



# **Point Lonsdale Civic Association Inc.**

P.O. BOX 28 POINT LONSDALE VIC. 3225

REG. NO. A0017883S

EMAIL: [plcasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:plcasecretary@gmail.com)

*Representing Point Lonsdale Residents since 1910*

## **Annual General Meeting 11 January 2013 Minutes**

**Date of Meeting: Friday, 11 January 2013, 7.30 pm**

**Venue: Uniting Church Hall, Kirk Road, Point Lonsdale**

### **1 Welcome and Introduction**

The President, Jasper Coghlan opened the meeting at 7:30 pm and welcomed members, visitors and acknowledged the attendance of the Mayor, Cr. Hélène Cameron, Deputy Mayor, Cr. Bob Merriman, Cr. Sue Wasterval and Cr. Graham Christie J.P. Cr. Susan Salter was an apology. The president also informed the meeting that item 7: Special Resolution would be considered after item 9: the Election of Office Bearers and other committee members. The change was made so that the business of the AGM was conducted according to the rules of the current Constitution.

**2 Apologies and Attendances** were recorded by the Secretary. Attendance 46 - Apologies 10.

### **3 Minutes of the last AGM, 13 January 2012**

The minutes of the last AGM were distributed last year and a copy was also attached to the agenda. Motion: That the minutes be confirmed as a true record. Moved: Paul Wilson. Seconded: John Goodman.

### **4 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

No matters were raised.

### **5 Correspondence**

#### **5.1 Inwards**

- (1) Letter from the Mayor, Cr Hélène Cameron thanking the Association for its expression of congratulation on her re-election and appointment as mayor.
- (2) Letter from the Borough of Queenscliffe requesting the assistance of the Association at the 2013, Australia Day Celebrations.

- (3) A copy of a letter from the Borough of Queenscliffe to Mr Bernie Rymer – a member – about questions he had raised in a letter to the Association.
- (4) Christmas card from the Mayor, Cr H  l  ne Cameron.
- (5) Letter from the Mayor, Cr H  l  ne Cameron, informing the Association about planning for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.
- (6) A donation, season greetings and an appointment of proxy form from Mrs. Glenyee and Mr Frank Fordham.
- (7) Borough of Queenscliffe – Australia Day 2013 Awards – flyer and nomination form. Nominations close on 28 November 2012.
- (8) Letter from the Department of Justice about the changes affecting incorporated associations.
- (9) Letter from Hon. Lisa Neville MP, Member for Bellarine. The letter noted that the local member had raised the issue of police numbers on the Bellarine during the summer period.
- (10) Completed nomination forms for the officer and member positions on the committee.
- (11) Letters and emails from residents applying for membership of the Association.
- (12) Point Lonsdale Primary School – December Newsletters.

## 5.2 Outwards

- (1) Invitation to the Mayor, Cr H  l  ne Cameron, inviting her to address the Annual General Meeting, which is to be held on Friday, 11 January 2013.
- (2) Individual members of the committee have confirmed their participation in the Borough’s 2013, Australia Day Celebrations.
- (3) Letters and emails to residents acknowledging their requests to join the Association.

In presenting the inwards correspondence, the president spoke briefly about the significance of items 5 and 8.

Motion: That the correspondence be received and confirmed: Moved: Gaye Wilson. Seconded: Paul Wilson.

## 6 Reports

### 6.1 President’s Report

The President’s report was distributed to members and he highlighted the following matters. The PLCA’s contribution to the deliberations about the Village, the forum provided to candidates standing at the recent election, the attendance at PLCA meetings by councillors, the range of topics addressed by guest speakers, the diversity and range of PLCA representation on other committees and Borough reference groups and he thanked members for their contributions throughout the year and especially to the discussion at the October meeting about the future direction and strategy of the Association.

He also referred to the contribution of Barney Orchard, the long serving president, who stood down at the last AGM and resigned from the committee during the year along with David Shaw and Keith Smith. However, Keith continued to report on Council affairs until the AGM. He also noted the contributions of Fay Agterhuis, who joined the committee at the last AGM and Laurie Muscat, who prepared a report for the committee about the use of a blog to improve communications with members. In thanking the committee members for their contributions during the year, he also thanked Peter Rumpf for his long service as secretary, acting secretary and committee member.

The president then, summarised some of the key matters raised at the review, which was held in October. He noted, in particular, the nature and frequency of meetings, the diverse range of topics addressed by speakers and proposed changes to the operating structure and procedures of the

Association. During the year, the committee will evaluate the input and report back to members with recommendations for change. He stressed that the workload of the committee must be commensurate with the members, who are willing to join. In addition, a number of issues of significant concern for Point Lonsdale were identified, including the level of community consultation in the review process dealing with the coastal reserves at Toc H and Shortlands Bluff.

Finally, he thanked all members for their contribution to the effort of the Association.

Motion: That the president's report be received. Moved: Gaye Wilson. Seconded: Fay Agterhuis.

## **6.2 Treasurer's Report 2012**

In presenting the report, the treasurer noted that income for the year was less than the income for 2011, because of the reduction in the number of members. By way of comparison, the amount of expenditure in the current year was also less than 2011. He also pointed out that the Association made several donations to funds established for the victims of floods in 2011 and there was no advertising in 2012. The accounts for 2012 have been audited. The treasurer thanked the auditor, Ken Goss. In response to a question, we advise that the credit balance for the Stockland campaign is \$2,289.

Motion: That the report be endorsed. Moved: John Crisp. Seconded: Paul Wilson.

## **6.3 Report on Front Street and the Foreshore Project**

John Goodman, the Association's representative on the consultative group, gave a verbal report on progress to date. The highlights included an application by the Borough for a Commonwealth Government grant of \$500,000. This sum is in addition to an earlier allocation from other sources, including Council, of \$350,000. The power is to be undergrounded between Kirk Road and Admans Street and a turning point is to be constructed at the intersection of Admans Street and Point Lonsdale Road.

Stage 1 of the foreshore works includes a viewing platform, a gently sloping walkway to the promenade, new plantings and paving.

There are plans to install more than 20 picnic tables made from recycled timber from the pier. Council has endorsed the general re-development plans and six companies have been asked to quote for detailed design services.

The vegetation plan includes several options to deal with the ageing cypress trees, including their removal. The Association's position is to retain the trees as long as possible, subject to safety assessments. A foreshore landscape designer will address the next meeting of the consultative group. The meeting will be held in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of February. Undergrounding of power is scheduled to commence in April or May, near the Bowling Club.

Motion: That the report be received. Mover: John Goodman. Seconded: John Crisp.

## **7 General Business**

### **7.1 Subscription for 2013.**

Motion: That the subscription for membership for 2013 be free. Moved: Paul Wilson. Seconded: Anne Rumpf. Passed unanimously.

The following points were made during discussion of the motion. The free subscription is a contribution by the Association to the 150<sup>th</sup> celebrations of the Borough and to encourage existing members to recruit new members. The association is in a sound financial position and in future it may be practical to impose no fee on members who received information by email or be accessing the blog. There may be a small fee for a postal service.

## 8 Election of Office Bearers and other committee members

Nominations were received for seven positions, including one for each of the four officer positions. Currently, there are 2 vacancies on the committee. Therefore, all the nominees were accepted as elected. The nominations were: president, Fay Agterhuis; vice president, John Goodman; secretary, Jasper Coghlan, treasurer, John Crisp and committee members Gaye Wilson, Laurie Muscat and Merv Jaensch. The president introduced the members to the meeting and welcomed the new member Merv Jaensch. The president thanked the committee members for their work and support during his period as president and Peter Rumpf, who retires.

## 9 Special Resolution

**Motion: That the Association amends its Constitution by replacing the rules with the new model rules (*the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and its associated Regulations*).**

Moved: Peter Rumpf. Seconded: Laurie Muscat. The motion was passed unanimously.

In speaking in support of the motion, the mover emphasised the points listed in the Notice of Annual General Meeting and Special Resolution, which was sent to all members in December 2012 and, at least, 21 days before the AGM. In the notice, members were advised to note the following points and the special resolution:

- any association incorporated under the old Act remains so under the new Act. The incorporation date is not affected and the certificate of incorporation remains valid;
- the association's statement of purposes is now automatically deemed to be part of its rules;
- using the model rules can save an association the time and expense of drafting its own rules, and
- there are three items that can be specified to suit an association's particular circumstances: the association's name, its purposes and its financial year.
- Proposed Special Resolution. In view of the above and the stipulation that if an association decides to use its own rules, *they must address every item required under the new laws and, if there is an inconsistency between the association's existing rules and the new Act, the requirements of the new Act apply*, the committee commends the special resolution to the members.

Members were also informed that if they were unable to attend the AGM, then they may appoint another member as a proxy for the meeting. A proxy form was attached to the notice of meeting. One member submitted a proxy form in favour of the special resolution.

A copy of the proposed Constitution – the model rules with the addition of the association's name, its statement of purposes and details of the financial year – was included with the material all members received.

## 10 Special Guest Speaker - the Mayor, Cr. Hélène Cameron

The new president, Fay Agterhuis introduced Cr. Cameron to the membership and guests.

Cr Cameron gave a wide-ranging address in which she expressed her pleasure in being an experienced councillor and especially during the 150<sup>th</sup> year of celebrations. She applauded the committee of the Association for encouraging community participation in civic affairs with free membership for 2013.

Cr. Cameron then listed some of the highlights of her first four-year term as a councillor. The mayor identified projects in home care, work on a future kindergarten and green rubbish collection,

progress on the Monahan redevelopment, improved facilities in the parks, lighting the netball courts, the artist trail and improved beach access points and bus stops.

Under major works, she listed road construction, the planting of a significant number of trees and weed removal. Other works included improvements to Hesse Street, the lookout at Point Lonsdale and the beach at Queenscliff.

Projects in the evaluation and/or planning phase include: a green waste bin scheme; Toc H and Shortlands Bluff foreshore reserves; the botanical gardens at the entrance to Queencliff; the future use of Fort Queenscliff; implementation of the Council's Carbon Neutral Action Plans; the railway precinct; the footpath strategies and joint projects on coastal erosion with the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

Cr Cameron also briefly reviewed the outcome of the boundary plebiscite. She claimed that the City of Greater Geelong did not cooperate in the process and that the issue will be revisited at some time in the future.

She stressed the importance of the finances of the Borough and the objective to keep the rate increase at a minimum. In recent periods, there has been an improvement in the level of debt. However, much remains to be done to maintain facilities and Council seeks to maintain the level of State and federal funding.

Cr. Cameron then outlined the abilities, skills and the willingness of the team to tackle the demands of the next four years. One of the immediate priorities is to prepare the 2013 – 2017 plan and to set objectives. Monitoring progress will also be important. Among key considerations will be the completion of projects from earlier plans, in addition to identifying opportunities, needs and aspirations. Council will be seeking community input and feedback as part of its charter. In planning for major works Council will use community surveys and conduct community consultations.

It is clear that the demographics of the Borough present different problems to other places in the state. For example, the population of 3000 people increases to about 17,000 during summer and about 34 percent are over the age of 65 years, compared with 14 percent in the rest of Victoria. Furthermore, about 63 percent of operating income is raised by the rates.

Finally, Cr Cameron praised the level of volunteerism and the deep sense of community values. She contends that it is an exciting time for Council and she is keen to continue working with the PLCA.

The mayor then answered questions from the meeting covering the following matters. By far the majority of question concerned the two lighthouse areas – Toc H and Shortlands Bluff. Concerns were expressed about the terms of the tenders for consultants to assist the planning scheme review. Cr Merriman assured the meeting that it was early days and that there was no set plan and 'what we are allowed to do on these sites is governed by the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE)'. He also stated that, **'at the next Council meeting when confirming the minutes of the previous meeting, he would add an intention to conduct community consultation'**. One member noted that when the Toc H houses were demolished, the Council was not consulted beforehand. In reply Cr. Merriman stated that Council was not the committee of management at that time.

A member then questioned the need and cost of undergrounding power in the Village. Cr Cameron stated that it was one of Council's goals for the area and that the cost will be shared between the Borough and government grants.

Another member expressed his concerns about developments impacting the environment of Lake Victoria. Cr Wasterval assured the meeting that she had a watching brief.

Another member sought an assurance about consultation on the future of caravan parks. Cr Cameron stated that Council was examining the use of the three caravan parks and conducting an

audit of income, facilities and the best mix for each park. Council will seek input in the future and no decisions have been taken.

Cr Cameron also confirmed that Council is in discussions with the Surf Club about the siting of a new clubhouse. The final two questions concerned issues in Queenscliff – the Victoria Tavern redevelopment, which is off to VCAT and the Anchorage site where the developer has apparently purchased an alternative site.

The president, Fay Agterhuis thanked the mayor for her presentation and her frank and open answers to members' questions.

## **11 Close**

The meeting closed at 8:52 pm. In closing the meeting, the president advised that the **next AGM** will be held on 10 January 2014 and that the next **General Meeting** will be held on Friday, 8 February 2013.

The Guest Speaker will be Mr Daniel Barker, engineer, Borough of Queenscliffe. Daniel will discuss the work of the Village Consultative Committee, the extensive works proposed for the Village and the foreshore, and the funding arrangements.

The important issue of the redevelopment proposals for the foreshore reservations at Toc H and Shortlands Bluff will also be on the agenda.

**Peter Rumpf**  
**Acting secretary, PLCA Inc.**