

## Minutes of HBVA CCB February 11<sup>th</sup> 2017 in Erowal Bay Hall

40 members attended the meeting with 1 councillor from Shoalhaven City Council. Apologies were received from 19 members.

The President, Morgan Sant, opened the meeting at 3.0pm. He thanked everyone for coming in such hot conditions (over 35 degrees), particularly councillor Patricia White, and stated that he would get the agenda through as quickly as possible.

### **1 Minutes of Previous meeting.**

The minutes were approved and there were no matters arising.

### **2 Correspondence**

The Secretary has prepared a summary of correspondence which mainly concern a variety of issues with SCC; significant correspondence with other CCBs in relation to the response to the proposed rate increases being sought by Council. This is available on the website.

### **3 Website <http://www.hbvaccb.org.au>**

Adele Carter and Julienne McKay have established a new website for the CCB providing information for all residents. Recent posts alert browsers about new items of news; for example, arrangements for Clean Up Australia Day on 5 March. Large policy documents will be available on the site or links will be provided to them. Details of other organisations, such as Bush Care, will be included. CCB minutes and agendas will also be available. Drafts of the Strategic Plan will be posted when available. The website is still being developed, and constructive comments and suggestions, using the contact links on the website, would be welcome.

### **4 Council Matters**

- a) *Rate Increase* It was noted that Council voted at its Special Meeting to apply to IPART for a 27-28% increase over two years. The Secretary informed the meeting that a letter from HBVA CCB had been sent in 2016 after the October meeting, opposing the rapid increase in rates. Subsequently there had been meetings attended by representatives of many of Shoalhaven's CCBs (including Hyams Beach) at which critical views had been aired and alternative strategies had been suggested. A major document representing the views of a many of the CCBs had been submitted to Council and will be forwarded to IPART. In summary, this document
  - a. pointed out that Council's case for the increase was flawed, with only three options presented, each of which would result in different amounts of money being collected, and would result in a different start point for all future rate rises beyond the immediate catch-up period.
  - b. argued that the case was not made for the need for such a big increase, with such a rapid rate of rise, and argued that, were there a need for such a dramatic increase to maintain current and planned services, then it would be appropriate to review the scope and depth of those services before locking in such an increase.

- c. requested that the rate rise be delayed for twelve months whilst the council figures are fully investigated and the impact of new land valuations be assessed – and offered the support of the CCBs in working through these issues
- d. proposed that alternative sources of income be investigated, including user pays for some of the services provided.
- e. proposed a review to consider what activities and services council should be funding, with the model of a citizens’ jury, as recently done by Eurobodalla Shire, be investigated as a starting point for such a review.

Councillor Patricia White spoke of the need for the rate increase in order to deal with the backlog of road maintenance and renewal. She also stated that council was looking into additional sources of funds particularly from the tourist businesses which often only paid residential not business rates. She also said that the rating structure currently consisting of 8 categories could be changed

- b) *Fireshed* The President informed the meeting that a land claim had been made by the NSW Land Council on lots 78 and 79 in in 2005 and 2016. Whilst the claim made in 2005 would not have been granted as the fire shed was in use, by 2016 Council had locked us out of the Fireshed without any community consultation. Advice from the Native Title section of Crown Lands Department was that the 2016 claim is likely to be granted. About 30,000 claims are in the pipeline so it will be several years before the claim is settled. If it is granted then we could then seek to negotiate with the relevant land council to lease it back.
- c) *Application to subdivide 1 Tulip Street.* The CCB wrote last year asking that this be not approved as it would set a precedent whilst we are developing the strategic plan. One plot would only be 300 sq m. Council have formally deferred their decision, pending review of the relevant criteria.

## **5 Treasurers report**

Cheque account December 10 <sup>th</sup>		\$1834.89
Website domain	\$26.10	
Gift	\$67.10	
Survey stationary	\$21.84	
Closing balance		\$1719.00
Outstanding cheque	\$38.40	
Term deposit IMB		\$10,472.17
Interest earned	\$56.81	
<b>TOTAL assets</b>		<b>\$12,277.57</b>

The Treasurers report was approved.

## 6 Clean up Australia Day, March 5<sup>th</sup>

Julienne McKay reported that Hyams Beach had registered for this and would like individual participants to register between 8 and 12 on the day, after which they would be allocated an area and bags etc. to clean up. Details of the Cleanup are set out on the website.

She also asked that people keep an inventory of all the rubbish they pick up from March 1<sup>st</sup> until March 5<sup>th</sup> on the form provided (also downloadable from the website). This is necessary to qualify for the state government grant of \$500 under the Keep NSW Beautiful Litter Check, and participation in this process could support actions in relation to better litter management to be considered as part of the strategic planning process. In particular, in the second round of this program we could qualify for a much bigger grant to help preserve our environment.

## 7. Review of Summer Season

The President stated that he had asked for a meeting with Ben Stewart, SCC head of assets, to report on the success and failures of this year's traffic management arrangements and to start planning for next year. He commented how much improved the traffic flow had been, with the help of rangers and tourist officers, and some of the new parking arrangements. He also noted that SCC ranger report indicated that the cost of deploying extra rangers to Hyams Beach in 2015/16 had been more than offset by the value of fines issued. However, there still remained the problem of the mismatch of supply and demand, with thousands of cars seeking just a few hundred parking places. He then asked for the views of those present.

- a. *Michele Schlosser*: **Praised** the work of **the tourist officers** who were well trained, cheerful and very helpful. Their promotion of alternative beaches was excellent. But there were far too many people who did not understand why there were fewer parking spots. Litter remains a major problem, perhaps tourist buses could help educate visitors that cigarette butts and tissues must not be thrown on the ground. **Full time policing** of littering, illegal camping and other infringements is needed.
- b. *Lois Sparkes*: Agreed about the tourist officers but thought there was insufficient ranger activity in the northern part of the village. **The intersection of Lotus and Tulip Street was an accident waiting to happen**, corner parking, going the wrong way up the one way street and undertaking dangerous U-turns in the middle of the road. She emphasised the need to ring council to keep reporting all the illegal camping on the after-hours number 44213100.
- c. *Bubi Gerber*: Spoke specifically about the grid-lock on Silver Strand Circle on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January when there was inadequate ranger presence. Cars continued to try to enter, with cars parked on corners etc., making it impossible for cars exiting. He tried to stop cars continuing southwards.
- d. *Paul Renwick*: Spoke of the **20 illegal campers he had encountered with a fire** in the sand dunes. They were in the National Park and Council rangers were unable to help him. He was informed he should have called 000 to get action.
- e. *Catherine van Veenendaal*: Reported that the **illegal campers** on Hyams Beach were becoming **increasingly devious** in their activities, setting up tents at dusk and breaking camp in the morning, denying aggressively – to both her and the ranger who attended – that they had spent the night on the beach; these behaviours

emphasised the need to report at night the presence of campers so that they cannot use this loophole.

- f. *Chris Allison*: Commented that Council were still employing knee-jerk responses and that long term planning is essential as the problem is growing and will **get far worse with the completion of the Berry by-pass**. Paid parking is probably a good idea as long as it is not employed in Hyams Beach alone, which he would vehemently oppose.  
The electronic sign on Naval College Road worked but was not changed for two weeks, indicating blue bottles and limited parking, which he felt had deterred people from coming to the village and had reduced his business over this period.
- g. *Marie Ellis*: Asked if council could **advertise other beaches** and stop promoting Hyams Beach
- h. *Geoffrey Keigdrum (HB Beach Houses)*: requested that parking infringements etc be **fully policed** or the signs would become meaningless.
- i. *Martin Fortescue*: requested that **members of the public not try to enforce** traffic, parking and camping infringements as they are putting themselves in danger. They also need to appreciate what powers rangers actually have.
- j. *Jenny Rutherford*: Made the suggestion that parking times should be **limited**, both during the **day and the night**, as it would increase turnover of spaces and be a real deterrent to overnight campers.
- k. *Errol Pollnow*: The situation will continue to get worse and a **range of solutions** need to be considered. Paid parking, no vehicular access and shuttle buses could be considered. He cautioned about the use of parking restrictions that vary across the year, noting that this often leads to confusion.
- l. *Ken Renwick*: Acknowledged the council is strapped for cash. More rangers with greater authority and ticketed parking paid at the entrance to the village on Booderee Ave would help Council's revenue.
- m. *Theo van Veenendaal*: Paid parking pays for itself. **Modern technology** allows for **number plate recognition** and similar 21<sup>st</sup> century applications. There is no need for old fashioned methods of collecting money.
- n. *Vicky Fortescue*: **praised the initiative** shown by the rangers and other council staff who had arranged for bigger rubbish bins and helping with litter problems
- o. *Mark Crowther*: stated that the number of huge 60 seater buses entering the village on busy days was still a major issue, but one that can only be resolved by RMS if Council make adequate representation.
- p. *The President, Morgan Sant*: wrapped up the discussion by showing an overhead of current and possible SCC responses including a one way system for the southern half of the village, suggested by Council staff as a possible way to improve traffic flow.

**8 Strategic Plan** due to the extreme heat it was decided to defer further discussion on the progress of the plan until the next meeting. It was noted that a visitor survey had been included in the planning process in order to identify the values and concerns of visitors. Vicki Fortescue summarised the main findings of the survey:-

**Survey results.** Residents conducted a small survey of visitors to Hyams Beach during the last week of January. Both day visitors and people staying in the village were included.

Over half (57%) of day visitors came from Sydney, but some of these were staying locally. Mostly they lived in South Western or Southern Sydney, although one day tripper had travelled from Hornsby for the day. Almost one-third came from overseas. The majority were coming for the first or second time.

Of those staying in the village, 62% were from Sydney and many were repeat visitors.

76% of respondents to the question '*what had attracted them to the village*' indicated that the natural environment, white sands, clear water, marine environment and small village atmosphere were the reasons for coming. Some of the remainder were on a package tour and others were recommended by friends. Similarly elements of the natural environment were the key positive experiences given (61% of 88 responses).

Not all respondents could nominate negative experiences but, of the 65 responses, 73% nominated poor infrastructure, notably toilets, showers and parking as the key ones.

Almost half of the responses offering suggestions for improvement nominated improved infrastructure, showers, toilets, garbage bins, shelter and barbecues.

**9 NBN** Mark Crowther stated that issues were still being resolved with the microwave solution. Jenny Rutherford, whose house is needed for the relay into the village stated that she was still waiting for reassurances from the company about health issues and entry to the premises etc.

The meeting closed at 4.40pm

**Next meeting, with a focus on the strategic plan, will be scheduled for late March or early April**