

Minutes of the General Meeting
of the Oberon Business and Tourism Association Inc
held on October 11 2023
Oberon RSL

Meeting declared open at 6.07pm

Present Justin Enright (in the Chair), Shanaya Stapleton, Daina Reid, Debra Keane, Jill O’Grady, Don Capel, Jenn Capel, Warwick Mawhood, Mary David, Kelly Robinson, Helen Hayden, Chris Milne, Pam Dellow, Brian Dellow, Andrew LeLievre, Jacqueline Harman, Natasha Markert

Apologies Vicki Walsh, Pat Bird Jr, Domino Houlbrook-Cove, Neil O’Grady, Helen Lowe, Bruce Watt, Don Kirks, Tim Charge, Fran Charge

Welcome to the meeting.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted on the motion of Jenn Capel and seconded by Don Capel. Motion carried.

Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Confirm that OBTA has written to Council regarding the points raised in the last meeting. We are awaiting a reply.

Discussed at last meeting that there should be further discussion on electronic vehicle charging stations.

Jenn raised that she had a motion to move that “OBTA support businesses who want to install chargers at the amount of \$1500 per charger to a maximum of two chargers per business. Jill asked how much a charger costs to install. Chris confirmed it costs around \$3000 per charger.

Jill asked if there would be requirements around when they had to be available etc, as their could be biosecurity issues on her property if available at all hours. Chris said he imagined that would be at the discretion of each business and that customers would tap on or tap off to pay. So the business could handle their use.

Jenn confirmed that she thought this would benefit members, and doesn’t think it would need to be discriminated against in town businesses or out of town businesses-open to all. She doesn’t envision that many businesses would take up the offer so not that much from budget. Andrew disagreed and expressed concern that \$1500x2 per business would exhaust OBTA’s limited funds quite quickly.

Justin confirmed that there is currently approximately \$46K in the term deposit and \$9K in the cheque account.

Andrew expressed concern that if only 23 of OBTA members took up this offer, all savings gone.

Pam agreed with this. She confirmed she supports the idea, but we would need to put a limit on how many we’d support as we can’t afford all.

Andrew stated the decision to install chargers should be a business to business decision not for OBTA to decide.

Jacqui stated that Council should install more not individual businesses.

Cr Helen Hayden stated that OBTA could approach council if there is Crown land they are interested in and Council would support that.

Warwick said that if OBTA put a cap of say \$15K it would still be much larger than any project OBTA has ever supported. This is a large undertaking. If OBTA said we would only put up \$5-6K then only 3-4 businesses benefit under this proposal.

Chris stated that Jenn had done quite a lot of research on electric chargers and how they work now. Perhaps need to package up options on how they work so we have some way forward and look at monetising this in the future.

Donn said we shouldn't lose sight of the fact that OBTA's goal is to get people to come to town and spend money and in previous meetings people said they had lost money due to this not being available previously.

Would obviously want accommodation providers to store them perhaps so that people stayed overnight in town.

Warwick stated there probably needs to be parameters around it as technically he could install an EV charger on the farm for the tractor and OBTA could contribute to it, but it would not benefit anyone else. So probably need clarification on this.

Helen suggested the monetary value be removed for the motion so that we could move forward.

Justin suggested we needed more calibration of the idea to move forward.

Jenn, Chris and Jill volunteered to explore this more and report back to OBTA.

Warwick suggested places such as black springs park etc that is not private land should be explored more perhaps.

Debb suggested that perhaps the pub or store at Oconnell or places that could be a good option too.

Helen suggested speaking to pubs and accommodation regarding this.

Chris confirmed they would take the suggestions on board and go from there.

No other business arising.

Correspondence

In

None.

Out

Letter to Council regarding signage. Awaiting response.

Treasurer's Report

Justin delivered the report

Few new memberships for Malachi Gilmore, Chris Milne, Jenolan Street Chalet
Cheque Account- \$9,078.86 Term deposit- \$46,155.29 total current assets of \$55,234.15

Don raised he hadn't received his membership subscription notice. Justin confirmed these should go out tomorrow.

***Motion Moved:** Don Seconded: Andrew "That the Treasurer's report be accepted." Carried.*

Council Delegate's Report

Councillor Helen Hayden gave the report tonight.

Dog off leash area starting this week, should be completed in a fortnight weather permitting.

Roadworks on Lowes Mount continuing, two koala sign to be installed.

Works on Arkstone Road are being completed under the fixing local roads plan. Sealing to commence from October 9.

Traffic NSW extended the submissions for flood damage as part of the Western Project Surveyors to check roads.

Duckmaloi is undergoing a safety upgrade, including widening of shoulders, tree trimming and electronic signage. Will take approximately 8 weeks to complete.

EIS Paling Yards windfarms has been sent through to Council. On exhibit until 6 November 2023.

Work on the accessible playground started last week. Council is applying for grant for liberty swing.

Councillors Workshop will be held on 31 October 2023 in Forbes. Will be discussing outcomes in better health in the community.

The Black Springs Community Association is holding a disco on October 21st at 6pm at Black Springs hall.

Also holding AMSAG event on 4 November at Black Spring Hall and Christmas Carols and party on 24 December.

Tourism and Economic Development Manager Report

Debra Keane delivered the report.

Small business month seminar to be held on 19 October 2023 at Reground from 5pm-9pm. 29 out of 40 spaces for attendees booked. Looking like a great night with info on Aus trade, cyber security, building websites. Food and Beverage also available.

Outdoor Festival coming up. Struggling on uptake for event. Any paid events are not seeing very enthusiastic uptake at the moment. Unfortunately, can't fund everything.

Stake holder consultations for the drought resilience programs are underway.

2nd stage at Burruga 7:30pm Tuesday. Wednesday at the Oberon Library.

Wanted to raise an issue of no public transport here in Oberon and how we get around this. Tourists are getting here but then can't get around to caves or Mayfield without car. Any input on options appreciated.

In regard to small business month seminar, we were looking at OBTA supporting beverages for the night. Venue, food and speakers all already covered.

Motion: "That OBTA support Small Business Month to a maximum of \$600." Moved: Don
Seconded: Chris

In relation to the brochure, this is now moving forward, but we are looking for some volunteers from OBTA to proofread and edit the brochure. Jill and Jenn offered to assist with this.

Jill raised that Neil had previously considered whether it would be beneficial for the Leagues Club to purchase a bus and have business support to run it as public transport to different venues etc. would this be an option.

Deb confirmed something like that would be very welcome indeed.

Helen raised that Brian Griffiths still owns the taxi plates in Oberon which makes it difficult for someone else to run this.

Andrew suggested contacting Fentons as well to see if they would be open to running some public transport in town. Deb confirmed they would be looking into this.

General Business

Justin confirmed that Business NSW would be holding an event in November in Orange. Vicki Seccombe would punch out info in Orange around theme of economic update. Justin confirmed he would be attending one of the drought resilience consultations in Bathurst later in the week.

Andrew raised that the light at the pedestrian crossing was not working and he witnessed a near miss there 2 days ago. He also raised that the accessible carpark out the front of the pharmacy is not accessible, and those needing ramp accessible to the curb are actually having to go out on to the road, and around the garden bed to access the footpath. Not accessible. Helen raised that Council are aware about the issue regarding accessible car parks but it is difficult and costly to fix due to whole gutter needing to be changed. OBTA to write a letter to Council regarding these issues.

Deb introduced Natasha Marquet from Destination NSW Central West who is joining us tonight.

Natasha introduced herself and confirmed she has now been appointed to cover Lithgow, Oberon and Mudgee and will be our point of call with Destination Central West. She will be on the road visiting her LGAs and would like to keep attending OBTA meetings so she is aware of our issues, and any support she can provide to businesses. She wants to be the conduit from us to Destination NSW, and is aiming hoping to help shift the focus, which has previously been quite Sydney-centric towards our region. If there is anything she can support with, do not hesitate to reach out.

Pam expressed her support for the accessible parking in town, noting that she recently took her friend to the library and the park on Fleming Street was similar and made it extremely difficult to get her friend to the curb. Needs to be something done regarding this.

Chris raised general business and noted that they are developing the old doctor's surgery carpark which has been used for people with trucks and trailers and are considering how they can open up the back of that area for access to the library. Has been an issue with people using that to access the main street so they are looking in to options as to address that and get more flow through there. Chris would just like to make a note of this, for people to consider this issue and perhaps address at further meetings.

Justin raised that he was at a meeting on Monday night and it was raised that COSBOA which is another body of industries, is another body you should be writing to for issues regarding small business. They noted that you do not need to be a member of COSBOA to write to them or for them to advocate regarding your issue. Something for OBTA to note in future- we can write letters to them if we have issues we need to ventilate. Wasn't previously aware we could write to them, but this may be useful in the future.

Chris noted that he had been to Jenolan Caves for dinner twice recently and wanted to commend them on how great it was.

The meeting was declared closed at 7:11pm.

President

Date
