

NAREMBURN PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Founded 1901; Incorporated 2004

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THURSDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2012

Meeting commenced at 7.30 pm at the
Naremburn Community Centre, 7 Central Street, Naremburn

1. OPEN FORUM

- (a) **Doug Armstrong (Martin Street)** – Doug announced that on 1 September at the Willoughby Leisure Centre Open Day, the North Shore Support Group of the Australian Diabetes Council will have an information table. They will have an exercise psychologist attending from the Australian Diabetes Council, Glebe Head Office. Australian Diabetes Council is urging all Australians to stop the diabetes epidemic and support Buzz Day by buying a pin, toy, cup or simply making a donation. Buzz Day is officially on 21 September. Money raised on Buzz Day is used for research for a cure of diabetes.
- (b) **Kevin FitzPatrick (Central Street)** – Kevin proposed that a letter of thanks be sent to Kate Lamb and Barry Thompson thanking them for their support as Naremburn Ward Councillors over the last several years. Kevin to forward a draft letter to the Secretary.
- (c) **Geoffrey Gemmell (Glenmore Street)** – Geoffrey reported on the bells fundraising evening that was held in the St Leonard's Church Hall on 1 September. Geoffrey was very pleased with the support received from numerous sponsors including 1st Choice, Ray's Framing, Naremburn Pizzeria, Delicia, Cream, Hair by Maree, Forsyth Coffee, Hockeys Real Estate, The Butcher's Nest, Super Fresh, and Peter Chauncy. 8 NPA members were present. Mayor Pat Reilly was in attendance as well as Deputy Mayor Wendy Norton, Cr Stuart Coppock, Michelle Sloane and Cr Barry Thompson and Eve Thompson. The event had been planned for 100 but there were 160 bookings. Several Naremburn residents who are not Catholics, attended. Some parishioners from Northbridge and Willoughby, both in Lower North Shore Parish, were also there. The event would not have been possible without the help of the Committee. Geoffrey commented that the décor was brilliant, the ensemble was charming, food was superior and it is a really terrific hall in which to host a function... The band was lively and loud and we have some very good dancers among the Ladies of Naremburn! This was a great community event and raised over \$30,000 on the night. It is hoped that the bells will be here by Christmas.
- (d) **Dorothy Leatham (Ruth Street)** – Frances O'Brien stated that Dorothy had raised concerns about the speed bumps in Ruth Street as the paint was wearing off making it difficult to see the white lines. Agreed that a letter be sent to Council regarding maintenance of the paintwork.
- (e) **Sue Howard (Olympia Road)** – Sue had emailed asking to have the following comment discussed at the meeting as it is relevant and of interest with most Naremburn residents. There is growing concern over street parking in Naremburn. In Olympia Road, which is increasingly more difficult to navigate through due to parked cars on both sides and with recent building work on one of the houses, Sue has narrowly escaped having her wing mirrors clipped several times by large construction trucks. This is also the issue when the weekly garbage trucks arrive. During the building of 23 Olympia Road she lost her wing mirror which cost her \$800 to replace. She asks if the NPA could lobby to have something done about non-resident parking in our streets. It is dangerous to enter/exit driveways and navigate due to poor visibility caused by vehicles on both sides. Noted that this issue has been raised previously and a letter was sent to Willoughby Council requesting a review of in Olympia Street. An inspector from WCC reviewed the parking in the street and no change to existing conditions was proposed. .
- (f) **Michelle Sloane (Roseville)** – Michelle was successful at the 8 September Council elections as one of the Naremburn Ward Councillors. She attended the first part of this meeting and introduced herself. Michelle moved to Artarmon in 1996 and the joined the Artarmon Progress Association. She was President for 5 years and was in the Artarmon Progress Association for 14 years. Michelle has been the organiser of the Artarmon Fair for a number of years. She feels that the role of the Progress Association is gaining importance and that the Community is looking for direct communication. She said it was hard to engage activity outside of the community's area and she questioned how do we keep people involved and connected. Michelle will be looking at ways to connect to the community and work more together. Michelle said she was happy to hear from any residents. Michelle was also very keen to assist the Naremburn Progress Association in formulating its response to on the State Government's New Planning System Green Paper.
- (g) **Michael Wright (Central Street)** – Michael raised concerns about the doctor moving from his premises in Willoughby Road. There have been a number of businesses who have shut down due to the increase in rent and other factors. He also asked how often street sweeping was done. Kevin FitzPatrick advised it was done once a week however due to the number of cars parked in streets it was not easy to clear leaves from gutter. It was suggested that a letter be sent to

- (h) WCC requesting that a notice be sent to residents advising of them the day the street sweepers attended Central Street. Michael will draft a letter regarding this issue and send it to the Secretary.
- (i) **Doug Armstrong (Martin Street)** – Doug advised that Darvall Street was re-tarred and due to 3 cars being parked on the street the workers were unable to finish the job.

2 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the General Meeting of 9 August 2012, as circulated, were not confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting as there were some errors and a significant omission. Geoffrey Gemmell had sent a letter to the Secretary on 1 July 2012 in response to John Tatham's email on The Bells and the WCC process that was read to the General Meeting of 10 May 2012 and appeared in full in the minutes of that meeting. At the August meeting the letter was listed as Correspondence In, however was not read to the meeting. The purpose of Geoffrey Gemmell's letter was to address some of the inaccuracies in John Tatham's email. Geoffrey Gemmell's letter of 1 July 2012 was read to the meeting by Frances O'Brien as per below.

Dear Helene

I write in response to the email from Mr John Tatham headed "*INACURATE (sic) APRIL 2012 NPA MINUTES*" published in the Minutes of the General Meeting of the NPA held 10 May 2012, a meeting which I attended as indicated at 5(g) of the Minutes of that meeting. I wish to address some of the inaccuracies in Mr Tatham's email.

Mr Tatham stated, inter alia:

"At no time did either of the two working group community representative speakers say that they were representing a "no bell campaign".

I wish to draw the NPA's attention to the "*statement*" from the resident group, titled by it as "*Community Representatives Statement*" which appears at pages 116 and 117 of item 20.1 of the Council meeting held 12 March 2012. The final paragraph states:

"...the community representatives have come to the view, and submit that Council should not approve this application by the church to install a set of six bells... We believe that completing a 100 year-old church plan ... is an entirely inappropriate means of celebrating the centenary of the church building".

The suggestion that the "*two working group community representative speakers*" did not represent a no bell campaign is inconsistent with the "*Statement*" from the "*community representatives*". Perhaps the matter could be clarified by Mr Tatham and the two representatives from the resident group who spoke at the Council meeting stating unequivocally that they in fact support the installation of the bells.

The second matter that requires correction is Mr Tatham's statement "*the parish group for some unexplained reason ran with four*" (speakers) at the Council meeting held on 12 March 2012. Two speakers spoke on behalf of the Parish, Fr Rex Curry PP and myself. The other speakers in favour of the Parish's position were Ms Sonia Edwards, a resident, who is not a Parishioner and Mr Kevin FitzPatrick representing the Naremburn Progress Association. The Parish did not run with four speakers as asserted by Mr Tatham.

There are other matters in Mr Tatham's email about which I could take issue, but I will not dwell on them. Suffice to say that it is a pity that in this wonderful story of the bells of St Leonard's so much inaccurate and emotive material has obscured the facts. I trust the above has gone some way to correcting some of the matters in Mr Tatham's email.

Yours sincerely,

The approval of the August General Meeting minutes, pending corrections, will be held over to the October meeting.

3 NOMINATION OF NEW MEMBERS

Christine Kafalias, April Pressler

Proposed; Trisha FitzPatrick: Seconded; Margaret Stewart

4. CONFIRMATION OF NEW MEMBERS

Andrew Murray, Melissa McMaugh, Ian McMaugh, Simon Blainey, Brian Chapman, Richard Gould

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- (a) **Willoughby Local Environment Plan 2012** – Nil to report.
- (b) **Naremburn Shops** – Michael Hockey sent an email to the Secretary dated 10 September. Michael queried the area of concern, related to 300 -304 Willoughby Road Naremburn, and if so, could the NPA please let him know when there is an inspection and inform him if the area is untidy. Also to be advised that 10 car spaces have been allocated at the back of these shops for the public. Frances O'Brien will clarify these issues...
- (c) **Parking in Northcote Street** – Phil Brady provided an emailed update on Northcote Street. Steven Head met with Phil on site and (a) advised that the residents of 18 Northcote Street were not entitled to parking permits and (b) the only way the WCC could help, was to undertake a survey of use of the paid parking on Northcote Street. This was undertaken and the advice on 2 August being *Council officers have carried out a parking survey of the recently introduced ticket parking areas in Northcote Street, with inspections taking place several times at various times of the day. It was found that the ticket parking area opposite number 18 Northcote Street, between Plunkett Street and Schultz Lane, had a low level of occupancy at 9.30am, but later in the day the level of occupancy was higher. As there are low occupancy levels in the morning, it is proposed to move the starting time of the ticket parking restrictions from 8.30am to 9.30am. This will provide greater opportunity for local residents to find free on-street parking in the area, while preventing all day parking from commuters or nearby workers. It is expected that the signs will be changed within the next 2 to 4 weeks* c) this still leaves residents of 18 Northcote Street facing the same parking trespassing issues raised at the June NPA meeting. Trespass by parking at 18 Northcote Street is a matter for its Owners Corporation and the Strata Manager.

- (d) **School for Naremburn** – Noted that Melanie Smith, Community Services Director, WCC, whose portfolio includes preschools and related issues, is Guest Speaker at the October General Meeting.
- (e) **Traffic Committee Report (RTA, Police, State Member, WCC)** – Traffic Committee Meeting No 389 15 August 2012 Agenda as forwarded by the FWPA included two Naremburn items. Frances O'Brien read the following:

4.1 Willoughby Road, Naremburn

Council has received funding from the RMS under its State Blackspot Program for works to improve safety for motorists and pedestrians in the vicinity of the intersection of Willoughby Road and Merrenburn Avenue.

There have been 7 recorded accidents at or near this intersection during the 5 year period to the end of June 2011. Of the 7 accidents, 2 involved vehicles turning right out of Merrenburn Avenue colliding with southbound traffic on Willoughby Road. In order to alleviate this, it is proposed to mark in a Stop line forward of the kerb line for vehicles exiting Merrenburn Avenue. This will provide improved sight distance for motorists exiting Merrenburn Avenue. In order to allow this a kerb blister would be constructed on the approach to the intersection, and Willoughby Road would be reduced to one lane in each direction from Dodds Street to approximately 40m south of Merrenburn Avenue. It should be noted that the kerbside lane on both sides is generally occupied by parked vehicles at most times, so this would not impact traffic flow.

There was also an accident involving a cyclist crossing Willoughby Road at Merrenburn Avenue. There is a designated bike route that goes along Merrenburn Avenue. Another designated bike route travels along Faunce Lane into Glenmore Street. It is proposed to construct a pedestrian refuge on Willoughby Road, on the southern side of Merrenburn Avenue to link these bike routes, as well as providing improved pedestrian facilities. The construction of the pedestrian refuge would require the removal of a tree. However the tree has already caused significant damage to the surrounding footpath.

It is also proposed to mark a 1.2m wide painted median along the centre of Willoughby Road between Dodds Street and Merrenburn Avenue. There was 1 recorded accident involving a pedestrian crossing in this section of road, and the painted median would provide an area for pedestrians to wait in the middle of the road. There is a reasonable level of pedestrian activity crossing this section of Willoughby Road due to the nearby shops.

Officer's Recommendation – That the proposed changes on Willoughby Road in the vicinity of Merrenburn Avenue be approved

4.7 Brook Street, Naremburn.

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In the 5 year period to the end of June 2012 there were 34 recorded accidents along Brook Street, with the majority of these occurring within 10m of the intersections with Merrenburn Avenue, Slade Street and Grafton Avenue.

Brook Street slopes upwards steeply from Donnelly Road before cresting between Rhodes Avenue and McBurney Avenue. It then slopes away towards Grafton Avenue before dropping away steeply into Flat Rock Drive to the north. The speed limit on Brook Street is currently 60km/h, and due to the changes in grade, sight distance is limited between Merrenburn Avenue and Grafton Avenue.

There have been 6 recorded rear end crashes involving northbound traffic on Brook Street at the intersection with Grafton Avenue, with at least 4 of these involving vehicles waiting to turn right. It is probable that northbound traffic coming over the crest of the hill is not expecting traffic to be stopped, waiting to turn right. All of these accidents occurred outside of the pm peak period, when traffic would be flowing freely. During the pm peak period, traffic speeds would be reduced due to the heavy traffic volumes, which could be a reason why there were no rear end crashes at these times.

There have also been 7 other rear end crashes along Brook Street, including 3 involving southbound traffic at Merrenburn Avenue. Traffic speeds and limited sight distance appear to be major factors in the number of rear end accidents occurring on Brook Street. It is considered that a reduction in the speed limit from 60km/h to 50km/h on Brook Street would reduce the frequency and severity of these rear end accidents.

There were also 9 recorded accidents involving right turning movements at intersections, 5 involving vehicles changing lanes, and 2 loss of control accidents. A reduction in the speed limit would further reduce the likelihood of these accidents occurring.

It is not considered to be feasible to seek a reduction in the speed limit on Flat Rock Drive, as due to the steep downhill grade it would be very difficult to travel at less than 60km/h. It is also noted that very few accidents have been recorded along Flat Rock Drive.

Officer Recommendation – That council write to RMS requesting a reduction in the speed limit along the length of Brook Street **from 60km/h to 50km/h**

6. CORRESPONDENCE

In

- (a) 17/08/2012 – Letter - WCC Linda McClure Strategic Planning Manager – exhibition of Draft Willoughby Local Environmental Plan 2012
- (b) 29/08/2012 – Letter - The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian – Graffiti Removal Day Sunday 23 September 2012.
- (c) 05/09/2012 – Letter - WCC Steven Head - Tree pruning by Ausgrid.
- (d) 09/09/2012 – email - Philip Brady- update on car parking on Northcote Street
- (e) 09/09/2012 – email - Sue Howard parking in Olympia Road
- (f) 10/09/2012 – email - Michael Hockey - matters arising Naremburn Shops

Out

- (a) 29/08/2012 – Letter - WCC Jeff Knight Public Officer - NM September distribution at WCC
- (b) 29/08/2012 – Letter - WCC Steven Head Director, Infrastructure Services -Significant Tree pruning in Naremburn

7. ACCOUNTS

The Treasurer Carmen Loecherer presented the financial report for the period 9 August to 13 September 2012

Opening Balance as at 9 August 2012 \$6,984.83

Add: Income:

Members' subscriptions	100.00	
Donations	0.00	
Advertising – Naremburn Matters	2,515.00	
Interest	0.00	
		<u>\$2,615.00</u>

Less: Expenditure

Stationery/Postage	5.49	
Meeting amenities	21.23	
Naremburn Matters Publication	0.00	
Miscellaneous	0.00	
		<u>26.72</u>
Closing Bank Balance as at 13 September 2012		<u>\$9,573.11</u>

Expenditure Approvals Requested:

Helene Kemp - Sept meeting supper	5.22
Trisha FitzPatrick – Stationery	19.52
Robin Phelan – NM Sept production	2,039.89

That this expenditure be approved.

Proposed: Margaret Stewart: Seconded: Geoffrey Gemmell

8. FEDERATION OF WILLOUGHBY PROGRESS ASSOCIATIONS (FWPA)

The Federation's AGM will take place on 6 October 2012

Frances O'Brien discussed the FWPA's letter regarding the Submission on Planning System (Green Paper).

The Green Paper outlines major changes in key areas of the planning system; these will result in reforms across a number of areas such as

- Involving the community early in guiding planning decisions that will shape the growth and future of our cities, towns and neighbourhoods
- Placing much more emphasis on preparing good policies upfront to guide growth and development
- Reducing red tape and delay the assessment of development applications for all types of proposals
- Ensuring that infrastructure is planned and delivered to support new and existing communities
- Promoting a 'can do' culture in the planning system and ensuring that councils and the government are accountable for delivering the results they have committed to;
- Providing greater access to information about planning policies, planning decisions, and your rights in the planning process.

To read the document in full and for more information www.planning.nsw.gov.au

9. WARD COUNCILLORS

No Naremburn Ward Councillors were present at this item; awaiting results of the 8 September election.

10. SUB-COMMITTEES REPORTS

(a) Development Applications received since the 9 August meeting – 2 tabled

DA-2012/309	18 Dawson Street	Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of new two storey dwelling, basement car parking and associated works
DA-2011/443/A	11 Martin Street	S96 – Modify original proposal to include changes to kitchen and dining room window

Other active items

DA-2011/261	7 & 9 Donnelly Road	72 place childcare centre
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As per report already on NPA website, the Land & Environment Court hearing was held over 16 and 17 August. Following extensive consultation the Commissioner handed down a Court Order upholding the Applicant's Appeal and approving the Development Application, but with 120 Conditions of Consent

- (b) **Bicentennial Reserve and Flat Rock Gully Advisory Group** – No meeting held since 24 May as business suspended during the period leading to the election of the new Council..
- (c) **Events** – Community Day on 1 September 2012. This was not as successful as in previous years due to the late change of Director of the Centre and the lack of publicity.
- (d) **Membership** - Trisha FitzPatrick reported that we have 157 members on our Register. In addition to these 157 members, during 2012 three members have moved away and one has passed away. Of the 157 members, 46 have not paid their 2012 membership subscription renewal. Committee members have done some phone follow ups and Trisha is in the process of sending reminders from membership@naremburnprogress.org.au . In the changeover resulting from her resignation as Public Officer, the parts of the membership process to record members on the registers – the public register which is updated and held at the desk for each general meeting, and the private register that has full contact details - will have to be allocated to committee members. Trisha pointed out that she initially had to do it all as there was no one else to do the work
- (e) **Naremburn Community Centre** – Kevin FitzPatrick reported that the DA is in process.
- (f) **Naremburn Matters** - The September issue was out early to enable distribution ahead of Council elections. Advertising sales resulted in an excess of \$310.11 over production costs. NM total excess is over \$4,000. There have not yet been any volunteers to take on the role of Editor of NM. Sue Howes coordinated delivery of the September issue, and, as yet, there has not been a volunteer to take on Sue's role. Trisha said that she greatly enjoyed putting together the September issue, dealing with candidates and their representatives, and as the back page is usually allocated to a Ward Councillor, in the lead-up to the elections this page was free for her to include tidbits of news.
- (g) **Naremburn Park** – Nil to report.
- (h) **Open Spaces** – Trisha FitzPatrick sent an email to Council requesting that the Kebab sign be removed. This has been done.
- (i) **Website** – Webmaster Peter Witcombe and Trisha have been working on streamlining the website – in small grabs. The 'vile letter' drop regarding The Bells fundraiser resulted in a rebuttal on our home page. Trisha drafted it, forwarded to Roger. They agreed to give Peter the final say on the wording as the letter did imply that it was from our website. Guest speaker for the October meeting – Melanie Smith, WCC Director of Community Services – is listed, as is the Land and Environment Court Decision on the proposed Childcare Centre at 7 & 9 Donnelly Road. Carmen Loecherer and Trisha have yet to meet to organise changeover.

11 CIRCULATION OF THE ATTENDANCE BOOK – 14 Members, 10 Apologies from Members, 1 Visitor

12. MOTION OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN – None for this meeting

13. NEXT GENERAL MEETING: - The **General Meeting** of the NPA will be held on Thursday 10 October 2012 at the Naremburn Community Centre 7 Central Street. The **Guest Speaker** will be Melanie Smith, WCC Director of Community Services.

14. CLOSURE: The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.