

Down-To-Earth (Vic) Cooperative Society Limited

Confest Committee
Executive arm of DTE

Minutes

Date: **Thursday the 8th of July 2021**
 Time: **7:47pm**
 Venue: **CERES, Learning Centre Rm,1-2 Lee St, Brunswick East VIC**
 Online: <https://dte.coop/live.meeting>

#	Acknowledgement of Country – John Magor We gather on the lands of many Aboriginal Nations. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. Indigenous sovereignty has never been ceded in Australia and we should endeavour to be mindful of this in everything we do, given our focus is gathering to create better ways of living in our society, not just for festival attendees but for all.	<i>Raised by:</i>
1	<u>Meeting Started 7.47pm</u>	<i>Procedural</i>
2	<u>Election Of Chair</u> Confirmation of Chairperson: John Magor Confirm Minute Keeper: Tania Morsman	<i>Procedural</i>
3	<u>Attendance</u> Aaron Shipperlee, Troy Reid, Steve Poynton, Lance Nash, Peter Tippett, David Cruise, Robin Macpherson, Andrew Wilkinson, Darrylle Ryan, John Magor, Kathy Ernst, Tania Morsman, Mark Rasmussen, Chris Wilson, Martin Schwartz, Kristen Joy, Brian fire team, Malcolm Mathews, Kevin Taylor, Jack Wells	<i>Procedural</i>
4	<u>Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes</u> Moved by Kathy Ernst Seconded By Martin Schwartz	<i>Procedural</i>
5	<u>Task Check List</u> Actions to be taken from Item 13138: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David and email - Complete • Contact Confest facilitators (email list, Facebook group) – ONGOING (taken over by Troy Reid, to be completed by next week) – UPDTE: Troy thought Robin was doing it. Robin is now doing it. It’s like an action task that is ongoing. Tasks are now consolidated and are ongoing. That Robin is in contact with the facilitators for CC in regards to the CC Budget - Ongoing 	<p>NO PROGRESS WORK IN PROGRESS COMPLETE NO LONGER RELEVANT TAKEN OVER BY ?</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suzie Helson to contact Tanya from NRAR to establish which form needs to be completed for the required permit – COMPLETED • Robin to come back to the CC with a plan for a meeting with Peter Docwra – COMPLETED 	
6	<u>Correspondence / Payments</u>	<i>Procedural</i>
	NIL	
7	<u>WH&S</u>	<i>Procedural</i>
8	<u>Agenda Items</u>	
	<p>Agenda item ID: 13341 Date: 2021-07-07 12:57:08 Meeting: CC</p> <p>Agenda item: COVID Management</p> <p>Agenda details: Confest has some unique challenges when it comes to managing COVID. The sandbox style of the gathering, where participants determine the content and the organisers provide a minimum of structure means Confest will not be able to adopt many of the solutions around social distancing that other festivals are implementing. This workgroup should be looking for creative solutions to this problem, and work with the CC committee, the board, First Aid, and any other interested parties to develop strategies that will allow a safe Confest. This will include but not be limited to looking at festival size, managing social distancing and addressing hygiene concerns.</p> <p>Motion: That the CC put together a working group to explore challenges around COVID and provide recommendations back to the CC and the board.</p> <p>Item by: Steve Poynton</p> <p>Lance says he is interested Martin says yes let's get on to this asap Steve put together the group to get started</p>	<p><i>No objections</i> <i>Passed by</i> <i>consensus.</i> <i>Moved by Steve</i> <i>Poynton</i> <i>Seconded by</i> <i>Lance Nash</i></p>
	<p>Agenda item ID: 13342 Date: 2021-07-07 12:58:41 Meeting: CC</p> <p>Agenda item: Village Committee</p> <p>Agenda details: A lack of policy around villages and associate</p>	<p><i>Objections</i> <i>Kristen</i> <i>Passed by motion</i> <i>Motion by Steve</i> <i>Poynton</i> <i>Seconded by</i> <i>Martin Schwarts</i></p>

<p>funding has led to many disputes and a situation where the festival is spending more than it can afford on villages. The aim is to recommend clear guidelines around budgets to the CC so that a policy document can be written well in advance of the next festival. This group may need to work with other groups to ensure villages are COVID safe.</p> <p>Motion: That the CC sets up a committee to advise policy for village budgets and help manage villages and assist with new villages.</p> <p>Item by: Steve Poynton</p> <p>Steve – be tighter on the purse strings Making firm policy around budgets so it is clear / get villages working on it like Kristen said.</p> <p>Kristin wants evidence to show villages are over spending since the motion suggests they are Doesn't expect budget requests will work as they have previously Kristin will contact villages come spring Policy – we have a funding policy / due for an update Covid – be in contact with those on the subject so as to do the right thing</p> <p>Lance – issues coming up, aiming for under 5000 festival crowd. Part of the issue with village funding comes under that.</p> <p>Martin – some things need to be discussed are communal cooking / still not allowed. It will reduce budgets. Proper policies around cooking circles and cleaning regimes. A lot of challenges. Villages need to be updated. It needs to be made clear / the changes. Proper policy around steam room and hot tub or don't have them.</p> <p>8.24 Tania taking over Chair</p> <p>John Magor – inclusivity. I support this. People are offering to be a part of this. I see this as a good way for DTE and confest generally to take in input from a range of feeds to one common output. Good idea to me. We are a cooperative – the more we bring together.</p>	
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	<p>Kristen – I work hard to get villages involved. The environment of DTE needs to something people want to be involved in. I have more experience than anyone I’ve met so far. This is my job – no one has currently put their hand up to be a villages committee.</p>	
	<p>Vote: 8Y 2N</p>	
	<p>Agenda item ID: 13345 Date: 2021-07-07 18:04:18 Meeting: CC</p> <p>Agenda item: Confest Budget</p> <p>Agenda details: Running Confest is the core activity of DTE and it is important that this is prioritised. The 2019 festival cost \$400000 (\$120000 for emergency services, \$144000 for infrastructure and \$136000 for villages.) With some trimming a single festival will cost \$344 Thousand and there is still a high chance a festival can be cancelled last minute. Having gone through past budgets and spoken to facilitators we have come up with the following overall figures (Rounded up to the nearest thousand): \$140,000 for Emergency Services including a budget of \$50000 for COVID management. If COVID management is going to cost more than this then my opinion is we postpone for another year. https://dte.coop/online/cc-budget-emergency \$104,000 for Infrastructure https://dte.coop/online/cc-budget-infrastructure \$100,000 for Villages of which \$85000 is for ongoing villages and \$15000 is for new villages. See Attached Worksheet. Total \$344000. This total will need to be trimmed further if we are going to want to protect ourselves against financial trouble in the case of festival failure. The emergency services budgets are the least negotiable as they will if anything have an increased load during the festival.</p> <p>Motion: Motion: That the CC has a budget of [600k? To Be Decided in the meeting] for the next three festivals. This budget is for [\$250k? To Be Decided] each for the next two festivals, and \$100000 for the third, allowing for the recovery of funds and reuse of infrastructure from the first two festivals if both should fail.</p>	<p><i>Passed by motion Objection by Lance Nash and Robin Macpherson Motion by Steve Poynton Seconded by Tania Morsman</i></p>

Item by: Steve Poynton

Steve – lot of detail with Robin and Lance. Went through villages budgets. Last meeting talking at 250k each. Look at where we need to cut and what we are cutting.

Mark – understands we need to trim budgets.

Robin – not supporting motion for three festivals. Can we talk about it as just one festival?

Steve – the reason for three festivals, planning for one. Re: Bluesfest cancelled last minute. Woodford failed 5 times this year. We gotta be prepared (even though it's fucked) to have everything spent and about to start with zero income. I want to have a second change. To have a small amount just in case. Risk management.

Kathy – we need to plan or budget since we may have bad luck. We need to plan the money for a third attempt. This is planning so we have the money to attempt three ConFests. Not set in stone.

Brian – do we know what the current restrictions on gatherings and do we expect them to rise? Based on other festivals that have been cancelled should we plan not for next year but the year after?

Martin – The festivals met the requirements and then had to cancel at the last minute. Shaping up to be worse next year.

Chair over to Martin – 8.49pm

John Magor – I support this motion and encourage others to do so. Confest is painfully dynamic. Didn't anticipate this to happen. It makes sense to be agile. Makes sense to be this forward thinking and recovery in forward planning. I do think it is a sensible idea. Steve said: its flexible and can be discussed in this meeting. Room for an amendment. In the interim it makes a hell of a lot of sense. Only thing we know for a fact is how much money we have. Amounts are flexible. Can be changed up the track.

Chair John Magor 8,53pm

Steve – in terms of numbers have to cap under 5000. Other wise specific permission to do so. 1500 is a number we've bandied around. We've got to try to do it. Planning setting up procedures will help in the next year.

Brian – is NSW still under a state of emergency (Steve – yes)

Steve – we need money to do it

Robin – the figures that Steve Lance and I went through it was a rough estimate. We didn't agree on 250k.

Steve – with out trimming (need to ask Kathy) looking at what we can afford to run the three festivals.

Kathy – clarify what Steve wants to know we can afford. About 800k in bank. Looking at 450k minimum over next three years. Budget for confest of 600k over next years is a bit optimistic. I think we need to look at less – I'd like to see the amount reduced.

Robin – These are not the figures that we discussed. You are guessing how are you going to do it for 250k. But I think its good that we are talking about it.

Kathy – the unknown is how long will it be till we have a successful confest. The real truth is the amount of money we have. Its much easier to cut back at the top level – from 350k to 250k. Easier to make cuts when you still have surplus and flexibility left. When you think about our fixed cost the amount we have is not a lot.

Steve – the work we did with Lance Robin and Marty – the number we came up with are too high. We cant cut emergency. Villages should be cut to 50k that brings us under 300k. The question is do we need to consider like Kathy said 300k or anything further? Woodford cuts theirs. They cut the volunteers food. Are there other areas we can money from?

David C- We have a location. We have a gate. Do it yourself villages. Do it on the spot. I'm not convinced we'll be able to have a confest. Things we like at Confest are not necessarily going to be available. You're putting numbers down that we don't know really what they will be. If we took to decide in a meeting and made it more flexible to be decided at a later date.

I agree we need to be planning at least for a failed Confest and two others in the barrel so we are not shooting ourselves. I don't think we have enough information or enough courage to be making that decision now. We have a property that we can just charge to get in. I agree with the motion in principle but not in actual. We have the property to do it.

Mark – I think as chair if we mover forward we can discuss other things.

Brian – 125k for emergency services. How did that number come about? Fire was only 6k. Can you clarify that?
I'm sure emergency can cut their budget.

Steve – with ES we were taking where we could past facilitators and past budgets. Perishables only last a couple of years. They will have to be replaced. Pretty much just doing an estimate. Big one to come in some areas will be more expensive due to covid. Perishables is a big one we can't get past.

Robin – specifically to fire we didn't touch the budget. We left that one where it is. Emergency isn't changing much.

Steve – main purpose is that we can run the festival. Just an estimate what is the minimum we can spend – can potentially spend less. Making sure we can run a Confest. I don't think we can go above 600k. I think instead of a budget that have 600k in reserve.

Amendment to original MOTION:

Motion: That the CC puts a motion to the SGM to reserve \$550k in funds for the next three festivals. This budget is for \$250k for the next festival, \$200k for the following festival, and \$100k for the third, allowing for the recovery of funds and reuse of infrastructure from between the festivals if both should fail.

Chris – Is there any point in deferring for three months down the track? Is that too late for settling down for people to get the job. BSW has a big challenge. – we should be looking to defer this meeting. High risk at putting this festival on.

Steve – this is more about keeping money to run the festival. It's not to start spending but rather to have it when we have the festival.

	<p>Kathy – Just want to say its not committing to spending 250k. Passing this motion tonight ...gives us a budget to work towards.</p> <p>Lance – Objects, we need to go back to the drawing board...</p> <p>Robin – Objects, we need to come back with far better decisions</p> <p>Steve – apologies – trying to get a compromise between them. We did discuss we think it will need to be trimmed. Trying to get the compromise between the two figures.</p> <p>Robin – what did not agree was what you brought to the committee. You brought it o the committee yourself. You added your own discussions and brought it to the meeting yourself.</p> <p>VOTE :Y8 N2</p>	
	<u>Carried Resolutions</u>	<i>Procedural</i>
	<u>Actions to be takens</u>	<i>Procedural</i>
	<p>Action: Steve Poynton to contact Melody B and Kate S and put out a request to members to set up a COVID working group.</p> <p>Steve Poynton to Everyone: 08:36 PM Steve to put out a call for volunteers to set up a ConFest villages committee</p>	
	<u>Next Meeting Date & Time Confirmation</u>	<i>Procedural</i>
	2 nd Thursday of the month = Thursday the 12 th of August 2021	
	<u>Meeting Ended – 9.40pm</u>	<i>Procedural</i>