

NORTH ARM COVE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING
Saturday 18 October 2014 Community Hall, commencing 10.00am

Present: 17 members, 5 non members and 4 guests including committee members Doug Kohlhoff (President), Kath Kohlhoff, Len Yearsley, Tony Hann, Gary Sylvaney, Susan Carter and Annette Searle

Apologies: Peter & Sandy Chappelow, Elizabeth Deane, Lawrie Searle

Minutes of last General Meeting held 9 August, 2014

Moved Tony Hann that minutes of last meeting be accepted, seconded Annette Searle – carried. The minutes of this meeting have been published.

1. Business arising from General Meeting

nil

2. Correspondence

General:

nil

Council/Local Government:

- 17/7/14 To RMS re NAC signage.
- 4/8/14 To Stephen Gee, RFS re removal of Uralla Street/Market Way sign.
- 12/8/14 From RMS referring query re street signage to GLC
- 13/8/14 From Stephen Gee, RFS approving removal of sign.
- 13/8/14-18/8/14 Various to Samantha Stewart CPB re extension of waterfront amenities grant her her replies.
- 21/8/14 To Roads & Maritime Service re Supplementary response to Port Stephens/Hunter Regional Boating Plan.
- 21/8/14 To Steve Gee, RFS re notification of hazard reductions and enclosing \$100 donation.
- 27/8/14 From CBP re extension of Water Street project to 30 November 2014.
- 13/9/14 To Port Stephens Council nominating Peter Chappelow for Estuary Committee
- 26/9/14 To Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal – grant application for water tank at Casuarina.
- 1/10/14 From Kris Koch, GLC providing Council Support for Casuarina tank grant application.
- 2/10/14 To Andrew Staniland re progress on CBP, BBP and FRRR grants and hall site playground.
- 4/10/14 To Tammy Callaghan, GLC re rubbish dumping at North Arm Cove.
- 7/10/14 To Len Roberts GLC, inviting him to speak at the December General Meeting.
- 10/10/14 To Ron Hartley GLC re communication concerns.
- 11/10/14 From Neriman Kemal FRRR re small grants application advising decision mid December.
- 17/10/14 From Andrew Staniland GLC in reply to queries of 2/10/14 and Doug Kohlhoff's reply.

Business arising from correspondence

nil

Moved Gary Sylvaney that correspondence be accepted, seconded Stephanie Hunter – carried.

Reports

3.1 Treasurer

Treasurer's Report		
from 1/8/2014 to 30/9/2014		
Balances	Opening	Closing
Friends of Fame Cove	725.22	725.22
NACRA	4435.46	3519.19
Proj Garden Tank	752.00	752.00
Proj Map Sign	315.90	315.90
Proj Waterfront Amen	10579.00	0.00
Website cost provision	86.50	86.50
	16894.08	5398.81
Beyond Bank	16874.08	5398.81
Undeposited Funds	20.00	0.00
Total	16894.08	5398.81
Plus Income to 30 Sep		
Interest	10.73	
Member subscriptions	340.00	
Total Income	350.73	
Less Expenditure to 30 Sep		
Fair Trading	53.00	
NSW CBP Projects	11579.00	
Hall Hire	114.00	
Gen. expense NACRA	100.00	
Total Expenditure	11846.00	
Closing Balance	=	5398.81
Financial members	=	43

Moved Kath Kohlhoff that the Treasurer's report be accepted, seconded Pat Brennan – carried.

3.2 Website – Tony Hann presented the website report

A meeting was held by the Website Committee (Annette Searle, Doug Kohlhoff and Tony Hann) on October 16, 2014 to discuss the current status and future of the website.

In summary:

- The site is clearly one of the best small community websites in the State.
- However its future depends on patronage and although we enjoy excellent sponsorship and a good comparative 'hit' rate, the committee believes that there is certainly scope for improvement in interest and contribution from the community.
- The level of support/input from some local interest groups is disappointing after the lengthy initiation and training program implemented at start-up.
- Several options are under consideration including a blogging facility, an automatic email feed facility (of latest site items), a subject search facility, ways of making article entry easier and a facility whereby any registered user can enter 'events'.
- The committee also recognises that the relevance of the site will increase when a new generation of more internet oriented residents moves in.
- Meanwhile, the presently included user groups will be contacted to establish if they require further training support in the use of the site.

4. OTHER REPORTS:

4.1 Firewise

Community Protection Planning & Neighbourhood Safer Place Officer, Ian Cook had constructive meetings with members of the Executive Committee and several other community Groups in early September. It appears that real progress is now being made towards a village Community Protection Plan. Ian listened carefully to both the concerns and the ideas of those participating in the meetings. He had some excellent ideas on how the Cove could be made a safer place in the event of an approaching fire. Some of Ian's proposals will require expenditure by either Council or State Government and it is to be hoped that when the Plan is finalised the necessary funds to support it will be forthcoming.

Waiting for feedback on this. Len mentioned it was good to get a fire plan to protect the village. It is envisaged that between hall and old tip will be burnt off. The hall will be fire proofed to make it a safer place and some talk of tree reduction as well. One major point to come out of these discussions was that people should not consider going to water as safe escape option.

Stephanie Hunter mentioned the hazard reduction burn recently done to protect the village from the north. Stephanie also got a phone call from a neighbour to say her insurance policy had quadrupled due to NAC being classified as a high fire risk. It would be wise to shop around for insurance, particularly if you are with REAL insurance.

4.2 Grants

Community Building Partnerships Grant

Work at Casuarina Park has proceeded almost to completion and is looking fantastic with the kayak racks and new picnic furniture installed. David Read and his team have been cleaning up the area and are awaiting a voucher from Council to dispose of the piles of garden rubbish. Hunter Readymixed Concrete provided concrete for the pads under the furniture at a discounted rate. The seat and kayak rack to be installed at Water Street have to wait for the drainage work there to be completed by Council. An application for a small FRRR grant has been submitted to replace the current water tank at Casuarina that is rusting. Still to not have final plans for ramps at Casuarina or Water Street. Previous plan had major flaws and has to be redone. This project has to be finalized by June/July next year.

Garden Network Grant

This project is still underway however should be completed by the end of November. The irrigation to seven garden beds and a vines mound is completed. There will be at least two more garden beds completed and all garden beds filled by the end of November. There is \$546.40 of grant money still available.

4.3 Road Map & Street signage

Tony Hann has taken over this project from Stephanie Hunter. Issues to be addressed:

1. Eastslope Way Intersection sign - to be situated in Booral St. to indicate street numbers in north and south sections of Eastslope Way. Possibly already made by GLC.
2. Information (i) sign before Uralla St to forewarn of new village map just past Uralla St. Possibly already made by GLC.
3. "Village Map" and "i" sign to be attached to new village map. Not yet made. \$315 left from village map grant. Could be used for this project. (all "i" signs must be approved by GLC Tourism before installation!)
4. Once 3. is complete, map project to be signed off for completion of this grant funded project.
5. Old Bush Fire sign at Uralla Street/North Arm Cove Road intersection to be removed.
6. New GLC sign warning about rural block developments wrong way round. Possibility of placing additional blackboard on same frame.

7. Request to GLC for 'Keep Left' signs before crest in Promontory Way and '50km/hr' in Cove Bvd and Eastslope Way have been rejected by the RTA apparently.
8. Also a request by Tony Hann some months back to GLC (Wade Holmes) for a review of the traffic priorities at the Carrington Road/NAC Road has been rejected.
9. Also a request made by Tony Hann to the GLC (Wade Holmes) for a more prominent signs for Cove Boulevard and The Esplanade has been rejected.

Tony Hann mentioned it is two years since the signage project started and while it is great that there is finally a village map, it is located in the wrong place. Len Roberts has promised to look into this.

Stephanie Hunter advised that some of the other signs requested have been made but are still sitting at the depot. Tony said he has been unable to contact Jamie Condie to follow up on this.

Len Roberts promised to chase this up as Jamie may not be aware there is a problem. Len also mentioned that no council will put up 50km signs up as residential areas are automatically 50km limits. Doug Kohlhoff said that one of the biggest problems in dealing with council is lack of response, sometimes for weeks.

Kerryan mentioned that during school holidays young people are riding unlicensed bikes up and down the roads well in excess of the 50km speed limit.

4.4 Hall Committee

Maureen wanted to endorse the problem of lack of response from council. The Council offered the Hall Committee a new sign two years ago and last week when a reminder email was sent to them, the signboard was found and Council have now asked for a copy of the original request.

Maureen also mentioned Mebourne Cup Day at the Hall on Tuesday 4 November – all welcome.

4.5 Community Garden Network

Covered under Grants

4.6 Aquaculture – OISAS

No report

4.7 Waterfront Amenities Project (Water Street & Casuarina)

We are still waiting for Council to finalise the plans for the small dinghy ramps at Water Street and Casuarina. Grant application submitted to FRRR to replace tank and a decision will be made in December.

4.8 Fame Cove

Lisa Schiff Director of Planning and Rodger Busby Manager Strategic Planning met with sub committee members on 9 October to advise the GLC has completed studies commissioned by the developer to indicate area suitable for development and those requiring environmental protection concerning the 400 hectare site on the eastern shoreline of North Arm Cove and including Fame Cove. The developer is presently considering these reports and has appointed Town Planners: Ingham Planning, Architect: Peter Sutchbury and Engineers to prepare a proposed Plan of Development for the four lots and some adjoining land.

Council expects to receive an application for the rezoning of portions of the land for development and it is expected the balance of the land will be zoned for Conservation, this plan is expected early in the new year. The scale of the development and proposed use of the land will not be clear until this time.

4.9 Clean-Up Australia

It was confirmed this week that a Newcastle man has been fined \$750 for dumping rubbish and for leaving asbestos sheeting on a private block in Scone Street. His transgressions were captured on camera by an owner of a nearby rural block. His identity was evident from the rubbish left behind. GLC stated that the fine could have been up to \$5000 had the offender tried to deny responsibility. There will be an article in next Cove News about littering.

Moved Susan Carter that reports be accepted, seconded Kerryan Griffin – carried.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 Len Roberts will be our guest at the December General Meeting.

5.2 Jim Pegram asked about a proposal for leash-free dog areas. This was a suggestion which had been floated in a letter to Cove News. This issue will be placed on the agenda for the next Executive Committee meeting.

The General Meeting closed at 10.35am.

Doug Kohlhoff handed over to guests Kate Washington and Craig Baumann.

Major topics of concern were health particularly the high churn rate of doctors at the Tea Gardens Medical Centre and Kerryan Griffin raised the subject of transport (or lack of it). Both Kate and Craig said they would look at these issues.

Tony Hann tackled Craig Baumann on his current standing and Craig responded that he is still a member of the Liberal party. The ICAC report will be brought down in January.

Jim Hunter also raised the issue of Gas Fracking in the Gloucester area.

Len Roberts raised the issue of a single authority for Port Stephens Waterways. At present there are around 9 different authorities involved. Kate agreed there should be an over arching group and perhaps the Premiers Department should be responsible. Craig pointed out Estuary Management committee is still active and agreed there are too many authorities involved. He will take this up with the Minister.

Trevor Vandenberg raised the issue of growing homelessness in the community. Craig said more money and resources were required to tackle this problem. Kate Washington agreed, but added that it is not an easy solution. Any support provided should include community centres and affordable housing.

Next Meeting

Next General Meeting 13 December 2014 at the Community Hall commencing 10.00am

Minutes prepared by Annette Searle

Approved as a true and correct record

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Doug Kohlhoff (President)

Date