

WAVERTON PRECINCT MEETING

7 February 2023

MINUTES

The meeting commenced at 7.35pm at the Waverton Uniting Church Community Hall.

Chair: Ian Grey

Minutes: Deborah Lloyd

Attendance: 23

The Chair noted our past Chair and Secretary, Sid French, had died in late December.

It was noted that the Waverton community wishes to express deep condolence for the recent passing of Sid French, which occurred since our last meeting in December 2022.

Sid was extremely active within the community, contributing insightfully to many projects in the area, including the Coal Loader and Western Tunnel. He will be greatly missed.

WELCOME AND APOLOGY

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting, and also welcomed Councillor Ian Mutton from NSC who will be addressing the meeting on the current situation in regard to the Waverton Bowling Club.

Apologies received from Keith Anderson.

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The confirmation of previous minutes was moved by BD and seconded by MP.

“That the December 2022 Minutes be accepted”.

Carried unanimously.

NSC REPLY TO PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS

Transport NSW may provide over 3 parcels of land and marine leases as part of the Draft Masterplan. It is hoped to firm up timing and funding arrangements in the next few months. The Precinct prefers (as does NSC) that the State Government hand these land parcels and marine leases across to the care and control of the Council.

NSC has also updated us on improvements at the Coal Loader, which will result in more shaded areas, benches and tables being installed, plus new plantings adjacent to the colonnade. It also includes funding for toilets, including a unisex toilet under the ramp way, with \$260,000 allocated for initial fitout.

EXISTING BUSINESS:

Former Waverton Bowling Club site:

There is no clear intention from the State government as to what they intend to do with the former Waverton Bowling Club site. It is noted the site is now owned by the Municipal Land Corporation.

Councillor Mutton was invited to address the meeting to provide an update on this matter.

Councillor Mutton commenced by providing an historical overview of the site. The BC is currently zoned for recreational/sporting use. The club went into Administration and the lease reverted back to Crown Land. The site was available for a Land Rights claim. If the Council could show a community purpose, and make a case for the community then it was thought that it might be able to maintain the title. The Minister agreed but the purpose was deemed too narrow and the Council's claim was lost. While there is no current clear intent one way or another by the new owner to add the site to open green space, nor is there any other strong view as to what should happen next.

Councillor Mutton noted the Council may be able to regain the land by working with the State Government who could fund a purchase. The longer that is left, the more difficult this option would be. He noted other blocks of land are in a similar position, such as Wendy's Garden, Cammeray Golf Clubhouse and St Leonards Bowling Club.

There is no certainty around the Waverton BC - and this is what the Councillor stressed should be addressed as the site is so important and it is a site that has wider significance (i.e. it is not just a local matter). Councillor Mutton suggested that the Metro Land Council representatives be invited to a meeting to discuss the matter, in addition to a very senior member of the Council administration staff such as the General Manager. This idea was met with approval of the meeting, which clearly wanted to reach out and get some relationship with the Land Council and commence a dialogue around the future of this site. It was the consensus of the meeting that these parties will be invited to attend a Precinct meeting after the State election on March 25 2023.

It was also requested that the Indigenous History Report be attached to our electronic communication to our mailing list so that could be read by all interested residents.

Berry's Bay 'Masterplan':

Western Harbour Link project:

Project representatives will be attending our March meeting. It was noted neither the 3 land allotments subject to the 'Masterplan' process or the related Maritime leases have been handed to the Council. Poisonous sediment in the shallow harbour waters around the slipway of the former Woodley's site (and in other parts of Berry's Bay) remain a significant concern as they are not acknowledged in the Masterplanning process, so far.

At the invitation of the Chair, Bill Ryall addressed the meeting at this point. In his role as an Environmental Engineer, he has extensive understanding of this situation and he has made submissions and provided data to all relevant parties, plus acted as an expert witness to the recent Upper House Inquiry. However, Maritime has not made any progress on remediating this area – plus both the EPA and Transport NSW remain silent on this aspect. Bill said he regarded this as one of the most polluted water ways in Sydney Harbour and it must be cleaned up as soon as practicable and certainly before anyone starts walking, playing, swimming, kayaking etc in the area. The remedial idea of dumping new sand on top of the polluted chemicals, as floated by Transport for NSW, he regarded as “ simply preposterous”.

Bill passed around a summary of the data and submissions made and it was agreed this will be sent out to our mailing list, as well as to the WHL team with the request they address this issue when at our meeting next month.

DA's:

Recent DA information was provided to attendees, including
-alterations and additions to 8 Whatmore Street,
-repurposing of a car park space at 100 Bay Road,
-and a new pergola over an apartment at 22 Ross Street.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- **Wollstonecraft Waverton Noise Action Group:** IL, as a representative of this community group addressed the meeting. The situation with train noise is as bad as it has ever been. The noise is a type of pollution and should be regarded as such. The matter has been raised with the EPA, Sydney Trains, the State MP but nothing has changed except that Rail staff now have noise cancelling PPA provided. There are no official guidelines around noise and what is permissible. A US manufactured lubricant is put onto the rails to stop screeching but this washes off in rain. Its trial was a failure.
- A Slovenian company manufacture a much improved product which uses less product, spreads further along the rails, and lasts longer. Sydney Trains was offered a free 6 month trial and a meeting was facilitated but Sydney Trains did not take up this offer.

The WW NAG will email our Chair a copy of a report that was compiled by the action group on these matters.

The WW NAG requested that residents mention this matter at all opportunities with an election coming up.

- **A Memo of Understanding** has been signed by the Council and this will provide funds to the Waverton Precinct of \$1,500 for the year. It was suggested by the Chair, and agreed by the attendees, that this can be primarily utilised to improve the Precinct's electronic communications.
- It was requested we acknowledge and congratulate former Chair Mr Jeff Morris on his Order of Australia. The Chair undertook to convey this to Jeff.
- It was raised that the toilet facility in the building housing Coles in Crows Nest is permanently locked to the public and the Chair was asked to raise this with the company – probably as a joint approach with Wollstonecraft Precinct.
- MEETING CLOSED AT 9.10pm.

The next meeting will be held at the Bay Road Uniting Church Community Hall, 7.30pm on Tuesday 7th March 2023.