

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Colin's House, Banjup

24 September 2015 7:30 pm

Present:

Colin Bramwell

Ian Thurston

Neil Raine

David Beckwith

Erika Antal

Heidi Todorovic

Helen Pavitt

Apologies

Jemma Van Dongen

Ref.	Minute	Action
1.	Confirmation of minutes of last meeting	
1.1	The minutes of the Committee meeting of 24 August 2015 were confirmed.	
2.	Matters Arising	
2.1	Erika will follow up residents' views on pedestrian walkways along Harper Road.	Erika 1 Nov
2.2	The National Garage Sale Day is on Saturday 24 October. Banjup residents will need to register individually at https://garagesaletrail.com.au/user/register?destination=register-sale . The Committee resolved to email members encouraging them to do so.	Ian 1 Oct
3.	David Beckwith	
3.1	David recounted the outcome of his further surgery and good recovery. The Committee congratulated David and wished him well.	
4.	Treasurer's Report	
4.1	Neil reported that the Group has \$1,903.38 in funds.	

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5.	Rates Update	
5.1	Neil reported that the BRG's campaign about the rates problem had been successful and that many Banjup residents would be receiving a refund from the City of Cockburn.	
5.2	Neil, Colin, and Ian had received a briefing from the Cockburn CEO and Finance Manager on 10 September concerning the rates problem. The auditors, Deloitte, had determined that there was a spreadsheet error in calculating the budget required for waste management that had led to an extra \$1.33 million being charged to residential ratepayers.	
5.3	Cockburn will now return \$1.36 million to ratepayers who were over-charged more than the "3.5% average" increase claimed.	
5.4	The Cockburn CEO had said that the error would have been found eventually by the City. Ian had doubts that it would have ever been reported publicly.	
5.5	Apparently, the Cockburn Finance Director, Stuart Downing, was sent on "stress leave" before the Deloitte audit commenced. The CEO said that Downing had refused to acknowledge that there could be an error in his rates calculations.	
5.6	<p>Ian said that he was deeply offended by Cockburn's insinuation that the BRG had falsely represented that the rates had been miscalculated. He referred the Committee to the Cockburn agenda papers and minutes of the council's 10 September meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>"The purpose of its deputation was to present what it <u>purported</u> to be a miscalculation of the rating calculation" – Officer's report to September meeting</i>• "Purported" means to "represent FALSELY"• We said we found it offensive to be so described• <i>"Mr Thurston criticised the officer's report which used the word "purported" ..., <u>claiming</u> that the word has an offensive meaning" – Minutes of September meeting</i> <p>Ian said that the officers gave no acknowledgement that their words were offensive.</p>	
5.7	Ian presented to the meeting a letter from the Cockburn Director of Corporate Governance that stated that <i>"Council wishes to acknowledge the positive contribution made by your organisation during the review"</i> . Ian noted that the letter should more appropriately come from the CEO and should have been on behalf of the City of Cockburn, not just the 10 elected members that comprise the "Council".	

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5.8	In all, the Committee felt that the outcome of the BRG rates campaign had been a success, even though it had been trying for Committee members.	
6.	Emergency Services Levy Again	
6.1	Ian presented a copy of a letter from DFES to the City of Cockburn that reiterated the Department's intent of rezoning Banjup as ESL1.	
6.2	Ian reported that he had spoken to Assistant Commissioner Darren Klemm to clarify the DFES position, which was: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current legislation does not require the availability of reticulated water to be taken into consideration when determining ESL zoning • DFES always attend all Banjup fires • Most fires in Banjup are house fires • Career firemen with breathing apparatus needed to save occupants • Usually enough water on board to extinguish house fire • Banjup getting ESL1 service at ESL3 price 	
6.3	Apparently, the any rezoning will not be proposed until after the new fire station in Success has been commissioned, which could be 2 years hence.	
6.4	The Committee agreed that to be successful in countering the DFES arguments, the BRG would have to demonstrate that some of all of their claims were not supported by facts.	
6.5	These issues will be raised at the general meeting and members' views sought.	All 11 Oct
7.	Banjup & Jandakot Rural Residents Group	
7.1	The Committee agreed that it would be appropriate to extend the scope of the Group's representation to all rural residential properties east of the Freeway. Rural property owners west of the Freeway seemed to have different concerns and had made no contact with BRG during the past 5 years.	
7.2	The Committee resolved to put the matter to the 11 October general meeting with a view of putting a special resolution to the AGM that would seek to change the Articles of Association.	Colin 11 Oct

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8.	DCP House	
8.1	The Committee noted that yet more children were absconding from the DCP house. The Committee resolved to seek a meeting with DCP directors for an explanation of why absconding had increased and to query whether the profile of children at the home had changed.	
8.2	A meeting will be sought for 30 September at 5:30pm at Ian's house. Erika and Helen will attend with Ian.	Ian 25 Sep
9.	Council Elections	
9.1	The Committee resolved not to meet individually with each of the 6 East ward candidates. Instead, they will be invited to attend – but not address – the 11 October meeting.	
9.2	The Committee resolved to email all members recounting the BRG's experiences with candidates. Members could then make up their own minds as for whom to vote.	Ian 26 Sep
10.	Agenda for 11 October General Meeting	
10.1	The Committee resolved to present this agenda at the 11 October meeting: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formalities 2. DCP House 3. Council Elections 4. Planning Matters 5. Making Banjup Better 6. Future of BRG 7. Emergency Services 8. Rates 9. Fire Control Reminder 	
10.2	Making Banjup Better will highlight Erika's work in rejuvenating Banjup bush properties and call for members to become involved. Erika will address the meeting concerning the planting of trees to rehabilitate bush blocks. She will provide the presentation materials to Ian for collation with the other materials.	Erika 9 Oct

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11.	Distribution of Flyers	
12.	Australia Post will deliver flyers to all Banjup properties as 'Unaddressed Mail'. Colin volunteered to do the folding.	Colin 26 Sep
12.1	Jandakot rural properties will have to be hand delivered during the weekend of 3 & 4 October. Neil, Heidi, and Ian volunteered to distribute the flyers. Helen volunteered to do the folding.	Helen 2 Oct
13.	Next Meeting	
13.1	The next Committee meeting will be held on Monday 9 November. Ian kindly offered to host the meeting.	