

MINUTES
General Meeting
of the
Chatswood West Ward Progress Association
At the Dougherty Centre, Victor Street Chatswood
7:30 PM, Thursday 17th May 2018

Meeting to commence at 7.30pm

Welcome The President welcomed members and visitors to the meeting.

Acknowledgement to country: The Chairperson: *"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? Andrea Austin – Chatswood PS

Visitors present: Clr. Craig Campbell

Members Present: Diana Pryde, Charles Gowing, Kay Freudenstein-Hayes, Cy Ng, Ian Tanner, Andrea Austin, John Hayes, John Hault, David Grover, Basil Laszymk, Lyn McClosky, Robert Fuss, Mary Veronica Fuss, Helen Cook.

Apologies: Terry Fogarty, Clr Lynne Saville

Any matters for General Business?

- 9 Centennial
- Planning panels

Minutes: The secretary tabled the minutes of the monthly meeting for April 2018 and moved their acceptance. Moved by Charles Gowing, seconded by Cy Ng. Accepted

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer spoke to his report and moved it. Seconded Cy Nge. Accepted. A copy of the report is included at the end of these minutes.

Reports from Councillors: Reports received by Clr. Craig Campbell and Clr Lynne Saville. Copies of these reports are included at the end of these minutes.
Clr Campbell briefly spoke to his report and the President spoke to Clr Saville report in Clr absence

GOVERNANCE

General Manager's salary:

Clr Campbell explained background to GM's appointment:

- \$380k was verified as market rate
- Mid year review was initiated as GM's four year contract was ending in Feb 2019 and council is required to enter into discussions 6 months prior which would have been Aug 2018. They took the opportunity for an early review before the deadline.
- Councillors deemed stability within the council was important after a period of uncertainty and high turnover
- Positive reviews on her performance so far
- 2 councillors voted against

FEDERATION OF WILLOUGHBY PROGRESS ASSOCIATIONS

MAJOR LEGISLATION CHANGES

Nil.

OPEN SPACE

CBD Open space and infrastructure: Ian Arnott rang and advised that whilst Currey Park had been

included as requested by the Association, at a subsequent meeting it was removed by Councillors to facilitate future development. There were shadow diagrams submitted with the proposals. Plans for the extension of the CBD are part of a master plan that has gone to the Department of Planning proposing they become an LEP. Any LEP will be publicly advertised.

School grounds: In a letter to the North Shore Times, Cllr Saville has called for private school to open up their school grounds to the public like many public schools will be doing. **Cllr Saville asked to consider putting a motion to Council on this matter.**

It was noted under the Building the Education Revolution Program (BER program), any private schools that received public money for assets that they are required to let the public use the facilities, but not for profiteering.

Tallis resolved in regard to the Council Legal jeopardy. Further discussion occurred in regard that it may not be 'resolved' from a broader community perspective as it public land.

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

Highway traffic signals between Fullers & Albert: Cllr Saville asked to seek further information from the RMS explaining how they propose to address the safety issues as these intersections including vehicles turning right from Albert continuing through the Centennial intersection against a red light when vehicles are exiting right from Centennial and also traffic heading towards the Sydney often red light running at Centennial & Albert.

RMS responded – the Pacific Highway is a priority artery and the side streets are collateral.

Chatswood to Epping buses during Metro construction: A resident raised the issue of what changes Council envisages for Fullers Road particularly at the Pacific Hwy. Council responded that they have no plans as the road is under the care and control of the RMS. The letter was forwarded to the RMS for consideration.

- Charles Gowing outlined the changes of the pending train closure on local streets in Chatswood CBD to allow for additional buses including parking changes and moving taxi rank.
- The 545 service will now operate from Macquarie to Parramatta. The Chatswood to Macquarie service is now the 259, we assume that this change took place so the Parramatta service would not be affected by the additional traffic to Chatswood
- ***Suggestion – perhaps take away the toll on Lane Cove tunnel to encourage use along Epping Rd. This idea will be taken to the Federation.***

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

18 – 20 Freeman goes to Willoughby Local Planning Committee on Tuesday 24th April at 2PM

688 – 692 Pacific Highway – The DA (DA-2017/300) for this site has been re-ignited and notified. It appears to be similar to the last one that was withdrawn. It appears to be non-compliant especially with regard to height. The application will go to a panel.

- David Grover required Cr Campbell to find out if Council will be advising all previous respondents to the development will be contacted.
- Though the current DA is a massive improvement on the original twin tower proposal, concerns are still about breaking the LGA height limits and setting precedents for development on the west side of the Highway.

67 Albert Avenue (Sage Building)

David Grover gave some background to the original Sage building when it was built 31 years ago, the terraced area behind the Garden of Remembrance was supposed to be a terraced place of beauty. Reality has dictated that this Council land is lost behind the Mandarin Centre, Sage building and Council Chambers. The plan is to put a 15 storey building.

On Wednesday 23rd May, the matter will go to the Sydney North Planning Panel for deliberation because Council has a conflict of interest. David Grover will speak at panel pushing for revamped garden and for the space to be beautified.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Chatswood Education Precinct: At the P&C meetings of Chatswood High School & Chatswood Primary School the parents were informed that the Pacific Highway Campus will become a senior High School – Yrs 10-12 and on the Centennial Ave Campus will host Yrs K-9. Funding has still not been approved by the State Government.

National Parks staffing: Response received by the Premier. Published on website countering assertions made.

Council standing committees: Members agreed to consider this issue for discussion at the next meeting. Discussion was held. The meeting gravitated to consideration of how the Association could best engage the local community. David Grover undertook to raise the issue with Cllr Saville and the Secretary would also do so with Cllr Campbell. Cllr Campbell responded supporting the initiative.

After the meeting, the Committee further considered this issue. It was decided that we should plan for a newsletter later in the year. Given that this would be a “non-election” edition, it was felt that we should for a deeper engagement exploring a variety of communication strategies.

It is possible that there will be a General Federal Election in September. Given plans for the next newsletter, propose we not issue an Election Edition newsletter. Going forward, propose we do not issue Election Edition Newsletters for any government election but focus instead on deeper engagement with our local communities. We could consider opening up our mailing list, website and Bytes to paid advertising.

We discussed our renewed focus that our Newsletters will instead focus on local issues and deeper local engagement rather than aligning to the various Elections. This change was put to the attendees of the meeting and moved with their acceptance. Moved by Kay Freudenstein-Hayes and seconded by Cy Ng.

Discussion ensued – ‘in regard to the Newsletter and advertising’ it was important to keep within our ethos and our position of independence

9 Centennial Ave

- An appeal to be heard on 23rd May to determine if the Interim Heritage Order is valid. Venue TBA.
- David Grover had written to Gladys about Council's actions at the time of the illegal demolition, he was informed that the Council was legally allowed access to secure the building despite Council denying that ability (and possibly letting storm damage to occur). David will raise this with the GM.

Meriton signage – concern was raised about the 24/7 illumination of the Meriton sign. Apparently it was approved as part of the Meriton build. David Grover and Diana Pryde will contact Meriton directly about the need for constant light. This light is affecting the Powerful Owls, people's sleep and also greenhouse affect.

Correspondence OUT/IN – handled in agenda and minutes.

NO MEETING IN JUNE ----- Next meeting: Thursday 19th July 2018.

Meeting closed at: 9.15pm

COMMITTEE MEETING

Open: 9.15

Location: Dougherty Centre, Chatswood

Present: Andrea, Cy, Kaye, Charles

Admission of new members: Yes – see Charles

Closed: 9:30 PM