

Minutes of General Meeting**Banjup Hall****27 October 2013 at 3:00 pm****Committee:**

Present:	Coco Franklin	Ian Thurston
	Neil Raine	Colin Bramwell
	Neil Cunliffe-Williams	Dino Elpitelli
	Jemma Van Dongen	

Apologies:	Ron Arnold	Rita Zuks
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Members:

Present:	About 100 members
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Guests:

Present:	Mayor Logan Howlett	Cllr Yaz Mubarakai
	Adam Harris, Environmental Officer, City of Cockburn	Steve Edwards, Wild Things Animal Control Solutions

Apologies:	Joe Francis MLA	Cllr Steve Portelli
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Ref. Minute**1. Confirmation of minutes of last meeting**

1.1. Minutes posted on BRG web site - No comments received

1.2. Motion:

The BRG accepts the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 13 June 2013 as a true and accurate record

- Vote: Passed unanimously

2. Financial Report

2.1. The Financial Report to 27 October showed a bank balance of \$2,736.

- Ref. Minute**
- 2.2. **Motion:**
The BRG accepts the Financial Position as reported
- Vote: Passed unanimously
3. **Feral Animal Control**
- 3.1. City of Cockburn environmental staff and contractor spoke about control of feral animals in Banjup, particularly foxes, rabbits, and cats.
- 3.2. The City of Cockburn has an annual budget of \$42,000 for the control of feral pests across the city. BRG members pressed the councillors present to increase the budget in the coming year. The budget is mostly spent on trapping, baiting, and burrow destruction in Cockburn reserves. No budget is allowed for feral animal control on private property. In comparison, it is understood that the state Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPAW) has a budget allocation of only \$1,000 for the control of feral animals in its reserves in Banjup.
- 3.3. Cockburn's environmental staff are keen to work with residents to improve the overall control of feral animals in Banjup. Adam Harris would welcome residents' reports of feral animal activity on or near their properties. Adam can be contacted at:
- Adam Harris | Environmental Officer
City of Cockburn
Phone: 9411 3584
Mobile: 0417 524 879
Email: adamh@cockburn.wa.gov.au
- 3.4. Residents with a smart phone that has an inbuilt GPS can take a photo of a possible burrow or den and email it to Adam Harris. From the data embedded automatically in the photo, Adam can identify the exact location.
- 3.5. Steve Edwards can be contracted by a group of residents to eliminate problem feral animals in their area. Steve can be contacted at:
- Steve Edwards
Wild Things Animal Control Solutions
Phone: 0403 933 077
Email: s.edwards@animalsolutions.net.au
4. **Fire Safety**
- 4.1. Ian Thurston described how the '5 metre Rule' had been adopted by Cockburn Council and then rescinded by them after a deputation to September's council meeting by members of the BRG committee. .

- Ref. Minute**
- 4.2. Ian noted that BRG committee members had been in almost weekly contact with Cockburn staff over the past few months. At a meeting with Don Green, the Director of Community Services, it had been agreed that better outcomes could be achieved if Cockburn involved Banjup residents early in the development of policy initiatives. This had come to nothing and committee members had become very frustrated by the attitude of Cockburn staff.
- 4.3. Cockburn's Bush Fire Reference Group makes recommendations to council about fire management in the City. No residents of rural areas are represented at the Reference Group and yet they are often the most affected by the Group's recommendations. Recent tensions between Cockburn and Banjup had largely come about because of this lack of representation at this policy making Group. The Mayor said in reply that other of the City's reference groups had community representation. He suggested that the BRG write to Cockburn's CEO asking for representation on the Bush Fire Reference Group.
- 4.4. Ian presented photos showing overgrown verges along many of Banjup's streets. It seemed that verge maintenance had not been performed for several years. The growth was clearing a fire hazard and several members spoke in favour of pressing Cockburn to clear completely the verges of scrub growth.
- 4.5. **Motion:**
1. The BRG seeks representation on the Bush Fire Reference Group
 2. The BRG urges Cockburn to clear Banjup's roadside verges
- Vote: Passed unanimously
- 4.6. Ian noted that this week was 'Bush Fire Action Week'. He urged Banjup residents to prepare for what could be a very severe fire season. Each member present was given a cardboard sheet issued by DFES upon which to write down their specific 'Bush Fire Survival Plan'. The sheet should be attached to each household's refrigerator.
5. **Banjup Development**
- 5.1. Jemma Van Dongen reported that the Department of Planning had been waiting for further information from the Department of Water about their intended use of the Jandakot Water Mound. That information should by now have been provided and would have been included with the DoP's recommendations to the WAPC.
- 5.2. At its end of November meeting, the WAPC will consider the recommendations for the future planning guidance for the Jandakot Water Mound. Whether the WAPC will make a decision at that meeting is not clear. Even if they do, the timetable for making public announcements is not clear, either.

Ref. Minute

- 5.3. The committee of the BRG will maintain contact with the DoP and will advise members as soon as there is anything material to tell.
- 5.4. While the DoP and WAPC are coming to their decision, the BRG committee has not been pressing the suggestion to double Banjup's housing density. This can be reviewed at the BRG Annual General Meeting in February.

6. Footpaths

- 6.1. Coco Franklin reminded members how in 2012 Cockburn Council had voted \$350,000 to build 4 km of footpaths in Banjup. They were to run alongside Beenyup from Tapper to Gaebler. Paths were also to be built along the length of Gaebler and along Gibbs Road west. However, Cockburn had spent \$50,000 on a feasibility study that had found there was insufficient budget to provide appropriate drainage for the envisaged paths.
- 6.2. Cockburn now proposes that \$273,000 be spent on a single 1.4 km footpath along Gibbs Road. This would be consistent with the 'Trails Master Plan' and would create a continuous path from Thomsons Lake to the De Young reserve. Cockburn further proposes that just \$35,000 be spent on 'pruning' verges.
- 6.3. Members debated whether this footpath should be built or whether the \$300,000 remaining would be better spent clearing Banjup's street verges of fire hazards. Most members were in favour of hazard reduction but recognised that this was an operational responsibility of the council anyway and the capital budget should not be raided.
- 6.4. Eventually, it was agreed that Cockburn be asked to clarify what it would do about verge clearing and what funds it would use to achieve it. Only then could residents determine how best they considered the \$300,000 should be spent. The Mayor assured members that the money had been assigned specifically to Banjup and would not be returned to its general funds.

7. Aircraft Noise

- 7.1. Dino Elpitelli reported on the difficulties he had in making any headway on mitigating aircraft noise nuisance with airport operators, Air Services Australia, and the Civil Aviation Authority.
- 7.2. Dino said that the Jandakot Airport Community Aviation Consultation Group had proved ineffective in resolving nearby residents' concerns. The Commonwealth MHR, Melissa Clarke, never attended meetings of the Group and Cockburn's councillor Smith seldom attended.
- 7.3. Dino said that until some 'big guns' took up the matter residents would continue to be ignored.

- Ref. Minute**
- 7.4. Some debate ensued about the flight paths of jets bound for Perth Airport whereby they turned right over Banjup causing considerable noise nuisance. Again, no-one at the Commonwealth level seemed interested in changing anything.
8. **Other Business**
- 8.1. None
9. **Next Meeting**
- 9.1. Provisionally, Sunday 23 February 2014 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>