

**BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL
EUSTON BEAUTIFICATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT EUSTON COURTHOUSE
ON TUESDAY, 3RD MARCH, 2020, AT 9.00 A.M.**

Present: Ian Bolt (Chair), Vivienne McEvoy (BSC), Karin Sluiter (LLS), Michael Todd (OE&H), Geoffrey Windmill, Barry Watts, Ben Pupillo, Edna Price, Bev Harbinson, Ray Davey (BSC).

Apologies: Peter Smith.

Minutes: Moved Barry Watts seconded Ben Pupillo:
That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th February, 2020, be accepted as a correct record. *Carried.*

Correspondence: Nil.

Grant Applications:

Ray Davey (BSC) advised the meeting that this Committee needs to advise Balranald Shire Council of any proposed projects, so it can be ascertained if there is a suitable Grant available that could be applied for.

Projects on-hold, to be re-introduced into the Agenda, as necessary:

Boat Ramp – The letter (referred to in previous minutes) regarding installation of a boat ramp has not been located. Agreed to go back, start again and do it properly.

Moved Geoffrey Windmill seconded Barry Watts:

That Balranald Shire Council correspond with National Parks regarding the installation of a boat ramp, downstream of Euston, below the Weir. *Carried.*

Landscaping of dirt mounds; Sturt Desert Pea plantings; Meeting advised that, last year, this Committee received plants, some of which Ben planted in the Courthouse garden – and which are growing nicely. The rest have died; they were not looked after and watered. Was this Committee supposed to look after them?

The whole approach to town needs to be landscaped properly, with the eastern side to be done first. There is a significant amount of work to be done with both sides of the road. Work will not be done this financial year. Perhaps there could be some money available through Karin and Mike?

Meeting advised that the Administrator will bring a whole different – clearer, rigorous – way of doing things.

Can the mess of the mounds be cleaned up now? There may be changes in a few weeks.

Statue of Sister; ongoing, with the story to be ready ASAP. S-W Arts are to be involved.

Financial Report; Nothing has been spent. \$10,000 earmarked for the Storyboards, draft copies of which will be available for next meeting. Finance update for next meeting also.

Medley Park; Cobb & Co information is being put together now. Frazer has been given a brief about the Recreation Ground, Eucalyptus Vats and other (?). Plans are being put together.

Street Design; Barry will contact Dale McMillan again as he has not been in touch with Vivienne re: the Street design. The “augmented reality” (refer last Minutes) would be really good in Medley Park, better than on the water tower.

Lake Benanee Poplars. This is an on-going matter; some poplars have recently been cleared but they will keep growing back and will need periodic maintenance.

BUSINESS:

Lake Benanee:

Storyboard:

Refer to above – copies available for next Meeting.

Fire Pit:

If the reason for having a fire pit is to stop people from lighting fires anywhere around the camp area of the Lake, then it could be seen as encouraging fires to be lit on days of Total fire Bans. This has been a message from the Insurers – we are encouraging people to light fires by installing a pit specifically for that purpose. Ray Davey suggested we could possibly have a hinged, lockable, steel lid, with a sign saying “Today is a day of Fire Ban. No Fires to be lit”; this would be placed on the pit on those days.

Regent Parrots:

Ian Sutton has advised that Craig Gadsden’s property, the biggest block of “natural” land in this area, is to be fenced as a refuge for Regent Parrots. This property is adjacent to Tillara Road and near Meilman East.

The land is still being grazed and, once set up for the Parrots, will be suitably signed. There is no long-term protection of the land, for example if it is sold in the future.

Merchandising with logo: We could have merchandise with the Parrot logo (e.g. coasters) but any items must be made in Australia which makes the cost higher. Things could be sold at – the servo, cafe, post office, caravan park, etc.

Barry asked if he would be allowed to put the logo on the side of his motor-home. Advised him to speak with the people at “Eggpicnic”, owners of the design.

Karin advised the Parrot Information Day will be held on Tuesday, 19th May, at the riverfront.

Cobb & Co Storyboard:

Refer to storyboard details above.

Cemetery:

Discussions have been held re: the **fence**. Neil Leslie has been approached and is confident he can complete the job (rabbit-proofing the fence) in this Financial Year. Council is to prepare a contract for Neil.

Gate: Discussion on type of gate. There must be two – a pedestrian gate as well as one for vehicles. Type – close-fitting, self closing, to have a concrete base that the gate sits flush with. The pedestrian gate has to be wide enough for wheelchair/gopher access. It is important that the style of gate must be decided as soon as possible, so the contract can be drawn up.

Toilet: Quotes will be obtained prior to June 30. Approval has been given for a septic tank to be installed, so it will be a “flushing” one, not a long-drop.

Line marking (cnr Murray Terrace/Nixon Street):

The design for marking has been approved by the Local Traffic Committee but the Line Markers will not be called out just for that job; it depends on when Swan Hill Shire Council will next have their markers in the area. (Advised they were around last week!)

Walking Trail Seats:

Is there really a need for seats along a ‘walking track’? Original idea was for some “rustic” (fallen tree-log) seats for those who might want a short break. Vivienne mentioned the old seats taken from Balranald’s main Street – have they been re-purposed?

Vivienne will follow up on this; there may be two or three available and could be used along the trail. Ray advised there is to be fabrication of the footbridge over the creek – for times of high-water.

Mick advised that this is a good place to see Regent Parrots and the best way to see them is to sit quietly and observe.

Dead Tree (Bertram Road):

Meeting advised that it is really hard to cut dead wood. There are specialists coming in next week, Ray will see if someone can spare some time to come to Euston to look at it. Members are still keen to have the tree painted blue (R U OK?) but unsafe limbs need attention.

Eucalyptus Iron Vats:

Geoffrey advised that this project is in the first stage. A quote will be sought to restore the vats to their original state; they have been cut and used as wheat silos.

Footpath near Caravan Park:

A post could be installed on the (Council) verge to stop traffic using this area as a drive-way. Once this is in place, the footpath will be repaired.

Euston Footpaths:

Maher Street needs one! Ray advised that there was no provision in this year’s Budget for footpaths in either Balranald or Euston. There is no Footpath Strategy. Necessary repairs will be carried out.

Perry Street Beautification:

Will be moved to ‘Projects on-hold’.

New Visitor Guide:

Vivienne has the third draft and will add Regent Parrot information. It will be ready to print by the end of March.

Karin advised there is a Regent Parrot hand-out being prepared by LLS.

Town Entrance Sign surrounds:

This is part of the whole town entrance re-development mentioned earlier.

New Business:**New Administrator:**

Ian was asked to report on his meeting with the new Balranald Shire Council Administrator. He did have a quick drive-around last week but is meeting again with the Administrator tomorrow at 3.00 p.m. Ian will give a full report at the next EB&TC meeting.

Meeting Agenda changes:

Vivienne asked if our Minutes can be sent to Council so they are received by the first Friday of each month. This is to have them included in the Council Minutes for the current month.

Minutes will now be sent to everyone as soon as possible following each meeting. Members are to check and advise everyone (particularly Vivienne) of any changes necessary. Vivienne will then make sure Carol receives the amended Minutes for inclusion in the Council Agenda.

NEXT MEETING: of the Euston Beautification & Tourism Committee will be held at **The Euston Courthouse** on **Tuesday, 7th April, 2020**, commencing at 9.00 a.m.

CLOSE:

There was no further business and the Meeting was closed at 10.15am