

FURNEAUX HEALTH COMMUNITY SPECIAL COMMITTEE

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 9 APRIL 2015 COMMENCING AT 3:00 PM

AT THE ROSE GARDEN ROOM, FLINDERS ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE

IN ATTENDANCE:

Gerry Willis (Chairman & Minute Taker), Carol Cox (Mayor), Angela Smith (MPC), Alison Johnson (Lions) and David Grutzner (Community).

APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Lyn Wilson, Mary Bushby, Joy Robinson and Jane Bushby.

Moved David Grutzner, seconded Carol Cox

That the meeting approve the apologies.

Carried.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 4 FEBRUARY 2015:

Moved David Grutzner, seconded Carol Cox

That the meeting approves the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 February 2015.

Carried.

MATTERS ARISING:

Membership of Furneaux Health Community Special Committee.

Gerry Willis reported that, despite an advertisement in Island News, there have been no expressions of interest received for membership of the special committee. The consensus of the meeting was that there is sufficiently broad representation of the community from the current membership and no further action will be taken in the short term to appoint more members.

Gerry Willis reported that Jan Schibrowski has resigned as Principal of Flinders Island District High School and, as a consequence, as a member of the special committee. Gerry will write a letter to Nicole Jones, Acting Principal, to seek a new representative from the school.

Review of Terms of Reference:

Moved David Grutzner, seconded Alison Johnson

That this meeting agrees that the Terms of Reference be presented to the council for review.

Carried

Fragmented health funding:

Angela Smith reported that following the lodgement of an application (in late January) for Medicare Local to provide access to advisors no response has been received and it remains a case of “wait and see”.

Asset register:

Angela Smith reported that John Loudon continues to collaborate with David Heap to prepare a register of assets used in fitness healthcare, but other more urgent matters have hindered progress.

Acquisition of defibrillator(s):

It was resolved that until the Lions Club, or any other interested party, provides further information re the acquisition of defibrillators then the matter is closed.

Repairs to footpaths in Whitemark:

Mayor Carol Cox advised that a report was presented to the council in July 2014 regarding the state of footpaths in Whitemark and that the Works Manager will be making submissions for an allocation in the upcoming budget deliberations.

Shortage of rental accommodation:

The meeting again discussed the need for rental accommodation on Flinders Island. Angela Smith reported to the meeting on accommodation matters associated with some newcomers to the community who have taken employment with the MPC. David Grutzner advised that he thought it possible to build a modest home on Flinders Island for around \$250,000. Mayor Cox advised that the council was aware that the government made an election commitment to deliver an Affordable Housing Strategy for Tasmania and the council is making a contribution.

Launceston airport parking:

Mayor Carol Cox reported that casual access to the Sharp Airlines terminal building has been improved, but access for islanders with permanent annual parking cards still needs some work. The airport is aware of the issues.

General practitioner co-payment:

Mayor Carol Cox advised the meeting that the issues surrounding the introduction of a \$20 co-payment for consultations with general practitioners are no longer applicable given the federal government has withdrawn its proposal.

A freeze on payments to 2018 is still in place and could have a greater effect on reducing the return to practitioners. The freeze has no exceptions; i.e. for health care cardholders as the co-payment had.

Homecare visits:

Angela Smith reported that a visit to the community has been made by a home care expert and public sessions were held to inform of the costs of entering aged care. Future visits will take place and will involve one on one interviews.

Patient Travel Assistance Scheme:

Gerry Willis reported that he had spoken to a representative of the Patient Travel Assistance Scheme. The policy is for payments to be made within 4 weeks of the application. However, given the three week closure for Christmas it is impossible to meet the 4 weeks limit at all times and there will be some late payments. The scheme is administered quite rigorously to ensure it only applies to permanent residents of the community. The investigations include examining electoral rolls, medicare cards and drivers' licences.

Angela Smith reported that individuals with financial hardship may book their travel through the MPC which will cover the cost until reimbursement is made. Although this practise is not generally advertised, staff in the general practitioner's office use discretion in determining when to involve the MPC for travel.

Australian Hearing Bus:

Mayor Carol Cox advised, from information supplied by Jana Harper, that the Australian Hearing Bus has been booked for Agfest this year which will be only site where it operates this year in Tasmania.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There has been no correspondence sent or received. Mayor Cox has received a letter from the Royal Flying Doctor Service which was tabled, but will be brought to the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Cost of scans:

The meeting discussed the charges for scans performed privately in the Launceston region with the unanimous conclusion that the charges are exorbitant.

The meeting requested that Mayor Cox, on behalf of the council, write to Michael Ferguson, Minister of Health, to bring the matter to his attention, advising that the cost of these services is preventing people accessing them.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is to be held at 3:00 pm Wednesday 3 June in the Rose Garden Room.

CLOSURE:

The meeting closed at 4:10 pm.