

COMMUNITY FORUM
FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF DUNALLEY COMMUNITY HALL – NOTES OF DISCUSSION
WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2023

Acknowledgement of Country and introductions

Sorell Council General Manager, Robert Higgins (RH) extended a warm welcome to everyone and appreciated how many community members were present.

Councillors: Mayor Kerry Vincent, Crl Shannon Campbell, Crl Melinda Reed, Crl Carmel Torenus. Apologies received from Crl Marisol Miro Q. and Crl Janet Gatehouse.

Council staff: Stacey Gadd (Manager Community Relations), Sonia Pullen (Manager Facilities & Recreation), Sharon James (Engagement & Partnership Coordinator).

Apologies: Crl Marisol Miro Quesada Le Roux, Crl Janet Gatehouse, Amy Lloyd-Bostock, Tom & Alice Gray, Mat & Vanessa Dunbabin.

Open forum

RH summarised the history of the Community Hall and thanked the past Committee for their service and commitment to running the Community Hall over many years and particularly since the rebuild after 2013. Council took on responsibility from 2022/23 as increasing risk/compliance requirements with insurance/liability combined with the limitations this imposed on the prior Hall Committee (as a special committee of Council), resulted in the Hall Committee winding up. Council advised that for a community led model to work, a group would need to be incorporated. The purpose of tonight's meeting being an opportunity for community to discuss and ask questions about what they wish to see for future management.

Some residents raised concerns over what the hall is currently used / hired for, citing despite it being named a 'Community Hall', the use doesn't reflect that purpose and it is not being used for 'community' – e.g. a community social hub that brings people together. Also, that there was a lack of communication and ease of access (issue of key pick up), between Council and community when organising hire. Acknowledgement that the Hall needs to be financial, but there was a general consensus that it was currently not being used enough. This led to the Spirit of St Martins (SoSM) request to Council, whereby they presented a Business Case to manage the Hall, which was not agreed to by Council at the time.

General agreement expressed that with the Dunalley community growing, the Hall could be better utilised and opened up to them.

RH provided a response on the increase in hours of use under Council's management and that across all Council community facilities for 23/24 (not including sports grounds and recreation facilities), a budgeted operating loss of \$1.0m was forecast.

RH acknowledged that a community led model would have the potential to expand the range of activities and use. RH advised that after discussions concluded tonight, results of the survey in the community would be assessed and should a community led model be preferred, then Council would need to run an Expression of Interest to provide a fair and transparent process. It was also important to understand that with a 'community led model' that whatever organisation wishes to apply, they would need to be an incorporated body to meet the appropriate insurance/compliance

requirements. There was discussion regarding the Primrose Sands Community Hall management model and RH said this enabled greater scope to the types of activities/functions able to be accommodated in that community hall.

RH answered questions regarding fee structures, cost barriers to hire, Special Committee structure, insurance/liability obligations, ownership of the Hall and timing to go out for an EOI.

Next Steps

Following on from this forum, Council agreed to:

1. Work out the timing applicable to assess surveys and feedback, including the EOI process.
2. Provide an update to Community through online and email within the next two weeks.

Meeting closed at 7.45pm.