

**WAVERTON PRECINCT MEETING AND
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
5 December 2023**

MINUTES:

The meeting commenced at 7.40pm at the Mess Hall, Coal Loader, Waverton with Mary Curran as guest speaker and AGM Facilitator.

Chair: Ian Grey

Minutes: Deborah Lloyd

Attendance: 18

WELCOME AND APOLOGY:

The Chair welcomed attendees and our guest, Mary Curran, to this regular monthly meeting to end 2023, with our Annual General Meeting taking place immediately after. Apology from Keith Anderson.

IG explained that in the AGM meeting, current office holders will stand down and a new Committee will be elected.

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The confirmation of November 2023 Minutes was moved by Vera Yee and seconded by Kevin Alker.

"That the November minutes be accepted".

Carried unanimously.

GUEST SPEAKER: UPDATE AND ACTIVITIES AT NOAKES SHIPYARD

IG introduced our guest speaker, Mary Curran who led the "Say No To Noakes" campaign. Mary was also a past co-ordinator of the Euroka Precinct group. He noted Waverton Precinct has always supported a working harbour but also noted residents want such operations to be good neighbours and appropriate environmental strategies and pollution controls in place. Noakes has long been a problem in these aspects.

The floating dry dock not coming into Berrys Bay is our most significant victory in the last five years. While that win is entirely over, Noakes themselves remain a concern to local residents, particularly relating to activities at the shipyard itself.

Ms Curran commenced by outlining that she had a significant role in the legal processes that have been active against Noakes, managing a legal case for the first time. She lives next door to their operations everyday and sees the shipyard from her house. Prior to this Ms Curran was involved in advocacy for the Shareholders Association.

Ms Curran noted that, because Transport for NSW sent her the wrong document, she now knows that Noakes have the current lease. Council also found that Noakes had breached provisions for the floating dry dock (FDD) at Snails Bay at Balmain. The FDD can operate in common waters, but cannot stay there.

The EPA has a webpage for Noakes but what are Noakes doing to improve things? Not very much and residents are very unhappy in terms of pollution. As an example, Ms Curran said that Noakes spray paint boats directly into the harbour and the carcinogenic fumes are released into the general atmosphere. This is in breach of a licence condition that says they need to have a carbon filtration system which was meant to have been in place by November but they did not meet it.

Further, Noakes has not lodged a Fire Order plan with the Council for four years, despite fire being a hazard in the past and many flammables being located there. There are no sprinklers or hydrants. Council has attempted to force the issue without success.

Ms Curran also outlined that the shipyard requires the use of two way cranes to move larger/heavier boats such as ferries. (these cranes are massive and are parked in Woolcott Street, taking up 7 public car park spaces). They need to enter the park itself to turn around and when this occurs, there are no traffic controllers in place – they just close off the street themselves.

Residents were successful in the court case against Noakes and its FDD. This victory set a precedent for Sydney Harbour. The Judge said that Sydney Harbour is for everyone and not just for profit. The “Say No To Noakes” group and local residents have set that standard.

An outstanding DA requirement for the site requires Noakes to give back a part of their site as a public walkway and public jetty. Neither of these have been provided. This condition can be enforced and Ms Curran said that she is in talks with the Council about this.

Question was asked from a resident as to who owns Noakes. Ms Curran responded that the land the shipyard sits on is owned by the Stannard family with the Noakes Group renting the site from them. At first, there were about six tenants on this one site, but now only Noakes. The Noakes CEO is Sean Langman. Mr Langman is an active sailor and quite well known figure in the sailing community. The Standard family own many other parcels of waterfront land around the harbour from their earlier days as ferry, tug, and personnel boat operators (for example taking workers to Cockatoo Island).

Ms Curran finished her talk noting that the Noakes shipyard was a disaster waiting to happen in terms of fire and workplace safety, and the relevance for the Waverton Precinct is that we need to be vigilant that Noakes do not get a foothold at Woodleys Shed and adjacent areas..

EXISTING BUSINESS:

Visit by Gary Parsons:

Treasurer KA and Chairman IG conducted a 'walk around' with Gary Parsons, North Sydney Council's Director of Open Space and Infrastructure on Monday 4th December. KA advised that they pointed out to Mr Parsons areas of the park where concrete structures had been built in the middle of the park sitting well above the surrounding ground level. It was also shown to Mr Parsons of the crowding out of key viewing platforms from growing vegetation and stressed to him that the Precinct was not necessarily proposing removal of the vegetation but more a considered thinning to reverse lost views and amenity around Carradah Park. Further, the decaying wharves and the poor state of Balls Head walking tracks were pointed out (for example trees have fallen across the main route across the spine of Balls Head path and have remained there for years).

Marcelo Occhiuzzi, the Director of Community, Planning and Environment will be visiting the Precinct meeting on February 6, 2024.

Basketball hoop:

A resident raised the possibility of a basketball hoop being installed somewhere in the parks around Waverton as so many young people enjoy basketball. There was not a widespread feeling of support for such a move from the meeting but it was advised for the resident to contact the Council directly regarding this idea, especially as Merritts Playground is confirmed for an overhaul in early 2024.

Western Harbour Tunnel:

There has been no news regarding the Western Harbour Tunnel. However, it was stated by a resident that any individual properties that align with the tunnel will experience vibration. The exact tunnel path is being fine tuned so residents of Waverton were advised to keep a close eye on the path it does take and for residents whose homes sit within 50 metres either side, must get a dilapidation report.

Berrys Bay Masterplan:

No news or information from Transport NSW regarding the Berrys Bay Masterplan. It is due to begin in late 2024/early 2025. It's around three to six months late. A comment was made that the Waverton foreshore is not being managed very well and we should be vigilant regarding any new project.

Waverton Bowling Club:

An attendee asked about the Waverton Bowling Club. IG responded that there still had been no contact or no movement on this matter.

Streets Alive:

Streets Alive still require further volunteers. To assist the group, the Precinct agreed to assist Streets Alive with a blitz in Autumn. More will be announced on this in forthcoming meetings in 2024.

The North Sydney Community Awards:

North Sydney Council will honour local heroes through their Awards and this is a good opportunity to recognise and thank active residents who work through the Precinct platform to improve this community.

The Categories are: *Community Builder* (for which our Chairman Ian Grey was suggested), *Eco Warrior* (for which Vera was a suggestion), *Living Legend* (for which Keith Anderson was suggested), *Next Generation (no suggestion)* , *Trail Blazer* (for which Bruce Donald was suggested).

It was proposed and supported by the meeting that the above individuals would be nominated by the Precinct. However, residents are welcome to nominate the above or make their own additional nominations as individuals. Nominations close on February 12 2024. Further information will be provided at the February meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

The next meeting will be held back at the Uniting Church Community Hall, 75 Bay Road, Waverton, at 7.30pm on Tuesday, February 6, 2024. Our special guest speaker will be Marcelo Occhiuzzi, the Director of Community, Planning and Environment

FOLLOW UP:

EPA webpage for Noakes shipyard:

<https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/working-together/community-engagement/updates-on-issues/odour-investigations/noakes-group-boatyard-mcmahons-point>

North Sydney Council Community Award

<https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/community/north-sydney-community-awards/2>

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

The AGM commenced at 9.05pm with Mary Curran presiding.

Treasurers, Chairmans and Secretary's report were presented to attendees as are attached.

All office holders stood down.

The elected 2024 Committee for the Waverton Precinct is:

Kevin Alker: Treasurer

Deborah Lloyd: Secretary

Ian Grey: Caretaker Chairman

Interest from any resident that would like to join the Committee in 2024 would be very welcome in the new year.

Jeremy put forward that he would like to serve as an informal Fundraising leader in 2024, which was gratefully accepted.

The Annual General Meeting concluded at 9.23pm.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT
WAVERTON PRECINCT
December 2023.**

With the stepping down of local hero Sid French, whoever took on the role of Secretary needed to fill significant shoes - a tall order for anyone but as I had only moved into the community some 8 months prior, it seemed very daunting when I was elected as Secretary of the Waverton Precinct in December 2022.

However, with the abundant generosity and assistance of Ian Grey, our Chairman and Kevin Alker, our Treasurer, this was able to occur comfortably. I thank them very much for their help and support over the last 12 months.

Our monthly meetings have all been well attended, averaging around 30 attendees, even during the colder winter months. My key role this year has been to take the Minutes, and distribute them to those on the Precinct's mailing list.

A highlight of the year was in March 2023 when attendees were divided up into groups to discuss their vision for the Berrys Bay Masterplan. All residents across the groups demonstrated very similar ideas and understanding of what a project like this could and should deliver. This spoke volumes of the shared community values and vision of our residents.

A social media presence has been established with Waverton Precinct on Facebook.

A focus in our final months of 2023 has been the revitalisation of our web presence, which will hold more timely and interesting information that will also inspire residents of Waverton to attend our monthly meetings, which will continue to be the primary method of engagement for the Waverton Precinct.

Once again, I thank Ian and Kevin for their wonderful support and also all the residents of Waverton.

Yours sincerely,

Deborah Lloyd
Secretary
Waverton Precinct.