

AIREYS INLET & DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY 25 JANUARY 2013

MINUTES

1. WELCOME / PRESENT

Barbara Fletcher welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendees included Libby Coker (Surf Coast Shire Mayor), Margot Smith (Councillor), Stephen Wall (CEO), AIDA Committee members and local residents.

Approximately 40 people attended the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Rose Hodge, Eve Fisher (Councillors), Charlotte Allen, David Beauchamp, Mark Bean, Rachel Faggetter, Tim and Ros Gibson, Lyn Howden, John and Lindsay Howie, Ian and Netta Leslie, Ann Porter, Ritchie Family, Alison Roseby, Peter and Megan Short, Mr and Mrs St John.

3. PRESENTATION BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SURF COAST SHIRE

STEPHEN WALL (SW) (CEO)

Mr Wall told us that he has 15 years experience in local government, including 5 years from 2005-2010 as Director of Corporate Services for the Surf Coast Shire (SCS). He then spent 18 months as CEO of the Maribryngong Council before successfully applying to be the CEO of the SCS, where he started late in 2012. He has now worked for six different councils in three different states. However his family has made it clear that they will refuse to leave this beautiful part of the world again.

SW said that his role is to implement the decisions of Council by delivering the councillor's wishes quickly and effectively. He wants to challenge the idea that all the council's actions are regulatory and negative and to emphasise the positive outcomes of the council's work. He plans to be more accessible transparent, get out and about in the community. As the main pressures for the Shire remain population growth, the environment, transport and the different concerns of the hinterland and the coast, he wants to improve communication with ratepayers and to better explain the decisions made by council. SW noted the very high level of non-permanent residents with 43% of rate payers having their main residence outside the shire (mostly in Greater Melbourne and Ballarat. In conclusion SW said that he wants the Surf Coast Shire to get the very positive reputation it deserves and to make ratepayers proud of their Council. He feels that the new council, which includes six new councillors, is one of the highest calibre in all local government.

MARGOT SMITH (MS) (Councillor)

New councillor Margot Smith told us that she was born in New Zealand but grew up in Tasmania and then lived for over 20 years in Melbourne. She recently retired after nearly 30 years in the retail industry with various subsidiaries of the Myer, Coles and now Wesfarmers Groups, where her last position was Executive Director/General Manager Retail Services for Target. She has lived in the Surf Coast Shire since 1999. She is a keen golfer and was a Director of the Anglesea Golf Club for six years and is now a Director of RSPCA Victoria. Her passions include golf, walking our coastal tracks, travel, reading and opera.

Two years ago MS decided she wanted to leave the corporate environment and embarked upon a 500 km walk across Spain along the Camino de Santiago, before returning to do an MBA. She now has strong strategic leadership and financial management skills and qualifications, and experience that cover a broad range of business disciplines. Last year she had (in her own words) the innocence or arrogance to think that her skills might be useful on

council. As she has only been a councillor for a short time, she has been researching documents such as the Anglesea Structure Plan, and the less recent Aireys to Eastern View Structure Plan. She understands the importance of protecting the characters of our towns, of the integration of the coast with the hinterland, of protecting the environment, and of encouraging sustainable businesses. She hopes to bring to council a balance in looking at all these issues.

LIBBY COKER (LC) (Mayor)

In his introduction of returning councillor Libby Coker, Mr Wall described her as “Switzerland” on council for her great diplomacy. He commented that she had won by far the highest proportion of the votes at the election, and that she is now serving as Mayor for the second time. LC then described herself as a ‘survivor’ on council having stood for the first time 4 years ago. Before that she covered the shire as a journalist. She grew up here, went to school here and considers the whole area ‘my own community’.

LC noted that the new council cherishes open space, green belts and the varied characters of our communities. An early topic on council has been the proposal for a Christian College in Spring Creek – discussion has centred on the importance of conserving the green belt between Torquay and Spring Creek. Council considers that the decision on the college must await their decision about what the shire should look like. Council will be holding meetings to increase communication on issues such as these. LC also noted that a particular challenge for the previous council has been Special Charge Schemes and it is clear that more communication is required in this area.

Particular projects in our district that LC wanted to emphasise are:

- The Aireys-Fairhaven pedestrian link and bridge works, which should be completed by April. It is hoped that revegetation works and yellow lines will solve the ongoing safety concerns about parking on the roadsides near the Food Store
- The car parking works at Skate Park and Inlet Crescent – a new more “rustic” treatment has been used for the main car park surface – it is hoped that this will prove to have long term durability
- Council has decided that the placement of a bus drop-off point within Inlet Crescent is not desirable and it is intended that bus drop-off should occur at the long vehicle bays recently installed on each side of the GOR near the V-Line bus stops
- Strong advocacy has been made to VicRoads about the necessity of a refuge crossing on the GOR between the Skate Park and the Bottom Shops but no funding has been allocated as yet
- The campaign to government for additional funding for maintenance of the GOR
- Communication with nearby owners about a new treatment of the Federal St/Lighthouse Road intersection following objections re proposed street lighting
- Continuing concerns re problems of rain water runoff causing erosion and gravel washing into the Painkalac Creek at the intersections of Bambra Road with Aireys and Philip Streets
- Development of a pathway along Painkalac Creek involving construction of small bridges across drainage channels
- Council is carrying out parking surveys (one tomorrow [Sat 26th Jan]) at Top Shops as a necessary requirement for a parking plan. LC noted that there had been a petition to council for a 2 hour parking limit and erection of public toilets at the Top Shops.
- Upgrading of skate facilities at Skate Park is awaiting funding. Council is proposing a facelift for the playground area. [LC’s idea of the new Anglesea riverside playground as a model drew some concerned comments from the audience about the importance of keeping the area as natural as possible]
- The ‘Weeds to Mulch’ program has to date removed 5 cubic metres of material from areas around the outskirts of Moggs Creek. Council will be putting more funds into fire safety programs

- The Aireys Inlet bushfire evacuation program happening at present is aimed at making the community more resilient and support people in time of fire

QUESTIONS PRESENTED TO COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Clare Hanley

Asked what is the solution for Philip St and Beach Road?

LC advised that council will be coming back to the community before any proposals are developed.

Lynn Barnett noted that there had already been a long series of discussions.

LC advised that a solution had to be found to deal with potholes and runoff.

Guy Tuddenham (GT)

Raised the issue of community safety in particular in terms of fires. Noted that the Anglesea Roundabout is a major bottleneck and would cause dangerous delays to evacuation. A by-pass around Anglesea is necessary.

SW advised that \$50 million of federal funding is being applied for to support maintenance and safety issues and for development of overtaking lanes. Funding is VicRoads' responsibility but council is lobbying heavily for the GOR to be made a Road of National Significance.

GT noted that this issue had been urgent since 1983.

SW noted that in emergencies problem spots such as Anglesea and Bellbrae will be manned by police and traffic prevented from entering area.

LC advised that this issue will be one of council's priorities.

Kim Neubecker

Asked for clarification as to what would be the benefit of the GOR being made a Road of National Significance?

LC advised that there would be funding for immediate maintenance.

SW advised that the issue is source of funding. There is a hierarchy of roads defining levels and sources of funding. If the GOR is designated of National Significance it would be federally funded.

Peter McPhee

Raised the issue of challenges in interaction with State Government, particularly re planning and zoning. Asked what was the timetable for decisions on the new zoning regulations?

LC advised that Minister Guy had said that there would be an announcement about the new zoning regulations in March, but if so it is likely to be late in the month. She noted issues of concern are:

- rural and farming land – the proposed ability to develop facilities, schools, churches, tourist facilities
- retail precincts – relaxed controls and possibility of leakage into adjoining residential areas
- supermarkets etc. in industrial estates

SW advised that proposed new zones would permit uses that are not currently allowed, e.g. schools in farming zones. The Planning Minister already has a lot of discretionary powers and would be getting more. Noted that 2,500 submissions were lodged and many councils including SCS have submitted objections. Potential problem lies in having planning zones implemented state wide when different areas so varied. Need to have overlays recognising the significance of some areas. Nevertheless any development will still be subject to a permit. **SW** noted that there might be some positive aspects such as opportunities along the coast for some sustainable tourist development such as that in Tasmania on the Freycinet Peninsula.

Lachlan Richardson

Noted that with the development of the new Geelong bypass the school crossing in Aireys inlet is the first encountered for tourists coming to the GOR from the airport. These tourists have no idea of school holiday dates etc. LC also noted that there should be turning lanes for entry into the Community Hall car park, which is heavily used these days, and also for entry into the Bottom Shops car park.

SW said these comments would be noted.

Lloyd Fletcher

Asked who defined the new ward boundaries for the council election e.g. it is silly for Moggs Creek and Eastern View to be in Lorne Ward rather than Anglesea Ward.

SW noted it was a State Government decision based on population equations.

LC agreed the boundaries were not ideal but noted that she and Margot considered themselves representatives of all SCS residents and ratepayers, not just those in their ward.

SW noted that so far the council had not been particularly ward-centric.

LC noted that everyone needs to come down to the Surf Coast on census night as the greater the population the greater the government funding to the shire.

Grahame Green

Asked why Eastern View residents pay rates three times greater than Torquay residents but get very little for their money.

SW noted that rate calculations were all done under the legislation in the Local Government Act. He noted that the SCS has very diverse property values – very high along the coast and very low in hinterland areas.

Gary Johnson

Noted that with respect to the shire's Pathway Strategy one of the pathways planned for our district (from Wright St down Sandy Gulley to Aireys St) actually goes through private properties to access Eagle Rock Parade.

SW advised that he would take this question on notice and then get back to AIDA.

Jennifer Knee

Raised three points:

- Could we have a weekend rubbish drop-off location like those in Lorne and Anglesea?
LC and SW said this was a good idea.
- Was there any possibility of reinstating the community rabbit control program that worked very well some years ago? **LC** agreed that the past program was a great community focus and that rabbits and foxes are currently an issue. **SW** noted that there is a change in legislation afoot that may make councils responsible for rabbit control on road reservations.
- A general problem with naming: e.g. maps confuse Table Rock and Wedding Rock.
SW will get back to AIDA about this but will need to liaise with GORCC about this issue.

Libby Coker closed the question and answer session by saying that AIDA is a very important part of the community and that the councillors very much appreciate the communication they have with us.

Barbara Fletcher thanked the shire representatives for their attendance at the AIDA AGM.

4. MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Minutes of the AGM on 13/1/2012 were distributed at the meeting.

Motion "that the minutes of the AGM on 13/1/2012 be accepted"

Proposed by Lloyd Fletcher

Seconded by Ian Godfrey

Agreed.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Barbara Fletcher presented the President's Report for 2012 (see attached).

No questions were asked.

6. ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

The 2012 Financial Report was distributed at the meeting (see attached).

Ian Godfrey presented the Financial Report.

Motion "that the 2012 Financial Report be received"

Proposed by Ian Godfrey

Seconded by Tanya Teague

Agreed.

Questions:

Lachlan Richardson enquired about the distribution of the lapel pins, which had been a significant item of expenditure in 2011.

Ian Godfrey advised that the pins, which were a symbol of loyalty for being a member of AIDA, were distributed to members who attended the last AGM in January 2012 and would continue to be available at future AIDA events, along with the new AIDA car stickers.

Grahame Green asked about the distribution of the \$700 spent in donations.

Ian Godfrey advised that donations had been made to community organisations such as the CFA, the Fairhaven Surf Club and the Community Garden.

Guy Tuddenham asked why the AIDA banner was not on display at the meeting.

Mary-Jane Gething advised that it was an oversight occasioned by the disruption caused by the postponement of the AGM due to extreme fire risk on January 4th.

7. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2013

The following nominations have been received for positions on the Committee:

President:	Barbara Fletcher
Vice President:	Frieda Wachsmann
Secretary:	Anne Porter
Treasurer:	Ian Godfrey
Committee Members:	Annette Comte
	Ann Cremean
	Mary-Jane Gething
	Gary Johnson
	Barbara Leavesley
	Peter McPhee
	Angela Berry

8. QUESTIONS FROM ATTENDEES

Kim Neubecker asked why there had been no fire notices this year. Gary Johnson reported that Darren Spicer had told him that council had found that the notices were unenforceable so they stopped sending them out. AIDA will follow up.

Jennifer Knee asked whether there are any large pieces of land in our district of which developers can take advantage? Ian Godfrey reported that AIDA had a discussion, particularly concerning the Painkalac Valley with the Council's Planning Department when preparing the submission objecting to the potential zoning changes. AIDA was assured quite explicitly that we need not worry about large pieces of land.

Gary Johnson commented that we will all have to understand the new fire code. It may generate overlays that mitigate the risk of development. Big changes are coming.

Peter McPhee commented that the worst possible outcome would be that subdivisions are allowed if they can meet fire requirements and they do this by widespread clearance of land.

Kim Neubecker reported in her work as a horticulturalist she has had to balance environmental overlays and fire overlays – in areas with a high BAL (Bushfire Attack Level) rating it is necessary to clear 80% of the vegetation. The danger is that the area reverts to concrete and paddocks.

Barbara Leavesley noted that the wild fire overlay takes precedence over other overlays.

Gary Johnson closed the discussion with the more optimistic comment that we must remember that the fire overlay applies to new development, not to land already occupied by a building – so it will be a slow motion effect.

9. CLOSE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The President closed the Annual General Meeting at 9.40 pm

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised.

12. Light refreshments were served following the presentation