

Minutes of General Meeting**Banjup Hall****11 October 2015 at 3:00 pm****Committee:**

Present: Colin Bramwell Neil Raine
Ian Thurston Erika Antal
Heidi Todorovic Helen Pavitt
David Beckwith

Apologies: Jemma Van Dongen

Members:

Present: About 75 members

Guests:

Present: Mayor Logan Howlett

Apologies: Joe Francis MLA
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 21 June 2015, 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 9 October 2015 showed a bank balance of \$1802.32

2.2. Motion:

The BRG accepts the Financial Position as reported

Vote: Passed unanimously

Ref. Minute**3. DCP House**

- 3.1. Helen Pavitt briefly described the purpose and operation of the DCP house. She said that Committee members had met with Directors and Managers of the DCP and had been assured that the profile of the children residing at the house had changed little since the house was opened 4 years ago.
- 3.2. At that meeting the DCP said that, while absconding from the DCP's care did occur, it was no more frequent than previously. Banjup residents were now more informed about absconding because the DCP now alerted the BRG about any child who was absent for more than 24 hours.
- 3.3. Children who absconded typically did so from school or outings rather than from the DCP house in Banjup and so were not likely to be roaming Banjup streets.
- 3.4. Usually, Police return absconders to the Banjup house with 24 hours of their absence being notified. Police might attend the Banjup house weekly in this regard.
- 3.5. Banjup residents who see unaccompanied children on Banjup streets are encouraged to telephone the DCP house on 9499 1084.

4. Council Elections

- 4.1. Colin Bramwell spoke about the forthcoming elections for 2 East ward councillors. He welcomed 2 of the candidates who were in attendance at the meeting.
- 4.2. Colin said that Banjup needed Councillors that listened to us and respected us. He encouraged BRG members to make up their own minds and to cast their votes.

5. Planning Matters

- 5.1. Ian Thurston summarised the statuses of the several planning matters that currently affect Banjup and its surrounds. They included:
- Treeby as the new locality
 - Banjup / Jandakot boundary changes
 - 341 Beenyup Road
 - Airport land clearance
 - Calleya structure plan
 - Armadale Road upgrade
 - Rezoning 821 Armadale Road
 - Perth @ 3.5 Million and the future of north Banjup and Jandakot

- Ref. Minute**
- 5.2. Ian asked members if they wanted to make a submission on the proposed rezoning of 821 Armadale Road. As the precedent had already been set by Stockland's Calleya development, no members could envisage a strong case that could be mounted and so there was general agreement NOT to make a submission.
6. **Making Banjup Better**
- 6.1. Erika Antal presented possibilities for residents to make Banjup better, including:
- Banjup garage sale 24 October
 - Share bush management ideas
 - Share fire control ideas
 - Identify native and exotic plants
 - Facilitate bulk purchases (eg Fusilade)
 - Garden open days
- 6.2. Erika went on to describe the extensive planting of native species in 4 properties that have been burned in the 2014 bush fire. Erika is seeking more properties for planting next year.
7. **Future of Banjup Residents Group**
- 7.1. Colin Bramwell sought members' views on changing the BRG's Articles of Association to include rural property owners in Jandakot as well as in Banjup.
- 7.2. There was some discussion about whom the BRG represented. Some members were concerned that many property owners put development above conservation. This refuted, citing the 2 contradictory submissions made by the BRG concerning Stockland's Banjup Quarry proposal. The BRG strives not to divide the community but to give voice to different opinions.
- 7.3. A member suggested that urban landowners in Calleya and Jandakot should have a say in the management of rural landowners' properties but this received no support.
- 7.4. **Motion:**
BRG members request their Committee to call for a special resolution at the next AGM with a view to extending membership of the Group to Jandakot rural residents.
Vote: Passed unanimously

- Ref. Minute**
8. **Emergency Services**
- 8.1. Colin Bramwell reported that DFES would continue to press for Banjup to be zoned ESL1. However, any change would not occur until the new Success fire station is commissioned, which could be 2 years hence.
- 8.2. Colin said DFES' argument was that the career firemen always attended every Banjup fire and so Banjup residents were receiving an ESL1 service at a ESL3 price.
- 8.3. Colin asked if any members could suggest a winning argument to counter DFES' intention. No-one could. However, an important provision was suggested.
- 8.4. **Motion:**
BRG members accede to the DFES proposal on the provision that DFES trucks attending a Banjup structure fire have a greater water carting capacity or have the facility to draw water from properties' rain water tanks in order to fight house fires.
Vote: Passed unanimously
9. **Rates**
- 9.1. Ian Thurston summarised the successful campaign to get the City of Cockburn to recognise that there was a problem with the 2015/16 rate setting and then to have it resolved.
- 9.2. Ian reminded members of the unfounded assurances by Cockburn's Finance Director that he was right in saying that the average rise was 3.5% and that the BRG was wrong in saying the rise was double that.
- 9.3. Ian listed the main events in the campaign and said that Cockburn had been in denial of the rates problem for 2 months until the end of August, when an external review of the rate setting was undertaken.
- 9.4. The review found that average rate rise across Cockburn was 6.4%; the average rise in Banjup was 12%.
- 9.5. The review found that a spreadsheet error had caused the rubbish collection budget to be over-estimated by \$1.33 million which would now be returned to ratepayers either by a credit to their account or by a bank transfer of cash.

- Ref. Minute**
- 9.6. Ian said that the BRG:
- Demonstrated that persistence pays
 - Was pleased with the outcome of the review and the refund to ratepayers
 - Had been applauded by Councillors at their September meeting
 - Had received a letter from Cockburn Council acknowledging our contribution
- 9.7. However, Ian said that the Committee was disappointed that Cockburn's administrators persisted in being offensive to the Group by implying in their report and in council minutes at we had **falsely** represented the rates problem.
- 9.8. Ian went on to say that the council officers had been very difficult to deal with and that they did not like to have been shown to have made a mistake.
- 9.9. Members asked the Mayor why it had taken over 2 months for Cockburn to respond to the BRG's assertion that there was an error in the rates. The Mayor replied that councillors had pressed the officers several times on the matter but under the Local Government Act elected members could not instruct the administrators on what to do.
- 9.10. Members thanked the Committee wholeheartedly for their efforts in getting the rates problem recognised and resolved.
- 9.11. **Motion:**
- a. The BRG welcomes Cockburn's refund of rates over-payments
 - b. The BRG requests the Mayor and councillors to encourage council officers to listen more to ratepayers and their concerns
- Vote: Passed unanimously
10. **Next Annual General Meeting**
- 10.1. Provisionally, Sunday 7 February 2016 at Banjup Hall but watch the web site!