

**Minutes of the General Meeting
of the Oberon Business and Tourism Association Inc
held on December 13 2023
Oberon RSL**

Meeting declared open at 6.20pm

Present Justin Enright (in the Chair), Shanaya Stapleton, Pam Dellow, Cr Helen Hayden, Vicki Walsh, Neil O'Grady

Apologies Domino Houlbrook-Cove, Jacqui Harman, Andrew Le Lievre, Brian Dellow, Jill O'Grady, Don Kirk, Debbie Keane,

Welcome to the meeting.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted on the motion of Vicki Walsh and seconded by Pam Dellow. Motion carried.

Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Have had one response from Council stating sorry, letter went to junkmail previously and stating they are conscious of there being an issue in regards to the light at the pedestrian crossing.

Few thank yous in from the schools, was a few hiccups with some of the cheques that were issued- has been resolved. We had to go back in to the bank and get ID cheques again and then the cheques were reissued.

Renewals were resent following last meeting.

In relation to the EV chargers I have had some good feedback from a people regarding the session held on it, that it was a good meeting.

No other business arising.

Correspondence

In

Few thank you have come in from the schools thanking us for the funds.

Out

None.

Treasurer's Report

Vicki delivered the report

\$1050 in memberships

Cheque Account- \$8,901.36 Term deposit- \$46,155.29 total current assets of \$55,234.15

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

Council Delegates Report

Councillor Helen Hayden gave the report tonight.

Road works continuing. Works have continued on the duckmaloi road with guard rails being added.

Heavy patch works have commenced on Oconnell Road, Black Bullocks Road, Hazelgrove Road, Dog Rocks Road, and Abercrombie Road. Due to wet weather some of these wont be completed until January.

Vicki noted that she had workers staying to complete the work that have been sent home and this has lost her money. Helen confirmed she will clarify this with Council but noted that some works may have been stopped or delayed due to funding.

Some of the works on Lowes Mount road are awaiting funding to complete sections on the road.

Vegetation clearing had been undertaken on Arkstone Road and this work will continue on the shoulders into January.

A new water filling station has been added on Albion Street. All of the other stations around town will be replaced in due course.

Town improvement levy- Councillors were meant to be in attendance tonight to present on this, but now were unable to attend. So Helen gave a bit of a run through on what is happening.

The consultation process is underway for the town improvement levy. Submissions can be made online or in person at Council.

Last time the levies were gazetted was in the 1970s so quite a while ago- time to look at it. Currently those in town are lumped with high costs.

There are 3 different scenarios which council are seeking consultation on:

1. Leave the levies as is
2. Extend to 5-10km boundary from town. This could be complex to gazette.
3. Increase to all of LGA- general rates increased for everyone.

With option 3- it means everyone contributes to the improvements in town. It could areas such as mount David or burraga etc could have some money spent there to improve as well. By increasing it to all- means everyone contributes and gets something back.

This is on exhibition for the next three months. Links can be found on the Council webpage. Submissions by end of February.

These haven't been changed much since 1934 so this is a large proposal and they encourage consultations and feedback on the proposals.

On 13 Nov Helen attended the Shadow Ministers community cabinet- was a good opportunity to network with shadow ministers.

16 Nov there was a Regions Rising Event think tank empowering regions- virtual and in person. It was very informative, engaging and practical.

On 18 Nov the Oberon Treasures Rededication was held- it was a great event.

On the 19 Nov the official Oconnel pub reopening was held- it was packed to the brim. The owners thanked council and the community for their support.

On 25 Nov the Oberon Art exhibit was on- was an enjoyable event.

The Oberon chamber music festival had great attendance.

The 100 years anniversary of the Tarana Hotel also went well.

The Council golf day was a successful event again this year.

The teddy bear picnic on the 26 november went well.

The Redfin roundup was a great day. Not many redfin caught this year but food van and coffee there and was a good day.

The fish river festival on 10 December was a great afternoon and the toy raffle also went well and was packed to the brim.

The oberon spectacular on 16 December seems to be shaping up to be a good event with 55 stalls.

Neil noted that Anton Werata, a young man who played for the tigers had recently passed away leaving behind his partner and 2 kids, as well as another kid in New Zealand. The tigers will have a stall on Saturday to take some donations for the family. Will also sell some merchandise as well. On 20 Jan 2024 they will also hold a Hangi in memory of him.

Helen thanked everyone for another great year as the OBTA Council delegate.

Neil noted that he Jill and Jen went along the street to drop some flyers around to businesses encouraging them to decorate for Christmas. Mark Kellam will judge the best window display and announce the winner on Saturday. There is a \$200 shop local voucher up for grabs.

It was noted that there is a few flyers to be put along the street as decoration for Christmas, however Pam noted that Oberon is not as well decorated compared to other towns and more effort should be put into this, particularly with the spectacular being held here.

Tourism and Economic Development Manager Report

Debra was not present at the meeting. Helen noted that she is aware the refurbishments went well, and reported that Debra had told her visitor numbers are down at the moment due to financial pressures in the economy at the moment.

General Business

Helen thanked OBTA for its support of the Oberon Chamber music festival. It was a great event with good numbers in attendance and 3 of the 4 concerts were broadcasted nationally.

The spectacular and the draw was discussed and it was noted people will be encouraged to shop local on Saturday and drop their receipts in the boxes. The draw will probably happen around 7pm as that is when most official things are happening.

Justin gave some details of the latest business conditions report from Business NSW.

People are concerned about interest rates and rising energy costs.

The costs of doing business is the largest barrier to growth.

Businesses in Australia are not investing in technology for productivity at the moment.

63% of businesses intend to maintain staff headcount in the next 3 months.

The AGM was discussed and Pam suggested a date should be set as soon as possible as we are required to hold one.

The 14th of February 2024 at 6pm was selected as the date for the AGM with the general meeting to follow.

Helen also raised that OBTA hasn't held a business awards and it may be something we should try to hold. Justin noted that they used to be held in late November, but we could hold it at anytime.

Vicki suggested that Vicki Seccombe from Business NSW can assist us with the elements for this and categories etc.

Justin noted it would be preferable to have categories and questions that fit with the Business NSW structure and categories so that Winners may be able to go from Oberon to the next level at Western District then on to NSW etc.

Pam noted that we would need a minimum of 3 months to organise an event after the first meeting of the new year.

A preliminary date of 24 May 2024 was suggested so that we may have a date in the calendar to work towards however this could be finalised and confirmed in the new year.

The meeting was declared closed at 7:26 pm.

President

Date
