

Minutes of the meeting of HBVA CCB 2nd December 2017 in Erowal Bay Hall

27 members attended the meeting . Apologies were received from 17members.

Mark Crowther stood in as chairperson of the meeting to assist the president, Morgan Sant, as he has hearing issues. The meeting was opened at 3.01pm.

The chairman welcomed attendees and noted that no councillors were present. He also sadly noted the deaths of three members since the last meeting, Jim McCulloch, Alan Veitch and most recently Graham Sawbridge.

1 Minutes of Previous meeting.

The minutes of both the General Meeting and the AGM held on September 9th 2017 had been circulated previously:

Motion to approve: moved Michele Schlosser ; seconded Vicki Fortescue and approved unanimously.

2 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3 Treasurers report

Vicki Fortescue, the treasurer reported that the CBA account now stood at \$2,718.09 after expenses of \$39.90 for the hire of the hall and the addition of \$500 CCB funding and \$200 held for the Bushcare group for plants in the autumn. The term deposit stood at \$10,695.25 after interest of \$54.57 had been added.

Motion to approve was accepted. It was moved by Vicki Fortescue and seconded by Di Moller

4 Presidents report

Morgan Sant reported on the recent meeting with all the council staff responsible for the management of the summer tourist peak. Five members of the executive attended the meeting which addressed a wide range of issues. Outcomes are summarised below.

a. Traffic Management

- i. Extra casual rangers to be employed until the end of January
- ii. Tourism officers will be at the end of Booderee to help spread traffic
- iii. Ramp Beach road to be closed
- iv. Council acknowledged the need for a designated council vehicle space at the northern end of village
- v. Variable Message Board on Naval College Road to be updated regularly when messages are sent into council to the head ranger by rangers on site. Council raised the possibility of introducing a default message at the end of each day to state **NO OVERNIGHT CAMPING ALLOWED IN HYAMS BEACH.** This was unanimously supported by the CCB in a motion moved by Michele Schlosser and seconded by Ken Renwick.

b. Safety

- i. The soft rock cliffs above Chinamans beach down which a number of dangerous tracks have become established will be fenced off with a post and wire fence.
- ii. A pedestrian path from Little Hyams to Chinamans Beach cannot be prepared before Christmas but an ad hoc group should work with council to ensure the planning and construction in the longer term. An interim measure may be for a soft surface path.
- iii. The uneven and eroded steps down to Chinamans, council was asked to provide fill for these
- iv. Fires on Beaches ring RFS, Police and or triple O. Rangers will be on duty from 6.0am to 9.0pm but officially can only enforce in council areas.

- c. *Facilities*
 - i. Extra toilets to be installed
 - ii. Extra bins and collections to begin immediately
- d. *Camping*
 - i. Council has a motion re camping at Bendelong which could help us too
 - ii. Note rangers on duty until 9.0pm so cars and campers still there at 6.0am have clearly spent the night.
 - iii. Our Fireshed has been attracting campers who have accessed the toilets so council has now boarded these up
- e. **NB council officers are doing their best to help us through this period so MUST always be spoken to kindly and offered all assistance in doing their duty, parking spots, toilets, refreshments etc. Some residents have not always been as thoughtful.**
- f. HBVA again raised the case for a long term solution to the growing problem of the mismatch between visitor numbers and village capacity. It was pointed out that up to 90 per cent of visitors depart without finding anywhere to park. This causes dissatisfaction for them as well as inconvenience to the village. In response, Council again stated that it still cannot offer any long term solution to this ever growing issue, arguing a lack of funds.

Mark Crowther thanked Morgan Sant and David Campbell for the work they are doing with council.

5 Water Issues

Michele Schlosser has been discussing with Shoalhaven Water the dangerous problem of variable water pressure which particularly but not exclusively affects residents of Illarra Lane. She reported that staff of SW have been very helpful and have released a pressure valve and now all seems well. Any further issues should be reported to Michele for follow up if necessary. Shoal haven Water would come out and talk to a CCB meeting if requested. Michele **moved a vote of thanks to Shoalhaven Water for their helpful response**, seconded Lois Johnson.

6 Environmental Group

Vicki Fortescue apologised for cancelling the arranged meeting due to family issues. She proposed an informal meeting to look at and prioritise actions in the strategic plan in late January. Jenny Rutherford spoke briefly on Mynah birds, making two points: firstly they like areas cleared of native vegetation; and secondly nesting sites such as in roof cavities should be blocked off. David Campbell read out extracts from the Council press release making the same point.

7. Dog Issues

Michele Schlosser, following issues with aggressive and over-boisterous dogs on the beach, had arranged with council for more prominent signs that dogs are only permitted on leash on Seamans Beach - one for the carpark and for a further one at the southern entrance. It was suggested that rental properties that permit dogs should also have a note that there are no off leash beaches in the village.

8 Miscellaneous Issues from the Secretary

David Campbell reported on several issues

- a. *Camping* and the proposal for an electronic sign stating **NO CAMPING** at Bendelong could also work for us, at virtually no cost to Council, given that an electronic sign is to be installed for traffic management reasons. Plus the proposal for rangers to note which campers and cars are present at both at 9.0pm and still there the following morning so can be booked.
- b. *Silver Strand bank* Great work done by bush care group and volunteers in planting, watering, mulching and weeding - a great example of a successful community effort.

- c. *Shuttle Bus Council* is providing a free shuttle bus service from Basin View to Huskisson from 9.45 to 2.15, operating in a continuous loop. It may add Hyams Beach and Green Fields Beach to the loop.
- d. *Fire Brigade*. Hyams Beach now has 3 members of the Crossroads fire brigade all qualified as both bushfire and village fire fighters. Only one member is from Vincentia and all the remaining crew are from Sanctuary Point and Erowal Bay There has been a problem in some trucks in finding the location of the fire so a request has been made for two GPS units for the two bigger trucks. HBVA and Vincentia CCBs have been approached to buy, between them, one unit at \$599. Their respective executives have agreed, subject to general meeting endorsement. So he requested that the membership ratify this agreement as the Vincentia membership will also be asked at their December 14 meeting. It was agreed that HBVA would contribute as proposed. Funding for the second unit would be sought from individual contributions.
- e. *Ranger Funding* Council has allocated \$50 000 for dealing with the summer peak but should be encouraged to develop a more holistic costing taking into account the revenue gained from fines.

9 Other Business

Michele Schlosser informed the meeting that photos of illegally parked cars could be sent to Council which might use them to issue fines.

Pam Stanley also suggested that phone messages to the after hours number at Council (44213100) would be emailed to rangers and they will come and deal with the problem of illegal overnight camping.

Paul Gandel inquired about NBN experiences. David Schlosser and Graham Stone reported excellent speeds. The new node is reportedly good for about 960 metres with little attenuation, provided that the copper wire is still good. Norm Stanley expects that the speed he could get would be slower as the copper was less good.

Mark Crowther reported on the Council decision (7 votes to 5) to put the next 13.2% rate increase to IPART for approval. This follows on from the increase of 13.2% in 2017). He noted that council made \$38 million last year and that there were a record number of complaints to IPART.

Next General Meeting: date in February 2018 to be determined

The meeting closed at 4.08 and everyone was invited to enjoy the subsequent social gathering.