

***Mission Statement:***

***To support and develop a sustainable, thriving and resilient community through leadership and partnership.***

**HELD:** Tuesday 13 September at 6.30pm

**LOCATION:** Barnawartha Soldiers Memorial Hall

**NUMBER OF RESIDENTS: 18**

<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Council staff</b>	<b>Community members</b>
Ali Pockley, Mayor	Brendan McGrath - CEO	Maxine Arblaster
Bernie Gaffney, Deputy Mayor	Roberta Baker – Manager Communications	Nel Arblaster
Barbara Murdoch	Robert Uebergang – Manager Assets	Tom Stuart
Peter Graham	Chris Westwood – Team Leader Recreation & Community Strengthening	Merle Stuart
Vic Issell		Colin Harkin
Peter Croucher		Raymond Fisher
		Pauline Fisher
		Don Nevin
		Paul Schirmer
		Donald Higgins
		Alison Higgins
		Simon DeGaris
		Barbara Baxter
		Brendan Baxter

**COMMUNITY FORUM MINUTES**

		Nerida Kerr
		Regina Well
		Ian Well

ITEM NO	ITEM	ACTION
1.0	<b>Welcome</b>	
	Mayor Cr Pockley welcomed everyone and thanked the Barnawartha Hall Committee for the supper they provided.	
2.0	<b>Apologies</b>	
	Cr Larry Goldsworthy, Mark Florence GM Sustainable Communities, Andre Kompler GM Major Projects & Programs	
3.0	<b>Community Strengthening Project - Update</b>	
	Chris Westwood spoke about the priorities that had arisen from the Barnawartha Community Plan. Getting close to obtaining funds to get the Barnawartha Recreation Reserve facility. In relation to community events, the working group had slowed down a little. Town entrances to the town had been cleaned up, which was one of the priorities.	<b>Chris Westwood</b>
4.0	<b>Barnawartha Recreation Reserve Multipurpose Facility</b>	
	<p>\$1.3 million needed to complete project, grant application is in with the Department of Planning and Community Development for \$235,000, with an announcement in October. There is another application in to Regional Growth Fund. We are tied until we get that funding through as we don't want to do a staged project because that tends to drag things out. Hopefully by the end of the year or early next year we will have an idea of where we are at. He urged residents get in touch with the recreation reserve committee of management to have input in to the design.</p> <p>Donald Higgins, treasurer of the Barnawartha Hall committee, asked if Councillors had given any thought to the future of the hall once the new building is put in at the recreation reserve. The hall belongs to the community, was put in place by volunteers in 1923. Cr Peter Graham commented that the memorial Hall and the War Memorial, a few blocks down from the Hall, are governed by Trustees; they are not State or Shire property. A situation not found elsewhere in the shire.</p>	<b>Chris Westwood</b>
6.0	<b>Council's Indigo 2030 vision</b>	
	This is a long term vision to capture hopes and dreams of all ages about Indigo Shire in the year 2030. Will help Council develop plans for future. Involves conversations, art and story competitions, a song, a corporate	<b>Roberta Baker</b>

	<p>document and a film.</p> <p>Brendan Baxter commented that it was one thing to capture a vision and asked how Council is looking to turn that into a strategic plan. What sort of goals and targets will you be putting in front of yourselves?</p> <p>Cr Pockley described the conversation process that is underway at the moment. And that information gathered will inform annual Council Plan and other strategic planning processes. But we have to capture the visions first. Brendan Baxter said Wodonga had a vision but he felt it was “wishy washy”. He said it was great for Council to have direction, and great for community groups to see where they want to be in 20 years. Groups such as Rotary etc want to grab that vision and work together with Council on something in that plan.</p> <p>Cr Issell said the hardest thing was to turn ideas into reality. He said it was a bit hard to guarantee but that’s where we have to apply our thinking. Then the hard work begins at that point, turning it into something tangible. Brendan Baxter urged good communication to community groups, then people can grab hold of the ideas and turn them into something.</p>	
7.0	<b>Your say</b>	
	<p>General discussion about hall, recreation reserve, recreation facilities, fire station moving to the golf course and the process for finding out about these sorts of planning matters.</p> <p>CEO Brendan McGrath explained that planning staff have to look at application and who is likely to be affected by it, so those people are notified. Bit of a subjective process. Not always an ad in the paper or a notice in the general store. No formal application for the fire brigade station yet.</p> <p>Maxine Arblaster commented that “in the few years we have been here we have seen Wodonga encroaching on Indigo”. She commented about the unique nature of Indigo, lovely valleys, wine areas, gorgeous Indigo Valley, unique haymaking in the Indigo Valley, historic nature of Yackandandah, Beechworth and Chiltern. But Barnawartha just seems to sit out here and it does need a lot of work to see that it is not snatched up by Wodonga. Maxine said “we love having the Informer newsletter and are glad you have extended it to 6 a year, another good move was the flyer in the Post Office for the Community Forum”.</p> <p>Question was asked if there would be long-term strategy in tourism next 20 years. Important shire has specific policy to attract more tourism.</p> <p>CEO spoke about local tourism efforts Council staff are involved in, ISC part of the new North East Regional Tourism Board, which had some skills based members. In the process of developing a strategy for the region, looking at activities such as cycle tourism, this part of Victoria is a real leader in food and wine and thinking about how those things are promoted in Melbourne and more broadly. Helping people understand you don’t have to do separate trips to Bright, Beechworth etc. There are a number of more regional strategies that groups</p>	

<p>are focusing on.          Cr Pockley mentioned the Indigo Tourism Advisory Committee and Cr Gaffney mentioned that at the last meeting Barnawartha and Tangambalanga were mentioned as satellite villages and whether residents would like to start doing some groundwork on a festival or event. Would be good if someone from these areas could come to the next meeting, the AGM, at the Chiltern Senior Citizens Centre on 2 October.          Cr Croucher, who lives in Tangambalanga, said there was a move there to organise an event for Tangambalanga.</p> <p>Asset Manager Robert Uebergang provided an update on flood damage repair work. Has commenced on this side of the shire. Fishers Road has been done in recent days. Regina Welsh asked about the Back Martindale Road in the Indigo Valley. Erosion on the side, needs heavy stone or rock base so it won't wash away.</p> <p>Regina and Ned Welsh asked about the sign at the Chiltern-Yackandandah Road, never been replaced. Now just a tiny finger board. Robert Uebergang said he would investigate.</p> <p>Merle and Tom Stuart mentioned the Cookinburra Church, 73 years old and heritage listed. We applied to have disabled toilet in a shed a few years ago but because church is heritage listed the shed had to be built in same style as church. A very expensive project for a little group. We are working hard to raise money to get this completed. Are there any grants that Council has?          CEO said there were community grant for up to several thousand dollars, have just finished current round. Will advertise in April for next round in August next year. Cr Issell said Council would get an officer out to the church to see what the issues were.</p>	<p><b>Robert Uebergang</b></p> <p><b>Robert Uebergang</b></p> <p><b>Chris Westwood</b></p>
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