

SADDLEWORTH INSTITUTE COMMITTEE

Minutes:	meeting held 26 June 2023 at 7.30pm. Saddleworth Institute
Chairperson:	David Williams (also Caretaker)
Present:	Dora Newhouse, Barb Grey, Kenton Klem, Portia Stanton-Noble (Secretary), Rosie Richardson, Peter Richardson, Greg Germein, Mark Kerrigan, Sue Selth and Jeannine Naughton
Representing	
Council:	Judy Giles-Community Development Coordinator and Andrew Christiansen-Director Development & Community
Apologies:	Lalika Strange

Minutes

1. The minutes from last meeting
Accepted with one amendment that Rosie and Peter Richardson were both in attendance.
2. Next meeting: TBA

Correspondence In

No Correspondence received.

General Business

3. David W confirmed the news that Gideons who had used the Institute Hall for 50 years have left.
4. First Aid Night – was a success, thanks to Barb Grey and John Vandeur.
5. Peter R suggested a Road Rules refresher session would be a good idea
Action: to approach Riverton Police Officer
6. David W said he will ask Michael from Healthy Sparks to attend the next meeting and explain electricals upgrade report.

Finance Report

7. a. Rosie R advised meeting current bank balance is \$31,425.68
- b. There is more money – just given to Portia S to bank.

Meeting with Council members

8. Discussion commenced with the news that Council had recently voted to sell the Saddleworth Institute.
9. Andrew C gave a quick overview on his review process:
10. Back in 2020, Council made the decision to sell off assets.
11. He explained that in the Town Meeting over a year ago, the community was given three motivations:
 - a. The need for assets management
 - b. Council will not put further money into the Institute's maintenance
 - c. Land revocation
12. Portia S asked about future booked events at the Institute – will it affect the Author Event planned for 2 September?
13. For land revocation, Andrew C said it still needs several approvals before sale can be implemented.
14. Council was transparent as meeting information can be obtained from Councillors, is provided on their website and regular podcasts for the public.
15. Auburn Library and Auburn RSL will also be approved for land revocation.
16. Andrew C assured this committee that the proceeds of the sale of the Saddleworth Institute will be returned to the Saddleworth community.
17. The Riverton Hall, Tarlee Institute and the Clare Hall will be kept and maintained by the Council.
18. Kenton K raised his concerns about the Council funding which is currently going into the bridge, recycling, the Riverton Hall, Clare Hall and plant hire.
19. Greg G also expressed concerns that consultants for Council consultations would be costing the Council \$1000s.
20. Andrew C said that current inflation rates has adversely affected the Council's budget.
21. Sue S (among others) said questions have been raised about the Saddleworth Institute to Council which have gone unanswered.
22. How can any decisions be made if there isn't enough information to determine an outcome?
23. Andrew C said that the community had a 21 day consultation plan.
24. Previously identified issues of salt damp not fixed, private land on the site and an electrical report which is not thorough were raised again.
25. Electrical report presented is just a summary of electricals there and there are no photos attached, as noted in the report.

26. Andrew C said he will get a map and look into the private land portion.
27. David W asked for a building report to be done.
28. Andrew C said it can be done, but if it condemns the building, then the building will be locked and deemed condemned by Council.
29. Gravel for the grounds will not be honoured now - although it has been requested for the last 3 to 4 years.
30. There will be information in the next copy of The Plains Producer.
31. Finally, Andrew C said as no decision by the town had been made, Council was forced to take action for land revocation.
32. Not used enough – although it was raised that the Saddleworth Country Market is monthly (and at the time of this meeting, another community group was using the main Hall).
33. It was observed that the Saddleworth community had showed no interest in the future of the Institute and there were other meeting places in Saddleworth that could be utilised.

Actions to be taken:

- a. As many as possible to attend the next Council convened meeting in Clare, on Wednesday 19 July 2023.
 - b. To view Council's Business Plan.
34. In closing, David W advised there will be a meeting this Sunday at 2pm at the Riverton Hall about their intention to close/change Australia Day (NOTE: This is not a Council run session)

The meeting closed at 9pm.

NEXT MEETING: TBA

Next meeting to follow up 'Actions'