

Minutes of General Meeting**Banjup Hall****8 March 2015 at 3:00 pm****Committee:**

Present:	Jemma Van Dongen	Neil Raine
	Ian Thurston	Erika Antal
	Stephen Thornton	
Apologies:	Coco Franklin	Sebastian Scata
	Colin Bramwell	

Members:

Present: About 70 members

Guests:

Present:	Mayor Logan Howlett	Chloe Lawrence, Cockburn
	Snr Con Grant Pilgrim	Kate McInnes, DCP

Apologies:	Joe Francis MLA	Deputy Mayor Carol Reeve-Fowkes
	Cllr Steve Portelli	Cllr Yaz Mubarakai

Ref. Minute**1. Confirmation of minutes of last meeting****1.1. Motion:**

The BRG accepts the minutes of the General Meeting held on 14 September 2014, as published on the BRG web site as a true and accurate record

Vote: Passed unanimously

2. Financial Report

2.1. The Financial Report to 6 March 2015 showed a bank balance of \$1994.31

2.2. Motion:

The BRG accepts the Financial Position as reported

Vote: Passed unanimously

Ref. Minute**3. Meeting Signs**

3.1. Jemma Van Dongen asked members if they were content with the flyers and emails promoting the meeting and whether the timing of the meeting was convenient.

By acclamation, the members indicated that the current arrangements were satisfactory.

4. Elections

4.1. All positions were declared vacant and elections were held.

4.2. President

Colin Bramwell and Abby Smith nominated. Colin was elected with a substantial majority.

4.3. Vice President

Ian Thurston and Abby Smith nominated.

Before the vote Ian asked that members vote for him only if they wanted him to continue taking a firm line with state and local government and other parties and to continue to be strong on members' behalf.

Ian was elected with a substantial majority.

4.4. Secretary

Abby Smith nominated. Abby was elected unopposed.

4.5. President

Neil Raine nominated. Neil was elected unopposed.

4.6. Committee

These members were elected unopposed:

- David Beckwith
- Helen Pavitt
- Heidi Todorovic
- Jemma Van Dongen
- Erika Antal

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| 5. | Banjup Fire Anniversary |
| 5.1. | Neil Raine recounted the story of the Banjup fire one year ago and complimented all the fire fighters on their efforts. |
| 5.2. | Although many Banjup houses were saved by men on the ground with hoses because the smoke was too thick for water bombing pilots to see through, some houses were, in fact, saved by water bombing. |
| 5.3. | The Banjup Residents Group presented a plaque of appreciation to the Captain of the Jandakot Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, Shane Harris, in recognition of the fire fighters' magnificent efforts in the Banjup Fire of 3 February 2014. |
| 5.4. | Shane thanked the BRG for the plaque. He went on to say that the Jandakot Brigade of 65 members was experiencing its busiest fire season ever. The Brigade had been called out to 85 fires across the state so far this season. |
| 6. | Murdoch Police |
| 6.1. | Senior Constable Grant Pilgrim told the meeting of the role of Local Policing Team 1 based at Murdoch Police Station. The Team of 6 is led by Sergeant Mollie Davies. Grant said that the Team's was focussed on community relations but would often be involved in apprehending miscreants. |
| 6.2. | Grant encouraged residents to contact police on 131 444 with any information that could be useful to Police, no matter how minor it might seem. |
| 6.3. | Members were concerned about children absconding from the DCP home and committing crimes. Some specific instances were mentioned. It was agreed to take these matters up subsequent to the meeting. |
| 7. | Local Government Reform |
| 7.1. | Ian Thurston advised members that as the local government reforms had been abandoned by the state government, there would be no new City of Jervoise Bay and no elections to that council. |
| 7.2. | Mayor Logan Howlett advised members that elections for 5 councillors for the retained City of Cockburn would be held in October this year. |

- Ref. Minute**
8. **Banjup Fire Aftermath**
- 8.1. Ian Thurston spoke about the patchy recovery of woodland from the February fire.
- 8.2. Ian quoted DPaW and Cockburn statistics to demonstrate that fuel loads remained dangerously high in Cockburn's reserves. He observed that Cockburn had done nothing to reduce fuel loads in Banjup over the past year.
- 8.3. Again using materials published by Cockburn, Ian observed that extreme fire risks were buried deep in complex documents and not readily visible to councillors or to ratepayers. Ian proposed to the meeting that Cockburn council meeting agendas should include risk management as an explicit item.
- 8.4. **Motion:**
The BRG requests the City of Cockburn councillors present here to move a motion at their March meeting to have Risk Management an explicit item on their regular Council meeting agenda
Vote: Passed unanimously
- 8.5. Mayor Howlett was asked to support the motion. He said that there were no councillors present so the motion was not relevant to him as he was the Mayor.
- 8.6. The motion was then re-worded.
Motion:
The BRG requests the City of Cockburn Mayor to move a motion at the March council meeting to have Risk Management an explicit item on the regular Council meeting agenda
Vote: Passed unanimously
- 8.7. Mayor Howlett was asked to support the revised motion. He said that he would consider it and seek the advice of "Administration".
- 8.8. When pressed further, Mayor Howlett said that "*a lot of incorrect information had been presented*" and he was reluctant to proceed with the BRG motion. He asked if the BRG members had seen the presentation materials before and if they supported them.
Note: After the meeting Mayor Howlett conceded that the "*incorrect information*" to which he was referring was only the October election and that he is not a councillor but the Mayor.

- Ref. Minute**
- 8.9. Heidi Todorovic spoke from the floor to say that, even if the information shown was incorrect, would the Mayor look around him in Banjup and see the risks for himself and explain why he would not support putting extreme risks to lives and property on the regular council agenda. The Mayor declined to reply.
9. **Fire Control**
- 9.1. Ian Thurston led a discussion about what fire control orders would be most practical for Banjup. Many members indicated that they routinely ignored the fire permit condition to have at least 3 people at a bonfire. None reported that they had been refused a fire permit for a bonfire because of smoke concerns. Many members were of the view that needing a fire permit in winter was pointless. Most members were unconcerned about the length of the fire break period.
- 9.2. Members expressed their support for residents' representation on Cockburn's Bush Fire Reference Group.
- 9.3. **Motion:**
The BRG directs its Committee to press for these fire control arrangements:
- No permits June July August
 - 2 people at a bonfire less than 6 cu metres
 - Representation on Reference Group
- Vote: Passed unanimously
10. **Planting Day**
- 10.1. Erika Antal described the arrangements that she has made to assist Banjup residents in planting native species on their properties.
- 10.2. 2,000 seedlings have been propagated and will be ready for planting in June or July, depending on rainfall.
- 10.3. Erika has organised volunteers to plant the seedlings. There will be no charge to the property owner for labour or materials.
- 10.4. Residents were encouraged to contact Erika to register their interest. She can be contacted on 0412 949 060 or at erikaantal11@gmail.com
11. **Heavy Trucks on Banjup's Roads**
- 11.1. Ian Thurston led a discussion on the use by heavy vehicles of Liddelow and Beenyup Roads. Cockburn traffic engineers had advised in writing that the number of vehicles was "acceptable" for a "Regional Distributor" road.

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| 11.2. | Members agreed that Banjup roads were being used as “rat runs” to avoid traffic lights and congestion at the Freeway and Armadale Road. |
| 11.3. | Members were concerned that Liddelow Road was classified by Cockburn council as a ‘Regional Distributor’ road and so liable for heavy truck use. Reclassifying Liddelow Road as a ‘Local Distributor’ road would allow for traffic calming measures that would discourage heavy truck traffic. |
| 11.4. | Reclassification of Liddelow Road could take some time, so for the short term members discussed traffic calming measures that might discourage heavy truck usage of Banjup roads. |
| 11.5. | <p>Motion:</p> <p>The BRG requests the City of Cockburn Mayor to move a motion at the March council meeting to reclassify Liddelow and Beenyup Roads as “Local Distributors”</p> <p>Vote: Passed unanimously</p> |
| 11.6. | The Mayor said that he would take up the matter with “Administration”. He would commit no further. |
| 12. | Other Business |
| 12.1. | 341 Beenyup Road |
| 12.1.1. | Members asked Mayor Howlett why Cockburn’s planning regulations had seemingly been ignored by the owner of 341 Beenyup Road. They were concerned that the development of the property was inconsistent with others in Banjup, whose owners had been compelled to adhere rigorously to planning regulations. |
| 12.1.2. | Mayor Howlett said that the matter had not been put before Council and that he had not been briefed on the matter. The Mayor was aware that a Direction Notice to stop work had been issued. |
| 12.1.3. | Ian Thurston advised members comprehensively about what had been approved by Cockburn and what the owner had done, nevertheless. Ian also outlined the action that Cockburn was taking to ensure compliance with its directives. |

Ref. Minute**12.2. Night Time Jet Departures from Perth Airport**

12.2.1. Members had read a report in the Sunday Times that the routes of night time departures of jets from Perth Airport would soon be changed and would involve them turning over Jandakot Airport.

12.2.2. Ian Thurston referred members to the proposal published by Air Services Australia on their web site at: <http://www.airservicesaustralia.com/projects/flight-path-changes/perth-noise-improvements-2015/>

13. Next Meeting

13.1. Provisionally, Sunday 7 June 2015 at Banjup Hall but watch the web site!

Note The presentation materials used during the meeting are available for downloading on the Banjup Residents Group's web site at:
<http://banjup.webs.com/meetingsminutes.htm>

The video of the February 2014 fire can be seen at:
<http://banjup.webs.com/Banjup%20Fires/BRG%2020140203%201200%20Banjup%20Fire%20news%20footage.mp4>