

Strathewen Community Renewal Association

Committee Meeting No. 1 Tuesday 30 June 2009 White House, 965 Strathewen Road Strathewen

MINUTES

ITEM 1 ATTENDANCE – 7:10 pm

Present:

Committee Members: Karl Apted, Mary Avola, Darren Bradshaw, David Brown, Matthew Gravette, Malcolm Hackett, Peter Jenkinson, Peter McLennan, Steve Pascoe, Georgina Robertson Stecher, Bronwyn South, Dennis Spooner

Ex-officio Members: Ben Pollard (Community Planning Coordinator -Nillumbik Shire Council)

Apologies: None

ITEM 2 REPORT FROM RETURNING OFFICER

Ben Pollard reported that the vote counting was done by the Nillumbik Shire Governance Group. Community scrutineers in attendance were Bronwyn South and Dennis Spooner. 196 voting envelopes were opened, although some of these only contained membership forms. All votes were valid.

Ben raised the issue of whether the vote count should be published. Ben indicated that he would have told nominees.

It was resolved to discuss this at the next meeting after Members have had a chance to ask other nominees how they feel. There is a democratic principle to this but sensitivities to take into account as well.

ITEM 3 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Ben Pollard acted as returning officer. All positions were filled unopposed.

Chair: Malcolm Hackett

Vice-chair: Steve Pascoe

Secretary: Dennis Spooner

Treasurer: Bronwyn South

Actions:

- Bronwyn will prepare a brief article introducing the new committee for the website and the Community Newsletter.
- Ben will include an article in the next Nillumbik Recovery Bulletin.

ITEM 4 INCORPORATION

Now that the Association has office bearers it can be registered.

Actions:

- David will register the Association.

ITEM 5 CONDUCT OF THE COMMITTEE

Role statements for officeholders need to be developed.

A **code of conduct** for committee members needs to be agreed on. The Australian Institute of Company Directors Code of Conduct was tabled for members to consider.

A draft **Terms of reference** was tabled for consideration. This is a working document and changes do not need to be reflected in the rules of the Association. It was agreed that we need clear objectives when reporting to the Community.

Actions:

- The above issues will be finalised after Members have had time to consider them.

ITEM 6 DEVELOPING A SHARED VISION

Members were asked to identify issues the Committee must consider:

- Information on rebuilding
- Temporary housing on residents' properties
- Identifying offers of help
- Memorial garden
- Community facilities plan
- Communications – information board, texting, newsletter, website
- Management of donations
- Developing a shared vision with the Community
- Financial management and operational funds for the Committee
- Advocacy list – provide assistance using collective learning
- Economies of scale – for example, bulk buying materials, group submissions
- Management of finances
- Land management
- Management of the Community's relationship with external agencies
- Class Action
- Pastoral support for residents – ensuring needs are identified
- Support for businesses in area
- Social opportunities
- Liaising with Community groups – tennis, cricket, school, hall and landcare.

The following operational requirements were also identified:

- Meeting start time and length
- Letterhead
- Agency liaison
- Telstra phone(s) for spokesperson(s)
- PO Box for Association
- Meeting space
- Bank account
- Meeting schedule
- Membership
- Internet site
- Message texting service
- General meetings
- 'Who does what'

The following focus areas were suggested:

- Communications and engagement
- Fund raising
- Building facilitation
- Grants and disbursement of funds
- Liaison with government and other agencies
- Community vision plan

Actions:

- Committee members to engage with the Community on these issues.
- Bronwyn to send a text to promote Community engagement with all committee members.

ITEM 7 FINANCES

Malcolm reported that approximately \$420,000 is being held for Strathewen by the Bendigo Bank.

Georgina reported that depositing donations with the Bendigo Bank and making sure they are directed to Strathewen is a very difficult process.

Actions:

- Malcolm and Bronwyn will engage with the Bendigo Bank to understand the status of the Strathewen recovery fund, open an operational account and streamline the process for depositing donations for Strathewen.

ITEM 8 COMMUNITY FACILITY

Ben Pollard reported on the status of the Australand offer to construct a community facility.

- Australand has made an offer to construct one facility – not necessarily in Strathewen. The value of the offer is approximately \$600,000.

- The Department of Sport & Recreation held a meeting with Australand in an attempt to commit them to Strathewen.
- The Department of Sport & Recreation then called a meeting with Nillumbik and the Department of Planning and Community Development. They want to construct some type of facility at the Strathewen Oval by the end of the year.
- Last night (Monday 29th June) Ben called a meeting with representatives from the Community. Steve Hayley (hall committee) and Glen Jenkins (cricket club) attended. The Australand plans for the proposed facility were tabled. It is a large, flat roofed, rectangular structure clad in corrugated iron. The interior is open plan and fitted out according to the purpose of the building.
- The 2 Strathewen sports clubs (tennis and cricket) have already received a \$100,000 grant each. \$20,000 has been spent on a retaining wall to keep ash of the oval.
- The facility being proposed for the school is a multi-purpose room and not suitable for community events.
- Australand is seeking a response to their proposal by this Friday (July 3rd).
- A meeting will be called by Nillumbik for this Friday July 3rd. Attending will be representatives from VBRR, Dept Sport & Recreation, Dept of Education, Dept Human Services, Dept Planning & Community Development and Australand.

Discussion was wide ranging and included the following issues:

- What community facilities are already on offer to Strathewen?
- What about planning and land use concerns ?
- Should we be considering the aesthetics of the building?
- What is the potential use?
- Can Australand build an alternative structure?
- Can this proceed before the Hall Committee has held an AGM and formed an executive? (Committee members offered to assist the Hall Committee with its AGM if they so require.)

It was resolved that the Committee could not commit to any facility at this stage.

Actions:

- Malcolm, Peter, Dennis and Matthew will attend the meeting on Friday. Glen Jenkins from the Cricket Club will also be there.

ITEM 9 ROAD SEALING

Ben reported that Nillumbik's budget includes funds to seal Chadds Creek Road up to the oval.

ITEM 10 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 7th July 2009.

It was resolved to start the meeting at 7:30 PM and to close it at 10:00 PM.

The meeting was closed at **10:30 pm**