1. **Present:** 15 members, 14 non members and guests David Gillespie and Peter Alley; including committee members Len Yearsley, Tony Hann, Gary Sylvaney, Doug and Kath Kohlhoff., and Acting Mayor Len Roberts.

**Apologies:** Phil and Sue Anderson, Susan and Jan Carter, Moira Hooper, Maureen Kelly, Janene More, Christine Sylvaney, Trish and Allan Woodrow, Cheryl Yearsley, Tracey Farrant (GLC Community Engagement Officer)

2. **Minutes**
   
   Moved: Gary Sylvaney  
   Seconded: Tony Hann  
   Carried

   **That the minutes of the meeting of 13 February 2016 be confirmed**

   2.1. **Business arising** Nil

3. **Correspondence**
   
   From Jan McWilliams (Mayor) re *Casuarina Park PR event* 15/2/2016
   
   "... Had it been our call, we most certainly would have invited everyone from North Arm Cove. In fact when I arrived my first words were "where are the community people?" Both Glenn and I took it for granted that everyone would have been notified. ..."

   From/to Gary Blumberg Haskoning re *Boating Development study* (multiple messages) 1-9/3/2016

   To/from Drew Morris re *Village Green etc* 9-10/3/2016

   From Kate Washington re *Nominations for senior local achievement awards* 9/3/2016


   To/From Council/Ron Hartley re *Material dumped on road to old quarry* 30/3/2016

   From Kumar Kuruppu (GLC) re *Road Markings etc to be re-installed* 8/4/2016

   With regard to line markings, the issue regarding the danger which has arisen following the drainage works in Cove Blvd (approaching Eastslope Way) will be raised with Council.

   Moved: Len Yearsley  
   Seconded: Pat Brennan  
   Carried

   **That Correspondence be accepted.**

4. **Reports**

   **4.1. Treasurer's Report**

   **Report April 2016**
   
   from 1/2/2016 to 31/3/2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Balances</th>
<th>Opening</th>
<th>Closing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friends of Fame Cove</td>
<td>700.22</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NACRA</td>
<td>3446.75</td>
<td>3650.82</td>
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<tr>
<td>Website cost provision</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td>4470.54</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plus Income to 31 Mar</th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Less Expenditure to 31 Mar</th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hall Hire</td>
<td>111.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
<td>111.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   | Closing Balance = | 4470.54 |
   | Financial members = | 73      |

   Moved: Kath Kohlhoff  
   Seconded: Peter Freeman  
   Carried

   **That the Treasurer's report be accepted.**

   **4.2. Firewise** As is readily visible to everyone, the additional clearing work has been undertaken and planned work on the Community Centre commenced including the installation of the fire fighting water tank.

   **4.3. Waterfront Amenities** We still do not have the expected Crown Lands approval.
4.4. **Boat Ramp and Water Access** The sub committee had a positive meeting with Gary Blumberg and Matt Potter from Royal Haskoning DHV who are undertaking the Boating Development study for North Arm Cove. Drew Morris from GLC was also present. Haskoning recognise that there is a real need for facilities in the Cove. Their brief requires that they identify and prioritise locations for boat ramp and jetty to cater for larger vessels and location/s for additional jetties and pontoons for public use. They plan to have a community information session, probably in early July, prior to completing their draft recommendations due in August. Tony Hann emphasised the need for the community to get together to support any proposal that arises from this study as it may be the last chance we have to get these facilities in the Cove.

4.5. **Hall Committee** is delighted that the play area has finally been completed and already well used.

4.6. **Fame Cove** Lisa Schiff (GLC) has advised that there have been no further developments. The proposals expected by February had not arrived.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Moved: Len Yearsley</th>
<th>Seconded: Kath Kohlhoff</th>
<th>Carried</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>That reports be accepted.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. **General Business**

5.1. **Casuarina Reserve**: Gary Sylvaney invited community members to become part of “Friends of Casuarina” to help manage the ongoing care of the reserve which will assist David Read Enterprises in their valuable contribution. Casuarina is one of the very few parks available to the whole Cove community that is potentially suitable for children's play.

There was a suggestion from the floor that Casuarina Park had been cared for by the immediate neighbours before “NACRA took it over”. It was pointed out that NACRA has never “taken over” the park. The park is a Council-owned resource for general community recreation.

5.2. **Proposed Merger/GLC information meeting/Public Enquiry** There were six members of the Cove at both the GLC community engagement meeting in Tea Gardens and the Public Enquiry at Bulahdelah. Two of the around 25 speakers at the Enquiry were from the Cove. Sentiment at both meetings was strongly against the current merger proposal as it was seen as disadvantageous to Great Lakes ratepayers and residents. The claimed annual savings are just 1% of annual turnover and the State Government's contribution of $20m is too inadequate to address the costs of merger and is dwarfed by the massive maintenance backlogs in Greater Taree and Gloucester totalling over $100m.

Acting Mayor Len Roberts spoke and answered questions from the floor. He noted that there was support for the merger from the General Manager of Gloucester but not from the community. Taree community supported a merger. The Taree response suggests an arrangement which would split Great Lakes between a new Council to the north with the southern part joining with Port Stephens.

Concern was raised that the information on which we are being asked to respond to the merger proposal is totally inadequate. Len Roberts said Council only has that same information on which to respond.

Written submissions to the Public Enquiry can still be made until 15th of April. A template for responses is on the Great Lakes website. Community members are encouraged to make their feelings known by responding.

To gauge the feeling of the local community to the merger proposal a show of hands for and against was invited. There was no community member present in support of the merger proposal. This expression of feeling will be included in a response to the proposal on behalf of the Association.

5.3. **Guest speakers+QandA**: David Gillespie MP ( Nationals) and Peter Alley (Country Labor) introduced themselves and briefly outlined some their key issues before taking questions from the floor.

Topics covered included:
- Company misbehaviour including tax avoidance, bribery and market manipulation. Both candidates deplored the behaviour but supported different approaches to addressing it.
- The fact we are still part of Paterson until the election.
- Politicians access to super/pensions prior to their reaching retirement age.
- Why senior politicians like past Prime Ministers get all the extra benefits.
- The need to develop a culture which ascribes more respect to Prime Ministers of either side.

6. **Next General Meeting** will be held on 11 June 2016 at 10am.

7. **Closure**