

NORTH ARM COVE RESIDENTS GENERAL MEETING
Saturday 13 December 2014 at the Community Hall
MINUTES

Meeting commenced at 10.05am

Present: Twenty-two members and four non-members as per attendance sheets including President Doug Kohlhoff, committee members Len Yearsley, Annette Searle, Kath Kohlhoff, Susan Carter, Tony Hann and Gary Sylvaney.

Apologies: Lawrie Searle, Sandy Chappelow, Stephanie Hunter, Maria Pickles, and Cheryl Yearsley

Minutes of last meeting held 18 October 2014

Moved Gary Sylvaney that minutes of the last meeting be accepted. Seconded Maureen Kelly. Carried

Business arising from minutes

Fame Cove - Len reported that the committee met with Glenn Handford during the week and he indicated council received architect concept sketches for Fame Cove but they have made no decision, as drawings are not precise enough.

The development will include a Golf course with eco tourist facility, a sub-division along the North Arm Cove shoreline and three, possibly four 200-room tourist hotel in various locations; at the proposed golf course, in the hook of North Arm Cove, adjacent to the proposed jetty at the entry of Fame Cove and at Piggy's Beach. Sewerage may be brought in from Tea Gardens Hawks Nest.

2. Correspondence

General:

Council/Local Government:

- 17/10/14 To Andrew Staniland re CBP, BBP and FRR Grants and his response to each query.
- 21/10/14 From Craig Baumann enclosing letter from Mark Speakman, Parliamentary Secretary re exemption from stamp duty and enclosing application form.
- October 14 From Linda Hepple requesting acquittal for map project
- 5/11/14 From Kate Washington – a thank you for the meeting and offer to assist where possible.
- 6/11/14 To and from Linda Hepple regarding remaining map project funds
- 6/11/14 To Linda Hepple attaching acquittal report
- 7/11/14 From Lyn Hickey, GLC inviting NACRA to participate in upcoming Community Engagement session at Tea Gardens, 17/11/14
- 18/11/14 To Glenn Handford GLC re street signage, North Arm Cove
- 20/11/14 To Ron Hartley GLC re street signs and his reply referring back to Sharon Bultitude
- 24/11/14 To Wade Holmes GLC re parking at Water Street and his reply.
- 26/11/14 From Office of State Revenue approving stamp duty exemption
- 1/12/14 Various correspondence to and from Sharon Bultitude, GLC re village signs.
- 4/12/14 From Kate Washington – invitation to Politics in the Pub, Tea Gardens Saturday 14/12
- 11/12/14 From GLC Waterways & Catchment report card covering water clarity and algae levels.

Moved Annette Searle that correspondence be accepted: Seconded Tony Hann. Carried

Reports

3.1 Treasurer

Treasurer's Report		
from 1/10/2014 to 30/11/2014		

Balances	Opening	Closing
Friends of Fame Cove	725.22	725.22
NACRA	3519.19	3614.93
Proj Garden Tank	752.00	546.40
Proj Map Sign	315.90	315.90
Website cost provision	86.50	86.50
	5398.81	5288.95
Beyond Bank	5398.81	5288.95
Total	5398.81	5288.95

Plus Income to 30 Nov	
Interest	5.74
Member subscriptions	90.00
Total Income	95.74

Less Expenditure to 30 Nov	
NSW CBP Projects	205.60
Total Expenditure	205.60

Closing Balance	=	5288.95
Financial members	=	52

NACRA's application to the Office of State Revenue for exemption from stamp duty on general insurance has been approved. This exemption is effective from 10 November 2014 and will be reviewed every 3 years from date of issue.

Moved Kath Kohlhoff that Treasurers report be accepted, seconded Susan Carter. Carried.

3.2 Website

As subscribers to the website will know a newsletter is being trialled and is still in the testing phase. Doug has been having a few teething problems sending out the newsletter and in the first run multiple copies went out. Doug apologised for this and asked for feedback. The general opinion was that the web newsletter is a great idea.

4. OTHER REPORTS:

4.1 Firewise

Ian Cook has been providing progress reports on the development of the Protection Plan which have been placed on the website and in the Cove News. Subject to funding, the community hall is to be upgraded to make it more fire safe – however it will be used as a last resort. All of this depends on State Government funding.

4.2 Road Map and street signage

Tony Hann met with Jamie Condie 24 October. It seems GLC has been a bit overwhelmed by our requests for signage. Tony noted we have been trying to get improved signage for village and so far we have only been given permission to put up a sign identifying the Village Map. Signs around Water Street will have to wait until the project is completed. Council has rejected all the other signage requests. We have officially signed off on the map project, and will use remaining funds for the sign on the village map. We have asked for the old progress association/fire brigade sign on Uralla Street turnoff to be removed but there is no indication as to when this will happen. Tony Hann offered to remove the old sign, but council were not in agreement with this.

4.3 Hall Committee

The new signboard is in place with new community network information. The Hall Committee has a new member, Steve Gee. Our Hall passed Council's hall review with flying colours. The next Cove News will be in February and it was noted that 2015 would be Maureen's 22nd year as editor.

4.4 Community Garden Network

No report

4.5 Aquaculture – OISAS

No report

4.6 Waterfront Amenities Project (Water Street & Casuarina)

The Community Building Partnership Grant is in the process of being finalised.

The GLC Manager of Parks & Recreation, Andrew Staniland, has recently handed over GLC's involvement regarding the *Better Boating Grant - dinghy ramps* project to Peter Goonan. We are still awaiting meaningful progress.

Moved reports be accepted Maureen, seconded Kath

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

a) Committee met with Glenn Handford covering a large range of issues including communication with council. These meetings are very useful and Glenn thinks it good idea to continue them, maybe twice a year. He will forward a report containing his responses on to us and this will be posted on the website.

b) Hall Alarm: Peter Chappelow said the alarm went off when a council employee opened the hall and no-one could find contact details. Peter suggested Hall Committee contact numbers be published on the website. Maureen noted her mobile number is on the hall noticeboard.

c) Roads and drainage: there was a query on whether a report has been issued. This was raised at a meeting at Tea Gardens and again with Glenn Handford. Apparently there is a plan but priorities need to be worked out by Council. Glenn has agreed that a Council staff member will come to the February meeting and cover this.

Council are looking at putting their road maintenance plan up on the website. RFS have also been around Village marking out fire trails.

6. GUEST SPEAKER Deputy Mayor GLC, Len Roberts

Issues addressed by Len Roberts included:

Fire – community fire plan will happen. The Esplanade will be connected, only the design is holding up work. RFS will fund upgrade to community hall. Community hall will be for people who are trapped and can't get out of the Cove. People will be asked to evacuate first – although some may be asked to stay and fight. Communication will be good, as mobile towers will be used. Emphasis will be on saving life first, then saving buildings.

10-50 rule. This is already in place in Victoria. Much research has been done on fire zones and safety distances. Within 10m of house, you are allowed to clear. Within 50m you can under-scrub but not burn. If a neighbour's tree is within 10 m of your house you can ask them to remove it, (and pay the cost) but this can't be enforced unless reported to RFC as a fire hazard. NAC will be protected as best it can and will serve as a model for other areas.

Roads & Drainage – applies to the whole Cove including entrance in from highway. Priority needs to be sorted, where to start first, highway or village. All roads have been categorised as poor, fair or good. Good road should last 20 years and is allowed to deteriorate to fair before being repaired. Extra million dollars allocated to get roads up to scratch within 4 years.

Doug mentioned the possibility rate increases to fund roads and drainage. Len indicated that the current level of increase is around half a percent increase per year to maintain roads. Rate increases on hold for the moment.

Correspondence – Len has requested Council that correspondence be properly handled, as currently it is not being answered. Len suggested emails to General manager with a cc to person required. Remember to tick send/receive receipt on your email. Copy Len or Carole in on email correspondence. Tony Hann pointed out that he had been told letters were more likely to be responded to. You could also follow your email up with a letter noting on the email that the hard copy is in the mail. Jim Pegram asked if one person could be allocated to deal with North Arm Cove. Tony agreed that dealing with one person for NAC/Tea Gardens/Hawks Nest would be beneficial. Len said everything is supposed to go through the General Manager and copied to the person in the department required and suggested this method the best.

Paper subdivisions - Len advised that if 60% of owners in particular area want to do something they can submit a request to a planning consent authority (Dept. of Planning, Urban Growth or Council) to look at and go through re-zoning process. This process must be initiated by owners first. Problem is there is land outside village with scattered dwellings and people in between have no housing entitlement, however it is possible to make representation for a rezoning to extend village boundary to include additional housing. Council owns parcels of land in NAC (for non payment of rates) and could be approached to rezone it.

Tony asked if WalkerCorp had any interest in developing their land and Len advised to date there was no official interest.

Trevor Vandenberg pointed out that titleholders around his area are not able to clear or maintain their blocks or use them for recreational purposes. Len said they cannot build, but they could get together and approach council. While this is not an easy process, it is possible.

Fame Cove – Developer has paid for council studies that have now been done. A concept has been submitted but a master plan is now required. In the plan a hotel is proposed and the dilemma at present is do you limit the footprint and build high-rise, or use up land. An architect has been engaged to come up with designs that will be put on exhibition for public comment and consultation. Council is concerned about how it affects people in this area. Pat Brennan asked how long council can protect the land and Len replied that it could protect land 'in perpetuity', like national parks.

Peter Maribito asked whether The Esplanade will be actually joined at the Waterfront and Len advised that it will be joined one road back.

Fit for the Future – this addressed council accountability into the future and boundary adjustments. It applies mainly to Sydney Councils. Some country councils will also be affected. Dungog and Gloucester are two of these councils. Port Stephens and Great Lakes qualify as "Fit for the Future" councils. GLC has been asked to consider amalgamating with Taree or Gloucester. Gloucester and Great Lakes are considering a merge

What may happen is GLC ratepayers may have to subsidise Gloucester unless State Government put funds in.

This will affect any local rate increases, however nothing will be confirmed until after March election.

Jim Hunter asked whether it wouldn't be better to merge with Port Stephens instead of Gloucester, creating a super council. Len agreed in principal, unfortunately the powers-that-be don't agree.

Trevor Vandenberg asked whether a merge with Gloucester would encourage "fracking". The answer is no. There are no coal seams in Great Lakes, except perhaps a small area at the back of Stroud. Len then talked about aquifers and how drilling affects them. Fracking in the USA involves using chemicals, in Australia water is used. It is the same process as drilling for bore water.

Meeting closed at 11.35am

Next Meeting

Next General Meeting Saturday 14 February 2015 commencing 10.00 at the Community Hall.