

Greenwich Community Association General Meeting

Held at Greenwich Memorial Community Hall, Greenwich Road
9 December 2015

Minutes of Meeting

The meeting opened at 7:35pm

Present: As per the attendance book

1) Welcome

President Tom Gervay chaired the meeting and welcomed all members of the Greenwich community attending.

2) Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Pam Palmer, Michael Ryland, Liz Gill, Ian Meller and Helen Smith.

3) Confirmation of Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the GCA General Meeting held 21 October 2015 were tabled.

Motion: The minutes are accepted.

Moved by Merri Southwood, seconded by Liz Walton and passed.

4) Matters arising from the Minutes

Any matters arising from the minutes were discussed during the meeting.

5) Report on the Activities of the Association

a) President's Report

The President noted that the activities of the GCA would be discussed separately under the agenda items during the meeting.

b) Secretary's Report

Since the General Meeting held on 21 October 2015 the following correspondence has been received:

<i>Date</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>Subject</i>
19 October 2015	Mark Gifford Chief Environmental Regulator, Environment Protection Authority	Response to GCA letter of 28 September 2015
October 2015	Joe Hockey MP	Report Card document on the Joe Hockey Years

20 October 2015	CPS General Insurance Agencies	Business Insurance Policy has lapsed
9 November 2015	Email from Samantha Hall, EA to Mark Gifford EPA	Acknowledgement of receipt of GCA Submission to EPA Review of Licence 661 Part 1
12 November 2015	The Hon Anthony Roberts MP	Response to GCA letter Ongoing Issues with Viva Energy Australia Gore Bay Terminal, enclosing letter dated 6 November 2015 to AR from Mark Speakman Minister of the Environment on the Viva Energy Gore Bay Terminal.
25 November 2015	Greg Sheehy, NSW Environment Protection Authority	EPA Confirm receipt of GCA submission. EPA expect that any amended licence conditions will be issued in early 2016

The following correspondence has been sent:

<i>Date</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Subject</i>
23 October 2015	Greg Sheehy, NSW Environment Protection Authority	Letter of thanks for attending GCA General Meeting, 21 October 2015
9 November 2015	By Email: Mark Gifford Chief Environmental Regulator, Environment Protection Authority	GCA Submission to EPA Review of Licence 661 Part 1
24 November 2015	Lane Cove Council, General Manager, Manager Strategic Planning, Councillors	Objection to LEP Planning Proposal for 1-13A Marshall Avenue St Leonards
4 December 2015	Ms Poppy Papadopolous, Viva Energy Australia	Viva Energy Australia Community Meetings.

c) Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Patricia Quealey presented the Treasurer's report as follows:

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Since last public meeting 17 new voting members have paid their subscriptions, making the total number of members this year 274.

A total of \$5255 has been received in subscriptions this year to date. Subscriptions have been paid as follows:

- 35% by EFT
- 42% in cash via the box in the Pharmacy

- 23% in cheques

A positive trend has been the decreasing number of cheques received (which we are charged to deposit) and reinforces the popularity of the soon to be updated GCA box in Pharmacy.

OPERATING FUNDS

Cash in bank \$4616 with \$290 still to be deposited = \$4906

The term deposit of \$12,135.80 will be again rolled over for 4/12 at an interest rate of 2.45%. It matures on 14 December 2015

MEMBERSHIP

The total membership fees received last year were \$2920, which was a record.

The total received for this year is \$5255, which is a great effort by the committee and shows increased level of community support as well as the increased subscription fee.

6) Notified Business

a) Proposed Council Merger

Some recent background:

- A "Meet the Candidates" meeting held for the North Sydney By-election heard that 12 of the 13 candidates opposed forced council amalgamations.
- A recent Lane Cove Council survey documents that less than 50% of the community believe that Council serves the community well
- NSW Government Policy is to achieve council areas of larger and more equal populations closer to that of State and Federal electorates

There has been some preference expressed that Greenwich is a better fit with North Sydney rather than Lane Cove.

Lane Cove is promoting a Joint Regional Authority concept with Hunters Hill and Ryde. Some services are successfully shared at present.

Don Murchison was unable to attend the early part of the meeting and requested that the following statement be read out:

I am totally opposed to forced Council amalgamations. My experience overseas & the experience within Australia leads me to firmly believe amalgamations are not in the best interests of Greenwich, or indeed Lane Cove. Loss of democracy, increased rates, reduced services, cancelled festivals and cultural events will all be inevitable should we be absorbed as part of a mega Council. There will not be the same concern for things that are unique to Greenwich like historic sites, the relative lack of high-rise developments, foreshore parkland and bushland, which would be seen as development opportunities. I encourage the Greenwich Community Association to oppose amalgamations and write to the Premier, Anthony Roberts and the Minister of Local Government to express strong support for the status quo.

Tom Lawson addressed the meeting and noted that the horse has bolted on amalgamations. The State Government has made its mind up and will push the amalgamations through. The Government wants fewer councils and as do property developers. He noted that Councillor attendance at GCA Meetings was variable with Councillor Palmer attending nearly every meeting, Councillor Karpin some meetings and Councillor Brooks Horn attending none. On the other hand, community attendance at Council meetings has been very low. The current Council is dominated by Liberal Party affiliated Councillors who vote as a block and the independent Councillors are in the minority. Larger Councils will inevitably be fully party political and the community will lose personal contact with its representatives. The GCA has not been very effective in influencing Council. Letters are not enough. More personal contact, more effort is needed. We need to lobby Councillors more, show more respect, more carrot less stick.

b) Loftex Tower, Marshall Avenue St Leonards

Lane Cove Council passed a motion last Monday approving the increase in height of the Loftex Tower residential development in Marshall Avenue from 65m to 95m. This change was previously rejected at a meeting of the JRRP four votes to one but Council made no mention of this decision. Previously they have referred to the rejection as a “technicality”. At the meeting it was noted that over 80 objections to the proposal had been received. The Lane Cove Alliance opposed the change. Pam Palmer noted that the Floor Space Ratio had been increased by this proposal, which Michael Mason agreed to take “take on notice” but the change was approved anyway. The VPA for this change will give Council \$8.6 million which it is said will be applied to the development of the plaza over the railway line at St Leonards. There is no detailed design, costing or approvals for the plaza proposal at present.

It is worth noting that when Council approved the St Leonards South Draft Master Plan that they took the decision against the advice of Council staff and they agreed to extend the redevelopment area to Park Road also against the advice of Council staff.

The Council received \$50 million via a VPA for the Lane Cove North Development, which has been applied to the Rosenthal Avenue development not in Lane Cove North.

7) Report of Subcommittees

a) Gore Bay Terminal Subcommittee – Merri Southwood, Convener

The Health Assessment Report is still being pursued but it will be several months before a decision will be made.

Merri Southwood attended a workshop held by the EPA into the management of emissions, particularly the sulfur content in emissions from cruise ships. There is no current plan to extend the restrictions on cruise ships to other shipping in the Harbour and it will be 2020-5 before any change happens. Viva has advised the EPA that they voluntarily require ships docking at the Terminal to use low sulfur fuels whilst in port.

Safework NSW conducted an inspection of the site recently for compliance as a major hazard facility, which had not been carried out for some time.

The GCA made a submission to the EPA review of Licence 661. It was a great group effort and very detailed. It requested among other things that petrol storage be not permitted on the site, the EPA address tankers and their impacts and that independent

boundary monitoring be carried out on an ongoing basis. The EPA received 8 or 9 other submissions and the GCA will seek access to these submissions.

Viva has declined to invite a representative of the GCA to attend its community meetings, which it has limited to adjoining neighbours only. No minutes of these meetings appear on the Viva website. The GCA has written to Viva requesting that this approach be changed.

David Moorehead addressed the meeting on the issue of fire modelling for the site. Viva have refused his requests for the release of the fire modelling they have had carried out for the site. He considers that Viva have a duty of care to look after neighbours and have a plan for evacuation in the event of an incident.

Previous discussions with Viva, Council and the Emergency Services have indicated that Viva has responsibility only within the boundary and the Emergency Agencies have responsibility beyond the boundary.

The comment was made that Viva has an overarching legal responsibility in tort for any impacts of an incident outside their boundary.

b) Environmental Sustainability

No report

c) Bicycle/Active Transport Subcommittee – Michael Ryland

The Subcommittee has been on developing material for the website which is expected to be complete by the end of the year. The focus has been on connections between Greenwich and other locations as well the progress by Council on its current commitments on active transport.

The Subcommittee would like to attract additional more diverse membership and would welcome new members.

Dion Weston thanked Michael Ryland for his contribution throughout the year in a coordination role for the Subcommittee.

d) Newsletter – Liz Walton

The editor is always looking for ways to make the newsletter more relevant and to increase the readership and welcomes suggestions and contributions.

It is hoped that a Facebook page will be complementary to the newsletter while it is recognised that many current readers do not have online access or interest in Facebook.

The President thanked the newsletter deliverers for their efforts during the year and noted that the newsletter along with the website are the main channels for communication with the community that the GCA has.

e) Social Media – Michael Ryland

Has not achieved the traction hoped for. A couple of meetings have been held but engagement is difficult. Still looking for about 6 people including one person to actively manage who has to be a local person.

Michael Ryland will investigate the costs of sourcing an external person to set up the page.

8) Councillor's Reports – Councillor Pam Palmer

Councillor Pam Palmer was unable to attend the meeting but sent a report which was read out as follows:

Apologies I can't be at the meeting but Merry Christmas to everyone!

Council Amalgamations

The Minister for Local Government has promised an announcement before Christmas. We understand this was delayed until after the North Sydney by-election to avoid making it a hot topic.

All I know is that neighbours Hunters Hill, Ryde, North Sydney, Mosman and Lane Cove have all said "no" to forced amalgamation (Willoughby is the exception). We could have suggested partnering with, say, North Sydney but the Minister's only specified criterion of size still would not have been met, so what was the point? (Remembering he required areas of 300,000+ people while Lane Cove has just 33,000).

We remain concerned about loss of our local voice, loss of local representation (only councillor for the whole of Lane Cove vs. currently 9 councillors), little interest being given to Greenwich, loss of assets from our balance sheet, including cash, and that any new municipal facilities will be built far from here in the new enlarged Council area.

Development

- The plan to allow a 50% increase in the height of the residential tower in Marshall Ave was approved. The tower will now be nearly 30 storeys high. This was despite every single submission received being opposed to the height increase. Even the Dept of Planning said it "remains concerned that the height of the proposed tower is out of scale with existing development in the vicinity, and may negatively impact views and privacy, and cause overshadowing....The Department remains concerned about the cumulative impacts of spot rezoning and development in the St Leonards area."*
- Fortunately, a proposal for rezoning land in the Lane Cove West industrial area for high- density residential flats by the Lane Cove River has finally been rejected after several attempts to get it approved.*
- Council's development at Little Lane, opposite the Aquatic Centre, is progressing with nearly all of the units sold and the carpark about to open. The community space in the building is about to be fitted out for the Lane Cove Music and Cultural Association and LC&NCS (formerly known as Community Aid).*
- Some new changes to Council's LEP and DCP have been proposed and will be out for comment shortly.*

- *Plans for a huge new carpark, retail centre and public open space on the site of the existing Rosenthal Ave Carpark are progressing with retail leases to be finalised early in the new year. We are hoping the plans are locked in so that they will not be affected by any council amalgamations.*

Other Council Plans

- *Council's new 10-year Sustainability Action Plan has been adopted.*
- *Council's new Cultural Plan is on exhibition for comment.*
- *A tender has been awarded to install a new lift in the Aquatic Centre.*
- *In the latest round of the Sustainability Small Grants program, Greenwich School received \$2,000 to create an aquatic ecosystem (perhaps also called a frog pond).*
- *Council planned to change ward boundaries in line with population projections but we decided to defer any change while we await news on council amalgamations.*

Council Advisory Committees- vacancies

Council is looking to fill vacancies on several of its Advisory Committees. These are important committees who drive the agenda on many issues. Go to Council's website to see how to apply:

- *Cameraygal Festival Committee;*
- *Lane Cove Access Committee;*
- *Lane Cove Cultural Advisory Committee;*
- *Lane Cove Public Art Advisory Committee; and*
- *Recreation Precinct Liaison Advisory Committee*

Particularly relevant to Greenwich is the Recreation Precinct Liaison committee, which will have input on the new sporting facility to be built by the golf course.

9) General Business

a) Carols by Candlelight

Carols by Candlelight was held successfully in Leemon Reserve on 7 December. The sum of \$2147.80 was raised for 'Youth Off The Streets'. Harbourline Real Estate organized the event and ran it as a commercial event. There was some opposition to this registered by another Real Estate agent. The question is whether Carols should continue as is or revert in time to a purely community event.

Bernadette Hayes from Harbourline addressed the meeting and said that they had been running the event successfully for the last four years. Viva provided a \$500 donation but has indicated that they will not be involved next year. The Tennis Club provided the sausage sizzle.

The issue is whether the GCA wishes to be more involved next year. It was agreed that this would be a matter for the incoming committee.

It was suggested that advertising should not be a part of community events in the future.

b) Greenwich Baths

Merri Southwood has received an email from a member of the community suggesting that Council develop a plan of management for the Baths to assist with the ongoing operation. It was agreed that this person be requested to write to the GCA with suggestions as to the approach to be taken. The plan of management if developed could also cover the Sailing Club site.

The Baths does not operate in a vacuum and is managed by Bluefit under its lease with reference to a community committee with Councillor Palmer as the Council representative, a representative of the Lessee and community representatives. The current proposal to spend \$600,000 on the upgrade of the change facilities is considered reasonable especially given that 2016 will be the centenary year of the establishment of the Baths. Ralph Pliner said in his view the Baths is well run and noted the great success of the Nippers programme.

10) Next Meeting

The next General Meeting will be the AGM and will be held on Wednesday 17 February 2016 at 7:30pm at Greenwich Memorial Community Hall, Greenwich Road.

11) Close

The President wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and invited all attending to join him in Christmas drinks and nibbles. The meeting closed at 9:40pm.