

OBERON COUNCIL

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Present: Mayor Don Fitzpatrick (in the Chair); Acting General Manager, Alan McCormack; Works Manager, Ian Tucker; Community and Customer Services Manager, Peta Heffernan; HR/Special Projects Officer, Joanne Barton; Councillors Bob O’Bernier and Kerry Gibbons; Clinton Corby (Oberon United Football Club); Ian Christie-Johnston (Oberon Senior League); Peter Gascoigne (Oberon Junior League); Peter Varlas (Oberon Touch Football Club) Harold Lyme (Oberon Tennis Association), Donna Miller (Oberon Junior Hockey Club) and Executive Assistant, Sharon Swannell

Apologies: Councillor Keith Sullivan and Geoff Oxley

Apologies were received and accepted for the non-attendance of Councillor Keith Sullivan and Geoff Oxley. (O’Bernier/Gibbons)

The Mayor introduced Acting General Manager, Alan McCormack to the meeting.

Declarations of Interest: Nil

Confirmation of Minutes from meeting held 26 October 2011

Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 26 October 2011 were read and accepted.

(O’Bernier/Corby)

Business Arising from the Minutes

Nil

Code of Conduct Training

Joanne Barton provided a code of conduct presentation to the committee.

Councils Application for Funding for Improvements to Oberon Sporting Fields

Peta Heffernan advised the committee that the Department of Sport and Recreation are still working on applications. The last advised announcement date of late February is still applicable.

Minutes of the duly convened Oberon Sports Complex Committee Meeting held at the Council Chambers, Oberon on Wednesday 1 February 2012, commencing at 4.30pm.

General Manager

Chairperson

Online booking facility

Peta Heffernan advised that Councils Information and Communications Officer, Carolyn Hendry has been in contact with Energetica (the website creators) regarding having this built into the system. So far they haven't been able to get a chance to look at any new design requirements as they have been busy getting other Councils websites up and running and testing existing features. John from Energetica is in touch with Carolyn and will meet with his design team in the near future and advise Carolyn of any updates.

Rural fire and trucks on the field

Ian Tucker advised that Aruna has spoken to the RFS and requested that they refrain from parking their heavy vehicles on the junior soccer field as it causes substantial damage to the playing surface.

Ian Christie-Johnston asked if Council could approach the organisers of The Highland Steam and Vintage Fair to try to minimise the damage to the League fields during the Steam Festival.

Ian Tucker advised that he will be in touch with the organisers prior to the festival to try to minimise the impact of the heavy vehicles during the festival.

Group Ten League Standards

Ian advised that a full report from the referees is pending. Spectators, referees and players are to be separated whilst on the field and access on and off the field needs to be a fenced area. The Senior League fields do not have permanent fencing and to address this on game days a temporary fence will need to be erected.

Both ends of the senior league field have to have a rope fence erected on each game day for both junior and senior league.

Condition of Sporting Fields

The Senior Rugby League field has been cored, aerated and top dressed and will be ready for when the touch football season re-commences in Feb. Staff believe this has improved the surface. Grass has regrown quickly on these areas.

The Recreation Ground is the next facility in line for this treatment. Timing will depend on what sporting groups will require the facilities and when. The junior soccer field will be considered once the Recreation Ground is complete. This will be coordinated with Parks and Gardens Staff.

It was agreed by the committee that the grass on the Recreation Ground is in very good condition. The issue on this field is during periods of heavy rain the water pools in the dips and hollows on the fields. The United Football Club has had to cancel games on several occasions due to areas where the water is laying on the fields.

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It was agreed that the treatment applied to the Recreation Ground is unnecessary and would not address the drainage issues. This would require the field to be raised in the center or for subsoil drainage to be installed, both of these options are not financially viable.

Clinton advised that preparations for the soccer season will be underway by the end of March and the Recreation Ground will be needed nearly every week.

Ian Tucker advised that it is difficult to identify the hollows on the field when it is dry. He requested that Clinton mark any specific areas if they identify them. They will then be filled with topsoil, sand and grass seed to slowly to bring them back to level.

Discussion was also held in relation to moving the lines on the soccer fields. The sidelines can be moved relatively easily, however to move the whole field the sleeves for the goal need to be relocated. Ian Tucker requested that Clinton advise him asap if the United Football Club want the sidelines to be moved for this season.

Staff have started to fill in hollows on the lines with a mixture of sand, top soil and grass seed. This is being done in several small stages to get the hollows up to match the level of the surrounding field and keep the integrity of the lines during the process. This will also be done around the goal mouth.

Junior League will try to play their games on the Senior League field as the Junior League field has quite a few dips and hollows. The whole field requires the same treatment that has been applied to the Senior League Field. There is an issue with thistles on the Junior League field. Parks and Gardens staff have been requested to treat the fields with a broadleaf herbicide to address this issue.

Line marking techniques have been discussed with Bathurst Regional Council who has suggested some new procedures. These will be discussed and trialed. A product called primo-max will be used in the future when line marking. This produce retards grass growth rather than killing the grass. Roundup will not be used in the foreseeable future. The running track on the Recreation Ground is only used three or four times per year and this creates an issue if the lines are lost during mowing.

The Mayor asked about the dead ball line on the Senior League Field. Ian Christie-Johnston advised that the field still falls away in the corner towards the bitumen and they would like to see this addressed as well as the overall fencing. The field also falls away on the north-western corner. These are jobs to consider in the off season.

General Business:

Peter Varlas advised that Touch Football recommences on 2 Feb 2012. A bye will be held on Thursday 9 February 2012 to allow for the Steam Festival to take place on the grounds.

Donna Miller advised that the Hockey Club will use the tennis center to train again this year.

Peter Gascoigne advised that some of the Junior League teams have commenced training.

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Ian Christie-Johnston advised that League will try to utilize other fields such as the Recreation Ground and also the Tennis Centre during the next couple of weeks to try to minimize the amount of use on the senior fields.

Harold Lyme advised that the cleaning of the surrounding grounds at the Tennis Centre should be complete within the next month. The Tennis Courts are playing well and there are no other issues.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Oberon Sports Complex Committee will be held on Wednesday 2 May 2012 commencing at 4.30pm.

This concluded the business and the meeting rose at 5.15pm.

Confirmed this _____ of _____ 2012.

General Manager

Chairperson

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General Manager

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