

Progressing Cobden Inc A0033175Y

ABN 77 963 102 154

All correspondence to:
P.O. Box 37
COBDEN Vic 3266

Chair: Ron Greagen
Secretary: Kelvin White
Treasurer: Frank Martin

MINUTES – Monday 4th December, 2023, Heytesbury Room, 7pm

PRESENT: Jo Beard, Milton Parlour, Ron Greagen, Chelsea Hatherall, Scott Wilkinson, Josh Wallace, Judith Gribble, Heather Walsh, Barb Cowley, Kelvin White

APOLOGIES: Frank Martin, Wendy Matheson, Cath Jenkins, Eunice Dawe, Jennifer Kripp

1 **CONFIRMATION OF NOVEMBER MINUTES:** Moved B Cowley/M Parlour CARRIED

2 **CORRESPONDENCE (from/to PC, CBN or any PC committee)**

2.1 **Inward correspondence: From . . .**

- Cobden Primary School re graduation award on December 11th (Civic Hall). Jo Beard to present.
- Cobden Technical School re presentation event on December 15th. Willoughby Perriss to present.
- Hampden Specialist School re presentation of awards on December 14th. 68 Dow St Terang. Jo Beard to present.
- Response from Bendigo Bank Community Investment application for Cobden Township Security Cameras project. PC is auspice organisation for Team Community Safety
- Sunday Funday feedback – all positive
- Andrea Stoddart (CTS): Offer of students to do community work at the lake on Tuesday 28th November
- Responses to Christmas-on-Apex requests for sponsorship
- Misty Angus: Vandalism in CBD
- Rachelle Bridges (Public Records Office), Aaron Moyne et al (Shire), Wayne Gibson (GreenCon) re Cobden Story
- Sheralee Murdie, Misty Angus re distribution of Cobden calendar
- Chelsea Hatherell: Finalisation of Phoenix Project and thanks to Progressing Cobden (esp Frank Martin) for support
- Corangamite Shire E-News
- Great Ocean Road Regional Tourism (November)
- Cobden Story: Input for boards
- Rotary Club Newsletters
- Dan Tehan MP: Newsletter

2.2 **Outward correspondence: To . . .**

- PC distribution list: November minutes
- Grey Nomads publication regarding Cobden's RV Friendly status
- Cobden Story: Storyboards to Star Printing
- Rachelle Bridges (Public Records Office), Aaron Moyne et al (Shire), Wayne Gibson (GreenCon) re Cobden Story
- Sunday Funday promotion and publicity
- Christmas-on-Apex requests for sponsorship
- Andrea Stoddart (CTS) re students assisting with Lake Cobden work

Receipt of inward/endorsement of outward correspondence: Moved H Walsh/B Cowley CARRIED

3 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

(See Reports/Business/General Business next pages)

TREASURER'S REPORT (F Martin in absentia): Tabled were bank balances at November 30th which showed PC is in a solid financial position, also a set of recommendations re the wind-up of the Phoenix Project (as per the small meeting held recently) with a bit of the rationale behind the recommendations.

“Regarding CBN looking to set-up a separate bank account, I recommend PC approves the proposal. It will mean greater transparency of the funds for each of PC and CBN which would be a good thing. Initially, the signatories should be the same as currently on the PC account – Milton Parlour, Kath Stubbings, Helen Smith and me as Treasurer.” Moved C Hatherall/M Parlour CARRIED

PHOENIX PROJECT WIND-UP

Recommendations to Progressing Cobden arising out of a meeting between Jarrod Woff, Kelvin White, Frank Martin, Jo Beard, Chelsea and Scott Wilkinson.

What to do with equipment?

Progressing Cobden, through the Phoenix Project, purchased 15 desktop easels for around \$1550. Progressing Cobden has no immediate use for these, whereas the ongoing Alderwood Manor NFP can put them to immediate use.

Recommendation: That ownership of the easels is transferred to the new Phoenix NFP on condition that, in the event that PC wishes to use them, they can be loaned to PC free of charge for that event.

Moved H Walsh/M Parlour

CARRIED

What to do with funds?

At today's date there is a residual balance of Phoenix funds of \$14,702. This includes accounting for all expenditures and income associated with the final Phoenix Project event.

For information, this residual balance is what is left from the original Council allocation of \$44,500. This is a remarkable achievement given that the grant from Council was to cover a limited period of recovery activities following the St Patrick's Day bushfire.

Since the purpose of this funding was to seed a program of community recovery activities in line with a Cobden Collective proposal put forward by Chelsea at the time, it is proper that the remaining funds should continue to be used for activities of the same nature.

The new Alderwood Manor NFP is a stand-alone enterprise which has been set-up to continue community recovery and resilience through ongoing art, craft and cultural activities. Its constitution and rules establish its purpose and ensure that the funds are only used for the organisation's purposes as defined.

Recommendation: That the balance of funds as at 30 November 2023, being \$14,702, be transferred from PC reserves to a bank account in the name of the new Alderwood Manor NFP enterprise.

Moved B Cowley/M Parlour

CARRIED

Further Recommendation: That Progressing Cobden congratulates Chelsea on the original idea for what became the Phoenix Project, on her tireless energy and efforts in making it a success, and on her vision to now turn it into an enterprise in its own right. We wish Alderwood Manor Ltd all success in the future and that a letter be written to Chelsea and Scott reflecting on their efforts.

Moved R Greagen/M Parlour

CARRIED

5 OTHER REPORTS

5.1 CTS Students (W Perriss): No report

5.2 Racecourse Reserve (R Greagen): No meeting

5.3 Pioneer Park (H Walsh): Huge month, very busy with groups coming through. Sunday Funday was a success with 64 classic cars on display. Stallholders and Bootsellers were happy. Pet Parade and Boot Toss were popular events. Bucket sales were ok but the remainder will be sold at Christmas along with two hampers we didn't do on the spinning wheel. The weather was marvellous. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped on the day – we could have done with some more but managed. The day received \$500 from the Small Events grant applied for by Progressing Cobden towards costs which was appreciated. Many thanks to all businesses that donated products, Local businesses were Fonterra, Coprice, Cobden AB, Cobden Tools and Trailers, Kooler Dairy, Cobden Pharmacy, Cobden Golf Club, Cobden Sewing Machines, Cobden Bendigo Bank, and Hewitt and Whitty. Thanks to Misty Angus Sheralee Murdie, Barb Cowley and Maz Kimber for all their work in making this possible. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, everyone!

5.4 Mini-Festivals & Events: Cobden Christmas – Several meetings have been held to hold the 3pm to 6pm event on Sunday, December 17th at Apex Park with carols to follow in Civic Hall. Several Cobden shops opened late on Thursday 23rd November to create a successful **Christmas Extravaganza**.

5.5 Cobden & District Historical Society (J Gribble): Had a good day at the Sunday Funday on November 23rd. Will be open again on Sunday 17th December. The showcase for the piper is almost complete. Just needs an overhead light to brighten it up. Still getting plenty of queries for family history. Haven't changed the newsagency window display yet. Book display on show in Historical hall – mostly pre-1960s and children's books.

5.6 TWENTY 20 VISION ACTION GROUPS:

5.6.1 **Tourism/Grand Tourism Plan:**

- **Free camp on Golf Club land:** Members were concerned about the weeds and general untidiness of the free camp. Will be discussed according to agreement with the golf club.
- **Dump Point (K White):** No problems this month but would like hose returned.
- **Cobden V.I.C. 3266 (J Dwyer):** New signage praised. Excellent participation in late night shopping event with several producers present. Christmas break-up held two weeks ago.
- **Building Cobden's Tourism Capacity (K White):** Meeting Cobden Story deadline is a priority for people involved. Shire has decided 59 of the 69 boards require a planning permit. Hoping to finish project soon. Many thanks to Barb Cowley, the Historical Society and many others who are helping.

5.6.2 **Town Appearance**

- **Streetscape (J Beard):** Gopher markings will be installed in the coming weeks.
Greg Suter will be sending through ideas/concepts for decorative seats next week for consideration
Outstand plantings to be replanted – completed. Any feedback on the beds completed?
- **Lake Cobden (M Parlour):** The Connie sculpture area has been attended to by the scouting group. About 20 Technical School's students, supported by Andrea Stoddart, Michael Smart and Kerry Blain, worked at the lake last Tuesday and are doing the same tomorrow. We really appreciate these efforts.
A community working bee on Sunday 12th November was disappointing with only three attending but we're hopeful that this week's Wednesday 6th November working bee anytime between 4pm and 8pm will get a good number.

5.6.3 **Facilities, Infrastructure and Services (FIS)**

- > **Cobden Aerodrome Community Asset Committee (J Beard/E Dawe):** December 6th meeting.
- > **Tandarook Park (J Beard):** Currently seeking quotes for the list of Year 1 works as per the masterplan.
- > **Tandarook House (J Beard):** Site works have begun courtesy regional contractors BDH
- > **Cobden Community Safety Team (J Beard):** Report on unsuccessful security cameras project \$25,000 funding application submitted with Bendigo Bank. Next steps will be discussed. Team meeting to be held on Monday 11th December. **Major announcement:** Finally, we have a five- member team out of Cobden station. Never before has this community had that many members at once, but it is truly welcomed and appreciated.
- > **Cobden Structure Plan (J Beard):** Fully completed. Now to wait for the opportunities and growth to proceed. Bring it on.

5.6.4 **Volunteers and Organisations (VO):**

5.6.5 **Economic Sustainability/Education and Training:**

Cobden Business Network (Cath Jenkins): Current membership is 50. Welcome to newest members Andrew Zentai, Ellen Smith, Kin & Folk and Belinda Steel. As part of the Victorian Government grant, we are holding a final event for 2023 on Wednesday 13th. A focus on celebrating 2023 with a great meal, rock trivia and networking. We are now working on plans for 2024 with the committee looking for other grants to enable us to support our members with educational, networking and marketing opportunities.

6 **Digital Media Group/Marketing:**

- (i) Podcast production (Cobden – Now We're Talking): NA
- (ii) Cobden Media Opportunities sub-committee: No report

7 **Corangamite Shire (J Beard):**

New Mayor and Deputy Mayor: Cr Kate Makin and Cr Laurie Hickey.

Camperdown Timboon Rail Trail Bridge Upgrades: Currently awaiting permits on native vegetation. Works to be scheduled in the new year - no specific dates as yet as we are not sure how long the permit process will take.

Twelve Apostles Trail, Timboon to Port Campbell: Very near to completion. Path construction and fencing as well installation of three boardwalks along the last 1.5km from the lookout into Port Campbell underway. Expect to be open for Christmas with minor works to finish off in the new year.

- 8 Final Phoenix Project Report (C Hatherall):** All the stats were reported in the last meeting so I'll just take this opportunity to extend a huge thankyou to Progressing Cobden for believing in my fire recovery proposal five years ago, and a HUGE shout-out to Frank Martin for all the auspicings/financial support.

As stated in the Treasurer's Report, a meeting was had with Corangamite Shire fire recovery lead Jarod Woff, Cr Jo Beard, Frank Martin (in PC Treasurer capacity) and Kelvin White to wrap up the official side of the program.

It was suggested that art supplies (such as easels) be donated to the newly-formed Not-For-Profit Alderwood Manor for continued community use, along with the remaining Phoenix Project funds to continue the community events/activities.

Alderwood Manor's constitution, not-for-profit legal details etc have been provided to Frank Martin to report back to Progressing Cobden Committee with an official recommendation to be voted on by the committee, ensuring that everything is transparent and approved by all stakeholders involved.

Alderwood Manor opens officially to the public on December 7th (yes this week!)

- 9 Cobden's Indigenous Heritage (K White):** Awaiting opportunity to take completed draft of storyboard to Eastern Maar people in Warrnambool.

All reports were received on the motion of M Parlour/B Cowley

CARRIED

10 GENERAL BUSINESS:

(a) Men's Shed Christmas trees: Not a lot of take-up this year.

(b) The Uniting Church Op Shop has decorated two median strip trees and one driveway tree for Christmas. Other businesses are invited to do similar up and down Curdie St.

11 CLOSE MEETING: 9pm

Some Christmas cheer was shared by members.

12 Next monthly meeting: Monday 5th February 2024