

# Northern Grampians Shire Council

## Stawell Recreation Advisory Group Meeting - Minutes

Meeting held at **6.00pm** on Monday, 15 May 2023 at **North Park Clubrooms**

**Chair: Cr Emerson (open 6:04pm)**

**Present:** Cr Murray Emerson, Cr Lauren Dempsey, Nathan Baker, Reg Smith, Rob Lembo, Ian O'Donnell, John Griffiths, Amber Mitchell, Samantha Winter (NGSC), Tony Dark (NGSC), Nic Baird (NGSC)

**Apologies:** Travis Nicholson, Steve Walker, Anna Sullivan, Scotney Hayter

Moved

**1. Minutes of the previous meeting:** Read by Cr Murray Emerson. The minutes were moved to be true and correct. Ian O'Donnell Seconded by John Griffiths all in favour.

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

NIL

**3. General Business**

| Item | TOPIC          | Discussion   | Action/ Outcome |
|------|----------------|--|-----------------|
| 1.1  | Project Update | <p><b>North Park Netball Courts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Final claim due 15 June 2023</li><li>There are a few smaller projects still to be completed to finish off the funding including the portable grandstands that need to be fixed for safety, power to court (has been completed), score benches are being designed waiting for tick off from engineers, to be complete in the next couple of weeks.</li><li>PA System has arrived Ian has secured it just needs to be assembled when time to use</li></ul> <p><b>Stawell Park Skate Park</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Works have started on the skate park with removal of existing equipment.</li><li>Construction works due to start end of May with a completion of End July/Early August</li></ul> <p><b>North Park Football Pitch Lighting Project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Project completed. Final claim has been submitted and approved by funding provider.</li></ul> | Action:         |

- John asked Rob his thoughts on the lights and Rob thinks they are fantastic
- Stawell Soccer are looking into a couple of night games in the near future

**Central Park Female Friendly Changerooms (Main Clubroom Pavillion)/ Netball Court**

**Female Friendly Facility:**

- Tony showed floor plans, the project has been out to tender (Council decision 22 May 2023) and heritage Vic have been consulted throughout. Hopeful of a June construction start time timeline June-ish through to Easter next year.
- Stawell Warriors/Under 13 Association will likely need to move to North Park with no clash with Swifts.
- Nathan asked about dates as SAAC base their season around Swifts away games. 22 July, 5 Aug.
- Cr Emerson asked about training at CP during construction. The construction will have no effect on training as there will be space to change/get ready. The lights at Central Park on clubroom side (due to location of switch for on/off) may be an issue but a work around will be found for this.
- U13 a small concern with change space but under Number 1 Grandstand and Netball rooms to be utilised should hopefully be enough.
- Cr Emerson had some questions about Heritage Victoria: A question about permits. These have been submitted with payment and there should not be any hold ups. How much pull do Heritage Victoria have inside and outside? Tony believes they are fine with the inside and are interested in the outside more so. Contacts and communication have been open and transparent so far. Heritage Victoria made some comments on colours of building and not wrapping imaging around the entirety of the building.

**Netball Court:**

- A lot of complexities around this potential project. Heritage Victoria, budget, existing facilities and flora, court orientation and how this might fit in a location, community expectations are all factors that will need to be investigated when a decision is made about this project. Councilors have yet to rule any option out but need more information on all potential options before a decision can be made. Any new ideas for locations were most welcome. The current ideas that have been floated are (in no order of preference and are considerations only):
  1. Removal of existing Parks and Gardens/Athletic Club shed and tree to allow two courts
  2. Closing/Making Victoria Street one way and building two netball courts
  3. Netball court built across the road in vacant land near train station on Napier Street
  4. Netball court built in existing Stawell bowls Club Carpark
  5. Netball court built at old Waites Robson location (behind scoreboard/Hall of Fame)
  6. Netball court built in corner of Central Park of Main Street and Hanitz Lane.
  7. Stay with one netball court and have thirds around oval for warmups and training.
- Tony has worked with consultant to get an idea of how two netball courts look in a variety of different locations and options (see above). And also how one court would also look with some additions of seating/viewing areas and thirds around the ground.
- Netball Victoria have provided Tony with participation data to help make the decision of whether two courts are a required and viable option. Netball Victoria says any participation of 60 persons would require a second court. Currently Stawell Warriors Netball have 87 participants.

- Reg asked how busy Victoria Street was and its importance. Tony said that information had been collected that around 170 cars used Victoria Street per day (on average) which made it a busy and well used street so closing it off would potentially have issues. The type of use has not been determined and whether diversions to other streets is viable or acceptable.
- Cr Emerson was at Central Park recently speaking to some members of Stawell Warriors who believed some of these ideas were forgone conclusions. He wanted to ensure that no decision had been made and all options are on the table but require more information before a decision can be made. He was hoping to get the club to think of some alternatives to help decision making.
- Tony showed the “footprint” of two netball courts and how much space these require to the group for all to get an understanding the size required.
- Cr Dempsey asked Amber what would be required if one court was the option decided upon. Amber didn’t have an exact answer, but some compensation (thirds around oval or other compensation) would make it easier.
- Tony explained that two courts encourages growth and expansion of offerings that Stawell Warriors can do and that one can be limiting. As Amber said one court at the minute with early starts and late finishes on Thursdays and Saturdays is draining on volunteers and making it hard to coach the junior sides correctly due to not having a full court to utilize.
- Amber asked if there was a percentage of green space that had to be kept. Nic and Tony would look into this.
- Cr Emerson asked about funding for this project. There is currently no funding yet for any upgrades but doing the work to ensure any funding received will be used to its fullest. There would need to be funding prior to any works starting.
- Any other ideas or options for the netball court/s can be sent through to Nic or Tony.

**Sport and Active Recreation Strategy/ Open Space Strategy and Active Transport**

- Clubs/Associations update on strategy.
- ROSS in town 22 May presenting to Council with current findings and an update on the project.
- Pushing hard on the Open Space/Active Transport survey, clubs and community encouraged to fill this in also.
- Tony reminded those in the room that this survey should be viewed from a point of view of the future use and not necessarily “today” or “right now”. The input can be from a personal perspective and not just aligned to your club’s use.
- Nic also mentioned that it is important for clubs to voice their thoughts/issues/ideas in this survey for future planning and finding opportunities if we don’t know about it we can’t guess.
- Reg asked about a draft version. No draft as yet but this would be tabled and have community consultation later once available.

**North Park Old Light Poles**

- NGSC Parks and Garden are looking at taking down the 2 old footy lights at North Park for safety reasons and to continue the new black fence from clubrooms to the scoreboard.
- Power to be kept underground just in case.
- Ian has mentioned the poles and lights will be stored by North Grampians Shire at Haughton Street but are looking at selling them shortly.

|     |                          |  |  |
|-----|--------------------------|--|--|
|     |                          | <b>Navarre/Great Western Pavilion's upgrade</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quick update on both projects</li> <li>• Phasing both projects in. Great Western tender being drawn up as contract design to be done by November and construction start after footy season.</li> <li>• Navarre to start in 2025.</li> </ul> |  |
| 1.2 | Agreements and User Fees | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work In Progress end of June/Early July expected to be complete. This is a big project that requires a lot of tinkering to be fair for everyone across the shire.</li> </ul>  | <b>Action: Samantha continue work on user fee agreements</b> |
| 1.3 | Participation Plans      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Park lights participation plan complete.</li> <li>• Great Western lights needing to be done.</li> <li>• Central Park to start soon.</li> </ul>  | <b>Action: Samantha continue work on participation plans</b> |

#### Other business:

Amber asked about lights in Hank Neil Stand at Central Park as they automatic one in there has not been working for a period of time. Tony said to Snap Send Solve, but will investigate. **Action: Nic/Tony to investigate light in Hank Neil stand not working.**

John asked some questions about the ground/grass redevelopment at Central Park. He asked about five cricket pitches in the middle of Central Park is that to many. The covers that Cricket Association have not big enough for the five pitches and with the amount of cricket currently being played is 3 enough. **Action: Parks and Gardens, Grampians Cricket Association, Cricket Victoria to have their say on number of pitches required. Currently Sam conducting Audits in NGSC for cricket, it is about 12 years since last one may be something from here too.**

Reg asked about CFA facility at North Park near the CFA running track. Justine Kingan was calling Mal Nicholson (unsure if it has happened) in regard to this. No answer to Reg's original question but Nic following up. **Action: Nic to follow up Justine with this to see if contact was made, what do CFA need to do to get this started or progressing.**

Ian asked about protocol about hanging honour boards in change rooms. Currently walls getting marked, acoustics also an issue. This is an operational issue Councilor's Dempsey and Emerson agree with this. **Action item to follow up talk to Mark Walker.** Swifts have been given the second semi-final.

Nathan asked about the playground. The playground is in the pipeline and with SRV also, it is in the NP Master plan. No set timeframe and it is part of the annual budget process and decisions need to be made on this. It is an important project for NP. Cr Dempsey mentioned about Budget feedback to get community feedback and encouraged everyone to have a look and have their say once the budget comes out. **Action: Councilors enquire with council as to where it sits.**

Nathan asked about a water bill, Stawell Amateur Athletics received a large water bill and believe a pipe may have been tapped to run the water to the athletic track. **Action: Nic to contact Jess (SAAC secretary) about this where/who she sent it to, Parks and Garden question also as to what has happened there.**

Nic spoke about the Fair Access Policy which will be in place by July 1 2024 and encouraged clubs to be proactive in regards to this as clubs and council need to have their own. Nic also handed out bags to CoRE alliance encouraged clubs to sign up which is a great first step in starting towards their fair access policy. If any clubs have any issues, please contact Nic.

Rob Stawell Soccer Club in line for Grand Final for the league if not Grand Final it will be preliminary this will be after Swifts final so no clash there. Stawell Soccer offered to assist Ararat in setting soccer up there also with redevelopment of Gordon Street Oval. Plans for a potential Northern League (Ararat, Maryborough, Stawell Hamilton).

Cr Lauren Dempsey asked Ian about Defib machine, Swifts have purchased this themselves. Swifts have sent letter to council about the defib being locked up with no access to public and are potentially worried about the issues this may cause if someone in the public requires use of it but is behind a locked door in an office. Amber asked about any public defib machines to which the group believes there aren't any. SSAC have 3 but all inside. **Action: Councilors to investigate this and see potential for publicly located defib machines.**

**4. Close time: 7:46pm**

**5. Next meeting: TBC (David will speak to Open Space Strategy and Sport and Active Recreation Strategy for majority of this meeting)**