



**Merredin Sports Council
General Meeting MINUTES
Tuesday 10th February 2015**

The Meeting was declared open by President Ben Jardine at 7.05pm

Present:

Ben Jardine, President
Erica Carlson, Secretary
Brett deLacy, Merredin Mens Hockey
Tessa Crook, Burracoppin Hockey Club
Dennis Hobson, Civic Bowling Club
Darren Gardiner, Burracoppin Football Club
Craig Lane, Nukarni Cricket Club
Paddy Hooper, Nukarni Football Club
Jade Healey-Ratima, Merredin Netball Association
Glenn Crees, Vice President MSC, Merredin Golf Club
Robert Broomhall, Merredin Golf Club
Camray Gethin, District Lawn Tennis Club
Louise Davies, Merredin Womens Hockey Club
James Morris, Merredin Junior Cricket Association
Glen Reithmuller, Turf Alliance
Steve Gregory, MRC&LC Manager
Kate Crees

Apologies: Mick Caughey, Bill Mottershead, Martin Morris,

Disclosure of Interest – Ben Jardine Agenda item 7.1

Minutes of Previous General Meeting dated 11th November 2014

Minutes from the General Meeting held 11/11/2014 were distributed to members via email.

That the minutes of the General Meeting dated the be accepted as a true and correct record.

Moved: Tessa Crook

Seconded: Louise Davies

Carried

Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Strategic Plans

Sporting Clubs agreed to submit their completed Strategic Plans to the MSC by the end of November. Given the busy time of year this date was further extended, along with the offer from the DCEO to assist sports to complete the plans. To date we have only received plans from the Civic Bowling Club, Nukarni Football Club, Merredin Netball Association, Merredin Golf Club, Merredin Mens Hockey Club and the Burracoppin Hockey Club.

The issue regarding the outstanding plans is that the new by-laws of the Sports Council state that each MSC member shall hold or be working towards a Strategic Plan and that we have received correspondence from the DCEO stating that the Executive Management of the Merredin Shire will be commencing the review of the Corporate Business Plan and Long Term Financial Plan commencing in February 2015. If they do not have strategic plans from the Clubs then capital improvements/upgrades will not be considered and included in the Shire's planning suite.

The MSC Committee is also awaiting the completion of these plans to complete their own planning session.

That the MSC financial clubs that have not forwarded a copy of their strategic plan be contacted and asked to either forward a copy of their plan or evidence showing they are currently working to complete their plan before the end of February 2015.

Moved: Craig Lane

Seconded: Glenn Crees

Carried

Camray Gethin entered the room at 7.09pm

Hockey/Tennis Carpark

At the November meeting it was indicated that the car park located on the west side of the Hockey/tennis facility would be marked with bays and a clear access path to the Golf Club Shed. This was to avoid the congested parking situation that was occurring during winter when football, golf, hockey and netball was played on the one day. This was to be completed by March 2015. The MRC&LC Manager informed the meeting that this will be completed by March 2015. Members requested that the condition of the road (pot holes) also be brought to the attention of the Engineering and Works Supervisor.

Treasurers Report

Monthly Finance Report was distributed.

That the members receive and accept the monthly Treasurers report as a true and correct record of the financial position of the Merredin Sports Council.

Moved: Brett deLacy

Seconded: Jade Healey-Ratima

Carried

In accordance with the adopted budget the remaining funds allocated to the turf alliance project have been paid to the Merredin Shire, as invoiced.

Term deposit rates were presented and discussed. Meeting resolved to leave the funds in the general account until the next meeting.

Ben thanked those involved in the cropping program for their contribution.

Correspondence

Monthly correspondence records were distributed.

That the Merredin Sports Council members receive and accept the inward and outward correspondence record.

Moved: Erica Carlson

Seconded: Louise Davies

Carried

Reports/Project Updates

MRC&LC Building and Maintenance

Storage Cages

Storage cages have been labelled and reorganised so that as per the User Guidelines each club is only using one cage. The Softball Association have removed their belongings as requested. Storage room for Clubs continues to be a problem, with the Merredin Colts and Mens Hockey without a cage. Other Clubs are also desperate for additional cages, as one cage is not big enough for their needs.

Further storage room ideas has been discussed with the MRC&LC Manager and the brick building near the netball/basketball outside courts has been identified as a potential room to allocate to sports storage. Unfortunately, although requested, no provision was made in the 2015 Shire budget to make this room accessible.

The Executive has further discussed the issue with John Gearing and the MRC&LC Manager and believe that if sports want to use this building we will need to allocate our own funds to make it accessible.

A quote to make the building accessible was provided (attached) at the meeting for discussion. Meeting resolved that storage isn't an urgent issue and that we will leave it until the shire can add it to their budget.

MRC&LC Administration

MRC&LC Manager presented his report (attached)

Fee Structure Questions

- Is the fee structure set? The new fee structure will be implemented for Winter 2015.
- Is the income going into general revenue or into reserve for the MRC&LC maintenance? Discussion occurred. The last sentence of Greg's letter and the figures shown in the Council minutes indicate that it goes into general revenue to cover expenses. Not into reserve for maintenance.
- What happens if a sports membership base falls dramatically in the five year period because of the membership fee increase. There is no provision stated in the motion for the opportunity for the base fee to be recalculated? The MRC&LC Manager indicated to the members that there would be an opportunity to address this if a formal letter was proposed.
- In the letter the CEO distributed to the sports there are parameters on the use listed for each club. The endorsement of the flat fee by sports was negotiated with the MRC&LC Manager with the understanding that the new user fee, allows access to all the MRC&LC facilities through a booking process? The MRC&LC Manager again verbally reassured that this will be the case. Members requested that this be provided in writing.
- Social hockey was set up as a fundraising opportunity. The large fee increase will see an end to it. Will every social sport see the same fee increase? The MRC&LC discussed some participant figures and suggested that the flat fee rate was cheaper than a user pay rate.

Concerns

- Sports are concerned that savings they have will need to be used to keep membership fees affordable in the first year due to such a large increase.
- Sports understand and agree to a MRC&LC flat fee structure and are disappointed that as negotiated with the MRC&LC Manager that the new flat fee is not the fee for 2015. To negotiate a fee with the Manager and then be told it has changed seems pointless.
- Sports are concerned the increase in the base fee as well as an additional 5% increase in the first year will have a negative effect on the membership base in the sporting community as they will need to substantially increase their membership fees to cover this cost. This is a huge concern for Junior Sport.
- Sports appreciate the time it takes to present sporting facilities to an appropriate standard, but do believe that there is room for improvement in some surface areas and maintenance of surrounding grounds. If fees continue to rise, so will the expectation of surface preparation.
- Sports acknowledge that it is going to be harder to fundraise to contribute towards surface replacement costs and are interested in the expectation the shire has on the sporting community and the plan they have in place to meet these costs. Discussion occurred on requesting the shire to put a percentage of funds aside each year.

In summary

Sport recognise the financial strain the MRC&LC has on the shire and the meeting resolved that the concept of a flat rate is a move forward. They do not want the current User Pays structure. The MSC sporting members support the MRC&LC fees to be increased using the new flat fee structure, with this flat fee becoming the user fees in 2015. The user fees then increase annually from 2016 by no more than 5% over a period of 5 years.

That it would be appropriate for each sporting club to write a letter to the Shire expressing their disappointment towards the new MRC&LC fee structure. These letters need to be forwarded to the Sports Council who would then write a covering letter and hand them in all together.

Moved: James Morris

Seconded: Glen Crees

Carried

Please forward your letter (signed copy) to Erica at merredinsportscouncil@hotmail.com or ring on 0428415594 to arrange a delivery time PRIOR to Friday morning as their next Council meeting is set for Tuesday.

Please address the letter to

Mr Greg Powell, CEO, Shire of Merredin, PO Box 42, MERREDIN WA 6415

Honour Boards

An Electronic version of an honour board has been investigated and quoted at approx \$10k. The Executive believes that this option is too expensive to further engage. The Executive will continue to discuss the issue with the MRC&LC Manager to find an opportunity for sports to display their memorabilia.

DSR Talent Development Program

As we have just passed the Holiday period, this program has not progressed since our last meeting. Steve will be meeting with the designated sporting representatives in the coming weeks and will report at our March meeting.

General Business

Winter Sports Meeting

The Annual Winter Sports Meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th March commencing at 6pm. This meeting will provide the opportunity for sports to discuss fixture clashes, organisation of the canteen, use of bar area, key allocations etc. Winter Sports are asked to ensure their President, Sports Council representative and any other key members of their group attend this meeting.

That the Winter Sports Meeting be held on Tuesday 10th March commencing at 6pm at the MRC&LC.

Moved: Louise Davies

Seconded: Brett deLacy

Carried

2015 Sports Council Cropping Program

The Sports Council has received a letter from council regarding the availability of the land for our cropping program. (letter attached). Discussion occurred on the possibility of the MSC undertaking a 2015 program spread over 4 – 5 different parcels of land, rather than one.

That Paddy Crook proceeds with implementing a 2015 cropping program on behalf of the Merredin Sports Council.

Moved: Craig Lane

Seconded: Brett de Lacy

Carried

Other avenues to raise funds will need to be discussed at a future meeting, to demonstrate support towards those assisting with the cropping program.

Busy Bee and storeroom clean up

The Annual Busy Bee and storeroom clean up is to be organised. Date to be confirmed with MRC&LC Manager. Please also submit any ideas or areas of concern that need to be cleaned up. Please exclude the Community garden area.

Providing contact details/Change of Executive/voting rights

Emails have been sent regarding updating your Executive contact details after an AGM and ensuring that your sport has correctly nominated your Sports Council representative. These are the MSC Constitutional obligations and can't be overlooked. If you are in doubt please see Erica.

Turf Alliance

Turf Alliance had a meeting to discuss the future needs of the Alliance. It was decided to continue with a Turf Alliance group to discuss future surface issues, storage etc. However there will be no need to further report at a Sports Council meeting.

Volunteer evening

The CRC will be holding a Volunteer evening on the 18th February 2015. Please rsvp by the

11/2/2015.

With no further business President Ben Jardine closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

The next scheduled meeting for the Merredin Sports Council will be held Tuesday 10th March 2015 commencing at 7pm.

These minutes have been approved as a correct record of the meeting held on the

Signed:

Position:

Date: