

WAVERTON PRECINCT MEETING

6 February 2024

MINUTES

The meeting commenced at 7:40pm, Church Hall, Waverton

Chair: IG

Minutes: KA

Attendance: 8

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGY

The Chair welcomed everyone. No apologies were received, apart from the Secretary who is unwell.

2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The draft of the December Minutes already circulated online is to be amended slightly. In Mary Curran's address on p2 after the words "Noakes have the current lease" add the words "of the whole Dolphin Wharf."

Moved DA, seconded KA

The Minutes of the December 2023 meeting as adjusted and the AGM Minutes be accepted

Carried Unanimously

3. EXISTING BUSINESS

Interim Chair Arrangement

The Chair at the AGM advised that he was reluctant to continue in this role for family reasons. He was prepared to Chair the February meeting and hopefully find a new Chair person. He has now advised that by moving some family responsibilities he was prepared to continue in the Chair until the AGM in December. The meeting welcomed that arrangement.

It is proposed this year that the sub committee system be reinvigorated so that reports and updates on things like rail noise, DA's, and the creation of the new Park can be formally presented to the meeting, maybe twice per year. It was noted we have a volunteer to run fundraising activities this year, which will be needed to finance the upgrade and overhaul of our Precinct website and online communications. This is a major project for the first half of this year. A supplier has been identified and while stretched the Precinct has enough funding to cover the

implementation costs. The new system and website will be simpler and more intuitive, plus kept up to date.

Merrett Playground

With uncertainty surrounding the future of the bowling club, the proposed expenditure on upgrading the playground was put on hold in early 2023. With resolution of the ownership, funding has been reallocated by Council. Work on the upgrade of Merritt playground to begin in the first half of 2024.

It was noted that a “non-claimant notice” had been issued publicly relating to the Bowling Club. The Chair was asked to clarify with NSC what this means and its implications, if any, to what could happen with this site.

Reopening Coal Loader Café

It was understood the Café would reopen in February. We are yet to see any sign of this occurring. The Chair undertook to check and report back on this item at the next meeting.

West Harbour Tunnel

The work on this project continues, and it was noted a modification was formally approved on January 31, enabling tunnelling under the harbour to be the approach to be used, rather than the caisson approach originally proposed.

New Park at Berry’s Bay

An update on the West Harbour Tunnel project and particularly the status of the proposed park for the west arm of Berry’s Bay is expected to be given by Department of Transport at the Precinct’s April meeting.

Nominations for NSC Community Awards

In line with the decision at the December 2023 meeting, the Precinct has submitted 3 good candidates for Community Awards consideration by NSC:

Community Builder - Ian Grey

Trail Blazer - Bruce Donald

Eco Warrior - Vera Yee

It was advised that one candidate who was under consideration, Keith Anderson has recently passed away in December. Keith had been a great supporter and contributor to the Precinct system and was the Waverton Secretary for many years. He will be missed. The Precinct members expressed their sadness at hearing of his passing and offered their condolences to the family for their loss.

4. New Business

Dolphin Wharf

The wharf was supposed to be removed when BP vacated the site. BP paid government for its removal. It is now used to moor old vessels. Noakes manages the lease. It was foreshadowed that the Precinct needs to determine its position on the future of this wharf. Is the Precinct happy for it to remain as is currently; is there an acceptable alternate use; or should we press for it be removed as was originally planned?

Restructure NSC

It is known that Council is going through a management restructure. Direct reports to the GM have been reduced from 6 to 3. Now, in December, the number of mid-level managers has been reduced. As a result the Precincts now deal with an Administration Officer for Council day-to-day business matters and with a Community Relations Consultant for specific major project-type Precinct business. It was advised JG who was the long-standing Precinct Liaison Manager is no longer with the Council. She was always very helpful, and Precinct wishes her well in her future endeavours.

State Government Announcements around Public Transport / Housing density

State Government has advised that it proposes to fast-track higher-density development around transport nodes, particularly rail stations using powers under a new State Environmental Policy. A number of stations particularly on the North Shore were identified for greater density, but none in North Sydney LGA. Ku-ring-gai Council and the Inner West Councils have raised concern about the proposal as it has the potential to dramatically change the integrated look and feel of a suburb if poorly coordinated (Roseville, Killara, and Haberfield being the nominated examples).

Reactivation of Precinct Sub-Committees

In the past, the Precinct has had subcommittees reporting on issues. It is proposed to reactivate a subcommittee system on matters - IT system upgrade, DA assessment, fundraising, the new Park and the like. These subcommittees would be asked, maybe annually or biannually as needed, to report to the regular Precinct meeting.

It is hoped this approach also gives a wider range of interested, but busy, people the opportunity to be involved in Precinct activities.

5. DA's

Modification 17 King St (363/2022). Noted.

6. Community Activity Update

No reports received.

Next meeting to be held at the Uniting Church Hall in Waverton at 7:30pm on Tuesday March 5th.

Our Guest Speaker will be Council's Director of Community, Planning and Environment