

MINUTES
General Meeting
of the
Chatswood West Ward Progress Association
At the Dougherty Centre, Victor Street Chatswood
7:30 PM, Thursday 20th July 2017

Meeting Commenced at: 7:30 PM

Chair: Welcomed members, visitors and guests including the Mayor and Council's General Manager.

Acknowledgement to country: I wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of these lands on which we gather and show our respect to their elders past and present.

Declarations of interest? Nil

Becoming a member: Membership fees are due on 1st January 2017

We respectfully request that visitors attending our meeting and receiving our West Ward Bytes consider becoming a member of the Association. To join, please see the Treasurer after the meeting or send \$10 and your name to 032-090 54-8083 plus send your name, address and email to cwwpa.org@gmail.com

Present: as recorded in the Attendance Book

Apologies: Bev and Chris Holmes, Jennifer Lee, Craig Campbell,

Any matters for General Business? Nil

SPECIAL ITEM

Presentation to Jim McCredie for service to the community.

Jim McCredie provided many years of passionate and dedicated service to the residents of Chatswood West Ward including as Presidents of the Chatswood West Ward Progress Association and the Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations.

A technical expert with a high level of understanding and empathy of local issues Jim provided support to the citizens of the Chatswood and West Ward and Willoughby on many matters associated with local government.

Jim became renowned as 'the 14th Councillor' for his regular attendance at meetings of the Willoughby City Council on behalf of his members.

Jim worked as a research engineer/scientist in the Department of Defence. From 1984 he spent a number of years working for Defence in the United States on the Defence Offsets programme including sourcing rotor blades for helicopters. He retired in 1989.

After the disastrous bushfires of 1994, Jim became involved in the local Community Fire Units. An activity he undertook until relatively recently.

Jim became President of the Chatswood West Ward Progress Association around 1997/8 He later became President of the Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations, taking over from around 2002, a position he held to a couple of years ago.

Jim has also been the recipient of Willoughby City Council's Citizen of the Year some years ago.

Even though suffering from rapidly advancing Parkinson's disease, Jim maintained his public activities for as long as he could and never allowed his affliction to dampen his spirit.

Jim turned eighty last week.

SPECIAL ITEM

General Manager of Willoughby Council answered questions posed to her. The questions and responses are being circulated separately/

The **Minutes** of the May General Meeting having been circulated were tabled, moved, seconded and accepted

Treasurer's Report:

April 2017

Membership: YTD: 45 paid households, including 1 carried over from last year

Previous years: *2016 – 83 households*
 2015 – 35 households
 2014 – 57 households

Financial Position:

Assets: Bank balance as of 19 April 2017: \$6,997.97

Liabilities: Nil

Financial Performance (YTD through 19 April):

Income:

Membership Income:	530.00
Advertising Income:	0.00
Interest Income:	<u>1.63</u>

Total Income:	\$531.63
Expenditures:	
Annual fee to Department of Fair Trading:	44.00
Newsletter Printing:	0.00
Federation Insurances & Annual Fee:	<u>0.00</u>
	\$44.00
Net surplus / loss	<u>\$487.63</u>
Ending Bank Balance (31 Dec 2016):	\$5,985.34
Credits since 1 Jan (includes \$525 from 2016):	1,056.63
Debits since 1 Jan:	(44.00)
Ending Bank Balance (16 Feb 2017):	\$6,997.97

Legal: Nil

Councillor's Report:

GOVERNANCE

Leave of absence: Councillor Stevens has requested Leave of Absence from 1 – 31 August 2017. The issue of Council granted extended leave of absence without any reasons being given has been discussed previously. The Association will take any opportunity to progress our concerns to the state government.

Council elections: 9th September. There is an informative website at <http://www.votensw.info>

Proposed changes to the Constitution

Due to unforeseen circumstance the amendments for the Constitution have not been finalised. This matter will be brought back in front of the Association in due course.

Poll re amalgamation: The following motion has been deferred to the next Council meeting: That, at the forthcoming Local Government elections in September 2017, Willoughby City Council will conduct a poll of its residents to determine their preference to:

- a) remain as a stand-alone council, or
- b) support council amalgamation with a neighbouring council

RESOLUTION That Council defer this matter to the next meeting

Note: With abandonment of amalgamations this poll will probably not proceed.

FEDERATION OF WILLOUGHBY PROGRESS ASSOCIATIONS

Verbal report given

OPEN SPACE

Currey Park: No update

Crown Lands: Council is bound by the Talus St judgement and is taking steps to increase public access on crown lands leased to third-parties. However, it is unclear if such a move actually satisfies Justice Bereton's judicial advice. In relation to Chatswood Golf Club's lease of Crown Land, Council asserts that the current public access along the Lane Cove Rivers meets their obligation in relation to the advice.

Golf course proposed redevelopment: No further report.

Mowbray School Oval: DA for lights on the oval has been lodged and notified.

View Street Park Name: Council determined not to change the name of the park at this stage.

Swimming Pools: Council have advised that there are 45 swimming pools in multi-occupancy apartment dwellings and 9 swimming pools that have public access.

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

Metro South: No update.

Beaconsfield Lights: Tentative contact has been made with Steven Head. Perhaps an alternative would be to seek a review by the RTA Regional Traffic Panel (if they still exist). **Craig Campbell will be asked to pursue.**

MAJOR LEGISLATION CHANGES

State Environmental Planning Policy (Vegetation) - Explanation of Intended Effect:

Council is raising concerns which include:

- The Explanation of Intended Effects is a summary document and the detail contained in any draft State Environmental Planning Policy (Vegetation) is required to provide fully informed comment.
- Council will require additional resourcing for undertaking Biodiversity Assessment and calculation of the offset credits.
- No clear justification has been provided for removing provisions from Local Environmental Plans for replacement with the proposed State Environmental Planning Policy.
- It is unclear how the proposed system will provide for processes of review or appeal. Significant effect on threatened species should be a trigger for declaration as State Significant Infrastructure for the purposes of the State Environmental Planning Policy.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Metro South: No update

GENERAL BUSINESS

Meet the Mayoral candidates: The Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations is holding a "Meet the Mayoral Candidates" on Tuesday, 22nd August, at the Dougherty Centre, 7 Victor St., Chatswood, commencing at 7.15 pm for a 7.30 pm start.

Educational Facilities Strategy: The government has allocated a budget to allow planning for the upgrade of Chatswood Public School to commence,

Newsletter: Work is progressing for the production and distribution of an Elections edition of the West Ward News. Critical dates are:

- 31 Aug/1 September: Newsletters distributed to deliverers
- 2/3 September: Newsletter placed in letter boxes

Bob Lawrence will be contacting you to confirm availability. Plus if you can help, please leave your name, address, phone # and email address.

A. Will the Westward News be continued to assist communication with computer illiterate members of the community?

B Will the Progress Association be able to continue the letter box delivery activity, after the forthcoming Council elections?

Meet the WW Candidates

At our next meeting

Wurlitzer organ: After previously moving to have the organ restored, Clr. Coppock moved to withdraw his motion.

Correspondence OUT/IN – treated in main agenda.

Next meeting: Thursday 17th August 2017 - Meet the West Ward Candidates

Meeting closed at: 9:20 PM

IN APPRECIATION

JIM McCREDIE

For many years of passionate and dedicated service to the residents of Chatswood West Ward including as President of the Chatswood West Ward Progress Association and the Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations.

A technical expert with a high level of understanding and empathy of local issues Jim provided support to the citizens of the Chatswood West Ward on many matters associated with local government.

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Jim has also been the recipient of Willoughby City Council's Citizen of the Year.

QUESTIONS

1. Briefly, any update on amalgamation?
2. How much did you save Council soon after you arrived? How was this achieved?
3. What is your strategy for maintaining customer service in light of recent staff cuts.
3. Already a draft District Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Plan has been produced for the new Council group. The Draft includes Willoughby and I assume that Willoughby Council staff are preparing the final version. The Draft Plan claims there are no major bush fires expected in the area. Chatswood West was impacted by a major bush fire in 1994 and Willoughby was included in Draft Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Plan for groups of Councils North and West of Willoughby. Does this mean that the protective area burns proposed in the Draft by these Councils are no longer planned by the new Council?
4. When will Council undertake another Satisfaction Survey?. These were quite useful, enabling a comparison over a number of years.
5. In light of the intent of the Local Government Act in relation to excluding the public from meetings between all Councilors and Council staff (except for prescribed exemptions) how do you justify meetings behind closed doors that are called Councillor Briefings that exclude the public.
6. How would you suggest the best way is to deal with issues that include adjoining LGAs? e.g. the Beaconsfield lights issue where Lane Cove Council is holding the process of the installation of traffic light at Beaconsfield/Ralston Sts intersection at bay. Can you negotiate with Lane Cove Council to overcome the impasse regarding the Beaconsfield traffic lights? (Craig, perhaps you could provide a briefing note on this issue).
7. Clarification re notification policy for DAs. For example, regarding the recent proposed building at 67 Albert Ave, there was no notification of the neighbourhood? Also, how does the Council ensure that notification is carried out as per its policy
8. How does Council ensure it is accountable to the community? Eg. that it abides by its own DA approval conditions and what are the consequences if it does not, addresses concerns raised by community, etc.
9. Following the strata law changes in November 2016, has the Council taken any steps regarding the visitors car park in strata blocks? Will it be approaching strata bodies with a proposal?
10. At a recent council meeting on 26 June 2017 council considered item 18.3 Chatswood CBD Draft Planning and Urban Design Strategy.. A number of people attended the meeting from Mirvac (regarding the old post office area) and Mandarin Center. Council left the zoning for these sites B3, I believe this means they are unable to build mixed use residential on these sites (only commercial/retail). Also, another related site is on the corner of Pacific Highway and Help street (north east corner).

What is the next step for these sites where developers have proposed tall residential developments? Is their only step to go away and come back with a commercial/retail development or can the state government/planning department override the CBD strategy?

* With regard to proposed lights on Mowbray School Oval, the school community were told by Council Officers that the lights would be on 3 nights per week. Now the DA posted mentions 7 nights per week. What is going on?

4. After the 1994 fire, Council staff experimented with "armouring" patches of ground in the Lane Cove park area near the sewer bridge over Blue Gum Creek, for the purpose of preventing re-growth of the bush understory which was the main vector of the 1994 bush fire. If the trial was successful in suppressing the understory re-growth, can this process be applied around the border of the bush land/residential interface, using ground rock produced by the tunnel machines operating at Mowbray and Pacific Highway?

1. What progress have been made towards resolving the ongoing costs of the merged Councils; how will the new Council and our present Council compare for financial sustainability in comparison with standards set in "fit for the future"?

2. What change in priorities can we expect from the new Council, with respect to "open space" and other social issues dealt with by our Council such as, the "e.restore" programme?