



Vincentia Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc.
Your Community Consultative Body for
Shoalhaven City Council

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DRAFT MINUTES FOR VRRA GENERAL MEETING 21st JUNE 2018

Meeting held at Vincentia Community Hall

Meeting Opened at 7:30pm

Introduction of new President Pat McMahon by committee member Ros Vickory

Welcome by the President.

APOLOGIES

Abe Mehmet, Rob Dunn, Sarah Walsh, Peter Livingston, Jo Pullinger, Greg Watson, Barbara Liddle, Rob Dunn, John Levadetes, Tony and Jazz Vukelic, Peter Walsh, Leslie Hams

PRESENTATION BY SES MEMBERS

4 members from the SES were present with a presentation given by one member, Chris Fowler. Chris spoke about what the SES do and do not do, mentioning that the SES is primarily a volunteer organisation. They assist the community in the event of damage from floods, rain, storms etc, but no firefighting. They do not do repairs but will provide a temporary fix. They provide information by way of advice, notes and pamphlets. Helping the SES is by way of volunteering, one method is flexible volunteering which involves simply turning up. Alternatively volunteering requires a training and assessment period. Chris stressed that everyone is welcomed and invited members to attend any of their meetings on a Wednesday night at 41 Tasman Road St Georges Basin.

PRESENTATION BY ERICA JONES PRESIDENT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VINCENTIA VILLAGE

Erica spoke about the state of the Vincentia Village in Burton Street and her efforts to try and get Council to respond to her requests which at a minimum is to get Council to view the Village in Burton Street (which is council property) and asses the condition of the community resources such as the garbage bins, public seating, lighting, etc. Her efforts with Council have not been productive. Erica is seeking support to make Council notice and improve these resources and generally improve the condition of the Burton Street area which will be for the benefit of the community, tourism and commerce. She provided petition forms to that effect.

Some discussion followed as to various means of achieving a result with Council.

A motion was raised:

MOTION: The VRRA and CCB support the Vincentia Chamber of commerce in their endeavours to have an upgrade to the Vincentia Mall as per their prioritised planning document and that the VRRA also help with circulating the petition document

Moved: Ken Buckley

Seconded: Noel Bowman

Carried with none opposed

PRESENTATION BY JUDI NETHERY – REZONING OF STAGES 2 AND 3 BAYSWOOD COMMERCIAL TO RESIDENTIAL.

Judi brought to the attention of the meeting an application on the NSW Planning and Environment website for the rezoning of stages 2 and 3 of the Vincentia District Centre from commercial to residential. Woolworths have indicated that they will no longer be commercially developing stage 2 and 3. Judi expressed surprise that the public has not been made aware of such a major rezoning change. Concern was expressed about lack of foresight for commercial needs, the advent of urban sprawl, further rezoning of other areas to residential all impacting the village nature of Bayswood and Vincentia. Little information is known and there is no provision on the website for public submissions.

Discussion then followed as to how best to lodge objections to the rezoning and how to make the wider community aware. Media, community voice, and petitions were suggested.

A motion was raised:

MOTION: That the VRRA write to Shirley Hancock and also pass onto Council, concerns regarding the rezoning commercial land in Bayswood commercial district to residential.

Moved: Judi Nethery

Seconded: Peter Gaffey

Carried with none opposed.

Further discussion followed as to how best lobby outlets such as the media. It was suggested that a group or subcommittee be formed for this purpose.

PRESENTATION BY JESSICA RAWLINS – MAKING VINCENTIA A HEALTHIER AND SAFER PLACE TO LIVE VISIT AND PLAY.

Jessica identified herself as a young mum with two young boys 2 and 5 and who has lived all her life in Vincentia. Jessica is a frequent user of Plantation Point Reserve and raised concerns about that area.

1. Poor state of the amenities in the Park – peeling paint, mould, poor light, broken door locks.
2. The outdoor shower area is always muddy and flooded
3. During summer the park is crowded and the public facilities such as the picnic tables and BBQ's are inadequate. Often the electric hotplates on the BBQ's are out of order.
4. The children's playground is small and gets overcrowded. It is the only playground in Vincentia following the closure of the playground in Violet Park Reserve. Further concerns related to the small size, no fencing, no shading and in particular close proximity to vehicle traffic.
5. A fence around the playground is warranted to avoid the potential accident of a child running into a car.

Photos were shown to illustrate the above problems. Also photos of playgrounds in other tourist destinations such as Broadbeach and Coolangatta were shown to illustrate the difference in playground scope and quality.

Jessica further explained her experiences living in Minerva Avenue.

1. It is a very busy road.
2. Often sees cars driving above the speed limit.

3. No cycle paths from Minerva Ave leading to Plantation Point which means walking on the side of the road. When with children and animals, cycle paths which lead down to Elizabeth drive would be a safety benefit.
4. Minerva Avenue would benefit from speed bumps to slow the drivers down.

MOTION: Overhaul the children's playground at Plantation Point, introduce fencing and shading around the playground and better play equipment to cater for all ages. Overhaul all the amenities in Plantation Point Park to better serve the demands over the tourist period. Introduce cycle paths at the top of Vincentia hill to allow residents to safely reach the cycle path in Elizabeth Drive. Install speed bumps in Minerva Avenue to slow the vehicles down.

Moved by: Peter Gaffey

Seconded: Noel Bowman

Some discussion followed. It was commented that this issue has been discussed before. DPOP submissions by the VRRA have also raised some of the issues. Council's response has been no funds are available.

Motion carried, none opposed

QUERY REGARDING TRACKING OF MOTIONS

A query was raised as to how to track the progress of the motions submitted by the VRRA. This was responded by 1) either a subcommittee is formed to manage the issue and report back to the VRRA at general meetings or 2) all community correspondence received by the VRRA is distributed by email to the CCB email list which invariably will report on such progress.

CONFIRMATION OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF VRRA MEETING 15th February 2018

MOTION: That the minutes are correct.

Moved by: Robin Bowman

Seconded by: Bob Pullinger

Motion carried, none opposed

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING OF 15th February 2018

Twyford Street: Change of car parking spaces reported as "looking good"

Nelsons Beach Access Way: Southern stairs access was to be closed due to storm damage. Storm damage was disputed citing instead lack of maintenance. A petition to retain those stairs resulted in some 400 signatures against loss of beach access and fire escape safety in the event of bushfire. This was followed by a successful deputation to Council by a VRRA member. The stairs will now be replaced.

MOTION: That the VRRA write to Council requesting a progress update on the stairs

Moved By: Ken Buckley

Seconded by: Len Murray

Motion carried, none opposed

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Posted on the VRRA website

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

A folder of printed correspondence was passed around for viewing

REPORT OF THE CCB EXECUTIVE MEETING – Bob Pullinger

2 meetings per year are held by Council for all CCBs.

Council updates are posted on the Council website.

VRRA put some 30 questions to Council. Important that Council clarify what can be done and reasons for what can't be done as opposed to inaction.

Discussion on child safety via Hold My Hand campaign.

Discussion on rate increase thru IPART.

It was commented that CCB's need not take a position on issues, simply record the vote.

The need for an overpass at the intersection of Jervis Bay Road and the Princess Highway was raised.

Presentation by the Rural Fire Service.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Current Funds: \$2766.00

COLLINGWOOD BEACH PRESERVATION GROUP UPDATE

Short introduction on why the CBPG was formed.

Some beach erosion at Collingwood Beach noted, a meeting with the Director of Assets and Works to review the erosion, especially due to stormwater runoff.

Little Blue Dinosaur child safety campaign discussed and request for Council to participate, especially to reduce cycle speed on the cycle ways.

CBPG Report posted on VRRA website.

MOTION: That the CBPG subcommittee report be adopted and that the minutes be distributed to all councillors. That Council officers meet with the CPBG group to discuss best practices to avoid pedestrian near misses by cyclists including the installation of Little Blue Dinosaur Slow Down signs.

Moved By: Bob Pullinger

Seconded By: John Ross

Motion carried, none opposed

THE NEW MOONA MOONA BRIDGE

Expected opening July

MOTION: That when the bridge is opened, key representatives from the HWCV CCB and the VRRA CCB who were instrumental proponents of the bridge over the last 2 or 3 years be the first to walk across from opposite ends and meet in the middle.

Moved By: Dawn Thompson

Seconded By: Robyn Bowman

Some discussion followed that this would be an important show of community collaboration and an acknowledgement and appreciation of the hard work by those involved.

Motion carried, none opposed

SUMMARY OF DPOP (Delivery Program Operational Planning) REQUESTS SUBMITTED – Bob Pullinger

- Pathway and Cycleways
- Road overpass or tunnel - Jervis Bay Road & Highway **new**
- Plantation Point Reserve – drainage
- Plantation Point – construct additional shelter
- Elizabeth Drive Pedestrian Refuge
- Improved stormwater for Collingwood Beach
- Vincentia Village Mall Upgrades
- Water Filling Station in Vincentia Village and sign on cycleway
- Safety Areas for Disabled Community members
- Underground tunnel from south to north under Wool Road for bikes, electric carts & pedestrians **new**
- Safety – recording of incidents on cycleway, signage at roadhead/cycleway intersections **new** and electronic billboard for Slow Down/Hold My Hand
- Life Saving facilities at Collinwood Beach during tourist Periods
- Storm water drainage – 72 & 74 Elizabeth Drive
- Access for disabled at Collingwood Beach (i.e. re submit from 16/17)
- Beach Access to Nelson Beach
- Request for Citizen's Scientist Kit **new**

UPDATE ON THE VRRA STATUS – Ros Vickory

Deputation was made to Council's Strategy and Assets meeting by Ros Vickory. The deputation outlining the achievements of the VRRA was positively received by the majority of the Councillors with the vote to keep the CCB status of the VRRA supported by the majority of the Councillors with 8 voting for and only the 3 green Councillors voting against. Website links to the Council podcast were made available.

Discussion then followed complimenting the work done by the volunteer committee during the absence of a President and Secretary. Len Murray complimented the working committee noting Peter Livingston, the past president for the hard work and effort that he contributed during a difficult period. Len Murray suggested that a letter of appreciation be written to Peter by the VRRA. Len also thanked Councillor Bob Proudfoot who was at the meeting for his support. Both suggestions were approved by the meeting by way of applause. Similarly Bob Pullinger was also acknowledged and thanked for his tireless work.

A comment regarding the CCB issue was made by an attendee who stated he has had contact with Council as an individual and not through any group. His experience was that he was made to understand by Council staff that the VRRA as a CCB needs to “get their act together as a community”. His message to the meeting was that the support of the Councillors is not as important as the relationship with Council staff. He stated that the VRRA needs to “re connect” with the Council staff because they are the people “who get things done”.

The Secretary thanked the attendee for his comments but noted that when Council staff issued the notice to deregister the VRRA, there was no prior notice or explanations given to the VRRA and no opportunity for a right of reply was provided.

Some discussion followed about now moving forward. The workload imposed on committee members was raised.

Councillor Bob Proudfoot then spoke acknowledging the high workload that the VRRA takes on and questions whether this becomes a deterrent for encouraging new committee members. He also acknowledged the comment about discontent among Council staff towards the VRRA however noting that whilst there are more than 1 group in the community this should not be seen as a divided community but as democracy. Councillor Bob Proudfoot also commented that a lot of the trouble was due to the efforts of an individual persistent letter writer (not named). Bob Proudfoot then congratulated the VRRA for being able to keep the VRRA together and to be able to move forward.

CLOSING

The meeting closed with a motion to allow the new President to be a signatory on VRRA cheques. Motion carried, none opposed.

Next meeting is 16th August 2018

Meeting closed: 9:50pm