

**Minutes of Committee Meeting****Coco's House, Banjup****18 November 2013 at 7:30 pm****Present:**

Coco Franklin

Ian Thurston

Neil Raine

Colin Bramwell

Neil Cunliffe-Williams

Rita Zuks

**Apologies**

Dino Elpitelli

Jemma Van Dongen

<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Minute</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Confirmation of minutes of last meeting</b>	
1.1	The minutes of the meeting of 21 October 2013 were confirmed	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	
2.1	The Committee approved payment of \$909 to Neil Williams in respect of signage and printing for the last 5 general meetings.	
2.2	Having paid Neil W's invoice, the BRG now has \$2,740 in funds.	
2.3	The Committee resolved that fees from members should be sought in the new year.	
2.4	Neil R proposed closing the Group's deposit account and consolidating funds into just one account. The Committee agreed.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Goodbye Cockburn</b>	
3.1	The Committee noted the City of Cockburn's campaign to save the city from being "carved up" under the proposed local government amalgamations. The Committee also noted the City's Cockburn Soundings special "Goodbye Cockburn" edition on local government reform that is being sent to all ratepayers.	
3.2	The Committee was of the view that many of the claims made in the "Goodbye Cockburn" pamphlet did not bear close scrutiny, particularly those headed "Gone. Gone. Gone."	

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3.3	The Committee felt that Cockburn would have presented a stronger case if it had not made colourful and easily refuted claims but focused instead on the loss of the Spearwood council offices and depot and the disparity of the GRV rates in the dollar charged by Cockburn (5 cents) and Kwinana (8 cents).	
3.4	<p>The Committee noted that the state government had made provision in its legislation for “rating differences”. In its Local Government Reform Update of 18 November, it stated that</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Regulations under the Local Government Act give the new ongoing local governments extra discretion to use differential rating powers.</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Under the Regulations, they can apply differential rates based on ‘area’ for a period of five years to assist in phasing in any changes.</i></p> <p>This would allow Kwinana’s GRV rates in the dollar to be higher than Cockburn’s for a transitional period of 5 years.</p>	
3.5	The Committee understood informally that the state government acknowledged that excising the Spearwood site from Cockburn was a mistake that would most likely be rectified.	
3.6	The Committee recognised the realities of the local government reform process and the cost efficiencies that it would bring. The Committee saw the merit in an amalgamated Cockburn and Kwinana and the opportunities for improved efficiencies and capabilities, albeit with Cockburn’s Spearwood site within the boundaries of the new entity.	
3.7	Taking all these matters into account, the Committee resolved to take no active involvement in the City of Cockburn’s current campaign.	
3.8	The Committee resolved to write to all members advising that it would take no active involvement but provide a link to Cockburn’s web site where they could subscribe to the campaign if they wish to do so.	
4.	<b>Verge Clearing</b>	
4.1	The Committee noted that, although Cockburn has committed to ‘pruning’ verges this month, it has yet to receive any advice from Cockburn about the members’ request at the October general meeting for Banjup’s verges to be cleared. Until Cockburn’s intentions are clarified, no further action about footpaths can be considered. Ian will press Cockburn further on this.	Ian

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4.2	The Committee resolved to ask Cockburn in future to complete its verge maintenance by 1 November so as to bring it in line with the recently extended Fire Break Period.	Ian
5.	<b>Planning Policy Change</b>	
5.1	The Committee noted Cockburn's proposed planning policy change concerning secondary dwellings in 'Resource' zones, such as Banjup. It resolved to seek clarification about the positioning of a secondary dwelling on a property.	Ian
6.	<b>Footpaths</b>	
6.1	No action can be considered until Cockburn clarifies its verge clearing arrangements.	
7.	<b>Next Year's Committee</b>	
7.1	Most Committee members indicated that they would stand again if needed for the Committee in 2014. However, they recognised the need to ensure that as wide a representation of Banjup's views as possible is needed for the continuing success of the Group. Hence, the Committee resolved to approach several members to ask if they would stand for election at February's AGM.	Ian
7.2	The Committee resolved to include a request for candidates in the next Newsletter.	Jemma
8.	<b>Next Meeting</b>	
8.1	Monday 9 December 2013 at 7:30 pm Tuesday 28 January 2014 at 7:30 pm Venues to be arranged	