

Barwon Heads Association

Monday 20th October 2014
Barwon Heads Community Hall 7:30pm

MINUTES

1 Welcome Chair Judith Brooks

2 Apologies – John Romeril, Ann Waite

Attendees – Graeme Wallace Smith, Jenny Wallace Smith, Brenda Miles, Sandy Gatehouse, Richard Hastings, Suzanne Brown, Trish Clayton, Geoffrey Waite, Jeremy Gaylard, Paul Fox, Marg Pocock, Noel Calvert, Anthea Merewether, James & Luki Weatherly.

3 Treasurer's Report. Currently 137 members. Balance at 20th October \$ 2,314.00.

4 Review of the AGM – Judith welcomed Jeremy Gaylard to the BHA Committee.

5 Hitchcock Ave pedestrian Crossing near Frith (ie Clifford Pde) – there appears to be concern in the town about location of pedestrian crossing. A couple of traders concerned about loss of 2 parking space. Barwon Heads Association advised we are in support. We have been offered 2 times to meet with the Council 4th & 5th of November. Invited members to come with Judith. Trish & Jeremy volunteered. Do we go there as a united front? If there is a member who doesn't agree with the need for a pedestrian crossing, need to be clear of their view. We have yet to see the final details. BHA membership has always said it supported pedestrian crossings in Barwon Heads.

Action – CoGG offered community consultation: Going to meet with the Council to hear the details they propose. Nominate November 5th as preferred date.

6. Bridge Rd & Hitchcock Ave – after 2 conversations with Vic Roads nothing has happened. Disappointed that we have had no progress.

Action – write to VicRoads advising that meeting very disappointed at lack of any action to date.

7. Rates - Jeremy Gaylard & Geoffrey Waite have been researching rates.

Discussion points:

The Committee has put rates on the agenda for 2015 in response to increased concern in the community about the high level of the CoGG rates. Anecdotal evidence is that 30% increase over past 3 years. CoGG 223, 500 – projections to 300,000.

1240kilometres. Largest municipalities in Victoria. Over 2,500 employees. Land value and residential properties top value in CoGG. CoGG rate is meant to maintain

ambience of the area. Jeremy has asked Peter Hand to address one of our meetings. Don't want them to swing to land value rather than CIV.

Are we getting value for money??? What is the impact of high rates for commercial areas. Will make shopping in Barwon Heads too expensive.

Are we comparatively being over charged. Can we get comparative information for within Geelong. Does BH pay more than Ocean Grove.

Average rate last year for CoGG was \$1176.00.

CoGG is the 8th lowest council in the state. Barwon Heads obviously pays the highest amount.

Those present have complained about rates – very concerned about level of rates and basis of calculation.

Action - Form sub – committee to meet to discuss to work out strategy. Jeremy to convene. Endorse presenting evidenced based paper to Council. Publish in Talking Heads.

8. Community Forum on Wednesday November 5th at 7:00pm at Ocean Grove Bowling Club. Want all members to come, this is our November meeting. Barwon Heads now part of the Bellarine rather than South Barwon.

Questions of Candidates:

- Poor quality of roads
- Pedestrian amenity in Barwon Heads
- Bike Safety
- By-Pass to Leopold
- Dual capacity of railway line from Blue Circle to Waurin Ponds
- Poor standard of rural state secondary schools, Geelong worse in the state.
- Use of de-commissioned kindergarten for community hub.

9. BH Community Bank – Marg Austin has asked whether Barwon Heads has a community bus? Concern that it would not be well used. Would benefit for additional bus during summer especially to 13th beach. Will they be buying a bus???? Volunteer drivers? Professional?

10. Further Business

- We have heard that that Bank doesn't have to be so high, rail quite dangerous
Action – individuals to contact manager of community bank
- Pathway 13th beach to Stephens Pde, impressed by quality of works.
- New kindergarten extremely large. Will 15 hour requirement be funded. Will it be fill? From Barwon Heads? Continue to lobby for use by community of the old kindergarten site.

**Next Meeting Wednesday 5th November 2014 7.00pm “Meet the Candidates”
Community Forum for State Election. Ocean Grove Bowling Club.**