



Brighton Council

MINUTES OF THE **FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**
OF THE BRIGHTON COUNCIL HELD
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES
OLD BEACH AT 5.15 P.M. ON TUESDAY,
9TH FEBRUARY 2021

PRESENT: Cr Foster (Chairperson); Cr Curran (Deputy Chair); Cr Garlick; Cr Gray; Cr Owen and Cr Whelan

IN ATTENDANCE: Cr Geard; Cr Jeffries; Cr Murtagh; Mrs J Banks (Governance Manager) and Mrs G Browne (Corporate Executive)

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY:

2. APOLOGIES:

All members were present.

3. QUESTION TIME & DEPUTATIONS:

As there were no members in the gallery there was no requirement for question time.

4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

In accordance with Part 5, Section 48 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the Chairman of a meeting is to request Councillors to indicate whether they have, or are likely to have an interest in any item on the agenda; and

Part 2 Regulation 8 (7) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, the Chairman of a meeting is to request Councillors to indicate whether they have, or are likely to have, a pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda.

Accordingly, Councillors are requested to advise of any interest they may have in respect to any matter appearing on the agenda, or any supplementary item to the agenda, which the Council has resolved to deal with, in accordance with Part 2 Regulation 8 (6) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.

There were no declarations of interest.

5. BUSINESS:

5.1 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT AS AT 31 JANUARY 2021:

AUTHOR: Deputy General Manager
(Mr G Davoren)

Background:

The finance reports were submitted for consideration. They comprise the summarised financial position, revenue and expenses of the Council for seven months of the 2020/21 financial year.

Consultation:

Nil

Risk Implications:

Nil

Financial/Budget Implications:

Not Applicable.

Strategic Plan:

Not Applicable.

Social Implications:

Not Applicable.

Environmental or Climate Change Implications:

Not Applicable.

Economic Implications:

Not Applicable.

Other Issues:

Nil

Assessment:

Nil

Options:

1. As per the recommendation.
 2. Not receive the reports.
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RECOMMENDATION:

That the reports be received.

DECISION:

Cr Curran moved, Cr Whelan seconded that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

VOTING RECORD

In favour	Against
Cr Curran	
Cr Foster	
Cr Garlick	
Cr Gray	
Cr Owen	
Cr Whelan	

5.2 RATES RELIEF – BRIGHTON BOWLS AND COMMUNITY CLUB:

AUTHOR: Deputy General Manager
(Mr G Davoren)

Background:

Council provided a part contribution of \$400,000 towards the improved facilities at the Brighton Bowls and Community Club during the financial year ending 2018. The following financial year ending 2019, Council provided the bowls club with a \$1,531 rate relief to reflect the improved facilities rate increase in its first year. Council provided additional rate relief support in the year ending June 2020 of \$2,000 and again for the year ending 2021 for \$2,000 due to an anticipated downturn following the effects of COVID. The club is now seeking another rate remission of \$2,000.

Consultation:

Chief Rates Officer.

Risk Implications:

Nil.

Financial/Budget Implications:

Any donation will come from Council's donation budget.

Strategic Plan:

Relates to our Goal 1: To Strengthen our Communities.

Social Implications:

Council has a social responsibility to support our community clubs.

Environmental or Climate Change Implications:

Not applicable.

Economic Implications:

Community clubs will often require support during start up or unforeseen downturns, but clubs should ultimately seek to reach an equilibrium within the community to support their own financial independence.

Other Issues:

The club has not provided any financial statements to identify any need for financial support.

Assessment:

Ideally the Brighton Bowls and Community Club should seek to become financially independent whereby the club members and those that receive benefits from the club facilities, eventually do not have to rely on other Brighton ratepayers who do not use the facilities.

Ideally all donations should be submitted as part of the budgetary process for comparison against other donation requests.

Options:

1. As per the recommendation.
 2. Seek financial statements prior to providing any donation for rate relief.
 3. Adjust the amount of donation to the Brighton Bowls and Community Club.
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RECOMMENDATION:

That a donation of \$1000 provided to the Brighton Bowls and Community Club be submitted for recommendation as part of the budgetary process for the 2021/22 financial year. The donation will be charged against the donation account and the same amount be recorded in the Brighton Council annual report.

DECISION:

Cr Gray moved, Cr Owen seconded that the recommendation be adopted with the donation being increased to \$2,000 for the 2021/22 financial year.

CARRIED

VOTING RECORD

In favour	Against
Cr Curran	
Cr Foster	
Cr Garlick	
Cr Gray	
Cr Owen	
Cr Whelan	

5.3 DONATION TEA TREE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION:

AUTHOR: Deputy General Manager
(Mr G Davoren)

Background:

The Tea Tree Community Association have again written to Council seeking support to address structural problems associated with the 109 plus year old Tea Tree Hall.

The Tea Tree Community Association is an incorporated not for profit community entity.

In early March 2020, it was discovered that the original section of the Tea Tree Community Hall had moved on its foundations resulting in the southern wall leaning out 200mm. The building is now deemed unsafe, which has compounded the problem as their revenue raising capacity has been compromised.

Council recently made a \$1,021 contribution to the Tea Tree Community Association as a contribution to offset building and planning fees retained by Brighton Council associated with their recent building development. Council also provided an additional amount of \$7,450 as a contribution towards engineering, design and plans, building surveyor and council fees associated with preparations for the repair of the Tea Tree Hall.

Repair costs have now been established to be in the vicinity of \$215,000.

The Tea Tree Community Association is now seeking a commitment from Council for an amount of \$90,000 for repairs from next year's budget but only if they are successful in achieving a grant of \$100,000 from the Federal Government. The committee intend to commit \$25,000 in cash and in-kind themselves towards the repairs.

Consultation:

Nil.

Risk Implications:

Nil.

Financial/Budget Implications:

The amount of \$90,000 needs to be committed now to meet the grant requirements but would be identified in the 2021/22 budget.

Strategic Plan:

Relates to our Goal 1 to Strengthen our Communities.

Social Implications:

Council has a social responsibility to support our community.

Environmental or Climate Change Implications:

Not applicable.

Economic Implications:

Nil

Issues:

Nil

Assessment:

The Tea Tree Community Association has a good track record of contributing to the health and wellbeing of our community. The Tea Tree Community Association has previously supported events at the Tea Tree Community Hall including:

- Monthly community social Friday nights
- Tea Tree 8 Ball Club
- Weekly South East Nursing
- Commercial kitchen hire
- Weekly yoga
- Monthly euchre tournaments
- Frequent children's birthday parties
- Annual long table dinner
- Electoral venue
- Business meeting room
- Wedding functions

The Association have lost their opportunity to raise income in several areas and can no longer hold some community events previously offered. The hall has heritage value with the community. It is a meeting place and clearly locally important. The association are an active group and typically self-funded except they do need support relating to the building infrastructure. If the Council owned the building, then it would be responsible for all capital expenditure.

Options:

1. As per the recommendation.
2. Amend the amount of support offered
3. Lend the \$90,000 amount sought through an interest free loan. The Deputy General Manager to negotiate directly with the Tea Tree Community. Associated repayment terms up to a maximum of 15 years.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council commit to a donation of \$90,000 from the 2021/22 budget only on the basis that the Tea Tree Hall Association is successful in obtaining a grant of \$100,000 as well as contributing in cash and in-kind support up to an amount of \$25,000 themselves.

DECISION:

Cr Owen moved, Cr Gray seconded that this item be held over and discussed at the Ordinary Council meeting on the 16th February 2021.

CARRIED

VOTING RECORD

In favour	Against
Cr Curran	
Cr Foster	
Cr Garlick	
Cr Gray	
Cr Owen	
Cr Whelan	

The meeting closed at 5.30pm.

Confirmed:

(Mayor)

Date:

16th February 2021