

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL  
RETIREMENT HOSTEL COMMITTEE HELD AT THE COUNCIL  
CHAMBERS ON 24<sup>th</sup> JULY 2017 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Mia Zaffina (Chair), Cr Doug Allen Helen Edmunds, Cheryl McFarland, Simon Coelli, Tony Conway, Charmaine Murfet, Director, Corporate and Community Development (DCCD)

**APOLOGIES:** Beverly Purtill, Cr Steve O'Halloran, Peter Lawler

The Chair welcomed Barry Hodgson (Hostel resident) as an observer to the meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Nil.

**CONFIRMATION OF MARCH MINUTES**

**Moved:** Tony Conway  
**Seconded:** Simon Coelli

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**Hostel Car:** The Committee queried the availability of a car for residents requiring transport to medical and other appointments. DCCD advised Council is continuing to investigate the matter and had received a presentation from a representative of NSW - Public Transport regarding the use of the community car to transport residents of Bidgee Haven to appointments. Council was advised this service is not generally available for residents of the hostel as it is predominantly funded by Federal Government to provide transport for those requiring assistance to remain in their own homes.

**HOSTEL CO-ORDINATORS REPORT**

DCCD presented the Hostel Coordinator's Report to the Committee.

The Hostel has achieved its 3 year re-accreditation. Interviews have been undertaken for carers at the hostel and it is expected offers will be made shortly. There are a number of maintenance issues to be attended to at the hostel, including replacement of an air conditioning unit in Room 9.

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

The DCCD advised the Committee that Council had requested a paper be prepared outlining options for the future operations of the Bidgee Haven Hostel for Council consideration. As part of Council's Performance Improvement Order Council is required to consider the future ownership and management of the Hostel and make a decision in regard to this. DCCD outlined five options currently being considered for information of the Committee:

- Council continues to operate the Hostel either under the current or a revised management structure
- Council establishes a Section 355 Committee to operate the Hostel within defined budget parameters
- Council seek an incorporated community group to operate the hostel
- Council seek another aged care provider to take over the hostel on a long term lease arrangement
- Council sell the bed licences and hostel building and infrastructure.

In response to questions from the Committee DCCD outlined some of the major issues facing the hostel in terms of difficulties attracting staff, financial viability because of the size of the hostel and financial losses.

Helen indicated it would be worthwhile for members of the Committee to visit Haydays Retirement Hostel to discuss their management structure and if they could assist Council with the management of the hostel. Following discussion it was agreed that the Chairperson, DCCD, and Councillors would visit this facility at a time to be arranged.

There being no further business meeting closed 6.15pm.

**NEXT MEETING:** To be advised.