

Minutes for the Brooklyn Community Association, Inc. General Meeting

Saturday 9 September 2023, Brooklyn Meeting Room commencing at 10am

1. **Welcome & Attendance** (M Moloney/ Co-President/Chair)

- Miriam Moloney, Co-President and Chair welcomed members, all residents and guests. Prior to the commencement of the meeting as people continued to arrive, the Chair introduced all committee members/volunteers and their role in the Committee.
- Attendance recorded in BCA Attendance Book.
- Acknowledge of Country – Vice President Ingrid Segovia acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today, the Garingai and pay respects to Elders past, present and emerging.
- Apologies – Rob and Cindy Corkery, Lyne Kelleher, Catherine Angier, Karen Arnold, the Hon Julian Leeser MP
- Noted that the Matt Kean the special guest at the meeting and Councillor Nathan Tilbury would provide further updates on local council matters where required. Councillor Tania Salitra was also welcomed.
- Noted that Julian Leeser MP had provided a Statement on the Referendum and pharmacy update to be read at the meeting.
- Other guests acknowledged included Stephen Boyle, President, Dangar Island League and David Matcham from Mooney Mooney who was active with Di Bowles on the safety traffic issues on Old Pacific Highway.

2. **Association Administration**

- Minutes of the previous meeting: 3 June 2023 (2 copies of Minutes were made available at meeting or can be viewed online on the BCA Website. Motion to accept Minutes – Proposed Tony Broome, seconded Nancy Davis.
- Correspondence In/Out during the period. A table of all correspondence was made available for members to view.
- Financial position report was delivered by Robert Arnold Committee member on behalf of Lyne Kelleher who was an apology) See attached statement of balances. Motion to accept, Proposed Di Bowles Seconded Meredith Peters.
- Robert Arnold also welcomed announcement of Catherine Angier who has accepted the position of BCA Co treasurer.

3. **Postal and financial service update**

- The Chair provided an update on actions being taken working towards maintaining local services including a licensed post office and sustaining the local pharmacy. Australia Post has not recognised that the community supports a regional population.
- Robert Arnold read a Statement prepared by Julian Leeser MP to the meeting re the federal member's actions to date on the reinstatement of the post office and including pursuing government agreements for a pharmacy agreement to help the local pharmacy survive. Continued advocacy from Julian Leeser MP to meet with Australia Post executives and now also the BCA would approach the Mayor of Hornsby Council to advocate on behalf of the lower Hawkesbury Communities.

Motion - Members support ongoing action including for BCA and Dangar Island League, and the community to write a letter to The Hon Mark Butler Minister for Health that the lower Hawkesbury community need the services classified in a different way, one which recognises their unique remote circumstances to access services. Seeking exceptional circumstances and ministerial discretion for Brooklyn services to be treated as regional. Expression of thanks to the Chair for all efforts to date in relation to reinstatement of the post office.

4. Guest Speaker – Matt Kean MP

Matt Kean thanked members for their engagement and the Chair's leadership and provided updates on efforts to hold NSW Government to account. In particular:

- Members sought Matt Keen's support to advocate for a reduced speed on the Old Pacific Highway. Discussion on the local campaign run to date and the need to improve traffic safety and noise issues on the Old Pacific Highway. 19 crashes with one fatality – Matt announced the NSW Government proposal to lower the speed from 80 to 70 km an hour with support from local police.
- However, Community group advocacy was for 60 kilometres an hour limit and consistency with Mooney Mooney 60 km/h limit. Following discussion, Matt will now write to the Transport Minister advocating for 60 km/h. He will also pursue noise activated cameras as requested by the community as well.
- Community request to possibly ask for police operation for hooning focus on Friday and Saturday night to make a difference - Matt supportive of this and will request of the police.
- Brooklyn Bridge painting scoping - structural issues have been addressed and painting to commence within the next 18 months.
- Communication on the referendum on the 14th of October to change the constitution with better outcomes from Aboriginal people. Matt spoke to this issue and expressed his support for the yes vote.

Nathan Tilbury speaker-update

- Baths - waiting for handrail for accessibility.
- Traffic Lights on Brooklyn Road while road works undertaken. Nathan communicated improved and shortened time when workers aren't there, and the location would move next week anyway. Consideration also given to concerns raised re access for RFS to and from fire station.
- Shared path and boardwalk to Kangaroo Point is out to tender and contracts expected to be signed by the end of the year.
- Football Association and other sporting codes have approached Council to explore the opportunity to use Tom Richmond Oval conditional on improved amenities.

Questions

- Safety issue raised regarding a motor scooter unable to cross safely still lobbying for a crossing at the bridge crossing the rail line (Brooklyn Village).
- Nathan confirmed that a dog park is now not being considered for Salt Pan Creek. It is being created into passive walking area and seating area and does not meet requirements for a dog park.

5. **Expression of interest for a built car park** – The Chair informed the meeting that recently as part of a river collaborative parking group, the Council had approached river communities to propose short expressions of interest for a built car park, and how such a car park might be funded, who it would serve and where it might be located.

The Chair updated the members that the BCA was part of the river collaborative parking group but was never consulted about potential built car park locations that may be identified in any place planning concept plans promoted by Council for consultation and which may occur in 2024. The Chair informed members and residents that it does not support the report or recommendations of this parking collaborative group that had presented to Council and had not been consulted in relation to car park locations. Council's consultations leading to any parking resolutions had explicitly exempted built car parks from consultation. On that basis the BCA consulted the community on carparking options for improved efficiencies but not car park locations. The concept of a car park for 190 cars located behind the toilet facilities opposite the Marina was briefly raised as this had been proposed by the parking collaborative. The Chair identified some concepts were contentious and had not been tested with the Brooklyn community. The proposal opposite the marina for example would require removal of significant tracts of bushland landscaping. Alternatives to a built/leased exclusive use carpark in Brooklyn village raised by Cindy Corkery as Co-Chair of the BCA included the construction of a commercial grade inclinator/elevator which could be complemented by a soft grade boardwalk between lower McKell and Upper McKell Parks. The BCA noted that currently Council's estimated area of land used for car parking and roads is 50,666 m² or 31.64% which currently represents the largest use of land within Brooklyn town centre... greater than the remaining natural area at 26.25% and residential land at 31.01%.

Given timing there was some limited discussion however Councillor Tania Salitra voiced to the Brooklyn community that as a Greens Councillor she would never support removal of landscaping and bushland to support a built car park in such an environmentally sensitive zone and given the significant area of car parking and roads already given over.

6. **General Business:**

- The Chair updated the community on events held – a Sustainability workshop, update from HSC re fishing lines and hooks impacting wildlife and a powerful owl presentation event.
- A commemoration of the Tom Richmond Oval had been held on 27 August with around 40 attending representing federal state and local government, community members and family members. The commemoration was followed by a memorial event for Tom at Estuary.
- The Cottage Report and Events – provided by Di Bowles and tabled.
 - Motion: Vote on proposal to thank council for community cottage and its success proposed Bob Davis and seconded by Anna Jones
- Armistice Day Saturday 11 November 11am event at Cottage. Derek Leslie spoke to this and the work of the local RSL sub-branch fundraising and recent decision to be provided to the cottage in accordance with veterans and families, \$500 to BCA toward Remembrance Day activity with the community. The community and members welcomed this generosity and the committee agreed to consider how this amount might best be utilised towards the benefit of veterans and the community.
- 150th Anniversary of the Brooklyn post service from its establishment on New Year's Day 1874. It commenced as a service to the lower Hawkesbury River communities having several locations over time until the construction of the first official brick building opening in 1914 to serve the broader community.

Suggestions to celebrate the anniversary in 2024 with an event tied in with local efforts and advocacy to restore the financial and postal services which were removed without consultation on Friday 31 March 2023. Members were supportive of such an event.

Next meeting 18th of November with further advice on the date and time of the AGM.

The meeting closed at 12.10pm with refreshments for members and guests.