

Minutes
Balingup Progress Association Meeting of 5/9/18, 7pm

Present: John Ranieri, Noelene King, Helen & Per Christensen, Ron Robertson, Wendy Ayers, Geoff McMullen, Ros Benson, Wayne Irvine, Jodie Hornum, Fred Mills. Jim Richardson, Brian & Deb Vanallen, Peta Knapton

Apologies: Glen Griffiths, Joe Taylor, David Ayers. Mike King, Helen Vander Waal, Fred Mills, Chrissy Sharpe, Malcome Lee, Marsha & Frank Wachala

Guest: Brian Piesse.

Because of its large membership and community involvement Brian Piesse thanked the BPA for their contribution in making the Shires Job easier and expressed a vote of thanks to Deb Vanallen for her work at the Shire and commitment to tourism in the area.

A concern was raised in regard to the increase of heavy haulage trucks using the road due to the expansion at the Greenbushes mine and what is the Shire's management plan for traffic in the future.

Mr Piesse stated that the DBK – BLP Shire staff had met with Talison, ARC (railway) Bridgetown Greenbushes Shire and Manjimup Shire to see what could be done to alleviate the problem. ARC is currently carrying out a pre-feasibility study as to the condition of re-opening the rail line. Currently a third of the GB workforce are living in the Shire (thus saving some traffic using the road) One problem is the low level of rental properties in surrounding towns and the planning commission is reviewing housing and development options within the required area radius for workers.

8000 cars a day go through Donnybrook, 3000 through Balingup and the estimate next year for cars will be 10,000, without the truck count. Mr Piesse informed the BPA that all Qube trucks carting from the mine have a GPS installed for tracking speed.

Concern from BPA was of the other unregulated truck speeds and for Pedestrians.

At this stage a truck bypass is unlikely. Mr Piesse stayed for the duration of the meeting.

Confirmation of minutes of August meeting: Moved Helen / Seconded Wendy Carried

Business arising from previous minutes:

Golden Valley Tree park: and Cultural Centre is ongoing

Chimney: Wayne reported that the chimney coming down Padbury hill will not move as a whole unit. Main Roads will move the stone to the bottom of Birdwood Avenue of Honour. There was discussion on whether it as more trouble to move it or give up on the idea.

BPA would like community members to come forward with suggestions in the next two weeks as to how we could utilize this deconstructed chimney to still honour the memory of those who fought for our country. Please ring Wayne 97562004. Originally the first Balingup golf course was on this site and the chimney was in the Golf Club rooms. When the club moved to its present site the rooms were sold to the Balingup RSL around 1945-50 and remained as a clubrooms until about 1965.

Correspondence Out:

1. Letter to Shire requesting Arborist report on removal of Poplars in main street and pruning of oak trees in Birdwood park and the lack of Community Consultation

2. Letter to Shire re 1 year lease on BPA site not acceptable
3. Invitation to Shire requesting a meeting between Townscape and BPA Execs to explain the removal of Committees under the Shire.

Correspondence In.

1. Letter from Shire regarding addressing the removal of the poplars and Arborists report.
GB
2. Mary Taylor Chaplain at Balingup Primary School asking for community members to act as mentors at the School. Please contact the School 97641093
3. Ryan Cocking Main Roads in regard to Chimney removal
4. A request to install traffic calming bollards on the railway track near the Packing Shed
5. Association Rules Transition Pack, including Information Statement to be filled in after AGM

Treasurers Report: Our new treasurer will be back for the Oct meeting

There was no Bank Statement. A Term investment of \$21,000 was rolled over for 5 months at 2.35%. Expenses paid out since August meeting. Water Corp \$14.35, BBQ trailer license \$78.10, Cleaner from June to December \$500, Bunnings 4 shelves \$178.00, Synergy \$180.50, Balingup Post House Anzac flyers \$60.00, Bigfoot Pest Control \$330, Permission granted to pay Linda Cornfield \$75 for assembling shelves. This was put forward for adoption by Jodie, 2nd Ron

General Business:

Pruning of Oaks: In regard to the pruning of the oak trees at Birdwood Chrissy and Andrew met with the Shire who will change their arborist to one specifically trained in oaks and the trees will be pruned after Christmas. It was also stated that any work carried out in the Avenue of Honour has been in good faith and to increase the health of trees. There is still one pine tree to be removed.

Shire Depot Plantings:

Lillie Pillies have been planted to screen the Shire Depot; no other trees will be planted to replace the poplars. One of the concerns in the BPA letter to the Shire was the lack of community consultation over the removal of the trees and in future the Shire have said that the BPA will be asked to comment on main street work.

Townscape & Committee/s:

Mr Brian Piesse President of the DBK – BLP Shire, BPA exec and Townscape met before the BPA meeting to discuss the reason for the change in Shire committees. An official letter from the Shire to Balingup Progress Association will request that the Townscape Committee operate under the umbrella of the BPA. This will be voted on by BPA members.

Positive outcome for this move are:

1. Better use of money.
2. Less time wasted in seeking permission from Shire
3. Being able to employ local people with better skills and less cost
4. No holdups on progressing work
5. Townscape can ask for council advice or invite a shire rep to a meeting if needed.

Other local committees which have now been dissolved are the Town Hall and Balingup Cemetery Committee, any concern for these venues can be raised at BPA meetings and will be passed on to the Shire.

Lease Agreement:

The Balingup Progress Association lease was due to be reissued in June 2018 While we agree with the lease conditions we are very concerned that it is only for 1 year until the Shire has carried out a review of its current holdings.

For the past 30 years the leases agreement for the site has been for 5 years which allows security of tenure for upgrading the grounds and buildings, for the Medieval Carnival to plan their events several years in advance and to improve the grounds and over those years the Medieval Committee have invested in many permanent assets.

The buildings which are on the Railway lease were moved to this site by the Balingup Community from the old forestry settlement at Grimwade in the 1980s. The original lease of 5 years was issued from the Railways and then Brookfield became the owner and vested the land in the Shire around 2005. Since then all expenses for the running of the building, maintenance and improvements have been made by the Balingup Community. The toilets are open to the public and the Shire manages the toilet block as stated in the lease agreement.

The BPA is not prepared to sign a one year lease as we need the security for our investments and to plan for future successful events. While we understand the Shire have to review their holdings we urge them to allow us the 5 year lease until such time as this is completed, or to vest the lease contract to the Balingup Progress Association.

The Shire President reported that it was unfortunate the 1 year lease letter was sent and this came about when there was a review of Shire owned buildings.

A new letter will be sent granting the original 5 – 10 year lease while Shire owned building asset policies are being reviewed.

Dying to Die Workshop:

Plans to run one of these workshops in Balingup in the future

Medieval Carnival: Fred reported a great success with a wonderful and well attended feast on the Friday night which Kirup and Balingup Primary school helped at and will receive some financial support. M/C have purchased a set of 16 toilet blocks for their own future events and may be able to be hired by other organizations for events. Gate takings were up and the school has submitted a wish list to M/C. Security and entertainment costs were up. One thing that contributed to the success and smooth running of the carnival was the volunteers, committee and the Bunbury Pre Release Work group who helped with the setting up of the event.

Historical Exhibition:

Currently we are consolidating our exhibit and will be reopening soon featuring the Military History, old homesteads and Walter Padbury one of the early settlers who recognized the pastoral potential in this district.

Defibrillator Use: Senior St Johns Course in how to use the defibrillator/s which is located in towns is being conducted throughout the Shire with the aim to educate 4000 residents on how to use this device. Three sessions will be carried out in Donnybrook and Balingup with one being held in Balingup on Saturday 27th October. You can book online or ring 0428 270 154. If the hours they provide are not suitable they are happy to work in times to suit community members.

Bollards: Members voted not to put the bollards up on the railway road near Brockman drive at this stage. The Townscape committee will be planting several shade trees along the rail track. This may reduce the impact of speeding traffic through the area.

Trax & Trails:

Signage has been posted on the Rothery and Brook walk trails. "Welcome to Balingup Signs has been erected at both entries to the town.

Racecourse Reserve:

Residents are respecting the flora and fauna value of the racecourse and walk trails and there has been no evidence this year of firewood or sand being removed.

Footpaths:

At our July meeting there was a motion for a letter to be sent to the Shire asking for future plans for footpaths in the Balingup Townsite and in particular along Blackwood drive to the Cheese Factory. It was noted that there are several families living along the street and the children are walking to school. Motion: Jodie Hornum, Resend the letter for future plans for footpaths and in particular paths proposed for Blackwood Drive. 2nd Ros Benson. All in Favour

Visitors Centre:

Are seeking volunteers to work in the centre in particular on weekends. Training is given to V/C volunteers. This is a very important facility in our community as it promotes tourism in the region.

Members expressed a vote of thanks to Deb Vanallen for her support to all the organizations in our community and the ongoing promotion of Balingup. Deb has now finished work at the DBK – BLP Shire.

A reminder that the October meeting is the Annual General Meeting and drinks and nibbles will be served after the meeting.

BPA President John Ranieri thanked Mr Piesse for his attendance.

Meeting closed 9.00pm

Next Meeting Wednesday 3rd of October 7pm.

Agenda:

AGM Report from Umbrella Groups on work and events carried out in 2018 and future plans for 2019. Election of Officers

Ordinary Meeting

2030 Workshop Committee updates