

Your local voice



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**Draft Minutes of the General Meeting
Wednesday, 4 November 2009, 7.00pm**

1. Opening of meeting

1. The Meeting opened at 7.05 pm by Acting Chairman Tom Anderson. The Acting Chair welcomed Col and Jan Petrie and Darryl Johnston from the Tuggeranong Community Council, Sgt Bob Wynn from the ACT Police, Chris Purdon from Purdon and Associates and Ross McKay from the Chief Minister's Department.

Approximately 30 persons from the Community were present.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Rose Jurd and Caroline Le Couteur.

3. Minutes

The Minutes of Public Meeting held on 30 September had been placed on the Website and approved as presented there. (Moved: Simon Hearder, Seconded: Tim Dalton)

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that WCCC balance of the bank account is \$832.27. One bill for payment is \$362.45 to GafferDesign for work on the Council Website.

The Treasurer also reported that Council had applied to ACTPLA for the funding grant and this would be around \$5000.00.

- A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was passed. (Moved: Simon Hearder, Seconded Angela Belluomo)

5. General Business

1. **Sgt Bob Wynn from ACT Police:** Addressed the meeting briefly and stated that he attends these Meetings on a regular basis to listen to issues of concern to the Members. Matters raised with him were:
 - a. Better lighting in the Woolworths Car Park at Cooleman Court. This may be better asked of TAMS or MIRVAC.
 - b. Concern was raised with minors in the Woolworths Car Park;
 - c. Trail bikes driving in the Duffy area. The bikes appeared to be unregistered. Advice was to take a photo if possible and to contact the Police;
 - d. Patrolling of Weston Creek by Police cars and how many and how often

these patrols took place. Sgt Wynn would obtain these figures and provide a response to Council.

General Business was then adjourned to allow discussion on the CIT Site.

6. Presentation by Christine Purdon of Purdon and Associates and Ross McKay of the Chief Minister's Department on the CIT Weston Site and the Arboretum and the Islamic School.

WCCC Chairman Tim Dalton outlined the role that the Council had played in trying to keep the arboretum area at the CIT Site for Public Use over the past two years. Council had met this year with the Chief Minister's Department and had toured the site with Officials including Ms Purdon and Ross McKay.

Ms Purdon indicated that Purdon and Associates had been commissioned by Government to carry out the community consultation on the CIT site. She outlined on a large aerial photograph the site of the arboretum to remain for public use and the proposed School site for the Islamic School. The area known as the grape vine area and other land in this area to the east would not be part of the arboretum or the proposed School site but would be part of a Defence Housing development.

The Islamic School has current enrolments of 110 to 120 and this was projected to go to 900 over time. Currently the School is Kindergarten to Grade 6 and is proposed to go from Kindergarten to Year 12. 6 hectares of land was required for a School of this size and what was proposed for the arboretum would leave just under 6 hectares for the School.

Consultations had been both face-to-face and on-line. Face to face had included the information session at the CIT Site, Friends of the Arboretum and local residents. Submissions had been invited and a Petition had been accepted in favour of the School. On the questionnaire, 47 responses had been made on the night of the information session with a subsequent 14 being lodged. Two thirds were in favour of the School on the day of the information session and 50% thought the School would be of benefit to the community.

Members registered their strong objection to the consultation process held at the CIT indicating that they were uncomfortable with the process and could not access the information. They considered that the legitimacy of the process was questionable and that the Chief Minister had skewed the process.

Ross McKay indicated that the consultation process had been advertised in the press and had also sent a newsletter to houses in the area in Weston. He indicated that the consultation process was now over. The process from here was to report back to Government on the consultations. Government needed to then make a decision on the use of the site.

In relation to the site, Mr McKay indicated that the question to be answered was to continue with the decision of the Future Urban Overlay, which had made the area Medium Density Housing, or to alter the Territory Plan to have the area as Community Facility land for the Islamic School. This was likely to take up to 6 months.

Mr McKay indicated that the arboretum area was currently classed as Urban Open Space and briefed the meeting on the area he felt would be maintained as Open Space. This now included the two areas that had been subject to further consideration in discussions between the WCCC and the Chief Minister's Department. Mr McKay indicated that the Xeriscape garden would become part of the School land.

Council made comment that it was thought that the National Arboretum was to have a Xeriscape garden included in the future.

Ms Purdon outlined that during discussions with the Defence Housing Authority [DHA] that there was the possibility of utilising some land to provide for a car park for access to the arboretum area. Members thought that this was well worth exploring further.

In relation to questions on the Islamic School being offered the site, members asked whether other sites had been considered. Ross McKay indicated that several sites had been considered including one adjacent to the Stromlo Forest Park near the junctions of Uriarra and Coppings Crossing Roads. This would have issues, as it would be built in a fire prone area.

Mr McKay said that the Government had decided to offer the CIT Site to the Islamic School. There was no plan to offer the CIT site to any other School and in the absence of the Islamic School utilising the site, it would revert to medium density housing.

The process of granting land to the Islamic School was the same process as that used to grant land to the Orana and Montessori Schools in Weston Creek and other Canberra Private Schools. As to the buildings, the Islamic School would need to pay for these improvements. A ballpark figure in the order of \$1 million was thought to be about the value to be asked. There were ongoing consultations between the Government and the Islamic School in relation to the site and these were yet to be concluded.

On timing, the CIT exits at the end of February and teaching at the Bruce CIT starts in February. The Islamic School would need to make alterations to the building to bring it to a stage where teaching could commence. It was thought that some 4 to 8 months would be needed for this and the earliest time for the Islamic School to commence teaching on site would be July 2010.

In relation to the arboretum there was a concern over caring for it. This falls to Parks, Land and Conservation. Mr McKay also felt that a Working Party of concerned interested Groups could be established to assist with the care of the arboretum. These could include the Horticultural Society, Friends of the Arboretum, Staff of CIT and the WCCC.

Members of the Council voted that they were unsatisfied with the community consultation regarding the future use of the site.

7. General Business [Continued]:

2. **Stirling Oval adjacent to the Netball Court** – mention was made that part of the Oval had been levelled and members were concerned as to what was happening there.
3. **Rivett Older Public Housing** – concern was expressed that although there had been ongoing discussion/consultations with the community on the future use of the Rivett School site, the proposed design of the Older Public Housing Development had not taken these into account. There were also concerns with traffic flow and a change of practice from siting from the remainder of Rivett.
4. **Green Bike Lane on Streeton Drive** - again the issue of the change in the

road network of the removal of a lane at the Streeton and Namitjira Drive intersections was raised. The Acting Chair outlined the history including two meetings on site and two meetings with the Director of ACT Roads. Changes would be made to the bike lane but the single lane would not revert to two lanes. Members expressed concern and indicated that the changes had made the road around where Hilder Street and Mulley Street separately join Streeton Drive more dangerous. The Acting Chair indicated that the Council was adopting a wait and see to how the new changes worked.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Next Public Meeting: Wednesday 25 November 2009 at 7.00pm