

Minutes of the meeting of HBVA CCB

held on 19th May at Erowal Bay Hall

Attendance: 32 members plus Councillors Gash, White and Levett. The councillors were welcomed by the chairman. Apologies were received from 25 members, and from councillors Gartner and Cheyne

Mark Crowther stood in as chairperson of the meeting to assist the president, Morgan Sant. The meeting was opened at 3.01pm.

1. Minutes of Previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting approved, moved by Ken Renwick and seconded by Kate Friis.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

3. Mark Crowther noted with great sadness the death of Peter Moller and expressed the sympathy of the village to Di Moller.

4. Treasurers report

Vicki Fortescue reported on the healthy state of HBVA's finances.

Opening balance at 24th February 2018 was \$2379.00 in our Commonwealth Bank cheque account. The only expenditure was cost of hiring Erowal Bay Hall – \$39.90. IMB Term Deposit had an opening balance at 24th February of \$10,750.65 Interest earned since is \$55.67. The account was rolled over on 08 May 2018. Total assets as of 19th May 2018 are \$13,145.42.

Report approved: moved by Mark Crowther and seconded by Bridget Sant

5. The President's Update on traffic issues and Council meetings

5.1 Meetings in Council

There had been stakeholder meetings in Council, leading up to the planning for Easter and a subsequent meeting reporting on outcomes for Easter. Future meetings will involve a smaller working party of village and council representatives and will concentrate on long term outcomes. He emphasised that input from all members is essential.

- He reported that following the Easter traffic experience, a report was prepared by traffic managers and rangers and presented to Council at its ordinary meeting on April 24th. This report noted that:
 - the one-way traffic flow system generally worked well.
 - The temporary pathway to Chinamans Beach worked well
 - The village did get to gridlock on Easter Sunday
 - Pedestrian safety on Booderee Avenue remained a serious issue
 - Seaman's carpark was extremely problematic
 - Illegal camping was very difficult to police, as campers were arriving very late after rangers came off duty at 9.00pm

- The net cost was in line with our pre-Easter expectations and less than Councils expectations (fines issued were \$13350)

In addition, the report to Council outlined proposals for further actions

- yellow line markings on corners / curbs to designate no stopping zones
- review of Seamans carpark with the proposal to make it disabled parking only
- creating permanent pedestrian access at key locations
- following further consultation, consider making the one-way system, either semi-permanent (seasonal) or permanent.

5.2 Formation of joint Hyams/Council working party

A letter was received from Jessica Rippon (General Managers office) proposing the establishment of a smaller working party to take over from stakeholders meetings. It will have representatives from the CCB, from rental businesses and from the retail sector. Invitations for expressions of interest for membership were requested. It is intended that the group first meet at the end of May or early June. The aim of the group is to identify key projects and for responsible people to run the key projects. It will report to Council.

Agenda for the working party

Morgan suggested that the agenda for this working party should include

- the items listed above
- a document that had been presented to the stakeholders meeting outlining the range of actions that could be adopted before October (traffic control within village and Divert and control when village is full) and in the longer term (out of village parking and market mechanisms to allocate scarce resources)

Composition of the working party.

Motions had been received on behalf of the executive, nominating representatives from residents in the north of the village and in the south, as well as the key rental agencies and the shop. (see below item 6 the motions).

General discussion of traffic issues and proposals.

Councillor Gash stressed that monetary considerations for action at Hyams Beach were huge. She suggested we should just put up a full sign and not let anyone else in.

Councillor White remarked that the traffic count provided hard evidence that the residents' informal counts were no exaggeration. Success with controlling illegal camping at Bendelong had moved the problem elsewhere, but provided lessons in relation to encouraging motorists to head elsewhere. She also said councillors would only be observers if they attended the small group working party.

Councillor Levett. Thought the small group a better way to achieve outcomes. Managing tourism is one of councils biggest problems – with one issue being the limited scope for Council capturing a share of the value that tourism may bring to the Shoalhaven. In relation to Hyams, parking permits bought on line, from a limited pool, before a visit may be one idea.

Peter Rose Thanked the executive and noted that traffic was not the only critical issue. He observed that the number of toilets was inadequate for the thousands of people on the beach. Parking over fire hydrants was being allowed. But the biggest danger was the fire threat from illegal camping in the dunes. He thought that illegal campers were accessing advice on how to avoid fines.

Bubi Gerber thought the negative sign after the Booderee Avenue turn was putting people off visiting the Booderee National Park and encouraging higher visitation to Hyams Beach. **John Souter** doubted whether converting Seamans carpark to disabled only was a good idea – likely to be insufficient demand. He thought many problems would be solved with very strict enforcement of parking regulations, e.g. corners, proximity to double white line and on verges. He thought the expense of undertaking an EIS on new out of town parking proposals would be a waste of money as it would never succeed – almost inevitable issues with asbestos and the soft surfaces. A park and ride from a variety of locations including Vincentia High School was seen as a much better idea

Tom Fawcett questioned how the working party was to be formed and expressed an interest in joining it. He was against providing another carpark as he thinks it will just encourage more visitors. Further parking restrictions must not be an excuse for yet more ugly signage.

Chris Alison. If the mayor wants more people to walk into the village more pathways have to be built, particularly on Booderee Avenue which is a death trap. Council quickly extended parking options for the Fleet review in 2013 by putting down hard core on the verges of Booderee Ave but seems very reluctant to ease our continuous ongoing pressure which will multiply at an accelerating rate as more and more overseas visitors travel to Australia. This is a growing problem facing all coastal communities which Council has to address.

Hamish Baker Observed that small coastal communities in Europe just do not let cars in at all.

Morgan Sant commented that Shoalhaven tourism does not distinguish day beach tourism from other types of day tourism. It quotes the figure of the average spend of day tourists of \$122 per day. However the small print indicates that this figure includes expenditure of before and after the trip. Day beach tourists from Sydney fill their eskies and their petrol tanks in Sydney and typically make a minimal contribution to the Shoalhaven economy, whilst the SCC has to bear all the infrastructure costs and the community suffers considerable social costs.

6. Motions circulated

Motion 1. HBVA Position on the composition of the Working Group to be established by Council to address long-term solutions for Hyams Beach.

The HBVA supports the proposal by Council to establish a working group to address long-term options for managing visitor numbers. The HBVA considers that the group should consist of around 10 members, four of which are nominated by the HBVA. Two positions should be for ratepayers – one representing the north of the village and one representing the south of the village, in acknowledgement of different issues and impacts across the village. A further two positions should be for representatives from the commercial sector - one representing the rental property sector (which has a significant presence in the village) and one representing the shop (a major employer and service for the village).

This was amended on the floor to have 4 residents and the two business representatives.

Moved Tom Fawcett

Seconded Peter Rose

Carried

Motion 2. HBVA Nominations for the Council Working Group

The following members be nominated for the Council Working Group :

Morgan Sant (substitute Mark Crowther), representing ratepayers from the south of the village;

Lois Sparkes (substitute Kate Friis), representing ratepayers from the north of the village;

Craig McIntosh of the Holiday Collection (substitute Geoff Keighran of JB Beach Houses) representing the rental property sector;

Chris Alison of Hyams Beach Café (substitute Phoebe Alison) representing the shop.

The additional expressions of interest from the floor were

Ken Renwick (substitute Vicki Fortescue)

Tom Fawcett (substitute Bubi Gerber)

Moved Bridget Sant

Seconded Kate Friis

Carried

Motion 3. HBVA requests Council lodge an application for a grant from the NSW Government to provide funding to support infrastructure improvements for the village and surrounding area.

The HBVA notes that Hyams Beach is a major tourism destination in NSW. Increasing numbers of tourists are placing pressures on infrastructure in the village and the surrounding Bay and Basin region. HBVA requests that Council lodge a tourism grant application with the NSW Government to improve facilities and infrastructure for Hyams Beach and the surrounding region. A component of that application could include road improvements and an out of village solution to manage day visitor numbers.

Patricia White spoke in support of this and gave examples of projects in the Shoalhaven funded by tourism grants. She emphasised the need for the working party to draw up a list of projects that could be thus funded.

Moved Vicki Fortescue

Seconded Peter Rose

Carried

7. Environment Group

Vicki Fortescue reported that they had had two meetings to draw up an action plan and to prioritise actions. The new fence extending along the reserve should make it much safer and reduce the number of informal, dangerous tracks onto the beach. The group had had two planting sessions to regenerate the degraded areas behind the fence. There has been great community cooperation and thanks to council for supplying the plants and signs etc.. They are now in discussion about the spraying of weeds.

Cassia, fish fern and asparagus fern were problem weeds which need control, examples of these were shown to the meeting.

Illegal activities like spear fishing should be reported to marine parks.

Illegal, or dangerous jet skis should be reported to the RMS. It was suggested that the phone numbers to report the wrong doings should be available at the beach on the marine park sign .

Brushing had taken place at Chinamans beach to eliminate tracks into the dunes. The environment group is willing to assist the NSW NP with step repair and dune fencing.

The group are also working with Fiona Schruers from council on improving village recycling, particularly in rental properties.

Motion Mynah birds need controlling and the group would like to purchase two traps from the Sanctuary Point Mens shed for \$50 each.

**Moved Vicki Foortescue
Seconded Di Moller
Carried**

8. Bush Care

Di Moller reported that the group had replanted the bank on Silver Strand and had started on revegetating the dunes with 50 plants provided by Council. In addition they had done a considerable amount of brushing with the aid of two trees. One of which had fallen across the steps at Seamans Beach. The dunes will shortly be further protected, when the fence along the Lister Court Track is reinforced with dog proof fencing.

9. Other Business

- a. **David Campbell** reported:
 - i. The draft CPP, (Community Protection Plan) is now loaded on the website and should be examined. He suggested that Brad Collins from the RFS, one of the authors, should come and talk to the Plan, and be available for questions and feedback, at the next meeting in July. In preparation for the next fire season.
 - ii. The proposed new Sanctuary Point library. He encouraged members to respond to the Survey Monkey on the features they would like to see incorporated.
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WH3QNJL>
- b. **Peter Rose** questioned the flow of the creek which is severely undercutting the dunes in front of the Cyrus Street houses.
- c. **Mark Crowther**
 - i. the Mens shed were developing a constitution
 - ii. Kerry Crowther had received a letter from Colin Woods (Council's Rangers Section) stating that illegal camping in the Seamans Beach carpark was a matter for Police not Council.
- d. **Morgan Sant** Informed the meeting that on June 7th there would be a Community /Council drop in session from 6.00pm in the Vincentia Public Hall. **Patricia White** enlarged on this by stating there would be public documents on display, including the Budget and the Coastal Zone Management Plan.

The meeting closed at 5 pm

Next meeting
July 21st

Annual General Meeting
October 6th