

Draft Minutes of General/Public Meeting – Saturday 20th June 2015 – 2pm Community Hall

Those in attendance: Peter Wolfe (MC), Vanessa O’Keefe (VP), Tony Isgrove, Trevor Kanaley, Hans Pols, Jimmy Jaggs, Sue Merricks, Tony Partridge, Ross Spence, Jenny Rowe, Leonie Findlay, Heather Dorrrough, Debbie Barker, Grahame Barker, Sarah Galvin, Joanne Karcz, Bronek Karcz, Ant Schinckel, Ron Barelle, Ana Pollak, Rick Stockley, Lynda Dryden, Cybele Shorter, Nerina Knight, Andrew Knight, David Turner, Da.. Ruppin, Lyre Strambi.

Apologies: Judith Doyle, Judy Nikola, Ron Murrell, Cathy Murrell, Wally Bower, Margaret Bower, David Pakes, Jenny Pakes, Barry Keppert, Margaret Keppert, Raj Janardhan, Michelle Ramage, Kim Wilson, Brenda Hall, Stuart Allan, Jodi Theissen, Peter Glennie, Mark Agnew, Ross Higgins, Lyn Higgins, Jackie Fristacky

Meeting Commenced 2:03pm

- 1. Welcome, Introduction and Agenda – Peter Wolfe**
- 2. Minutes Acceptance of last Public Meeting (7 March 2015) Acceptance Sue M seconded Rick S.**
- 3. Management Committee Reports:**
 - a. Treasurer’s and Secretary’s Reports**

Acting Secretary (Peter Wolfe)

- Reminder of membership subscriptions due in June

Treasurer (Hans Pols)

- Balances Deposit \$12.7K Cheque \$2.9K
- No expenditure since March meeting
- Income from new membership

b. League Committee Report - Vanessa O’K (VP)

- i. The Storm and Bradley’s Beach
- ii. Street tree planting by HSC
- iii. Brooklyn Planning
- iv. Peat Island
- v. Brooklyn STP environment protection licence renewal
- vi. Wildlife signage
- vii. Internet access
- viii. Mullet Mail
- ix. 3.j) Wharf Upgrade

Vanessa O’K read report covering all the items listed (written VP report at back of these minutes)

The Storm and Bradley’s Beach

Ad hoc meeting called on 7 May to discuss the recent storm damage and to seek advice from HSC as to its intentions regarding remedial and longer-term actions to protect and preserve the beach. A letter was sent to HSC on 17 May.

HSC advised on 1 June that it proposed to improve the resilience of the Beach by establishing and maintaining suitable plant species.

Storm rubbish was collected on 18 June through the Clean4shore program with volunteers from the Brisbane Waters Secondary College with Robert Moxham providing the barge for rubbish removal.

It was suggested that DIL write to the College, Robert Moxham and Peter Coad (HSC) thanking them for their contributions to the clean up. **(Action – VOK to follow up)**

Street tree planting by HSC

On 11 May HSC advised that 10 *Banksia Integrifolia* and 15 *Angophora floribunda* grown from seeds collected from Island trees are ready for planting.

Ana P commented on the suitability of these trees for the Island environment.

HSC are yet to respond to a DIL invitation to discuss the proposed locations of the plantings and the on-going plantings within the streetscape and reserves.

Brooklyn Planning

No progress since DIL March meeting. HSC is currently preparing a project brief for the planning process for consideration by Councillors at the 12 August meeting. This brief will be circulated online about 10 days prior to this meeting for community review prior to the Council meeting.

DIL Committee will review and engage as appropriate.

Peat Island

No progress since DIL March meeting. Gosford City Council still preparing the planning proposal for land rezoning. Public consultation yet to take place and then there is the NSW Government 'Gateway' process.

DIL Committee will review and engage as appropriate.

Brooklyn STP environment protection licence renewal

The Brooklyn STP was commissioned in 2007 to treat sewage and wastewater from Brooklyn, Mooney Mooney and Dangar Island residences. The plant operates under an environmental protection licence from the NSW EPA. This licence is currently up for renewal and HSC (Ross McPherson) has made a comprehensive submission to the EPA which it is recommended that the DIL formally support. **(Action – VOK to follow up)**

HSC has been monitoring the water quality in the estuary and this has indicated the water quality is fairly good. Sarah questioned the discontinuation of the testing site off Bradleys Beach – suggested due to turbidity.

Wildlife Signage

This is finally nearing completion with Phil Murdoch (HSC) coordinating the site preparation and installation.

Internet access

It was resolved at the last meeting of the DIL to write to Malcolm Turnbull as the Minister for Communications seeking his assistance with internet and mobile phone access on the island. This has been done (**a copy of the letter attached to these minutes**), with a copy sent to Philip Ruddock MP, Member for Berowra along with an attachment of a prior request sent to him Philip Ruddock On 5 August 2013. The DIL is to await response and will report back.

Mullet Mail

Thanks again to Mel and her team for the latest edition.

Wharf Upgrade

There has been very little progress since DIL March meeting which raised the comments from many that this was 'extremely frustrating'.

Factors such as the amalgamation issues for HSC, the absence through sickness or absence of key Council staff and the departure of the General Manager have compounded the delays in seeking information or clarification about progress. Rick S indicated that Gary Benzley is currently the acting General Manager.

An email from HSC 20 March stated that outstanding issues would 'best left to a future residents' forum', 'to enable further discussion of all substantive matters of concern'. The proposal was that this would take place through a facilitated community meeting with Dangar island residents.

Repeated requests from DIL to Council for up to date information prior to a meeting and a date of such a meeting has met with the same response: that 'there would be a facilitated meeting at a later date'.

A number of speakers expressed concern at the current hiatus.

Sarah G wondered whether professional advice had been obtained regarding the disability access and whether the views of the RMS had been sought.

Ana P suggested that HSC consider an outside consultant to manage the consultations as had been done successfully in other contentious issues.

Rick S indicated that there was a need for a proposed plan from HSC that could then be reviewed and discussed. Currently no one has a complete set of the relevant information.

Ron B expressed concern that after 5 years delay there was still no disabled access to the island.

Jenny R commented that there was no disabled access at Brooklyn yet. Rick S said there was disabled access at Brooklyn for commercial vessels about 80% of the time.

Peter called for comments as to how to progress the situation.

Vanessa O'K felt that the DIL needed to wait for further Council advice after repeated emails.

Trevor K suggested individual members write to HSC expressing concern at the delays with cc to the Mayor.

Rick S indicated that he had attempted to gain a response from the Mayor for 3-4 months without success.

Ant S suggested an escalation to other State groups with some involvement in the issues.

Sue M suggested that the staff at HSC be 'pushed to do their jobs'.

Ron B highlighted again the current instability with council amalgamations being the focus and the need for their submissions to IPART.

There was also discussion about whether money had been allocated to the cost of particular disability access projects and whether the goals of the program were too open ended to know specific time lines.

4. General Items of Business

a. Park upgrade

Cybele S asked regarding any news of progress of the park upgrade as there had been a group prepare recommendations for Andrew Flick. None is available although it was indicated that the upgrade of the playground facilities at Brooklyn had been done without consultation.

Sarah G thanked HSC for assistance with the memorial project for Sue B. It was indicated that a toilet upgrade would be part of the park upgrade.

Trevor K expressed concern at the damage to the Park with the drainage issues and possibly the waster contractor and the use of the ute.

Action: DIL to contact Council for an update (PW)

b. Date for AGM meeting.

The current date is for Saturday 26 September – 2pm in the Community Hall. Sue M raised concern about a clash with football finals and suggested a Sunday. Peter indicated that the Committee would review the date although this part of the year has many different activities.

Peter asked members to consider standing for a Committee position and contributing to the DIL in this way with the election of office bearers at the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 2:59pm.

