

MINUTES OF THE GUNG AHLIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 12 February, 2003

PRESENT: As per attendance sheet.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Helen Cross, who was represented by her Senior Advisor, John Davey; and from Jacqui Burke and Vicki Dunne.

Barry Dee welcomed people to the meeting. He advised that Guy Sweeting from radio station 106.3 was recording this meeting.

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2002 were circulated.

MOTION 1: That the Minutes of the meeting held 12/12/02 be accepted.

Proposed: Lloyd Walker Seconded: Ian Ruecroft CARRIED

Barry asked for any further agenda items (none were received).

GENERAL BUSINESS

Canberra bushfires

Following the devastation in the southern suburbs of Canberra from the bushfires on 18 January, Barry Dee suggested that the Gungahlin Community Council send a letter of support to the Community Councils of Weston, Tuggeranong and Woden, and offering assistance if required. Peter Coggan thought that the more immediate needs of those affected would now have been taken care of and that the Council should ask for a list of needs that we could choose to support, perhaps in the near future.

MOTION 2: Barry Dee will prepare letter of support to be sent on behalf of the Gungahlin Community Council to the Weston, Tuggeranong and Woden Community Councils. The content will be discussed with the Gungahlin Community Council Executive prior to sending.

Proposed: Roma Hosking Seconded: Lloyd Walker CARRIED

Future planning

Ian Ruecroft advised that prior to Christmas, the period for comments on the North Gungahlin development closed. The Gungahlin Community Council had submitted the comment that consideration of bushfire hazards should be taken into account in areas where development will occur. *Gunsmoke* ran a summary of the report.

Roma suggested that the Gungahlin Community Council might like to ask what, if any, precautions are being taken in relation to fire in Mulligans Flat, which will be very close to residential development. Mark Loney said that comments had closed on the Draft Variation Plan; it is now up to the Government to consider those comments and respond. As environmental issues were also being considered, it was likely that there will be a further round of consultations later in the year.

The Gungahlin Community Council has received a document titled *Gungahlin Town Centre Traffic and Pedestrian Safety*. There were some elementary errors in the document which prompted the question of whether there is good planning and whether lessons have been learned.

Breast cancer petition

Barry Dee encouraged people to take away the "Petition to Support the Provision of Breast Prostheses through Medicare" and ask friends/colleagues to sign these and return them to the address shown at the foot of the petition.

Fitness weight management

Sue Hathaway outlined a free fitness weight management program (funded by the Gungahlin Community Council through the Social Capital fund) which is being set up to help to combat obesity in larger children aged 8-14 yrs. This will be a family fitness program run by dieticians, sports people, etc.

Town Square petition

Thanks were accorded to Shirley Goodall and others who had given their time to collect signatures for the petition in support of a town square, which Helen Cross will present to the Legislative Assembly on 18 February. There are two further opportunities for signatures to be collected (the afternoon of 13/2 and morning of 15/2) when Helen Cross will be present in the Town Centre. Volunteers were called for to assist Helen.

Shirley advised that she would let the Town Centre management know she would be collecting signatures although she would be outside the building. Barry said he had the appropriate application form. Ian Ruecroft questioned the need for submitting a form as he was told last year that this is not necessary if the Gungahlin Community Council set up outside the building, under the awning and was not obstructing the doorway.

Jonathon Reynolds informed the meeting that there is an electronic email form available on the Gungahlin Community Council website that can be sent to MLAs, the Gungahlin Development Authority, Gungahlin Community Council etc. Comments re the town square issue have been added to the website and remain anonymous.

Transport – Light Rail and GDE report

Ian Ruecroft, who has been attending the transport and light rail meetings, provided an update to the meeting. The Government has now remodelled the Public Transport Futures feasibility study to look at public transport. Light rail is virtually being written off as being perceived as too hard / expensive and there are not the resources to investigate this properly. The Light Rail Coalition has been formed and is trying to promote light rail as an option with the first link from Civic to Gungahlin. The Futures feasibility study ends in June and the study will be concluded and decisions made and people need to be involved. Ian encouraged people to attend the meetings and was happy to provide dates/times, etc.

Mark Loney proposed a motion that the Gungahlin Community Council (1) supports the objective of the ACT Light Rail Coalition to accelerate the establishment of light rail as the backbone of the ACT's public transport infrastructure; and (2) will participate in the ACT Light Rail Coalition to work towards the goal of a Light Rail link between Civic and Gungahlin as the first step towards a larger light rail network serving the ACT.

Ian Ruecroft spoke for the above motion and suggested the Gungahlin Community Council become a member of the Light Rail Coalition.

Peter Coggan asked what it would cost the Gungahlin Community Council to become a member and whether the proposer perceives that the Gungahlin Community Council nominates a member from the group tonight to ensure membership and reporting back procedures. Mark replied that it would cost nothing, however a request had been submitted to the Social Capital funding group to help revalidate numbers and to have an independent engineering company look at and validate the project. He said that anyone who supports the light rail objectives is welcome to attend meetings, and that he and Ian are happy to report to the Gungahlin Community Council meetings on a regular basis.

MOTION 3: That the Gungahlin Community Council (1) supports the objective of the ACT Light Rail Coalition to accelerate the establishment of Light Rail as the backbone of the ACT's public transport infrastructure; and (2) will participate in the ACT Light Rail Coalition to work towards the goal of a Light Rail link between Civic and Gungahlin as the first step towards a larger Light Rail network serving the ACT.

Proposed: Mark Loney Seconded: by Maben Douglass. CARRIED

Ian reported that the Gungahlin Development Authority had discovered a supply of the reports written about the Gungahlin Drive Extension, which it had given to the Gungahlin Community Council and Ian is happy to provide one to anyone who would like a copy.

The meeting was suspended at this time for the guest speaker, Gary Humphries, to present..

GUEST SPEAKER – GARY HUMPHRIES

Barry Dee said Mr Humphries was invited to speak to the Gungahlin Community Council as then leader of the opposition in the Legislative Assembly, however he has now stepped down from that position before taking up his role as Federal Senator, replacing Margaret Reid who has now retired and he is at present in neither role. The meeting congratulated Mr Humphries on his new appointment.

Mr Humphries re-introduced himself, said he was happy to speak to the meeting last year, and made the point that he at present has no status to speak of as he has recently resigned from the Legislative Assembly and doesn't speak for them, and doesn't take up role of Senator until next week. He is an ordinary citizen and therefore is freer to express opinions. This is a rare and special occasion for him to be able to say what he thinks. He spoke to the meeting of issues relevant to the community:

- *Gungahlin Drive Extension*

There at last appears to be some resolution to the political process which will lead to the road being built as soon as possible with no further debate over the eastern or western options, so that the people of Gungahlin have their road. He indicated he will make it clear to Federal members and to Wilson Tuckey that having made assessment of the preferred route, there should be no further role for the Federal Government and that this is now primarily an ACT Government responsibility.

- *Planning of Gungahlin*

Regarding the configuration of the Town Centre, roads, shopping centre, etc. he said that he has strong views but preferred not to express them. He said that the Gungahlin Development Authority had been conceived to focus on specific needs of Gungahlin as it developed and to get community based planning. With the abolition of the GDA that capacity to be involved in intimate planning will disappear for the community and there is a need to think of mechanisms for filling this vacuum. An active Council and a vocal community are required (both of which he said are present). He said there are neighbourhood planning arrangements in other parts of Canberra, which may come to Gungahlin, and he will suggest this to his colleagues in the Assembly

- *Bushfires*

Mr Humphries said that the bushfire crisis marked a true demonstration of the mettle of the people of Canberra and that the many "knockers" of the city, especially in Federal Parliament, need to sit back and take stock of what happened on and after the 18th January. The idea of the soul-less lack of community idea was shattered and it was a signal to others to stop treating Canberra in a contemptuous way. He indicated that he will use the opportunity of his Maiden Speech to mark his role for the coming years of representing of Canberra in the Senate. Too many people have an enormous sensitivity to what they have lost and he said people should not be vindictive or accusatory. He spoke about the need for planning rules, and the opportunities that now exist for rebuilding in the right way (e.g. powerlines underground). He said it is still the "Bush Capital" but should not be open again to such disastrous consequences.

- *Planning*

Mr Humphries expressed the concern that when he saw the plans for the new Gungahlin suburbs there was a too greater density of shopping centres and that in the older parts of Canberra these centres are dying or have died out as they are not sustainable.

There should be a planning process for the Town Centre to allow input from residents who have a real interest in how it should be shaped and that there are sufficient people to speak authentically. He said it is important for the different levels of Government to work as closely as possible and that there must be seamless and total cooperation with NSW to make sure that Canberra is put back on its feet as comprehensively as possible. He encouraged people to continue to provide feedback to him.

Mr Humphries thanked the Gungahlin Community Council for inviting him to speak on the above random issues. Numbered cards were issued to people for a question and answer session which covered the following issues:

- An invitation to comment further on whether he will be approaching the Federal Government to desist in any further involvement or decision-taking in regard to the Gungahlin Drive Extension; how he sees this in relation to the democratic processes in Canberra, and is democracy an ass?
- What is the power the Federal Government have and why does the ACT Govt put up with it; why are they not making submissions and legislative changes to make it happen?
- Unemployment in Gungahlin and the disappointing decision by the Federal Government to put the joint Defence Force HQ in Bungendore. Who is responsible for deciding where the Government puts jobs and HQs.
- Federal road funding (1/2 a bridge over the Barton Highway) and the upgrade to the Barton Highway black-spot roundabout.
- The formula for ACT representation in Federal Parliament (ACT is under-represented/ disadvantaged) and what can a Senator do to assist.
- Business development around Canberra airport to the detriment of Gungahlin.
- Air traffic noise impinging on the lifestyle of Gungahlin residents.
- The building of a beautiful park in Gungahlin (like Glebe Park).
- Gungahlin not attractive to the ACT Government or private organisations but a light rail system from Civic could give Gungahlin an edge.
- Request to use influence to discourage the media etc. from using the word "Canberra" to mean "Government" or "politicians". ***Alan Salmon to provide examples to Gary Humphries of instances where the media is not allowed to use the name of a place to mean "Government, etc", so that he can take this idea forward.***
- Poor mobile phone reception (should have broadband and telecommunication towers).
- A lack of good shops and the need to drive to Giralang or Belconnen.
- What Mr Humphries hopes to achieve in Federal Parliament that he hasn't previously achieved in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr Humphries asked Jonathon Reynolds to contact him with regard to the type of infrastructure items that are required to better Gungahlin's facilities. Mr Humphries hopes to be able to take forward ideas for the people of Canberra; to be able to argue that the building of Canberra as a unique city in Australia hasn't come to an end; that Canberra should continually evolve into a developing and growing showcase for Australia with new institutions with a new bigger, better Stromlo facility, and that he hopes to be in touch with the community as was Margaret Reid, to achieve a level of understanding and involvement in what is happening.

MOTION 4: As the meeting had run over time it was moved that it should continue until business was concluded.

Proposed: Lloyd Walker Seconded: Jonathon Reynolds CARRIED

Further questions were put to Mr Humphries regarding:

- Lack of health care facilities, especially paediatrics and casualty, on the north side and the use of Calvary Hospital as a stopping off point on the way to Woden Hospital.
- Funding of hospitals under serious strain / a need for more specialisation.
- NSW clients using ACT medical facilities
- Promote installation of a LINKS base at Calvary

Barry Dee thanked Mr Humphries for attending and speaking with the meeting and said that the meeting hoped he would live up to his promises and be an "intelligent and sensitive political noise".

The meeting reconvened at this point to continue general business.

Employment issues

Ian Ruecroft informed the meeting that the Training and Adult Education branch in Civic has been told they are moving to Tuggeranong. The Gungahlin Community Council agreed to ask what departments are moving and to where, and to ask them to stay where they are whilst Gungahlin purpose-builds for them. The Gungahlin Community Council needs to be pro-active to get a share of jobs.

MOTION 5: That the Gungahlin Community Council write to the ACT Treasurer and Minister for Business, Ted Quinlan, and ask that Gungahlin be looked at for the next allocation of offices from Civic to this area provided the Govt revises its focus around the airport precinct which at present is to the detriment of Gungahlin.

Proposed: Jonathon Reynolds Seconded: Peter Coggan CARRIED

Financial Statement

Barry Dee provided the Treasurer's report, which is attached to these Minutes.

MOTION 6: That the Treasurer's statement be accepted.

Proposed: Mark Loney Seconded: Lloyd Walker CARRIED

ACT Equality Party offer to share Freedom of Information documents with the Gungahlin Community Council.

In the public interest, Jonathon Reynolds of the ACT Equality party has obtained minutes of meetings of recent years of the Gungahlin Development Authority, and is happy for anyone to view them should they so wish. He has also offered them to the Gungahlin Community Council. He said that some information appears to be missing and the GDA feels it is breach of confidence of the affairs of the Authority, or otherwise a breach of business confidentiality, but Jonathon intends to challenge this excessive censure-ship.

Correspondence

Some fairly general correspondence from the YMCA re employment programs for Indigenous people, and some information from Ted Quinlan had been received today and had not been dealt with. Anything relevant will come to the next Public meeting.

Guest speakers

Ian Ruecroft suggested that as we had asked Gary Humphries to speak, perhaps we should also look at asking Brendan Smyth again. He said there were also cross-benchers who would like to speak. This was agreed. As the EPIC Business Plan should soon be ready for release, a representative from EPIC may like to present this to a GCC meeting. It was also agreed that it is not necessary to have a guest speaker at each Public meeting. Roma Hosking suggested that in view of tonight's discussion, an appropriate guest speaker might be the Health Minister or someone from Calvary Hospital.

Absence of President

Barry Dee advised that he will be overseas at the time of the April Public meeting and Ian Rucroft agreed to chair that meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

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Motion No.	Motion	Proposer	Secunder
1-12/2/03	That the Minutes of the meeting held 12/12/02 be accepted.	Lloyd Walker	Ian Rucroft
2-12/2/03	Barry Dee will prepare letter of support to be sent on behalf of the Gungahlin Community Council to the Weston, Tuggeranong and Woden Community Councils. The content will be discussed with the Gungahlin Community Council Executive prior to sending.	Roma Hosking	Lloyd Walker
3-12/2/03	That the Gungahlin Community Council : (1) supports the objective of the ACT Light Rail Coalition to accelerate the establishment of Light Rail as the backbone of the ACT's public transport infrastructure; and (2) will participate in the ACT Light Rail Coalition to work towards the goal of a Light Rail link between Civic and Gungahlin as the first step towards a larger Light Rail network serving the ACT.	Mark Loney	Maben Douglass
4-12/2/03	As the meeting had run over time it was moved that it should continue until business was concluded.	Lloyd Walker	Jonathon Reynolds
5-12/2/03	That the Gungahlin Community Council write to the ACT Treasurer and Minister for Business, Ted Quinlan, and ask that Gungahlin be looked at for the next allocation of offices from Civic to this area provided the Govt revises its focus around the airport precinct which at present is to the detriment of Gungahlin.	Jonathon Reynolds	Peter Coggan
6-12/2/03	That the Treasurer's statement be accepted.	Mark Loney	Lloyd Walker

Treasurers Report – for Meeting 12th February 2003-02-13

Urban Services – Community Renewal Program

No changes to this grant since report on 14th August 2002 – balance of grant remaining = \$16479.18.

Gold Creek Homestead

No changes to this grant since report on 14th August 2002 – balance of grant remaining = \$3636.36. This project will soon be due for completion.

Palmerston Hall

Income January 2003 = \$367.80

Expenditure January 2003 = \$1638.50 + bank charges of \$4.40

Bank Statement @ 31/01/03 = \$3790.84

Community Council

Income January 2003 = \$150.00

Expenditure January 2003 = \$1990.85 + bank charges \$2.50

Cost of printing Gunsmoke #71 = \$2405.00 (6th December 2002). Advertising revenue from this issue still to be received.

Bank Statement @ 31/01/03 = \$20372.28

(includes Gold Creek Homestead Grant & Community Renewal Grant)

High expenditure in January 2003 due to insurances for Palmerston Hall + Public Liability Insurance.

Next business activity statement due 28th February 2003.