

Minutes
Balingup Progress Association Meeting of 1/8/18

Present: John Ranieri, Noelene & Mike King, Helen Christensen, Joe Taylor, Ron Robertson, Douglas Gordon, Mark Giles. Peta Townsing, Sean Mitchell, Chrissy Sharpe, Jenny and Brian DeGaris, Geoff McMullen, Don Cooper, Jan Helsham, Ros Benson, Malcom Lee, John Wheatley

Apologies: Wendy & David Ayers. Per Christensen, Helen Vander Waal, Wayne Irvine, Jodie Hornum, Jeff Pow, Steve & Janie Milton, Fred Mills and Bronja

Confirmation of minutes of July meeting: Moved Christensen / Seconded Ron Carried

Business arising from previous minutes:

The old communications Tower had been removed, the base is still intact so will be able to locate local radio station tower on same site. May take 2 months.

Correspondence In.

1. Letter from Shire regarding 1 year lease extension on BPA site (GB)
2. Mary Taylor Chaplain at Balingup Primary School thanking us for our support in the Breakfast Program
3. Poster re dance in Greenbushes Hall Saturday 4th August (Info sent out on 29th July)
4. Email from Wayne Irvine about the re- location of the Padbury Hill chimney to Birdwood Park Site

Correspondence Out:

Obligation Letter sent to BPA Umbrella Groups to present at the AGM in October.
Moved G, McMullen, Seconded D.Gordon, Carried

Treasurers Report:

Profit & Loss Statement **1/7/17 through 30/6/18** \$18,033.43. Expenses for the year were \$15,599.27 with a closing balance of \$2343. The report was presented by the President, Permission to pay Water and Air con accounts was granted. Moved C.Sharp Seconded S.Mitchell. Carried Thank you Helen Vander Waall for updating finance.

General Business:

Chimney Report from Wayne Irvine. As it is most likely the chimney will fall apart, the rock should be deposited at the start of the Avenue on the left hand side. There is a large open area against the bank but well away from the information sign. Maybe the rock can be used as an entrance statement for the Avenue.? The agreement by Main Roads to move chimney has been recorded in BPA minutes. There is timetable for this to happen mid August but they are awaiting funding approval. BPA or a sub group need to submit an application for approval for moving chimney to Shire managed land.

Removal of Poplars from in front of Shire Depot

This work was carried out by the DBK–BLP Shire with no notification to residents. At the shires expense they pruned the poplars 6 months ago and then totally removed them 2 weeks ago. (Chrissy Sharp reported they were planted by her and Andrew 30 years ago). What has infuriated the community is: Why they pruned them wasting ratepayer's money and then later removed the trees without any consultation with townscape or community. Where is the evidence to say they were interfering with the drains and cables? Where is the expertise sought from when carrying out pruning on trees? It was never the Townscapes intention to have the poplars removed, although once pruned Townscape agreed to plant screening along the two fences to hide the shire depot. The planning of this exercise, organizing a chipper and fallers, would have taken several weeks to put in place and in that time the community could have been notified as to a better solution. We promote Balingup as an Arboretum Town There was also concern and debate over the pruning of the Oak Trees in the Avenue of honour; instead of employing people at great expense Balingup have several tree specialists in our community who would be available to assist the Shire.

Motion: J Helsham, Moved G McMullen

BPA write to the Shire asking for evidence based proof on:

1. The arborist's report on the pruning of the trees and the cost of this exercise.
2. What the Problems were in relation to the trees.
3. Where is the official report saying they had to be removed and who was it from.
4. The report from the company informing of the impact on underground cables
5. There is currently a review on the Shires tree policy and could BPA have a copy of the draft document.
6. As Balingup Is promoted as an Arboretum town, the Shire Consult with the community on removal or pruning of any trees in the town site. All in favour Carried.

Townscape & Committee/s

Since 2017 there have been rumours that Shire Committees are to be disbanded. The Balingup townscape Committee has been a very successful, legal committee and in conjunction with the DBK BLP shire has achieved a long list of improvements in Balingup over many years. The importance of this committee is evident in the recent removal of mature trees in the centre of Balingup, a decision which has outraged the community.

Motion: By J Helsham, 2nd Christensen to

To invite the CEO Ben Rose and President Brian Piesse to meet with BPA executives and Townscape committee members to explain the reason for disbanding this hard working, dedicated, voluntary committee and how this change can be managed effectively and benefit the Balingup community. Carried.

RAIL/ROAD Sub-committee will inform Public Transport and Shires of the existence of the rail committee. Stakeholders along with a Shire Representative hope to be in a position to advise BPA on how the traffic problem can be better managed and what those steps should be. SWDC and the Transport commission have bypassed the use of rail although the SWDC are doing a pre-feasibility study the focus being on Tourism and Bifocal issue.

Heavy Traffic on Roads: There was some discussion on moving heavy traffic off the main road. Could BPA / community consider our own traffic management program?

One area of particular concern is outside the General Store when customers, parked in front of the store pull out onto the highway as the car is going slow and has limited vision because

of the corner. Even when the trucks are traveling at the speed limit it is a very dangerous situation. There was mention of a lit up board to say "Thank you for not speeding" or a speed camera that registers speeds and can then be sent to offending trucking companies

Noongar Cultural, Arts and Community Precinct

Currently Golden Valley Tree Park is under claim by a local Noongar as part of the historic Noongar Native Title Settlement and if the land were to be selected for transfer, the change could come into effect as soon as in 2019, when the first land transfers will take place. Up to 20,000 ha of freehold title State Government land will be granted under that Settlement over the next five years, in addition to 300,000ha of reserves & national parks that will come under joint Noongar management.

GVTP has been created through a huge effort by the Balingup community and its volunteer management committee over 40 years to create this unique arboretum with currently 60,000 visitors to the park a year and various functions being held there.

There are a range of concerns about the current "Wongie Boodjarra" proposal for an ambitious Cultural Complex including an art centre, cultural space, training school and a respite centre as well as six to eight 3/4 bedroom chalets being built in the park.

The GVTP management have sought legal advice from DPAW. They state "the land is not eligible for transfer" and the department will not recommend the transfer takes place.

The Wongie Boodjarra proposal could go to cabinet however for a final decision.

GVTP are discussing the proposal and hope to come to a position within the next few weeks. There are several ways in which the decision could go;

1. No because the plan is an unacceptable change from the current successful land use.
2. Yes. You are welcome and the GVTP committee may play some residual role in arboretum management.
3. Create a smaller scale enclave for Noongar people which retains freehold title however the GVTP committee would probably be opposed to accommodation buildings.
4. No title transfer to Wongie Boodjarra but welcome them to participate under current management arrangements in some ways and invite Noongar people to hold Cultural Events.

The Rowlands mission near Brunswick is being developed as a Noongar Cultural Centre.

Footpaths:

Geoff and Steve met with Damien from the Shire to discuss maintenance and safety issues. Some money is available. Due to increased traffic through the town three areas were prioritised. Safety crossing the highway for school children and completion of footpaths up Steere Street. Maintenance on the footpath from the Packing Shed to the store, and The Alan Rothery walk. Several years ago there were plans to complete a footpath to the cheese factory this has been put on hold for now.

It was reported that the parking area outside Chris Reynolds always collects water and needs more maintenance on it than dumping a load of gravel.

If residents are concerned about roads or footpaths they can ring the Shire to report this.

Plane Tree: The plane tree at the back of the community centre is looking unhealthy and one sided. Andrew and Chrissy to check it out.

Meeting closed 9.00pm

Next Meeting 5th September 7pm Membership Fees Due