

*Your local voice*



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## **Minutes of General Meeting Wednesday, 26 February 2014**

### **1. Opening of Meeting**

The meeting was opened at 7.35 by Chair Tom Anderson. Tom welcomed members and guests.

**Apologies:** Kathy Anderson, Simon Header, Pat McGinn, John Burke

Welcome: Guilia Jones, MLA Molonglo, Emma ??, Chronicle

Approximately 25 attended the meeting.

### **BUSINESS MEETING**

#### **Minutes of the Meeting of 27 November 2013**

**Motion:** That the Minutes of the previous meeting be approved as circulated.

Moved: Chris Wilson      Seconded: Rosemary Drabsch      Motion carried.

#### **Business arising from the minutes of the meeting of 30 October 2013**

- Nil

#### **Treasurer's Report**

- Nil

#### **Briefing on Current Issues**

##### **1. Roadworks**

The Chair and Deputy Chair met with Tony Gill from ACT Roads to discuss ongoing issues with the roadworks in the Weston Creek area.

The upgrade of Cotter Road between the Tuggeranong Parkway and McCulloch Streets will not be undertaken at this stage as there is insufficient traffic. There is a need for 18,000 cars a day to use the road to trigger an upgrade. At this stage only 12,000 cars a day are using this part of Cotter Road.

The widening of Heysen Street was raised. Currently there is no shoulder and the road is quite narrow. This is a hazard for cyclists and cars.

The issue of the one lane at the lights at the corner of Namatjira and Hindmarsh Drives was raised again. The sequencing of the lights has been changed but there is no plan to return it two lanes.

The current lack of truck and trailer parking at Cooleman Court was raised. Currently there is only one spot.

The surface of Cooleman Court car park was discussed. During the recent hot weather it melted. New blue metal was put down but this has not helped significantly. Mr. Gill advised that a different type of surfacing was now being used.

The problems with access to St Jude's school during the roadworks will be investigated.

The plan to use lights to restrict flow of traffic from Cotter Road onto the Tuggeranong Parkway in morning peak hour was discussed. This is a future project and there will be consultation with the WCCC before it happens.

The new Park and Ride at Molonglo was opened by Shane Rattenbury. The 'new' bus stop that is there was moved from the Gungahlin Town Centre. The chair spoke to Mr. Rattenbury about the need for a Park and Ride in Weston Creek.

A question was raised about trolley bays in Trenerry Square but there are no plans for this at present.

A question was also asked about the proposed changes to Badimara Street whereby it was supposed to be taken straight across with a long ramp onto the Tuggeranong Parkway. There is no news on this.

Comment was made that on Streeton Drive and Cotter Road we are driving on the wrong side heading into town. This will change when the left hand lanes are sealed but there will still only be one lane as the right hand lanes will then be resealed.

## 2. Park and Ride

The Park and Ride at Molonglo was officially opened. There are 39 spaces and you do not have to register to use it yet. There are still only two buses in the morning and two buses in the evening.

A Park and Ride is needed near Cooleman Court for Weston Creek residents.

## 3. 2014 Bus Timetable

WCCC made a submission in relation to the 2014 bus timetable. Weston Creek was going to lose two bus routes with two others being rerouted.

Routes 26 and 27 currently go past retirement villages and Fisher shops. The proposed changes meant that these were not serviced by buses. WCCC submitted that this should be reversed.

A bus should also service Molonglo only without meandering through Weston Creek.

The results of submissions will be released in March.

It was suggested that the Xpresso buses be spaced out further so that they leave Weston Creek earlier and Civic later.

## 4. Draft Master Plan for the Weston Group Centre

The draft Master plan is now scheduled for release in May 2014. This is approximately two years late.

In relation to planning it seems to WCCC that Weston Creek is being tacked onto Woden for some things and Molonglo for others.

The planning staff in the ACT Government seem to have been reallocated to the City to the Lake project rather than the Master Plans.

## 5. Loss of Mobile Library

The mobile library is ceasing in June due to lack of patronage. To have a shopfront existing libraries in Canberra would have to lose opening days.

Ms Jones will follow up.

## 6. Parking – proposal by Government

WCCC has been discussing the parking problems at Cooleman Court with the ACT government since 2008. Roads ACT did a survey in 2009 and agreed that the number of parking places needs to be increased.

All day parking has been moved from most of the carpark.

In the 2012 election the Government promised a further 80 car parking spaces. They are now proposing:

- 54 spaces at Dillon Close; and
- 26 spaces in Liardet Street (by widening the road and having cars 90 degrees to the kerb).

The Budget does not allow for both proposals. WCCC wants the 80 spaces promised and doesn't think that \$500,000 is too much to spend given that Molonglo is coming on line and their shops will be similar to Waramanga not Cooleman Court. The larger shopping complex will not be started until 2018.

WCCC suggests that all parking spaces at Cooleman Court be time limited.

There was discussion about Mirvac taking over 90% of the Cooleman court car park and putting it underground. This is on the draft Masterplan but even if approved it will be some time off. Mirvac is negotiating with the ACT Government.

In relation to the surface of Cooleman Court carpark, Ms. Jones advised that Shane Rattenbury said, in the Legislative Assembly, that there is a warranty on the surface. The grey gravel takes approximately two years to fully settle but there are improvements over time. The lanes are showing improvement but the spaces themselves are still a problem. On hot days the tar is being ripped up as cars turn into the spaces.

## 7. Weston Hub Hall

Following the closure of Weston Creek primary school it was refurbished for community organisations to use. It has taken two years for WCCC to find out how to access the hall. The hall is being managed by the ACT Community Services Directorate. The key has to be collected from Belconnen between 9.00am and 5.00pm week days. WCCC wrote to Andrew Barr about this.

The Weston Creek Community Association wanted to run it. This was supported by WCCC. Weston Creek Community Association would, however, be responsible for pro rata rates if they took over management (approximately \$20,000 per annum). The Hall would have to be used 24/7 to recover these costs.

The Weston Creek Community Association currently manages a smaller hall in Weston Creek. It makes sense for one organisation to run both halls and they can direct bookings to the most appropriate hall.

Currently the ACT Government is not getting any rates income for the hall so there should be room for negotiation with them over the \$20,000.

## 8. Combined Community Council Meetings

This body meets every two months. Most of the issues are about planning.

The Light Rail is also a regular agenda item.

The Planning and Development Forum is part of the Combined Community Council process.

## General Business

Attendees were asked if they had any issues to raise.

### 9. Grass area near Cooleman Court

There was an issue with trucks passing on this area. Koppers logs were put in to stop this but the area near Whatling and Parkinson Sts was not done and this is where most of the damage is occurring.

There are gates there to stop vehicles but trucks are knocking the bollards over to use the area.

People are also parking on the grass areas near the underpass on Hindmarsh Drive. More koppers logs are needed to cover it.

Shane Rattenbury has said in the Assembly that TAMS is only going to do reactive maintenance and they are not prepared to have a regular maintenance plan. They do respond quite quickly if you lodge a request with Fix My Street or Canberra Connect.

### 10. Opposition position on Land Tax

If you rent a house you pay land tax based on the size of the block. This keeps rents up. If there are units on the same size block the land tax is split between the unit owners.

Ms Jones said that in the last election, the Liberal Party ran against the changes to Land Tax and the Rates formula. They continue to follow up this issue.

### 11. Petrol Station Sites

Ms Jones advised that she thinks the the Rivett Service Station site has changed hands.

A question was asked that the Rivett Shops were being refurbished when money becomes available. Could the service station site be part of this?

Has anything happened with the Duffy Site?

Ms Jones said that the Gold Coast City Council grassed over the sites and kept them mowed.

The sites were then signposted to say that they were set for future development. In the meantime they looked much better.

### 12. Rubbish Dumping /Pickup

A significant amount of rubbish is being dumped at the cnr of Hindmarsh and Eucambene Drives.

The charity bins are being moved to central areas and there is a lot of rubbish around them. There was a suggestion that if the ACT Government was not going to do council pickups once or twice a year that they provide large hoppers similar to that used during the 2003 bushfires to dump food from refrigerators.

WCCC has pushed for council pickups for years

Ms Jones advised that the Government has said that rates will go up by \$100pa to cover the costs.

Hindmarsh Drive, near the Equestrian Centre, has had so much rubbish dumped there that the grass has grown over it and there is now a hill there.

### 13. Chapman Service Station

There is a plan, apparently, to build 2-3 story units on this site. It could have been used to redevelop Chapman Shops more fully.

Ms. Jones advised that she will come back with details about the Chapman Shops redevelopment.

14. Vacant land – Cnr Darwinia Street and Streeton Drive

This block of land was going to have Defence Housing on it but rumour has it that it has been handed back. What is happening now? The WCCC was not aware of either scenario.

15. Guilia Jones – the Opposition Spokesperson for Women, Multicultural Affairs and Mental Health

Ms Jones spoke about her willingness to advocate on people's behalf. If anyone has issues she is happy to follow it up with the Government on your behalf.

**Other Business**

1. Second Service Station in Weston Creek – The WCCC put a proposition to the government about the need for a second service station. Gai Brodtmann supported this and presented a petition to the ACT Government.

It is understood that the Government is looking for a site. The WCCC suggested the cnr. of Cotter Road and Kirkpatrick Street where the traffic lights are.

Ms. Jones advised that she is meeting with the owner of the existing service station in April to discuss changing the driveway so that the whole driveway is available and cars can feed into each group of bowlers. To do this trees and a garden bed need to be removed.

The WCCC was told there was a problem with pedestrians but feels that this could be managed.

2. Fetherston Gardens Community Picnic  
This picnic will be held in early May.

3. Next meeting

We are hoping to have speakers from:

- Buses
- ACT Roads
- John Husband
- DHA
- BUPA

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

**Next Meeting Wednesday 26 March, 2014  
Weston Club, 1 Liardet St, Weston**