

*** 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 **High Plains Lodge, Dinner Plain** on **Tuesday 17 June 2008 commencing at 11.05 am.**

1.0 WELCOME

Chair, Neil Marshall welcomed the committee Crs Mautone, Vonarx and Vaccaro and observers to the meeting.

Present:

Neil Marshall – Chair
John Castran
Malcolm MacPherson
Leanne Guy
Helen Moran
David Foster (departed 12pm)
Ian Nicholls – Chief Executive Officer
Cr Mario Vaccaro – Councillor

In Attendance:

Lyn Blandford – Waste Management Coordinator
Simon Jones – Strategic Projects Coordinator
Justin Britt – Urban Design Planner
Belinda Costenaro – Executive Assistant
Luke Taberner – Manager Corporate Services
Andrew Taylor – Manager Engineering and Assets
Karin Grima – Dinner Plain Marketing Officer (arrived 1.45pm)
Cr Nino Mautone (Mayor)
Cr Jan Vonarx
Cr Daryl Pearce (Deputy Mayor) – arrived 12:45pm
Cr Greg Lee – arrived 12:45pm

2.0 APOLOGIES:

Simon Grant
Tracey Squire
John Carter – Manager Strategic Services

3.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – ORDINARY MEETING 19 MARCH 2008

Moved

Mario Vaccaro / David Foster

That the minutes of the Dinner Plain Management Committee held on 19 March 2008 be confirmed

CARRIED

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 Status Report / Action Items

Chair, Neil Marshall, reported on the meeting held with the CEO and Chair of the Mount Hotham Resort Management Board (MHRMB), the CEO of Alpine Shire Council, and Chair of Dinner Plain Management Committee. Several items were discussed, including the Dinner Plain shuttle bus, alpine region tourism, marketing, a focus on four seasons, waste management, snow making and carbon trading. All parties agreed that the meeting was worthwhile and should be continued.

Malcolm MacPherson requested an update on the issue of fire-affected trees along the Great Alpine Road between Harrietville and Mount Hotham. As was requested last meeting, a letter had been sent to VicRoads outlining committee concerns. A reply was received acknowledging the letter, and advising that a tree assessment had been undertaken. The issue was being managed by VicRoads. Cr Vaccaro indicated that the issue had also been raised with the North East Road Safety committee.

6.0 OFFICER REPORTS

6.1 Dinner Plain Master Plan Update

Council's Urban Design Planner, Justin Britt gave an overview of the process for incorporating the Dinner Plain Masterplan (2008) into the Alpine Shire Planning Scheme. A report will be submitted to the July Council meeting, to provide for lodgement of authorisation documents to the Minister for Planning. Once approved by the Minister for Planning, a public exhibition period will apply, followed by consideration of submissions, and adoption by Council.

6.2 Dinner Plain Site Management

Justin Britt provided an overview of site management issues during the 2007/08 season. General inspections of sites occur during the building season, with any issues discussed on site with builders to rectify any issues.

Regular inspections were held during May as follow up to letters requesting site stabilisation prior to 31 May 2008. With consultation as part of site inspections, the majority of site stabilisation and external works ceased within the required period.

General issues with sites included: vehicle management (parking and delivery), site / vegetation damage, and general storage of building materials.

Official warnings letters are sent to non-complying sites, with Planning Infringement Notices issued as required. It was noted that there is generally good cooperation between builders and Council, with enforcement being a last resort.

6.3 Options for the Dinner Plain Entrance

Council's Strategic Projects Coordinator, Simon Jones, provided a recap of the previous meeting's discussions regarding entrance options. CEO Ian Nicholls discussed experience with visitors missing the turnoff to Dinner Plain, particularly in inclement weather.

The Great Alpine Road is controlled by VicRoads, hence any modifications of signage or other awareness treatments would need to be approved by them. Many suggestions were discussed by the committee including: lowering speed zone, treatment of road, extra / modified signage, and improved visibility. It was determined that any of these suggestions would all need VicRoads approval before they could be implemented.

The committee determined that they should focus on determining what can be done with VicRoads rather than pursuing the pillar options as had been presented. Also, to improve the visual presence of the Dinner Plain entrance by implementing some tree sculpting / maintenance at the entry.

Moved

John Castran / Leanne Guy

That sculpting and under-pruning of trees at the Dinner Plain entrance be carried out at the appropriate time of the year by a qualified arborist.

CARRIED

6.4 Native Plant Supply for Dinner Plain Stakeholders

Simon Jones presented a proposal to pre-purchase indigenous plant stock from the Alpine Plant Nursery, run by the MHRMB at the DSE Ovens Centre. An initial budget allocation had been made for \$10,000, although Mr Jones' proposal was to increase this to \$20,000 (\$10,000 would cover approximately 480m² of planting based on \$3.50 per plant, 6 plants per m²).

The proposal included an 18 month lag time between ordering and delivery of plant stock, and indicated acknowledgement of the requirement for a 4-6 week acclimatisation period. It was acknowledged that there are issues surrounding keeping the plant stock at Dinner Plain, both at a resource (human and financial) and location level, and in the future management of availability and care of the plants once they are in Dinner Plain.

Due to costs of planting being additional to the cost of plant purchase, the committee suggested a once a year community tree planting day be organised, including school children, and the local Landcare group. The event to coincide with a day such as Clean Up Australia Day. It was suggested that the plant stock be available for the community, developers and Council.

It was acknowledged that there may be other plant suppliers, however the production of quality nursery stock is not an easy process.

Motion

Leanne Guy / David Foster

That \$20,000 be allocated in the Dinner Plain capital works budget for an 18 month trial of the purchase and provision of indigenous plant stock, incorporating a cost effective strategy to manage and disburse plant stock. To be re-evaluated at the completion of 18 months.

CARRIED

6.5 Horse Riding Facility

Simon Jones presented a review of the horse riding facilities as they had been previously presented to the committee. There had been initial concern over the scale of the proposed stable complex, and further investigation had proposed a much smaller scale 'hut' encompassing a tack room and open area. It was acknowledged that there still needed to be room for feed storage incorporated into any new design. Mr Jones had presented an alternate siting plan, however the committee agreed that the original siting suggested by Millar Merrigan, near the water tower, was a more appropriate siting for the hut due to infrastructure requirements, through traffic, etc.

Mr Jones informed the committee that a planning permit would be required prior to construction.

Motion

Malcolm MacPherson / John Castran

That the horse riding hut should be located in the vicinity of the water tower, taking into consideration the smaller scale design, to be constructed in best endeavours by Easter 2009.

CARRIED

6.6 Storage at Dinner Plain School / Community Centre

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

The committee had requested at the previous meeting in March that investigations be made into additional storage at the community centre. However subsequent investigations have indicated that while the Department of Education would be willing to use more storage space, it would not be willing to provide the funds to enable construction of the additional storage facility.

Malcolm MacPherson advised that the Department of Education currently rents a house in the village to provide accommodation during the school period, which is used as storage during summer. He queried whether any addition to the school could provide both accommodation, storage and an extra classroom, which would be able to be used by the Department of Education, and charged to the Department at an appropriate rent.

The issue of a full time primary school was raised (see section 7.1).

Motion

Malcolm MacPherson / Leanne Guy

- 1. That preliminary options for extensions at the school be progressed and cost estimates provided***
- 2. No significant capital allowance be made until costs are known and an income or funding source confirmed.***

CARRIED

6.7 Tennis Court Lease

The committee had previously requested that further investigations be made into the lease details of the tennis courts. A brief update was provided which indicated that the lease had 10 years still to run. The lease required the body corporate to undertake works, and it specified use as a tennis court and staking rink, with public access.

The committee requested that Council investigate further to determine the possibility or opportunity to cut short the lease and whether it was a viable option to take over management of the courts.

6.8 Waste and recycling update

Council's Waste Management Coordinator, Lyn Blandford, presented the waste and recycling update. The proposed undercover storage area and wash down area at the depot was discussed at the previous committee meeting for inclusion in the 2008/09 budget at a cost of \$97,500.

Council officers are negotiating with one of the parties who submitted a tender for transport and disposal of recyclables – there is a possibility of an Omeo based

company taking the product, with a transport charge only. This will be further investigated.

Dog tidy bags are now available through the Dinner Plain Visitor Information Centre, along with rubbish and recycling bags.

Council officers had investigated the public bins at Mount Hotham, as requested by a committee member. Follow up with the bin supplier will now occur.

Motion

John Castran / Helen Moran

That the waste and recycling update be noted, and the \$97,500 allocation for the depot / waste transfer area be made in the budget.

CARRIED

6.9 Dinner Plain 2008/09 Budget

Council's Manager Corporate Services, Luke Taberner, presented the budget report. A general rate rise of 6.5% will be applicable across the Shire in 2008/09, with the Dinner Plain special rate staying level at 86.5%. Dinner Plain is unique, in that the money raised in Dinner Plain is spent only in Dinner Plain.

Malcolm MacPherson queried the setting of the special rate at 86.5%, however discussions from the previous meeting had not resulted in a lowering of the rate. Mr MacPherson requested that there be a special committee meeting on the rollout of capital works programs for 2008/09.

The committee also requested that early payout of the school loan be explored, to reduce the interest that is paid on that loan. Council officers indicated that there may be penalties for early payout of the loan, however this would be investigated.

The committee requested that in future a profit and loss, and balance sheets be provided for the committee, in addition to the standard presentation of Council budget report. This would show income from both the general and special rates.

Capital works:

Due to item 6.4 increasing the native plant supply from \$10,000 to \$20,000 there will need to be a reallocation of capital works funds – one suggestion was to remove the \$5,000 tennis court fund.

Mr MacPherson requested that there be a business case and priority for each capital work project indicated on the budget – it was suggested that further details of these could be incorporated into the capital works meeting, along with timelines for capital work projects to be conducted.

It was agreed that the 'bottom line' of the budget be adopted, with room for adjustment of final capital works projects and items to be conducted, with a total capital works budget as proposed. The spend on capital works will be confirmed in the coming financial year.

Moved

Leanne Guy / John Castran

That the proposed 2008/09 Dinner Plain budget be adopted

CARRIED

6.10 Dinner Plain Cost Allocations

Luke Taberner presented the Dinner Plain Cost Allocations report. This report arose as part of committee requests that Council administrative charges to Dinner Plain be identified in comparison to Council receiving the interest from the Dinner Plain reserve.

The report shows that while Dinner Plain does not receive the interest on its reserve, charges to Dinner Plain are significantly below those which could be apportioned according to an activity based costing amount.

6.11 Dinner Plain Marketing Report

Council's Dinner Plain Marketing Officer, Karin Grima, presented the Dinner Plain Marketing Report. In addition to the activities outlined in the report, Ms Grima reported that Minister for Tourism, Tim Holding, had visited Mount Hotham for official opening of the ski season and for the recycled water snow making facility. Minister Holding had also visited Dinner Plain, and had been shown around the village.

Ms Grima advised the committee that Great Alpine Road marketing is undergoing a tactical branding activity, with a touring guide due out at the end of September 2008.

Motion

Helen Moran / John Castran

That the marketing report be noted

CARRIED

7.0 ITEMS SUBMITTED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

7.1 Provision of a full year primary school

Malcolm MacPherson presented his report requesting support for a full year primary school at Dinner Plain. There had been requests from full year resident families to incorporate provision of a full year primary school so that families did not need to move off-mountain due to educational issues. Two families have expressed interest.

A 'paper' to document all issues surrounding provision of a full time school was suggested.

Moved

Malcolm MacPherson / Leanne Guy

That a meeting be convened between representatives of the Department of Education, Alpine Shire Council and Dinner Plain community to explore ways in which one teacher position could be funded for the balance of the school year.

CARRIED

7.2 “Spending List” for items not fitting budget

Leanne Guy commented on her request for a spending list for items not fitting the budget. Ms Guy requested that a ‘running list’ similar to that collated from committee members for capital and other works be kept for reference, and that this be used as a reference for forward / future capital works.

Malcolm MacPherson advised the committee that the Dinner Plain Community Association is in the process of being wound up. The Association currently has approximately \$9,000 which was to be directed towards a skate park / capital work, with an additional \$7,000 from fundraising raised on opening weekend.

8.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Glenn Christian spoke from the gallery about the Dinner Plain Shuttle Bus. He indicated that it was a shame that the increase in patronage on the bus had been met with a 10% increase in gate entry tickets. He had information that passengers travelling on buses from Bright or Harrietville were capped at a \$40 charge if travelling to the mountain on the bus daily during their stay. However from the Dinner Plain side, it was capped at \$110. He also expressed concern that other organisations were paid a commission for selling tickets, however the bus company received no such commission.

9.0 QUESTIONS

Nil

10.0 NEXT MEETING

Not confirmed. However next ordinary meeting will be scheduled in September.

Meeting close: 2.10pm

Chairman

ACTIONS ARISING FROM JUNE 2008 MEETING

ISSUE	WHO	ACTION
Meeting between DPMC / ASC and MHRMB	CEO	Continued meetings to be held between both parties.
Master Plan incorporation into Alpine Shire Planning Scheme	Urban Design Planner	Progress incorporation into Planning scheme as outlined
Dinner Plain Entrance	Strategic Projects Coordinator	Maintain liaison with VicRoads regarding possibilities of Dinner Plain entrance awareness. Incorporate more possibilities for entrance rather than just pillar design.
Tree pruning at Entrance	Arborist	<i>Recommendation:</i> That sculpting and under-pruning of trees at the Dinner Plain entrance be carried out at the appropriate time of the year by a qualified arborist
Native Plant Stock	Strategic Projects Coordinator	<i>Recommendation:</i> That \$20,000 be allocated in the Dinner Plain capital works budget for an 18 month trial of the purchase and provision of indigenous plant stock, incorporating a cost effective strategy to manage and disburse plant stock. To be re-evaluated at the completion of 18 months. Investigate interest in tree planting day for community.
Horse Riding Facility	Strategic Projects Coordinator	<i>Recommendation:</i> That the horse riding hut should be located in the vicinity of the water tower, taking into consideration the smaller scale design, to be constructed in best endeavours by Easter 2009 Progress designs for hut / facility and progress through planning permit
School Extension	Manager Strategic Services	<i>Recommendations:</i> 1. That preliminary options for extensions at the school be progressed and cost estimates provided 2. No significant capital allowance be made until costs known and income or funding source confirmed
Full year primary school	Council	<i>Recommendation:</i> That a meeting be convened between the Department of Education, Alpine Shire Council and Dinner Plain community representatives to explore ways in which one teacher position could be funded for the balance of the school year. Paper to discuss all issues surrounding provision of full year school
Waste	Waste Coordinator / Manager Corporate Services	<i>Recommendation:</i> That \$97,500 be allocated for the depot / waste transfer area in the 2008/09 budget
Budget / Capital Works	Manager Corporate Services / Manager Strategic Services	1. Investigate early payout of school loan 2. Provide profit / loss and balance sheets in future 3. Reallocation of funds to incorporate \$20,000 native plant stock 4. Future meeting to confirm capital works items, including priority and timelines

		5. Priority list of suggestions / items for capital works to be maintained for future reference.
Tennis Courts	Manager Strategic Services	Continue investigations into lease – possibility of cutting short, or combined capital work, or takeover of management.