

Meeting Minutes

6 February 2006, Blue Mountains City Council (Katoomba Office)

Meeting commenced 7:10pm

Councillors

Councillor Myles (Chair), Councillor McInnes

Sports Council Representatives

Walter Hitchell, Stephen Poole, Paul Thomas, Sue Kondek, Bob Bartlett, John Beazley, John Tremble, Estelle Godkin, Greg Dickson, David Brown, Walter Hitchell, Mick Hayes

Council Officers

Alan Cattermole, Adrian Birkbeck, Daniel Long, Patricia Gonzalez, Vicky Frank (Minutes)

Apologies

Councillor Frappell, Chris Maloney

1. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Previous minutes adopted.

Congratulations offered to Walter Hitchell on his Order of Australia.

Matters arising from these minutes:

Action: Adrian to liaise with those Sports Councillors with concerns over changes to oval closure procedures.

Action: Adrian will contact Sports Councillors in a week to further discuss Fees & Charges

Action: A special extraordinary sports Council meeting to be held on March 13 to discuss Fees.

2. Collect items for general discussion

- Smoking restrictions
- Child protection seminar
- Sports awards
- Katoomba Aquatic Centre
- Vandalism at Peter Carroll field
- Floodlight Lux readings
- Pitt Park works

3. Recreational Asset Management Plan / Knapsack Plan of Management

Patricia Gonzalez, Recreation Development Officer presented on:

- Recreational Asset Management Plan
- Knapsack Plan of Management (flyer handed out)

Presentations attached separately.

4. Sports Ground Hire & Use Handbook

The Sports Ground Hire & Use Handbook was adopted at the 31 January 2006 Council meeting. The April closure period has been changed. April 1 is the official start of the Winter Season. October 1 is official start of the Summer Season. Pre-season training is to be negotiated between main user groups. A new booking form is being developed to compliment the Handbook. The Handbook will be promoted etc when the new booking form is finalised.

The procedure for oval closures has changed. The following procedures will be in place for the closure of grounds due to wet weather:

Weeknight training and competition

The wet weather information line (ph 4780 5617) will be updated (if required) weekdays daily by 2pm. If grounds are closed, training and competition is not permitted on any of the grounds.

Winter Weekend Use

In the event of rain Council will make its decision regarding whether to close grounds, by Friday at 2pm. If the grounds are declared closed on Friday, play is not allowed on Friday or Saturday. **Note:** Due to fact that sometimes weather conditions change dramatically in the Blue Mountains, it may be that conditions change enough for grounds to be playable on the Sunday. Clubs have now been granted the opportunity to use their discretion in regards to Sunday play. Clubs should base their decision on the basis of safety and any likely hood of oval surface damage occurring if play was to go ahead.

Summer Weekend Use

Grounds will remain open during the summer months and play will commence at the discretion of the clubs. This does not apply to pre-season use by winter codes. These codes will be required to abide by the conditions as set out in the Winter Weekend Use section.

The use of netball hard-courts is exempt from the above procedures in relation to wet weather closures.

This change is effective as of now.

Oval Closure Signs.

These signs will be removed from sporting grounds.

New signs will be installed informing users of their responsibility to phone Council's wet weather information line (ph 4780 5617) to ascertain the current status of the grounds. Wording will be developed shortly and discussed with the Sports Council.

Concerns raised included:

- Hard decision for clubs to make
- Concern should not just be about the field being damaged but about player safety
- What will be considered “bad” damage to a field

Action: *Adrian to liaise with those Sports Councillors with concerns over changes to oval closure procedures.*

5. Fees & Charges

Discussion points included:

- Number of Sports representatives met last week and put together a paper rejecting the Discussion Paper (paper provided at meeting)
- Discussion Paper looked hastily prepared
- Council is not going to put the onus of the Sports Council, the Sports Council would not be made the scapegoats
- Level of fee is exorbitant
- Remove “in partnership” from the title page
- This appears to be a case of “let us try and catch up after 10 years of neglect”
- Inaccurate information
- How are fees going to be collected from non-Blue Mountains clubs?
- Should not be a blanket fee
- Rugby League happy to contribute knowing it will improve the facilities
- Needs to be fair across all clubs
- Needs to be equality of expenditure
- Where there is a high-use ground should be higher expenditure
- Charging for grounds in their current poor condition is embarrassing
- Council has to improve the product that it wants to charge for, cricket were recently playing in ankle-high grass
- Need to define what is ‘minor capital works’ and what an ‘asset’ is
- Document is very negative
- This document was not developed in ‘partnership’
- Unfair to large families
- Concerned that ‘special’ fund will disappear
- Should be different fees for different clubs
- Should be a sport by sport assessment
- Basketball gets charged by Council already – basketball parents are asking why shouldn’t other sports pay
- How will fees be collected from non-registered clubs?
- What is meant by non-profit organisations?
- How will lease fees work?

Councillor Myles summarised the key points of the discussion as follows:

- Definition of terms needed
- Need process for charging players outside the mountains
- Money collected should not be put in a common fund
- Money collected should be spent on oval they were collected from
- Should be a method of controlling expenditure by Sports Council

- Issues of multiple users and equity needs to be carefully considered
- Fees should be by a sport by sport basis / per ground

Action: Adrian will contact Sports Councillors in a week to further discuss Fees & Charges Another Paper will be prepared (in the next three weeks) and distributed to the Sports Councillors taking into account the views expressed prior to the 13 March extra ordinary meeting.

6. General discussion

- Smoking restrictions – at the October 2005 meeting, the Sports Council agreed that in response to Councillor McInnes’ Notice of Motion:
 - Council would prepare a response that advised that a Policy would be drafted in 2006/07 for consideration by the Sports Council
 - Council would trial designated smoking areas in a couple of locations
- Child protection seminar – 6 March (flyer provided)
- Sports Awards – reminder that Sports Awards will be held April / May. At the September 2005 meeting, the following members volunteered to be part of the 2006 Sports Award Committee. Agreed that clubs should sign-off on nominations.

Clr Myles	Bob Bartlet
Clr McInnes	Susan Kondek
Clr Frappell	Wlater Hitchel
Estelle Godkin	Greg Dickson

- Katoomba Aquatic Centre – Paul thanked Council for the good works in fixing the floor
- Vandalism at Peter Carroll field – Stephen reported vandalism on the security fencing at Peter Carroll field
- Lux readings – Sue requested lux readings, Adrian to discuss with Sue
- Pitt Park works – looking good, especially the turf with the recent rain
- Sport results web-site – Councillor Myles provided some promotional material for a one-stop internet site for sports results, interested Sports Councillors can contact the organiser

Matters arising from previous minutes:

Action: Council to prepare response to Councillor McInnes’ Notice of Motion regarding banning smoking at sporting ovals as per item 8. A Council report will be prepared and submitted to Council. This report will recommend a “Restricted Smoking Policy” be developed and trialled during 2006/07.

Action: Sports Councillors to advise Councillor Myles if they would be interested in participating in a tour of a premier sports oval facility.

Action: Investigate the ‘Powers of Delegation’ the Council may have with regards to the watering of ovals. Complete.

Action: “Safe Club” seminar to be put on the agenda for the next meeting. Complete.

Action: Review to be carried out of current NSW Sport & Rec Grant guidelines.

Action: Contact police and request increase patrols in problem locations where wheelie-bins are frequently burnt.

Action: Adrian to organise a separate ‘special’ Sports Council meeting to finalise Sportgrounds Hire & Use Handbook. Complete.

Action: Sports Fees and Charges discussion paper to be circulated prior to the February 2006 meeting by Council. Complete.

11. Next Meeting

Next meeting: **Monday 13th March 2006**, 7.00pm (to discuss Fees & Charges) **Venue to be confirmed. Dinner will be provided.** Please RSVP and provide agenda items to Adrian Birkbeck ph 4780 5709. **Remember the Dept Sport & Rec Child Protection Seminar is being held at the Council Chambers 6th March 7pm – 9.30pm!**

Meeting closed 9:36pm

Sports Council is on Council's Website!

<http://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/index.cfm?L1=1&L2=557&L3=1034>