



Brighton Council

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE BRIGHTON COUNCIL, HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
COUNCIL OFFICES, 1 TIVOLI ROAD, OLD BEACH
AT 5.25 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2023**

PRESENT: Cr Curran (Chairperson); Cr De La Torre; Cr L Gray; Cr Geard and Cr P Owen.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cr G Irons (via Teams), Cr J McMaster, Cr T Murtagh, Ms G Browne (Director, Corporate Services); Ms J Banks (Director, Governance & Regulatory Services) and Mr D Allingham (Director, Development Services).

1. Acknowledgement of Country

2. Apologies

Cr Owen moved, Cr Geard seconded that Cr Whelan be granted leave of absence.

CARRIED

VOTING RECORD

In favour	Against
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Cr Curran

Cr De La Torre

Cr Geard

Cr Gray

Cr Owen

3. Public Question Time and Deputations

There was no requirement for public question time.

4. Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the requirements of Part 2 Regulation 8 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, the chairperson of a meeting is to request Councillors to indicate whether they have, or are likely to have, a pecuniary interest or conflict of interest in any item on the Agenda.

In accordance with Section 48(4) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, it is the responsibility of councillors to then notify the general manager, in writing, the details of any interest(s) that the councillor has declared within 7 days of the declaration.

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Business

5.1 CWA Brighton Branch - request for free use of Pontville Hall

Author: Facilities Coordinator (I Singh)

Authorised: Director, Corporate Services (G Browne)

Background

The Brighton Branch of the Country Women's Association (CWA) has written into Council requesting free use of the main hall in order to host fundraising events for 2-4 occasions annually.

Previously, these fundraising initiatives have benefited local entities such as schools, Bonorong Park, local SES, Fire Brigades, Tasmanian Cancer Council, Tasmanian Royal Flying Doctors, and the Orange Sky Laundry.

This year, their fundraising efforts are aimed at supporting the Waterbridge Food Co-Op and St Marks Church group, which organise luncheons for the elderly. The CWA currently lease a room from Council at Pontville Hall, under a peppercorn arrangement and only pay for the outgoings. However, due to spatial constraints in their existing location, their capacity to invite participants for fundraising events is limited. Hence, they are seeking access to the main hall to expand their reach and impact. CWA are requesting free use of the main hall for their fundraising and bigger events for the foreseeable future.

Consultation

Janine Banks (*Acting General Manager*), Megan Braslin (*Executive Officer*), Gillian Browne (*Director Corporate Services*)

Risk Implications

Granting free use may set a precedent for other organisation to seek similar concessions.

Financial Implications

The current day rate for the Pontville hall is \$299, amounting to \$1,196 for 4 instances throughout the year. It is important to highlight that this financial implication is subject to annual adjustments in accordance with the CPI.

Strategic Plan

Goal 1.1 engage with and enable our community

Goal 1.3 ensure attractive local areas that provide social, recreational and economic opportunities

Goal 1.4 encourage a sense of pride, local identity and engaging activities

Social Implications

Granting free use of the Pontville Hall to CWA would promote community collaboration and support local activities and organisations. Additionally, offering the main hall reflects the Councils recognition of the organisation's historical and ongoing contribution to the local community.

Environmental or Climate Change Implications

N.A

Economic Implications

N.A

Other Issues

In consideration, it should be noted that CWA hire out their allocated space, indicating a potential revenue stream. In recent developments, the Brighton Garden Club had informed Council their decision not to proceed with hiring the meeting room from Council and instead opting to use the CWA room to support their local CWA. This shift will result in Council missing out on revenue.

Assessment

The CWA contributes positively to the community and the group is able to provide additional funding support when fundraising events are held. Granting free use of the hall will align with Councils Community focused goals.

Options

1. As per the recommendation;
 2. Not waive the fees and apply the 50% discount as groups like this would ordinarily be granted.
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RECOMMENDATION:

That Council allow free use of Pontville Hall two (2) times per financial year for the Brighton Branch of the CWA to hold fund raising events; additional usage to be charged at the 50% discounted rate. This arrangement to be reviewed in 3 years time.

This donation is to be classed as a Donation under Section 77 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and recorded in Council's Annual Report.

DECISION:

Cr Owen moved, Cr Geard seconded that Council allow free use of Pontville Hall two (2) times per financial year for the Brighton Branch of the CWA to hold fund raising events; additional usage to be charged at the 50% discounted rate. This arrangement to be reviewed in 3 years' time.

This donation is to be classed as a Donation under Section 77 of the Local Government Act 1993 and recorded in Council's Annual Report.

CARRIED

VOTING RECORD

<u>In favour</u>	<u>Against</u>
Cr Curran	Cr De La Torre
Cr Geard	
Cr Gray	
Cr Owen	

5.2 Write off - Outstanding Debt

Author: Director, Corporate Services (G Browne)

Background

As most Councillors are aware in 2021 Microwise Pty Ltd was sold and any outstanding debtor payments at 30th June 2021 were to be paid directly to Brighton Council.

There are two remaining debtors outstanding totalling \$11,983.02. As the accounts were raised by Microwise Pty Ltd there is no supporting documentation about what the invoice relates to or proof of whether the service was provided.

Consultation

Nil

Risk Implications

Nil.

Financial Implications

The outstanding amount will be adjusted to the provision for bad debts account.

Strategic Plan

S4.4 – Ensure Financial & Risk Sustainability

Social Implications

Not Applicable.

Environmental or Climate Change Implications

Not Applicable.

Economic Implications

Not Applicable.

Other Issues

Nil.

Assessment

The following debts are outstanding and believed to be unrecoverable based on no supporting documentation about what the debt actually relates to. The debt is likely due to being raised but the charges being included in the contract of implementation and therefore should not have been invoiced separately.

Invoices demanding payment have been issued to these Councils and follow up emails and conversations with CouncilWise have resulted in non-payment.

- Belyuen Community Government Council - \$ 7596.26
- Mornington Island - \$ 4386.76

Options

1. As per the recommendation.
2. That Council continue to seek payment of identified outstanding debts.

RECOMMENDATION:

That approval is given to write off the outstanding debts.

DECISION:

Cr Geard moved, Cr De La Torre seconded that approval is given to write off the outstanding debts.

CARRIED

VOTING RECORD

In favour	Against
Cr Curran	
Cr De La Torre	
Cr Geard	
Cr Gray	
Cr Owen	

Meeting closed: 5.40 pm

Confirmed: _____
(Mayor)

Date: 19 September 2023
