

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PRECINCT MEETING, HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY 26th MAY 2015, COMMENCING AT 2.00PM.

PRESENT: Acting Inspector Trent Swinton (Chair) (Deniliquin Police), Cr Steve O'Halloran, Scott Smith (Tooleybuc Hotel), June Crawford (Shamrock Hotel), Wally Johnson (Presbyterian Clergy), Robyn Johnson (Mallee Family Care) Sergeant Narelle Tucker (Balranald Police), Cr Lynda Cooke, Paul Hadlow (Balranald Rescue Squad), Vicki Barnes (Kyalite Pub) and John Jackson.

APOLOGIES: Dylan Walsh (Balranald Club Motel), Cr Jeff Mannix, Cr Leigh Byron, Aaron Drenovski (Balranald Shire) Inspector Steve Worthington (Deniliquin Police) and Super Intendant Paul Condon.

Previous Minutes were accepted by Robyn Johnson and seconded by Sgt Narelle Tucker.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

There was no business arising from previous minutes, Cr Steve O'Halloran commented on the PowerPoint presentation of police statistics from last meeting was well presented.

POLICE STATISTICS AND UPDATE:

Acting Inspector Trent Swinton mentioned statistics of most of the crimes in the streets are alcohol related at the moment. Narelle had asked licensees to attend the meeting to discuss.

Acting Inspector suggested for a licensee accord to be put back on the agenda. June advised that an accord would be beneficial, therefore if a person is barred from one licensed premises they should be barred from all.

Acting Inspector suggested all licensees work together to determine banning period. call a meeting with all, discuss and issue banning notice.

Matthew Pollock could assist with commencing the accord.

Wayne stated he could do the accord as long as everyone is in agreeance with him.

Sgt Tucker suggested that she arrange a meeting in a months' time for all licensed places attend and Matt Pollock be invited to address the accord. Places to be included Balranald Football Club, Balranald IGA, Ex-Servicemen's Club, Shamrock Hotel, Homebush Hotel and Kyalite Hotel.

Robberies

Police have spoken to a young person involved in the robberies, since this theft crime has all but ceased. There was not enough evidence to be charged.

Traffic Operations have been operating nationwide targeting heavy vehicles. They are in there second week now. There have only been a minor percentage of drivers not complying with driving hours and load limitations.

Malicious Damage has significantly decreased, almost ceased in the area.

Drug Detections – there have been minor results in the town.

Wally Johnson commended the local police for their actions regarding crimes in the area.

Police Staff

Acting Inspector mentioned there is a policing vacancy, Senior Constable Position in Euston. This has been advertised and closes Monday 1st June 2015. There have been 2 extremely interested and to date 1 application has been received. They are working on hopefully having the position filled to commence late July or early August.

Constable Kylie Weekley is on maternity leave until late January 2016, leaving Balranald one staff member short.

Cr O'Halloran mentioned that he heard about the car that was stolen in Balranald on the radio with Swan Hill Police news, asked why not Balranald police news. Sgt Tucker replied that the local police had not spoken to media and couldn't explain how they got such news.

Cr O'Halloran also mentioned about 2 individuals harassing shop owners and people in the street. He rang to report to police, was put through to radio and was told no one on duty. Acting Inspector stated that Balranald will never be a manned station 7 days per week 24 hours a day. He also said that when you ring our station, if it is unmanned you will be diverted through to radio. The job will be logged on to a computer and will be checked by police and they will call you back.

Highway patrol officers can and will help local police officers when needed.

Cr O'Halloran also mentioned how big the area is for our local police, and asked whether there is anything that can be done to have more police to this area. Sgt Tucker replied with staffing is assessed by the number of jobs and callouts they receive. Inspector Swinton suggested Council make representations through Mr Adrian Picolli requesting further staffing for our area.

Cr O'Halloran also asked whether across border issues had been resolved. Special constables on borders can go across the border to assist, but can't bring the person back into NSW to be charged.

Cr Cooke asked , *“Who can close down a licensed premises, as in a hotel?”* *“Would I be correct in saying an Inspector or above?”*

Acting Inspector Swinton’s reply was, “ That use to be the law, unless it’s been changed.

He then said, “Actually, I believe it is a Superintendent or above, and it would have to be pretty extreme circumstances”.

Paul Hadlow mentioned that fireworks had been happening on occasions.

It was also mentioned that there was some young people with mental health issues, intimidating or frightening, in particular elderly people in the street. Sgt Tucker mentioned if you are feeling intimidated or frightened by these people, you should still call police and the persons can be moved on.

Inspector Swinton reported that the Balranald police had removed squatters from the Nimmie Caira project just out of Balranald with success.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held 28th July 2015.

CLOSURE: There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.10pm

Recommendation that the report be received.