

<b>MINUTES 6/05/26</b>	<b>GENERAL MEETING, BALINGUP PROGRESS ASSOC. INC.</b>	
Meeting opened	6.00pm	
Present	J. Hornum, W.Trow, A.Scott, C.Austin, K.Menard, G.McMullen, S.Smith, D.Nelson, D.Guy.	
Visitor	G.Hodge (via Zoom)	
Apologies	R.Thomas, F.Wilshusen, W.Ayers, T.Benson	
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>		
SFFD	A.Scott advised that the SFFD preliminary figures indicate a \$15000 profit for 2026. Committee is confident they can make payments to Recreation Centre and BPA (as per agreement) but will not be able to make a donation to the Community Trust Fund. BPA congratulated the SFFD on another great event.	A.Scott
May Day event	D.Guy asked if BPA would consider a 'May Day' event to celebrate Autumn. BPA suggested it could possibly be incorporated in the garden festivals program and invited Di to follow up.	D.Guy
Impact of umbrella groups	G.Hodge is considering preparing a proposal for South West Development Commission (and others) to model the economic and social impact of BACH and wants to invite BPA Umbrella groups to participate ( <b>totally voluntary</b> ). Groups would be invited to provide a small amount of data along with a brief history of each sub-group going back to its origins. This would be aggregated into a full economic and social impact report. BPA agrees this would be very useful for grant writing and lobbying on behalf of the community. J.Hornum and W.Trow offered to assist.	J.Hornum W.Trow
Community Grants	Community Grants applications have closed. A list of applications is at Annex D. The next step is to convene a meeting to review the applications.	J.Hornum
Futures Fund	BPA expects the Futures Fund to reach \$50,000 this year and we will be able to open it up for applications (subject to dollar for dollar in matching funding).	
Workspace roof repair	The Community Workspace has suffered considerable white ant damage in the roof and requires repair. One verbal estimate to repair was \$20,000 but a second firm quote has been received from Kris Reynolds for \$13,600. This excludes new roof sheeting (if required). It was moved that we allocate the work to K.Reynolds and pay the \$13,600 out of the unallocated Trust Fund money. Moved J.Hornum Seconded K.Menard Carried.	W.Trow
Community Foundation	W.Trow advised that Fremantle Community Foundation now have DGR1 (charitable) status and she would like to gauge interest in creating a Community Fund in Balingup that could operate under the umbrella of Fremantle Community Foundation. A short overview is at Annex E. She stressed that this will not impact the Futures Fund as it will target donations from individuals. It was agreed that a meeting be held with the wider community to discuss a possible model. Anyone interested should contact Wendy..	W.Trow

Aged Care	<p>W.Trow gave an update on the Balingup Staying in Place (SIP) group activities.</p> <p>Volunteers in the group are still helping 3 locals and will continue to do so. Many systemic challenges have been identified and W.Trow has made a submission the Federal Parliamentary Enquiry into Aged Care.</p> <p>MOU has been signed with Busselton Hospice SIP and discussions have been held as to how we can get more people off the Commonwealth Home Support Package (CHSP) and on to Support at Home (S@H) packages. S@H is more flexible and provides more services. Busselton SIP is trying to find ways to achieve this, but until then W.Trow recommends the project be put on hold.</p> <p>W.Trow has developed two documents which are available on request (contact Wendy) and are useful for anyone thinking about calling My Aged Care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A guide to navigating the new government aged care packages, and</li> <li>• A list of questions used during assessments.</li> </ul>	Information
Scheme water costs	<p>W.Trow advised that Balingup is currently paying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 55% more than Donnybrook for standpipe water, and</li> <li>• 72% more than Donnybrook for scheme water.</li> </ul> <p>BPA has been advised by the Minister for South West (Don Punch) that the variance in charges for standpipe water 'reflects the differing costs of supplying safe drinking water' to regional towns.</p> <p>W.Trow also advised that Balingup residents on scheme water can access a State funded rebate of up to \$1,000 for a new rainwater tank with a capacity of 2,000L or more that is plumbed in. Follow this link to find out more.  <a href="https://www.watercorporation.com.au/Waterwise/Waterwise-offers/Regional-Rainwater-Tank-Rebate">https://www.watercorporation.com.au/Waterwise/Waterwise-offers/Regional-Rainwater-Tank-Rebate</a></p> <p>Note: This rebate is only open to people on scheme water.</p> <p>It was agreed that the letter drafted for Water Corp be sent.  Moved W.Trow Seconded K.Menard</p>	
Shire Meeting	<p>BPA President &amp; Secretary met with Shire Executive in April to discuss a wide range of issues including Balingup Sport and Recreations Plan, EV charging station, standpipes, water, local planning strategy, economic/tourism strategy, showers, playground, Vintage cottages, CISCO, visitor Centre and works staffing. Notes of the meeting are at Annex C.</p>	Information
Councilors at BPA meetings	<p>S.Smith asked that we invite Balingup Councilors to BPA meetings again. The meeting agreed that all BPA members should be encouraged to extend personal invitations for Councilors to attend.</p>	All
Community Centre clean up	<p>Balingup Bush Fire Brigade has agreed to wash down the walls of the community centre during their next training day. BPA wishes to thank the brigade for their support.</p>	Information
Warren Blackwood	<p>WBRT group is offering an opportunity to share ideas, highlight local priorities, and help shape the future of trails in our region.</p>	Information

Regional Trails Strategy	<b>BALINGUP</b> Wednesday 13th May 2026, 8.30am - 10am, Mr Fosters, Balingup Packing Shed No registration required, just come along and be part of the conversation. All welcome: locals, visitors, trail users, businesses and community groups. If unable to attend, you can provide written feedback via trails@wbac.net.au	
<b>Business arising from previous minutes</b>		Chair
<b>Report on Action Items Annex A</b>	Ongoing (tabled) Complete (tabled)	Chair
<b>Correspondence list</b>	Correspondence list accepted and received Moved: W.Trow Seconded: S.Smith	Secretary
<b>Umbrella Group Reports</b>		Secretary
<b>Confirmation of minutes previous meeting</b>	Amendments (N) Moved: W.Trow Seconded: S.Smith	Carried (Y)
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	<u>Bank account balances as of 31/4/2026</u> Operating Account \$10,193.44 Trust Fund Account \$35,207.46 Term Deposit Insurance Account \$40,174.22 (\$3000 to be transferred to Trust Fund Account on next renewal) Term Deposit Future's Fund Account \$36,528.85 Coordinator Payment Account \$1.21  <u>Membership payments received since last meeting</u> \$0  Treasurer's Report on bank balances accepted and received. Moved: J.Hornum Seconded: D.Guy  <u>Bank account balances as of 31/3/2026</u> Operating Account \$3,529.44 Trust Fund Account \$35,184.36 Term Deposit Insurance Account \$40,174.22 (\$3000 to be transferred to Trust Fund Account on next renewal) Term Deposit Future's Fund Account \$36,528.85 Coordinator Payment Account \$1.21	J.Hornum
<b>Reminders</b>	Wednesday 13th May 2026: Trails discussion (see General Business), 8.30am - 10am, Mr Fosters, Balingup Packing Shed.	
Meeting Closed	7.08pm	

<b>Next Meeting</b>	<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026 at 6pm</b>
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as of 29/04/26		
ACTION LIST, BALINGUP PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC		
MEETING DATE PERSON RESPONSIBLE	ITEM	STATUS
<b>Town Entry banners</b> Apr 26 N.King	N.King advised that the banners at entry to town are being repaired by Townscape and will be re-installed with stronger fixings. To be left in the hands of Townscape.	COMPLETED
<b>Alan Rothery walk</b> March 26 R.Thomas W.Trow	R.Thomas requested we contact Council and ask for a plan to be developed to upgrade Alan Rothery Walk footpath and for it to be included as a priority project in the 2026/27 budget. He is liaising with D.Cameron and H.Christensen.	ONGOING
<b>Building repairs</b> March 26 W.Trow D.Cameron	A beam in the workspace needs closer inspection due to white ant. W.Trow and D.Cameron are trying to obtain quotes from local builders. See general business.	See General business
<b>Building register</b> March 26  J.Hornum D.Cameron	BPA currently do not maintain a register of work carried out. It was agreed that a register be maintained to record repairs and white ant treatment. J.Hornum to check BMC & BPA invoices – going back 5 years and start the register. D.Cameron to provide anecdotal information, with documents where possible.	ONGOING
<b>Hot water system Comm. Centre</b> Feb 26 D.Cameron	D.Cameron advised that the water heater unit in the community centre doesn't work. Richard Avard has offered to try to repair it or provide a second hand unit. Damien to follow up if/when a unit becomes available.	COMPLETED
<b>Australia Day – award</b> Feb 26 S.Franks	The names of winners have been inscribed on the Australia Day awards board in the Town Hall. Thanks to Sonja Franks. Invoice will be forwarded to BPA.	COMPLETED
<b>Shire sub-lease agreement</b> Feb 26 W.Trow	The Shire has issued a draft sub-lease agreement for the community grounds (Brockman St). This has been reviewed and a 'plain English' version drafted by W.Trow. The Shire is redrafting an agreement suitable for groups that own their own premises. BPA Executive will progress when the new agreement is received (probably at the end of 2026)	ONGOING
<b>Community Centre clean up</b> Feb 26	C.Leam has agreed for the Balingup BFB to hose down the building during their next training session (in May).	COMPLETED
<b>Community Foundation</b> Nov 24/ W.Trow	Initial discussions have been held with Fremantle Community Foundation to discuss creating a Community Foundation in Balingup. See general business.	ONGOING

## ANNEX B

**Emails/Letters In Note:** This list does not include newsletters/general updates from other organisations.

<b>Date</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Action</b>
1 Apr 26	T.Benson	Treasurers report	JH
2 Apr	Bendigo	Statement	TB
3 Apr	BACH	April newsletter	To all BPA
7 Apr	D.Punch (MP)	Standpipe fees	See General business
8 Apr	Water Corp	Water bill	TB
8 Apr	Talison	Payment advice \$2500	TB
9 Apr	Australia Post	PO Box final reminder	TB
9 Apr	R.Marshall (Shire)	Summary of Shire discussion	General business
10 Apr	W.Trow	Summary of Shire discussion	General business
13 Apr	C.Young (Shire)	Tourist plan query	WT
14 Apr	K.Connor	Consumer protection	JH
17 Apr	S.Dellaporte	Hall heritage tour	All BPA
22 Apr	S.Dellaporte	Disability roadshow	WT
20 Apr	R.Marshall	Balingup sport and Recreation plan	All BPA
21 Apr	Tahlia Rose	Community grant application	JH
22 Apr	A.Shah	Concerns re sport and red plan	AS
23 Apr	B.Chia	Community grant application	JH
24 Apr	N.King	Community grant application	JH
24 Apr	Synergy	Invoice \$240.57	TB
24 Apr	Lucid Economics	Economic & Tourism Strategy	JH
24 Apr	Townscape	Community grant application	JH
24 Apr	A.Shah	Sport and Recreation plan update	Info
30 Apr	Western Power	Power outage 14 May	HC
30 Apr	Centre for Social Impact	Survey	To G.Hodge. C.Maddison
30 Apr	Warren Blackwood Trails	Drop in session dates	General business
1 May	L.Clifford (Shire)	Invite to list events on Shire website	Fwd to event co-ords.

### Letters/emails Out

<b>Date</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Actioned by</b>
5 Apr	All BPA	BACH news and Anzac Day	WT
10 Apr	All BPA	Minutes April BPA meeting	WT
13 Apr	C.Young (Shire)	Tourist plan query	WT
17 Apr	R.Marshall	List contacts for Recreation Plan	WT
22 Apr	Advocacy WA	Disability roadshow query	WT
1 May	All BPA	Notice of BPA meeting &, invites to Sport and Rec Plan and Trails plan.	WT

Notes from BPA/Shire meeting attended by:  
 Jodie, Wendy  
 Nick, Rosco, Colin, Lauren  
 8th April 26

Topic		Action By
Balingup Sport and Recreation Plan	Consultants have been appointed and background information provided. Rosco is managing this project. Scope will include Recreation Centre, Transit Park, skatepark, Village Green, playground and footpaths. Consultation starts April/May and will include meetings with key stakeholders, sports/community groups followed by open community workshops. Report anticipated August 26. Council budget for 2026/27 will already have been finalised so the results will be incorporated in Future Capital Program. Shire will start looking for grants and encourages community members to lobby MPs in the run up to the next WA State election.	Rosco Wendy Jodie
EV Charging Station	Sonic Charge has been engaged. The (storm damaged) Donnybrook charging station will definitely be replaced as the infrastructure is already there. Two locations are being considered in Balingup - Town Hall and Transit Park. Transit Park has a transformer therefore infrastructure costs would be cheapest, but it is further from the centre of town and footpath would need major upgrade. Rosco is managing this project and will keep BPA informed.	Rosco
Standpipe and Water Supplies	Shire does not have any direct influence over the quality or pricing of water infrastructure and encourages BPA to lobby Water Corporation and the Minister direct. Colin provided data showing that Balingup residents pay 72% more for their scheme water than Donnybrook. Wendy to follow up. Nick advised that Council could not reduce the 'admin fee' as requested by BPA because it is a fee imposed to cover ongoing maintenance costs.	Wendy
Local Planning Strategy	Consultant has been appointed and will take up the project from where it left off. Over 150 submissions were received during the original consultation process (most of these relating to the proposal adjacent to Golden Valley Tree Park) and these will be taken into consideration. Consultant was briefing Councilors on 8 April. Rosco to keep BPA informed.	Rosco
Economic/Tourism Strategy	Consultant has been appointed and will be contacting local groups/individuals/ businesses. Shire advised this will be a high level document and we should not expect detailed recommendations eg should we align with Southern Forests tourism or other tourism body?. The role of Visitor Centres will be included - it is not 'off the table'. Colin is managing this project and will keep BPA informed.	Colin
Showers	Jodie/Wendy re-iterated the need for a shower that can be accessed by visitors without hiring an expensive camp site. Nick advised it will be investigated as part of the Recreation Master Plan.	Rosco

Playground	Shire advised that Upcycle volunteers have never asked Shire officers to be involved in planning this project (ie deciding best location, concept plans etc) and that staff could be made available to attend meeting with playground designer on request. Wendy to suggest this to the proponents. When Rosco receives the concept plan and estimated cost to build, he will cost the site works and refer that back to Upcycle to obtain funding. Due to the high value of this project, it will then have to go out to tender. When all design, funding etc is in place, it will be taken to Council for approval. Shire officers will manage the construction phase. There will be no requirement for Upcycle to pay for maintenance for 3 years.	Wendy
Vintage Cottages	Rosco advised that State Sewerage Policy is extremely limiting and inflexible, and the Shire is having other similar issues in Balingup. He mentioned that if the (already constructed) 4 cottages were proposed today, the ATU septic system would not be accepted by the State Health Dept. He has met with his Planning staff to try to find a solution but the best they can come up with is two houses (with one being a 'granny flat'). He suggests Vintage take this up direct with the Minister for Health.	Vintage
CISCO	Rosco advised that the CISCO cannot be included in Council Emergency Arrangements because it is not part State emergency arrangements. Rosco to send Wendy a letter to confirm this so she can refer it back to the State Emergency Management Committee.	Rosco Wendy
Visitor Centre	Nick advised that he is submitting a request to Council to waive the \$3000 debt owed by BADTA. This gesture is very much welcomed.	Nick
Works staffing/ ABC Backroads	Rosco advised that there is only one Works & Services employee in Balingup now. Previously the town was services by Dave (full time) and Ron (considered part time because he worked in other areas of the Shire). Rosco confirmed that money has been allocated in the budget to ensure Balingup is looking its best when ABC Backroads visit in August.	Rosco
Next meeting	Next meeting to be held in 2 months time. Jodie to advise dates she will be available.	Jodie

Annex D

### Applications for Community Trust Fund

Wendy Trow (20/3)

Tom Larkin (30/3)

BUFC (20/4)

Bethany Chia (23/4)

Balingup Heritage Group (24/4)

Julia Mitchener (30/4)

Telling Tales in Balingup (30/4)

Balingup Tourism Committee (30/4)

BACH (30/4)

Jakub Pyrchla (18/4)

## Overview – Balingup Community Fund (BCF)

A Community-Based Fund offers a process by which people can make **tax deductible** charitable gifts to their community.

Money can come from a range of sources for example:

- residents bequest money in their will,
- companies or individuals make tax deductible donations,
- large charitable organizations gift money to the community for projects that align with their values.

As an example, since 1995 a Community Foundation in Nebraska (population same as Balingup) has gifted \$4 million to the community and still have \$6.65 million in assets.

We propose to create the Balingup Community Fund as a sub-fund of the Fremantle Foundation. Fremantle Foundation was established in 2010. Since then, they have received close to \$11M in donations in, and paid out close to \$5.5M in community grants across WA. They are currently managing \$6.6M in donated funds and currently manage 69 sub-funds, including 5 Community-Based Funds.

Fremantle Foundation (FF) takes care of all governance, compliance, diligence, investment management, convening and connecting charities with donors, reporting and much more.

The Balingup CF Board role would be to:

- Promote the CF model and encourage donations (word of mouth, website etc).
- Consider and approve Expressions of Interest (for grants) and submit to FF for review, due diligence, compliance check and granting payment.

### **And a few extra points of interest**

- There is a massive transfer of wealth underway. There's a lot of people that grew up in small towns that no longer live there. Parents die but their money leaves town.
- Community-Based Funds encourage people to:
  - leave a percentage (5% or whatever!) of their wealth to the hometown that they love
  - treat their town as another child when writing their will
- This money can be used each year to create change that wouldn't otherwise be possible. To make Balingup a place that attracts young families.