepayer.

Gary Battershill asked why have a reserve at all and that perhaps it would be better to spend the money in the reserve on projects from the Dinner Plain masterplan.

Dave Barry outlined the auditing process for the Alpine Shire Council.

Dave showed the committee how the amount to be allocated to the reserve is calculated utilising the accounting period working paper underpinned by the profit and loss calculations for the period.

Lee Rourke questioned the validity of the use of the reserve account for funds not spent from the special rate.

Dave Barry indicated that the council is happy to abolish the transfer of surplus funds from the special rate should the community wish it. Dave Barry did point out that the majority of funds in the reserve are from surplus from the general rate not the special rate.

Mark Hubbard suggested that the question is not around the existence of the reserve or the special rate but rather how the special rate funds are allocated.

Colin McDonald outlined the history of the special rate, that it began in order to bring electricity supply to the village, and that a vote was taken by the community to continue the special rate in order to continue to develop Dinner Plain and in particular to contribute to larger scale projects for the village.

Dave Barry outlined that the McPherson report agrees with the current balance in the Dinner Plain reserve.

Dave Barry raised the value in completing an additional audit when the current audit process for the Council is already completed and tested at a high level and that any additional audit would be a waste of ratepayer funds.

Belinda Trembath raised the question of how the administrative charge to Dinner Plain is calculated. Dave Barry outlined how the administrative charge is calculated and that in reality it should be much higher than what is actually charged.

Dave Barry offered to be available for any ratepayer to sit down and discuss any questions in regards to the above.

It was agreed amongst the DPAC, that the recommendation made for an audit of Dinner Plain finances be put on hold, pending further discussion between individual parties and the CEO.

Dave Barry suggested that Council would like to act upon the following:

1. Thorough community research be undertaken to confirm the communities wishes around the expenditure of the special rate.
2. Discussions be held around the future of DPAC and its membership.

Colin McDonald asked that each DPAC member make some final comments in regards to their personal thoughts on Dinner Plain finances and the presentation provided by Dave Barry.

David Chlebna has no concerns in regards to the financial operation of Council and appreciated the insight provided by Dave Barry's presentation.

Belinda Trembath has no concerns in regards to finance and would like the community to focus on developing the tourism product in the village.

Shelley Holah has no concerns in regards to the financial operation of Council and echoed Belinda Trembath's request that the focus now be on developing the tourism potential of the village.

Gary Battershill endorsed the comments of other members of the committee and that the clearer understanding of financial matters provided by Dave Barry's presentation should be communicated to the broader community.

Lee Rourke would like all ratepayers to receive greater information about the financial workings of Dinner Plain and in particular the allocations of the general and special rates. Lee Rourke will have further discussions in private with Dave Barry regarding his concerns around Dinner Plain finances.

Mayor Ron Janas observed that despite the concerns of the community in regards to the village finances Dinner Plain is in a unique position in having all rates collected being invested back into the community and that this is a distinct advantage for ratepayers/residents of Dinner Plain. Mayor Ron Janas expressed concern that the Dinner Plain coordinator role perhaps attracted an excessive amount of negativity from the community and that the welfare of the person in that role needs to be considered if the role is to continue being based in the village itself. The overall focus needs to be on developing a positive future for Dinner Plain.

4.2 Review of action log

Leona Turra asked for an update on the development of the new website and was advised by Heather Green that we are waiting on a resolution with TNE regarding breaking away from the existing Regional Development Platform.

Recommendation – That a resolution with TNE be made a high priority in order to begin development of a stand alone website for Dinner Plain as soon as possible.

David Chlebna asked what the outcome of questions regarding the Dinner Plain Co-ordinator position was and was advised by Heather Green that the details around the role where still in discussion.

5. Officer Reports

5.1 Capital expenditure projects

Heather Green outlined the current capital expenditure projects.

5.2 Quarterly finance

Most items are under budget.

The administration charge is indicated in the report.

There are seasonal variations to the financial report.

Council is moving to report at the time the cost is concerned rather than when invoiced.

Accepted as reported.

5.3 Event funding history

Gary Battershill expressed his disappointed at cancellation of the carols.

Leona Turra suggested that ideally Council would present a draft budget to DPAC well in advance of the end of year which includes an event funding allocation.

Heather Green suggested that the event funding EOI could go out in March to solve timing issues.

Recommendation – EOI for event funding to be commenced in March each year.

5.4 Events update

Event funding confirmation letters and funding contracts were sent to Running Wild, DP Riders and Altitude 5000 sled dogs. The Gebung Polo event is under an existing contract for 2016.

Expressions of interest were requested from event operators interested in delivering a Christmas Carols event for Dinner Plain in Dec 2015. No expressions of interest were received.

Expressions of interest will be sought from event operators for the delivery of the following events:

Billy Cart race

Food & Wine Festival

Music Festival

Easter Activities

Noted

5.5 Marketing update

Summer focussed advertising has begun with print adverts running for the Mile High Trail Run and general Summer promotion in the local valley publications and Gippsland lifestyle magazine (examples attached). The advert design has been kept minimalistic and focusing on enticing images.

A Christmas activity advertising campaign will run locally in December to entice local families to spend the day at Dinner Plain enjoying the tube slide, frisbee golf, etc. This will be run in conjunction with the MHSC.

Expressions of interest were requested from adventure tour operators interested in delivering nature based adventure experiences in Dinner Plain for the 2015 Summer season. No expressions of interest were received.

Discussions have commenced with Vickie Saunders (7 Peaks Run ambassador) to bring renowned trail runner Hannah Easton to Dinner Plain as a promotional exercise. Hannah is ambassador for Running Mums Australia ([click to view group](#)) (14,000+ members) and sponsored athlete for Mizuno (shoes & clothing incl trail specific shoes) + She Science (sports bra retailer based in Melbourne – great network of women, active in social media). Hannah also happens to be the Exec. Assistant to the senior managers at Thankyou!

The aim of Hannah's visit will be to showcase the variety of trails, simplicity of navigation, and fun of trail running through various Womens focussed social and print media outlets.

Discussions have commenced with ultra marathon runner Beau Miles (has run the length of the Great Alpine Trail) to bring Australian Geographic editor Justin Walker to Dinner Plain for a weekend of nature based adventure activities including trail running and mountain biking with a view to Beau writing an article for the magazine (print and online).

TNE have been contacted about the possibility of hosting a 7 Peaks Run trail running event here in Dinner Plain early next year. Jade has contacted TNE's preferred trail running event operator and further discussions will ensue.

Noted

5.6 Television upgrade

The new television receiver/distributor unit has been installed and tested by the technician Wayne Teakel. During testing it was noted that a large number of television units were indeed MPEG 2 units rather than the more modern MPEG 4 units available today. After discussions with Shelley it was decided that the new system would not be implemented until ratepayers and residents had received more notice of the potential for their television not to work once the new system is launched and also to allow Wayne to order in a supply of the MPEG 4 – MPEG 2 converters necessary to receive the new signal on older model televisions. **Noted**

5.7 Public Wifi

A new village wide wifi project was put forward by Steve Belli. After discussion it was decided to go ahead with the installation of the previously presented public wifi project for the main street to enable the technology to be available asap whilst Steve Belli continues to pursue his concept as perhaps a longer term solution.

Recommendation – Proceed with the installation of a main street public wifi early in 2016

5.8 Contracts awarded:

Cleaning (until 1 November 2016)

Dinner Plain Services contract extension (until 30 November 2017)

Maintenance (building) works (Summer 2015/16)

Noted

6. Other business

6.1 DPRBOS representation on DPAC

It was suggested that it would aid communication if DPRBOS had a representative present at the DPAC meetings. It was decided that ideally the same member of DPRBOS would attend each DPAC meetings. It me noted that the person would not be a member of DPAC and not entitled as an non-voting committee member.

Recommendation – that DPBROS be invited to nominate a member of their executive committee to regularly attend DPAC meetings.

6.2 For discussion: Provision of improved snow play facilities

Grant Seamer suggested that he would develop a concept for improved snow play facilities for discussion at the next DPAC meeting.

Noted

7. Next meeting

It was discussed and decided that the DPAC meetings should occur on the last Thursday of every second month.

Next meeting: Thursday 28 January 2016

8. Close