

Chatswood West Ward Progress Association Inc.

MINUTES of Monthly Meeting 15th May 2014.

The May monthly meeting commenced at 7:30 pm.

CHAIRMAN: Jim McCredie.

ATTENDANCE: 15 as recorded on an attendance book

APOLOGIES: Brigit Miall, Dalia Person, Alan Hall-Watson, Robert Orme, Lisa Handley, Ruth Hardy

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: The Secretary declares that he is a Community Member of the Mowbray Public School Council.

NEW MEMBERS/GUESTS: Were welcomed by the President

CORRESPONDENCE:

OUTWARD

Letter to Mayor Gail Giles-Gidney

Letter to unsuccessful West Ward candidates

Request to Council for regular clean-up action through an order of the District Bushfire Management Committee.

INWARD

Agendas for Council Meetings

DA Notification for Mandarin Centre

Mayor Gidney: Thanks Terry. I very much appreciate your email. I would be delighted to strand a meeting. Please let Tricia know what a suitable date would be. Regards Gail Giles-Gidney

MINUTES OF APRIL MEETING: Adopted (Thanks to Ian Tanner for taking the minutes)

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - incorporated below.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's verbal report was accepted.

COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Councillor Saville reported on the following items:

1. She felt that less and less content was being placed in front of Council Committees. Mostly going straight to Council. This reduces Councillor and community opportunities to understand and comment on proposals,
2. Ian Aphlick from Beaconsfield Rd has passed away. Ian was an active member of the local community.

3. Legacy House (not in West Ward) is a proposed boarding house. There was a request that adaptive re-use of the house be considered.
4. Mandarin Centre no longer functioning to needed level. It appears that there may be an additional 200 car spots associated with the proposed towers development.
5. Mowbray School proposal directed to JRPP with request for some noise attenuation treatments in Willandra Ave and for a gate to be locked after hours.

OPEN SPACE REPORT:

The Golf Course lease: This matter was determined at the last Council meeting (Moved Clr Saville/Seconded Clr Mustaca). The lease to Chatswood Golf Club Ltd is for 10 years for Council owned land. However, a portion of Crown land is for lease for 5 years. There is a requirement that prior to Council and the Club entering into a Memorandum of Understanding regarding public access to Golf Club owned and leased land, that Council officers meet with the Ward Councillors. It had been hoped that the West Ward Councillors would seek to have the MOU clarified/agreed prior to the decision to re-lease the land. We understand that the public will be excluded from the meeting between the officers and the Ward Councillors. **We articulated clearly to our Ward Councillors the public access rights sought.** Councillor Saville advised that there was to be a Ward Councillors on-site meeting to consider the access rights.

TRAFFIC REPORT:

Tribute to Kathy Vern-Barnett: For many, many years Kathy has undertaken the role of Traffic Convenor for the Association. She provided platinum service to members and the community and was most diligent following up Council Officers. We thank Kathy for her service and wish her well as she moves forward on a host of other community initiatives. Her enthusiasm and efforts have been an inspiration to many.

Mowbray Road: The proposal for new school building at Mowbray Public School was passed through Council at its last meeting. The matter is to be determined by the Joint Regional Planning Panel (JRPP). The Council Officers report stated “*notwithstanding the additional traffic generated by the school, it is not seen as a crucial issue in regards to approval of the development which is considered to be in the wider public interest*”. Clr Saville successfully moved a motion that included inter alia “*Council express concern regarding potential traffic impacts on surrounding residential streets*”.

Parking meters would be added to streets within 500 metres of Chatswood Station. A 50 page Parking Strategy for Willoughby City can be found in Council’s Agenda Papers on the Council website. IT IS IMPORTANT TO READ THIS! Later in the year, the edited Report will be placed on exhibition, and public comment will be sought.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Adherence to Council building codes and planning requirements: At the last Council meeting, West Ward Councillors moved a motion that included a section requiring 'compliance with building codes and planning requirements **AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE**'. In the past this Association's views is that development proposals should **FULLY COMPLY** with building codes and planning requirements. Clr. Saville explained the special circumstances associated with the Haven Amphitheatre.

Proposed Mandarin Centre Redevelopment: The development would comprise a podium building with 6 storeys above ground level (generally matching the existing Mandarin entre podium and the adjoining Westfield podium) upon which would sit two separate towers – a western tower having a height of 11 storeys plus plant (next to the Sage building) and an eastern tower with a height of 23 storeys plus plant (next to the Sebel/Council building).

Status of Petition re Clr. Mandy Stevens: Prue Dally is seeking signatures for her petition. Members at the April meeting considered the matter should be given publicity in the North Shore Times, so residents would be able to consider the problem before signing the petition.

It was agreed that the Petition be placed on our website. Signed petitions can be returned to Jim McCredie at 11 Tessa St, Chatswood 2067

Meeting with Mayor Giles-Gidney: Clr Gidney has agreed to address the Association and answer question. We have developed a set of questions and suggestions based around the Mayors election campaign. It is proposed to send these to the Mayor before the meeting.

1. Ease traffic and parking congestion everywhere

It is hoped that the proposed F1 to M2 tunnel will have a beneficial effect on Pacific Highway traffic through Willoughby. As Mayor will you support this initiative?

What specific proposals are being considered for Mowbray Rd,

Will you support the long-term retention of the traffic calming initiatives on Fullers Rd?

Residents have been advocating for separate fixed speed cameras for Fullers Rd and Millwood Ave. Will you add your support to these initiatives?

What specific proposals are being considered to alleviate rat-running between Greenlands Ave and Park Ave and associated side streets?

Council's street parking strategy is hugely unpopular. The strategy itself states the problem arises from Council's failure to provide adequate off-street long term

parking. Can Council seek funds from the NSW Parking Levy to build parking stations for long stay parking with fast access to relevant destinations, such as the railway station and interchange and future commercial areas decreed by long term State metroplans?

What other proposals are being considered?

2. Improve services

Demographic growth of the elderly population will outrun other age groups. Will Council address the further development of the award winning initiative of the Dougherty Centre by replicating it elsewhere in Willoughby, or including similar facilities as a zoned strata on all future residential towers?

Will Section 94 development of open children's and youths' play areas adjoining tower developments be enforced in place of cash contributions to general funds that can be frittered away at distant sites of poor accessibility to tower dwellers?

3. Enhancing local shopping and promoting the Chatswood CBD.

Chatswood, west of the railway lost its village strip shops due to the development of commercial and residential towers. What can be done about it?

Will the railway concourse shops address their strip shopping need, which includes short stay free parking?

What plans can be made to massively extend the bus interchange size, as petrol price rise and a large increase in bus patronage grows?

4. Optimise sport and recreation facilities.

The Willoughby Leisure Centre is beyond reasonable access from the western side of the municipality, for busy casual users. The Lane Cove River is often severely polluted by sewage and tip runoff. A children's pool in the National Park years ago was a key local social meeting point for West Chatswood families. Council could serve the whole community better with another more spartan leisure centre in the West Ward?

5. Maximise use of the Concourse.

A major constraint to the use of The Concourse is the cost of parking. The parking meter pay stations should permit Council library cards to be read and the car park entry ticket endorsed electronically as paid. There should be no payment for under three hours. Can this be achieved?

6. Protect our natural and built heritage.

Planning for 6,000 more dwellings will require some re-zoning for higher density. This needs to be respectful of the neighbours who are permanent lifetime residents, unlike "hit and run" developers. Council should commit itself to continuing its past practice of notifying neighbours well in advance of any approval.

Can Council prohibit ALL spot re-zonings, and re-zone only during a major LEP revision that entails radical fundamental upgrades of all infrastructure services, so that developer contributions permit payment and completion of supporting infrastructure before any certificate of completion is issued for new residences/

Can the Northern Sydney Metropolitan Council of Mayors write formally to Sydney Water, requesting information on the continuity of availability of hydrant water during extreme and widespread bushfires in the Lane Cove Valley? (Some years ago. Mayor Reilly together with other mayors raised this issue, and got an unsatisfactory response. Insurance-linked investigators at Macquarie University forecast that several thousand homes in Chatswood, and several tens of thousand homes in Kuring-gai are under threat. Professional fire engineers should be engaged to determine if additional water storages are needed in each bushfire prone area).

7. Financial responsibility.

Can Council ensure that LEP major up-grades to permit population density increases include all utilities and the cost of up-grades is fully met in a timely way to have all upgrades complete before occupancy of added residential accommodation.

Can you promote that Chatswood CBD needs an academic centre of tertiary excellence? St. Leonards has a law school and the Kolling medical training centre. Chatswood should be a centre of excellence for some type of professional activity. A necessary part of such an educational facility is that it be located near the centre of the professional employment of the activity, to permit flexibility through ongoing training. A good campus site would be at Pius X College, or in the Thomas Street towers.

Financial Transparency: The following question of Council has been proposed by a prominent member. It is proposed this question be asked of Council: *“Does WCC provide the following information online and, if not, can this please be made available to rate-payers and the wider audience for the benefit of transparency & accountability–transparency has been promised by some Councillors during the recent Mayoral election:*

Distribution of WCC expenses by the four (4) Wards (Middle Harbour, Naremburn, Sailors Bay & West Wards) for about the last 5-10 years and also the forecast/estimated expenses for the next few years for each Ward.

While expenses are available by WCC function/activity area, such as arts and infrastructure, I cannot locate expenses per Ward (in “Operational Plan & Budget 2013/2014”).

If the previously proposed 30% Special Rate Variation was to raise revenue to pay off a \$28M infrastructure/maintenance backlog (a proposal which has been cancelled), then can I assume that funding for other WCC functions/activity areas, such as arts & community services, has been adequately maintained? Or does this mean that funding for the latter has been maintained while funding for the former has not?”

It was felt that what was being asked of Council was too complex and not necessarily of high value.

Northern Metropolitan Council of Mayors: This Council would comprise the Mayors and General Managers of: Hornsby; Kur-ing-gai; Ryde; Willoughby; North Sydney; Hunters Hill; Lane Cove; **Pittwater; Mosman; Manly; Warringah.** The initiative consists of two new organisations – the Council of Mayors plus a Regional Services Group where General Managers of each Council would form the board.

8. Other

It was agreed that Gladys be invited to address one of our meetings with a suggestion to consider the likely needs of Chatswood Interchange growth.

The meeting closed at 9:25PM

The next meeting will be on Thursday 17th July 2014 – NO MEETING IN JUNE.