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PRESENT

Clr L Oldham (in the Chair), Clrs A Pull, J Jones, K O’Ryan and J Weaver.

Also present were the Acting Deputy General Manager Services, Department Leader – Community & Economy, Department Leader – Community Services, Community Services Trainee and Executive Support Officer.

ITEM - 1 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

RECOMMENDATION (Jones/Weaver)

THAT it be noted there were nil applications for leave of absence.

CEC 24/01 Carried

ITEM - 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RECOMMENDATION (Pull/O’Ryan)

THAT it be noted there were nil Declarations of Interest.

CEC 24/02 Carried

ITEM - 3 DECLARATIONS OF POLITICAL DONATION

RECOMMENDATION (Weaver/Pull)

THAT it be noted there were nil Declarations of Political Donations.

CEC 24/03 Carried

ITEM - 4 ARTS OUTWEST 50 YEAR CELEBRATION 2024

RECOMMENDATION (Weaver/O’Ryan)

THAT council nominates Councillor Libby Oldham and Councillor Kathryn O’Ryan to attend the Arts OutWest 50 year celebrations on Saturday, 1 June 2024 at Forbes Town Hall.

CEC 24/04 Carried

ITEM - 5 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMY UPDATE

Proceedings in Brief

Department Leader Community & Economy advised the committee of the following;

- In addition to the social media work and publications, the Community & Economy team are looking to commence a quarterly business newsletter that will be more targeted on the business hub which was

lost a little following the November 2022 floods. This will provide a good opportunity for council to engage directly with the businesses.

- Shop Local campaign – Didn't start earlier as January/February is a typically quiet period. Wanted to target media and social media in the lead up to the street being open again. Following a question from Cllr O'Ryan, it was advised that this will be an online only campaign as print is expensive and doesn't necessarily provide a good return on investment.
- Commencing development of Cabonne LGA map. Have engaged an artist to create artwork. Will be Cabonne focused as opposed to Central West focused.

Following a statement from Cllr O'Ryan, discussions were held regarding the lack of Cabonne information in nearby Visitor Information Centres. Department Leader Community & Economy advised that this is a space that requires more focus and a need to create a point of difference in the way in which brochures are produced.

Cllr Jones called the Molong Main Street Activation update and acknowledged the work of staff and contractors to date. Cllr Jones made the following requests;

1. On behalf of local business, call for re-wording of signage to re-direct people in to the main street as this is contributing to visitor economy loss.
2. Committee to investigate and provide a report back to council on options for funding and organisational assistance for proposed street opening event by Molong Advancement Group.

Cllr Weaver acknowledged the initiative of the community preparedness first aid training. It was noted that this is not registered first aid training and no certificate will be provided.

Cllr Jones provided the committee with an update on the visit by the Premier and Minister Dib to Eugowra in January for the opening of the Eugowra Community Centre and advised that the Premier also participated in a street walk in Molong while liaising with some business owners. A meeting was also held in Molong with Phil Donato, Minister Dib and Mayors from other Shires, Cllr Jones acknowledges great work of Mayor Beatty and General Manager for lobbying for support for the Cabonne region following the November 2022 flood event.

RECOMMENDATION (Pull/Jones)

THAT the information be noted.

CEC 24/05 Carried

ITEM - 6 EVENTS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Proceedings in Brief

Department Leader Community & Economy advised the committee that in reviewing the application from the F.O.O.D Week Committee, it was felt that the Market was the component that was most supportive of our local region. Although it is vital to continue to support FOOD Week in some way as it is a

significantly valuable event for a number of our local producers, following the conclusion of the F.O.O.D Week event, council staff propose to meet with the event organisers to discuss ways in which council could better support local businesses in engaging in F.O.O.D Week activities.

Clr Oldham, on behalf of the Community, Economy and Culture Committee endorsed the future discussions regarding food week activities and noted the issue of affordability of the events.

Department Leader Community & Economy advised that both the Events Assistance and Sponsorship programs are running low on funds and to be mindful of this as we are only in February. This was likely a result of council providing funding for events that perhaps have not been funded previously and providing funding that was above what was recommended following the impacts of the floods and the recovery process. It is proposed new draft events and sponsorship guidelines may be presented to the April Community, Economy and Culture Committee meeting for consideration, these will tighten up reporting requirements and create better consistency in the way council applies these programs.

RECOMMENDATION (Pull/O'Ryan)

THAT the Community, Economy and Culture Committee endorse to Council under the 2023/24 Event Assistance Program:

1. \$2,384 for the F.O.O.D Week committee to assist with the Producers Market and Brunch.

CEC 24/06 Carried

ITEM - 7 SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Proceedings in Brief

Department Leader Community & Economy noted that the request from Canowindra Challenge Inc. was \$25,000, of which \$5,000 was in kind. It was noted that sponsorship provided by council is designed to help cover what the committee considered to be in kind costs. The Canowindra Challenge Inc. have been advised of why council is unable to recommend the additional \$5,000.

RECOMMENDATION (Pull/O'Ryan)

THAT the Community, Economy and Culture Committee endorse to council under the 2023/2024 Sponsorship Program;

1. \$20,000 to Canowindra Challenge Inc for the 2024 Cabonne Community Glow.

CEC 24/07 Carried

ITEM - 8 AGE OF FISHES REDEVELOPMENT CONCEPT PLAN

Proceedings in Brief

It was noted that this is a concept plan only and further consultation with stakeholders will take place should council be successful in obtaining funding.

Discussions were held surrounding the options for funding of the Redevelopment Plan.

Clr Weaver expressed frustration at the lack of support from the government for this international well reclaimed site.

Department Leader Community & Economy noted that council is now in a more advantageous position to lobby for funding with a high level pitch document, presenting a professional, well thought through approach that demonstrates an evidence base.

RECOMMENDATION (Weaver/O’Ryan)

THAT the Community, Economy and Culture Committee endorse to Council:

1. The adoption of the Age of Fishes Redevelopment Concept Plan; and
2. Approve Council staff to seek grant funding opportunities to support the refurbishment of the Age of Fishes Museum.

CEC 24/08 Carried

ITEM - 9 COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATE

Proceedings in Brief

Department Leader Community Services provided updates on the following matters;

1. Library Services – Canowindra Library moved into Masonic Hall along with Cabonne Home Support. Library currently has a smaller than space in the previous location but will have a larger footprint in the new building.
2. Children’s Services – After School Care could be expanded. Round of grant funding opportunities have opened. Application for each service will be submitted.
3. Disability Inclusion Action Plan – Hopeful that this will be reported to the February council meeting.
4. Youth Week – Looking to host an activity focusing on Human Rights. This would involve the high schools and will be a fun and interactive experience facilitated by highly educated and professional people. This will also provide an opportunity to discuss how they would like to interact with council moving forward. This event will be facilitated in partnership with the Library.

Clr O’Ryan suggested that council might aim to target distance education/home school groups for inclusion in youth week activities.

5. Family Day Care – Difficult to recruit carers as in home set up is expensive and restrictive. Council is looking at working with a new model as a pilot where care is being offered from an alternative space. Child to carer ratios will still need to be maintained which can also be restrictive.

RECOMMENDATION (Jones/Pull)

THAT the information be noted.

CEC 24/09 Carried

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

ECONOMY, CULTURE AND TOURISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Councillor Jamie Jones

Clr Jones addressed the need for a decision to be made on the future of the Economy, Culture and Tourism Advisory Committee. This committee has not been well attended and lacks direction.

It was decided that another meeting of the Economy, Culture and Tourism and Advisory Committee be called and that the new council then decide the future of that committee.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1:02pm.