

# Northern Grampians Shire Council

## Stawell Recreation Advisory Group Meeting - Minutes

The meeting held at **6.00pm** on 8 March 2022 in the **North Park Community Sports Centre Stawell**.

**Chair: Cr Emerson**

**To be Present:** Cr Murray Emerson, Cr Lauren Dempsey, Nathan Baker, Rob Lembo, Reg Smith, Scotney Hayter, Ian O'Donnell, John Griffiths, Steve Walker, Nic Baird, Blair Hart (proxy for Anna), Zander McDougall (NGSC), Tony Dark (NGSC)

**Apologies:** Kaye Dalton, Anna Sullivan

### 1. Minutes of the previous meeting: 24 November 2021

Motion moved that they were true and correct Scotney Hayter and seconded Reg Smith

### 2. Business arising from the previous meeting:

Nil

### 3. General Business

It was announced to the group that longstanding Stawell Interchurch member Kaye Dalton passed away last week. Kaye has been on the recreation group since its inception over 15 years ago. Kaye has been an active member of Stawell Interchurch netball for approx 46 years.

Item	TOPIC	Discussion	Action/ Outcome
1.1	Membership and Terms of Reference	<p>The group welcomed new members to the meeting and the membership is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cr Murray Emerson (Chair)</li><li>• Cr Lauren Dempsey</li><li>• Reg Smith (Fire Brigade)</li><li>• Ian O'Donnell (Swifts FNC)</li><li>• Steve Walker (Stawell FNC)</li><li>• Kay Dalton (Stawell Interchurch)</li><li>• Scotney Hayter (Stawell Athletic Club)</li><li>• Nathan Baker (Stawell Amateur Athletic Club)</li></ul>	Action: Nil

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Nic Baird (GCA)</b></li> <li>• <b>Anna Sullivan (Stawell Tennis Club)</b></li> <li>• <b>Rob Lembo (Stawell Pioneers Soccer Club)</b></li> <li>• <b>John Griffiths (Community)</b></li> </ul> <p>Cr Emerson asked about the replacement of Kaye on the group and we can ask Stawell Interchurch to nominate a new members to join.</p> <p>The Terms of Reference (ToR) was circulated through the application process and at the last meeting but key components of the ToR are:</p> <p>The focus of the group is the ongoing sustainability of Central Park and North Park as recreation facilities and how they will continue to meet the needs of the community through strategic planning/masterplans and infrastructure.</p> <p>Now included is a participation focus in addition to existing masterplan outcomes. This participation focus aligns with the regional strategic plan "Activate 2020-30". The group does not focus on operational items. Zander provided an overview at meeting agenda item 1.4.</p> <p>The Advisory group membership is designated as up to 10 members (previously 9) from user groups and the community. The council decided to increase the membership based on the extra applications received and to capture all interested stakeholder's input.</p> <p>We also need to consider the make up of the group in terms of gender balance to ensure we capture all views and considerations of community needs.</p> <p>The term of the group is 24 months.</p>	
1.2	<b>Project Update</b>	<p>Tony Dark provided an overview of the current projects either underway or due to commence as follows:</p> <p><b><u>Infrastructure Projects:</u></b></p> <p><b>North Park Netball Courts:</b> Current scheduled completion is 11 April 2022. A Sod turn held 7 December (Danielle Green MP) and Council is required to provide the Ministers Office three opening date options and at this stage we are looking at – Saturday 23 April, Thursday 21 April and Thursday 14 April but are all TBC.</p>	<p><b>Action:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Duke Sands option for parking GF</li> <li>2. Follow up the availability of the NP netball courts for Good Friday</li> </ol>

Stawell FNC Good Friday game is at NP 15/4 and at this stage the courts will not be ready and the club is planning to play netball at Central Park and football at NP. Steve Walker advised that they have discussed options at their committee level and whilst they have limited volunteers and the financial impacts of Covid create challenges for the club. The club will only be able to manage one gate at NP and one gate at CP as they have limited volunteers for the day but which gate is to be decided e.g. Tennis Club, Fire Brigade training Track or Lamont St.

Additionally, parking at both venues will be difficult eg CP the Athletic Club will be setting up for the Gift and NP limited access to the site. Cr Emerson suggested the Duke Sands area for parking and this needs to be looked at. Also the club is looking at options to bus people on the day between venues and Cr Emerson said he would enquire at Sandlants to see if there were any options there but he also said to plan to look after this as a club.

The preferred option for the day is to have the netball courts available and it would be easier to manage. Cr Emerson and Cr Dempsey concurred that Council would look at the availability of the courts may be an option if the courts were completed and we were only waiting on an official opening then this could possibly happen. But if it was an OH&S issue then it would not be possible.

**North Park Skate Park:**

Project is funded by Federal Grant \$655k and concept has been amended although the elements are the same the contractor has assessed the site and due to underground pipes and services they have modified the plan to cater for this in terms of budget and site limitations. Council will reconfirm with the community (via a working group) prior to progressing to detailed design.

Council will go to tender for construction later in 2022 with completion early 2023. Discussed the issues of vandalism and attacks recently and whether CCTV cameras should be installed. This option is not a part of the current project scope but can be added later. Cr Dempsey advised that CCTV systems had been discussed at Council and there are complexities around privacy, ongoing cost and monitoring. Steve Walker suggested that Council look at what Horsham Council have done incorporating the Police in monitoring and setup.

**North Park Soccer Pitch Lighting:**

SRV grant \$146k, council contribution \$72k and club contribution \$10k and Funding agreement received today signed by the State Government.

Tender process will no commence and will be seeking to obtain approval by Council at their May meeting and the project is to be completed by Feb 2023.

Rob Lembo advised that their grant they received from the Federal Government \$10 for the contribution towards the project needs to be spent by this financial year so it will not be available for the project. Rob also advised that they can reapply to the Federal Government and they would look favorably at their application given their circumstances. Council's policy now is that funds from contributions is up front so the club will look at fundraising options and Cr Emerson and Cr Dempsey mention the possibility of a Council loan if required.

**North Park Terracing**

An updated design has been produced that is more cost effective with similar outcomes. Ian O'Donnell confirmed that the design is in line with original expectations. The expected timeline is for construction in April and with minimal impact on users.

**Central Park Female Friendly Changerooms (Main Clubroom Pavillion)**

A federal grant has been approved and an additional grant applied for through Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) with an outcome to be known by May/June. The project is concentrating on female friendly changerooms to comply with AFL Guidelines and Athletics requirements.

The project and design provides for unisex amenities and also the moving of the football umpires from the Hank Grandstand to the rear of the clubrooms.

Also discussed was the requirement of upstairs access and that both Stawell Athletic Club and Stawell Football Netball Club experienced challenges with elderly and people with injuries or disabilities cannot have difficulty accessing upstairs. Cr Emerson confirmed that this had been an issue for over 25 years and needs some action. Cr Dempsey also stated that access for all was a priority for the community to be able to access facilities.

The design was discussed further and it was advised that the full design included a lift including clear undercover access and an upstairs accessible toilet. This design would be completed to then be available for future funding opportunities. Cr Emerson mentioned that opportunities in election years may be something to plan for.

**Strategic Planning:**

**North Park Masterplan**

Otium Planning Group presented at last meeting and a Draft report due any day now and Council to review in the first instance before being presented to this group

		<p><b>Sport and Active Recreation Strategy</b>  The existing strategy expires 2022/23 and Council has applied for a SRV grant application \$30k and NGSC contribution \$20k and this project will engage the whole shire as a part of the process. This group will be a main contributor to the project.</p>	
<p>1.3</p>	<p><b>Agreements and User Fees</b></p>	<p>Otium Planning Group to provide a draft report for review and key considerations include:</p> <p><b>User Fees</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reserve fees (ovals)</li> <li>• Affordability for clubs is an important factor to understand</li> <li>• Type of use and appropriate charges/fees</li> <li>• Methodology around why a charge exists and how it is calculated</li> </ul> <p><b>Nic Baird provided some detail from the GCA perspective re NORTH PARK Building (user fees) -</b>  During the cricket season the GCA received an invoice for (approx \$60 - \$70) which we have paid, for the use of 1 change room at the new facility for a u13 Representative game for country week. Each game brings at least 50+ people into town parents players coaches' supporters etc who all spend money in town during the day.</p> <p>It is presumed that junior sport is waived like for ground usage from user fees. We would hope the NGSC could review this for junior sport like Ararat Council have and waived all Junior sport fees oval and room hire as they see the benefit of hosting such games. We would understand a fee for regular bookings weekly or ongoing but not for a 1 off event that is beneficial to the town and to the sport in our area. The room was hardly used just for some privacy for changing. Our feel is all Junior Sport and disability sport access should be exempt from such fees.</p> <p><b>USER FEES</b> - This year the association has had its Covid battles once again. My understanding is that the user fee structure is still under review but we are hoping that the NGSC will jump on board as Ararat City Council have and waive any for this year 21/22 due to the covid issues and shortened season which has impacted local clubs.</p> <p>Moving forward we really need to get a structure to work with prior to next season so we can allow clubs a chance to budget moving forward. We would like to look at a more casual booking for North park as original fee's structure doesn't match up with the use it gets due to a lack of teams in Stawell now. Obviously, this can be discussed further during any consult about fees but for the association we see this as probably the best outcome moving forward.</p> <p><b>Agreements</b>  Type of agreements for multiple facilities and multi-use and will be a Shire wide model</p>	<p><b>Action: Nil</b></p>

		<p>Hire fees - Cost affordability for users is a priority for local clubs and consideration for junior participation. Cost recovery of power, water and gas for use will be a part of NGSC review.</p>	
<p><b>1.4</b></p>	<p><b>Participation Plans</b></p>	<p>Zander McDougall, Manager Active Communities provided an overview of his role and participation plans. Zander will be the contact for operational requests/enquiries for clubs relating to reserves including facilities. Tony Dark will be a contact for projects only as a part of his new Senior Placemaker role within council.</p> <p><b>Zanders contact details are: <a href="mailto:zander.mcdougall@ngsc.vic.gov.au">zander.mcdougall@ngsc.vic.gov.au</a> or mobile 0448 380 524</b></p> <p>Participation plans are now a requirement through most projects funded by SRV. Zander attended a recent participation plan workshop with another council to gain experience in the process as he will complete a plan for the North Park Netball Court project by the end of the year. The process for completion of a participation plan will include key stakeholders such as SRV, Council, Sports Assemblies, users and the community. The participation plan enables the realisation of the goals set in grant applications for increased/maintained participation as an outcome of the built infrastructure to the support positive outcomes.</p>	<p><b>Action: Nil</b></p>

**Other business:**

Cr Dempsey advised that Litte Aths contacted her about the ramp access from the top of the reserve (car parking near netball courts was difficult to the lower section. There is a makeshift ramp but this needs some wok to become a fully accessible ramp. Additionally, whilst cars can access the lower section it is not an idea spectator location.

Blair hart from the tennis club advised that the court lights for the older courts need to be looked at for future grant opportunities are they are getting old and may need to be upgraded to LED.

Ian O'Donnell made a suggestion to look at some recognition for Kaye Dalton with the new netball court redevelopment. Cr Emerson asked for some input from the group and then recommended that it be an agenda item for the next meeting to make sure it gets due consideration.

**4. Close time: 7.37 pm**

5. **Next meeting:** TBC