



*Vincenia Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc.*

*Your Community Consultative Body for*

*Shoalhaven City Council*

Email : [vrra.ccb@gmail.com](mailto:vrra.ccb@gmail.com)

web : [www.vrra.org.au](http://www.vrra.org.au)

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## **DRAFT MINUTES OF VRRRA/CCB COMMITTEE HELD 16 MARCH 2017**

**Venue:** PETER LIVINGSTON'S RESIDENCE, VINCENTIA

**Time:** 7.00PM

**Attendees:** Peter Livingston, Angela Johnstone, Bob Pullinger, Sue Sheridan, Peter McVay, Ros Vickery, Dawn Thompson, Irene Ross

### **Apologies**

John Ross

### **Discussion of Draft AGM Minutes**

A small amendment on Peter Livingston's address as new President was raised. This related to making it clear that engaging with groups across the community should involve agreement by members. With this amendment, Sue Sheridan undertook to send the Draft AGM minutes to Members and place on Community Notice Board.

### **Induction of new committee members**

Peter Livingston outlined that Committee members needed a working understanding of the VRRRA Constitution and Code of Practice, and CCB Guidelines. The Associations Act also includes legal obligations for the President, Vice-president, Treasurer, Secretary and Public Officer.

Peter Livingston handed over the Treasurer's documents to Bob Pullinger and Peter McVay was given the documents held by the Public Officer.

### **Newsletter No 6**

Peter Livingston had circulated the text of items for inclusion in the Newsletter, prior to the meeting. This included an item from Shoalhaven Transition on its Plastic Solutions Pollution Campaign and public event. The Secretary noted that Council hadn't yet responded on the closure of the northern most access to Nelson's Beach.

The Committee agreed that it should invite other community groups of relevance to the members to submit articles for inclusion in the newsletters.

Peter Livingston said that he intended to write a general letter to all community groups advising them of the role of the VRRRA/CCB and inviting them to submit relevant articles for inclusion in the Newsletter.

## **Update on Collingwood Beach Dune Vegetation Management Plan and Coastal Hazard Lines**

No substantial issues to be reported at this time.

### **Complaint about VRRRA notice board**

The committee discussed this issue – the meeting concluded that the things had moved on since the complaint had been made, and no further action required. The matter was noted for future reference.

### **Development of a virtual notice board of items of interest to the community on our web-site**

The meeting noted the Secretary's progress in placing notice board notices in calendar format in the VRRRA web-site.

### **Governance of sub-committee**

The committee discussed the governance of sub-committees of the CCB, with particular reference to the Collingwood Beach Preservation Group, currently CCB's only sub-committee.

Issues raised:

- **Issue 1:** Why is the CBPG a sub-committee of the CCB, rather than a separate body, given that the CCB Guidelines emphasise the importance of the CCBs to represent the whole community. This was raised in the context of perceptions amongst some in the community that the CCB only represents the interests of foreshore residents. On this issue, the follow points were made:
  - Foreshore Groups, like the CBPG need to report to Council if they are to be effective. Shoalhaven City has three foreshore groups – the others are Shoalhaven which reports to Council, and the one at Lake Conjola which like Vincentia, is under the auspices of its local CCB. In order to report to Council, the Shoalhaven one is required to be a sub-committee of Council, needing council employees to attend meetings.
  - The CBPG liaised with councilors as to how they could effectively report to Council on the Coastal Zone Management Plan and were advised to put it to the CCB members for consideration. Subsequently at a meeting at that time, members supported the motion that the CBPG be recognised as a sub-committee of the CCB to represent the CCB in respect of the Coastal Zone Management Plan. In fulfilling the role members agreed that the subcommittee would present to the VRRRA a report at each meeting for adoption and inclusion in the minutes.
  - The foreshore is of interest to the whole of the Vincentia community.
- **Issue 2:** As a sub-committee of the CCB, the CBPG should not make decisions/act on its own behalf, but rather should ensure that its decisions/actions are those of the whole of the CCB. On this issue, the following points were made:
  - The CBPG reports to the CCB at each General Meeting and its reports are put to a motion like those of the CCB Committee. Like the CCB Committee there are times when the CBPG needs to act quickly outside the General meeting cycles, but these are dealt with subsequently through reporting.

While some members had reservations relating to the perceptions and governance relating to the CBPG, other members felt that the current arrangements remain and are appropriate. The Committee agreed to continue with the current arrangement of the CBPG reporting to each VRRRA/CCB meeting for endorsement. One member noting that as they were not fully across the VRRRA constitution and the CCB guidelines they may like to revisit this issue at a later stage. The meeting noted that there may be a need in the future for other sub-committees to be formed, such as one for the Bay and Basin Community Hub.

The meeting resolved to include a 'Update from Bayswood' as an ongoing agenda item for the future VRRRA/CCB general meetings.

## **Membership drive**

Angela Johnstone had an idea for a flyer that would appeal in particular to the Bayswood community. Bob Pullinger undertook to see if he still had a copy of the flyer that was letter box dropped in 2015 - if so, he would send it to Angela for information (actioned).

## **Other business**

The committee had received a confidential letter from four members supporting the aims outlined by the incoming President at the AGM. Given that the community was currently divided, the letter also made suggestions to help bring the whole community together through:

- Getting the message out through a flyer and community forum on the CCB's role and responsibilities, the VRRRA's strategic approach as proposed in the incoming President's address to the AGM, the benefits of VRRRA membership, and the new committee's experience;
- Extend the membership of the VRRRA to groups such as local business owners and on site van owners to align VRRRA with its CCB responsibilities; and change the VRRRA's name to reflect that alignment and to reinforce a fresh approach;
- Invite local groups with an interest in the sustainable development of Vincentia and the welfare of its community to reach out to the community via our CCB.
- Ask Council to initiate a Community Strategic Plan (CSP) for Vincentia with Vincentia's input co-ordinated by a CCB working party that includes all groups with an interest in the sustainable development of Vincentia and the welfare of its community.'

The ensuing discussion included the following points:

- Peter Livingston's proposed letter to all community groups advising them of the role of the VRRRA/CCB and inviting them to submit relevant articles for inclusion in the Newsletter would address some of the above issues.
- There was little appetite to revisit the constitution in the short term given the recent changes that had been made, but the points could be consider next time the constitution was being revised; and
- Council is proposing community consultation next month (April) on a draft Community Strategic Plan for the whole of Shoalhaven City. There are no plans by the Council for a Vincentia specific plan.
- VRRRA members had not received feedback on what happened with the *Towards 2025* process. The members are likely to want the opportunity to understand if there is any connection to the Community Strategic Plan and how to be involved. The meeting consequently resolved to issue an invitation to Council's senior strategic planner, Susan Edwards, to attend the April meeting to discuss "Strategic Planning".

No specific action on the letter was proposed, with the President noting that some of the issues raised in the letter were being pursued.

**Meeting closed 9.30pm**