

Minutes of the Equal Access Committee Meeting held Wednesday 20 April 2011

Venue:

Coolamon Cultural Centre

Time:

10.00am

Present:

Ron Douglas (Chair), Vic Sparks, Bev Kelso, Ray Clark, Anne McLean, Karen Collins, Lee Clark, Cr Phil Youngblutt.

Apologies:

Una Cowdroy, Milena Morrow, Cr Dot Holdom, Robert Noakes.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Moved: Vic Sparks

Seconded: Bev Kelso

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Equal Access Committee meeting held Wednesday 16 February 2011 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Outstanding Matters Report:

1. **Flood safe brochures**

Referred to by member of Disability Interagency Network at meeting on 14 April that the State Government, SES had put a stop to the pamphlets before going to print. Localised information regarding emergency response is not supported. Will wait until position of new NSW Government is understood.

2. **Murwillumbah Council Audio**

Daybed completed and community member happy with result. Article in "Weekly" newspaper regarding the daybed. Observed at Council meeting on 19 April by Cr Phil Youngblutt. This item is now closed.

3. **International Day of People with a Disability**

Lee Clark reported on the 2010 event in Alstonville. It was a very successful event with over 1000 people attending. SCIA will repeat event in 2011 (1 December). The CEO of SCIA attended and will recommend model be repeated in other regions. In 2011 SCIA will auspice funds for the event at no cost for administration. Organisers were disappointed in 2010 with auspice service from DAISI who requested up to 25% of grant funds for administration. Funds were transferred to SCIA as a result to manage 2010 event.

No report on event run by Disabled Surfers as Peter Stannard was not in attendance.

4. **Beach Access Ramp at Kingscliff**

Anne McLean reported that Community Services were unsuccessful in submitting application for funding to Accessible Communities Program due to competition from

another section of Council lodging application for building of accessible amenities block in Murwillumbah. Outcome of funding application pending.

5. **Disability Action Plan ("DAP") Update**

Draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan phase of the Strategic Plan 2011-2021 accepted by Council on 19 April and on exhibition from 27 April to 27 May 2011. The Plan includes consultation and development of DAP and Access Policy. Karen Collins will develop consultation plan for broad community consultation with people with disabilities, carers, families and service sector to inform updated policy statement and action plan development.

6. **Mobile Phone Applications**

The availability of a new mobile phone application that provides up to date mapping information has been investigated by staff. Neither Telstra nor Apple was aware of any such application. The Chair will investigate further and advise the Committee. Ron Douglas provided phone contact to Karen Collins prior to meeting for follow up query about regarding mapping systems. Karen will follow up and report back to committee.

7. **Access Funds – regarding turning circle of scooters**

Held over until next meeting for Robert Noakes report.

8. **Access Funds – regarding inclusion of scooters in Disability Discrimination Act**

Karen Collins to follow up for next meeting.

9. **Use of Disabled Parking Stickers in QLD**

Ray Clark tabled draft article for Tweed Link outlining cross border use of disabled stickers.

10. **Development application for Murwillumbah Bowls Club**

Held over for Robert Noakes next meeting.

11. **Casuarina Hockey Clubhouse DA11/003**

Held over for Robert Noakes next meeting.

12. **Tugun Rugby League Football Club**

Karen Collins will write letter to equivalent Disability Officer to alert GCCC to the issue of access in car park of club.

13. **Tweed City Shopping Centre**

Deferred to next meeting.

Agenda Items:

1. **Beach Wheelchair Update**

Karen Collins provided an update regarding beach wheelchairs in Tweed Shire. A new chair has been ordered for Cabarita Beach and will be housed at the Surf Lifesaving Club after negotiation. Council now has 3 beach wheelchairs the other two being at Kingscliff and Pottsville. Karen Collins will develop a project management plan for the 3 wheelchairs to ensure proper management into the future. Karen reported on background research she carried out by contacting 3 other Shires who have been

providing access to beach wheelchairs.

Action: Karen Collins will email a copy of the Beach Wheelchair management plan to Lee Clark when completed.

2. **Briefing Note – Consultation Plan**

Karen Collins presented a Briefing Note prepared for the Committee regarding the development of a consultation plan to consult broadly with people with disabilities, their carers, families and the service sector to inform the updating and development of a current Access and Inclusion Policy statement and Action Plan. The consultation will also assist periodic reviews of the Strategic Plan 2011-2021.

Action: Karen Collins will involve the Committee in the development of the consultation plan leading up to the consultation will occur in the second half of 2011.

3. **Access Funds - Operational for 2010/11**

The Committee considered the Access Funding report distributed with business papers. The transaction listing identified activity in the March quarter indicating that \$4,000 was committed to the new beach wheelchair leaving \$20,000 to be spent before 30 June 2011 or request roll over to new financial year.

3. **Access Funds - Reserves**

The Committee considered the Access Reserve report distributed with the business papers. Anne McLean outlined that the majority of the \$180,000 in Access Reserve had been spent on Murwillumbah Museum ramp: \$136,000, access to Community Options in Brett Street, Tweed Heads South \$16,000 and access to Pottsville Beach Neighbourhood Centre \$20,000 leaving approximately \$16,000 in the reserves.

General Business:

1. **Footpaths**

Ron Douglas asked whether Council provides information on plans for new footpath construction and maintenance of existing footpaths. Ray Clark advised that maintenance was the responsibility of Council Works but that there was a plan for new footpath program 2011-2012 that could provide information on request for specific areas but not an overall map of the program. Ray Clark also explained that the Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan is about to undergo review including consultation. Anne McLean suggested that this review could work in with the broader community consultation outlined by Karen Collins.

Action: Karen Collins to liaise with Ray Clark on opportunities for collaborating in consultation processes regarding review of PAMP.

Ron Douglas asked Ray Clark about policy regarding events held on main streets footpaths specifically the Lions Club fundraiser that occurs around Easter. Ron advised that events licences needed to include assurances that adequate warnings and safe access are included. Karen Collins suggested that the new draft Festivals and Events Policy needed to be checked to see whether these issues are included.

Action: Karen Collins will check the draft Festivals and Events Policy for mention on safe access issues.

2. **Information Update**

Karen Collins provided an information update on the new Gold Coast Community Aviation Consultation Group which sort assistance to contact local disability services in order to invite a person with disabilities to be a member of the Consultation Group. They have circulated the draft Terms of Reference.

Karen also provided information regarding the upcoming release on 9 June 2011 of the United Nations World Report on Disability which will have eventual implications for all levels of governments who are signatories to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

3. **Placement of large waste skips in disabled parking bays**

Bev Kelso alerted Committee to a problem with high rise apartment building she accesses in QLD placing skips in the disabled parking bays. She has approached the owners who were unresponsive and has attempted to alert GCCC. Karen Collins supplied Bev with the name of the Disability Services Consultant with GCCC for more direct response.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Equal Access Committee will be held on Wednesday, 15 June 2011 at 10am at the Banora Point Community Centre - Lilly Pilly Room.

The meeting closed at 11.20am

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S COMMENTS:

Nil.

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

Nil.