



Point Lonsdale Civic Association Inc.

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Representing Point Lonsdale Residents since 1910

Minutes of General Meeting 11 April 2014

Time of Meeting: 7.30pm, Friday, 11 April 2014

Venue: Point Lonsdale Primary School Bowen Road, Point Lonsdale

1. Welcome and Introduction

The President, Faye Agterhuis, opened the meeting at 7:30 pm and welcomed members, visitors and the guest speaker, Sarah Henderson MP, and acknowledged the attendance of the Mayor, Cr. Helene Cameron and Cr. Bob Merriman.

2. Attendances and Apologies

There were approximately 60 attendees. The apologies included Cr. Sue Wasterval and Cr. Susan Salter.

3. Minutes of Previous General Meeting, 8 November 2013

The minutes of the previous General Meeting held on 8 November 2013, were confirmed as circulated.

Motion: That the minutes be confirmed as a true record.

Moved: Laurie Muscat Seconded: Kerry Sollars

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No matters were raised.

5. Correspondence

The President provided a brief summary of the large volume of inwards and outwards correspondence since the last General Meeting in November 2013.

6. Reports

a. President's Report

The President reported briefly on matters that the PLCA has been working on such as Emily Street flooding, closure of Coorabin, the Foreshore Tree Plan, the Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve and parking issues at the Bellarine Health Centre.

b. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that there was income of \$1,810 (\$945 membership fees and \$865 donations) in the period from 1 January to 31 March, 2014. Expenses for the same period were \$420 and the ending bank balance was \$5,916.

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be received and confirmed.

Moved: Laurie Muscat Seconded: Kerry Sollars

7. Guest Speaker – Connecting Local Communities with Government

The President introduced the guest speaker, Sarah Henderson MP, Member for Corangamite who talked about the following matters:

- Her role as a member with local family connections who cares about the community
- She has 4 permanent staff to support her work with 105,000 constituents in her own electorate and her work on economic issues in the neighbouring Corio electorate
- She talked about national issues such as a strong economy and jobs growth, while acknowledging challenges from the closure of Alcoa and Ford ceasing manufacturing, but being offset by contributions from the Innovation and Investment Fund and new opportunities in Geelong such as Carbon Revolution wheel project
- Local issues that she has worked on or is aware of include the Bellarine Railway, possible tourism development at the Queenscliff Fort, Green Army, environmental issues in Queenscliff, The Point development, the Point Lonsdale Foreshore, the Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve and the Telstra tower close to the Primary School

Other matters covered in the Question and Answer session included:

- Lack of availability of apprenticeships in the region
- Concerns about community aged care services being lost to private providers such as Coorabin and Ann Nichol House
- Future of the Australian Broadcasting Commission (included reference to her time as an ABC journalist)
- Commonwealth funding of local government needs limited to grants for specific issues

8. Briefing and Discussion – Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve

A briefing was provided by Merv Jaensch, a PLCA Committee member and Lighthouse Reference Group member, on the Borough Discussion Paper and plans for community consultation regarding the Options for the further of the Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve. He reviewed the details of the four Options with direct reference to sections of the Borough Lighthouse Reserve Discussion Paper published in March.

There followed a period of intense and at times highly emotional discussion on the four Options, with responses on some issues provided by Crs. Cameron and Merriman.

Issues and concerns raised by members and other attendees included:

- The consultation process appears to be limited to just the four Options in the Discussion Paper – this is very limiting as Options 1 and 4 are not reasonable
- A number of concerns about the Feedback Form and online version being confusing with the 10 rating options being skewed towards Option 4
- The Council is putting forward options in competition with present traders and accommodation providers – is insulting to existing businesses that have gone through tough times
- Concerns about the environmental impact of a thermal spa on the water table etc.
- A formal request at a Council meeting by a resident for advice on the present cost of mowing and maintenance of the Reserve has not been answered
- Concerns about the lack of clarity on the costs of the development, the financial impact on the Borough and the financial risks to the Borough

Responses from Crs. Cameron and Merriman to these and other issues and concerns raised included:

- The community consultation process is not limited to the four Discussion Paper Options with the suggestion of other options welcomed as well as variations and improvements on the four Options – emphasised that it is a discussion document
- The idea of a thermal spa came from the community (it was pointed out that the in the Discussion Paper only one person had suggested a spa)
- Any form of submission will be taken into account including submissions that do not use the official Feedback Form/online Survey. They will look at making this clearer on the Borough website. Only submissions that include name and address will be counted.
- Submissions from Point Lonsdale residents in the City of Greater Geelong will be taken into account
- The income from activities on crown land received by the Committee of Management of crown land can be spent only that crown land (such as the Borough Council in the case of the Lighthouse Reserve). However, the Committee of Management may charge an administration fee. The objective of the Council in relation to the Reserve is that there is no cost to the ratepayers from it being the Committee of Management.
- The Council has received many letters on this subject some of which are misinformed. Cr. Cameron indicated that one email was from PLCA suggesting the drilling had been

conducted on the Reserve in relation the thermal spa in Option 4, based on observations by a couple of PLCA members. The Council had advised that it had not done any drilling and had advised that the two companies mention by PLCA were not involved. She added that PLCA had been asked for more information but it had not responded. The Secretary, Jasper Coghlan, indicated to the meeting that he was one of the members who had made the observation and that he had some photographic evidence taken after the event. It was also stated by PLCA that it had been provided with the name of another company involved but that it was not prepared to name that company at the meeting as it was still investigating to assess the information available. The Councillors requested PLCA to provide any additional information.

The following five motions were proposed by John Smelt and seconded by Elizabeth Heathcote. All were passed unanimously or almost unanimously, with one against motion 1 and two against motions 4 and 5.

- 1 This meeting requests that Council deletes Option 4 from further consideration as it includes a level of development which is inappropriate for the lighthouse reserve.
- 2 This meeting requests that Council deletes Option 1 from further consideration as it is unrealistic and dangerous to leave temporary fencing and vandalised buildings and to undertake no maintenance other than grass cutting.
- 3 This meeting requests that Council adds a new option 1A which would be similar to former Option 1 but would require Council to:
 - remove temporary fencing
 - remove the TOC H buildings
 - undertake grass cutting and vegetation management and
 - road, path and toilet maintenance .

Council should actively seek funds from the Federal and State Governments for these activities

- 4 This meeting requests that Council adds a new option 2A which would be similar to Option 2 but would not include commercial development. As well as maintaining the site as per Option 1A, improvements would include:
 - Improved walking paths, picnic and BBQ facilities, signage and historical interpretation
 - Improved access to lighthouse
 - A ship viewing area and information
 - A new toilet and shower block

Council, with the community, would prioritise these projects and council would actively seek funds from the Federal and State Governments.

- 5 This meeting requests that, in the event that no option is both satisfactory to the community and financially acceptable, Council returns management of the reserve to the State Government.

9. General Business

There was no general business.

10. Close

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm. In closing the meeting, the President advised that the date of the next General Meeting has not been decided but there may be one on 9 May 2014.

She reminded members that community feedback to the Borough was due on 18 April regarding the Point Lonsdale Foreshore Draft Tree Plan. She also advised that there was to be a briefing on changes to the management of the Queenscliff Cemetery on 15 April at the Primary School.

The President concluded the meeting by thanking Crs. Cameron and Merriman for attending the meeting and responding to the many matters raised during the meeting.

Jasper Coghlan
Secretary