

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE  
WESTON CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**held on Wednesday 28 February 2007**

**at The Weston Club, Liardet Street, Weston**

(the meeting was attended by 30 people)

**1. Welcome:** Following the sudden resignation of the Chairman the Secretary, Bob Sutherland, chaired the meeting. He introduced himself and welcomed people to the meeting.

He explained the circumstances which led to him chairing the meeting. He briefly outlined an agenda for the meeting with the most important issue, that of whether we should wind-up the community council or not, would come first. He also explained that it was important to go through the provisional agenda to illustrate the current issues facing the community and the community council. There was no opposition to following this procedure.

**2. Apologies:** apologies were received from Mr Desmond Kelly (who later arrived at the meeting) Mr Jeff Carl, Mr Allan Synfield, Ms Pat McGinn, Ms Gillian Giles, Mr Alan Booth, Mr Tim Walshaw, Ms Bev Hartnell, Ms Penny Main and Colin and Wendy Durran.

**3. Whether to continue the WCCC or not:** The Secretary explained that he had been a member of WCCC for sixteen years and had been Chairman of the community council for 7 years in the nineteen nineties. However, he was not in a position to take over the position of Chairman following the sudden resignation of the Chairman in February. During the latter part of 2006 he had been ill and while he was now recovered at his age there was no guarantee that problems would not re-occur. Further, his children were now resident overseas and while he was able to he intended to visit them as much as he could. At his age of life there were priorities of travel and other family matters which were important. Most importantly there was an urgent need for new ideas and younger people with different priorities to take over the running of the community council rather than go back through the same issues he had when he was Chairman. If we make a decision tonight to continue he was not able to be Chairman.

The Secretary also outlined the parlous position the committee of the WCCC found itself in with only four positions, out of a total of ten filled. The work load was now too much for the existing committee and they needed some relief. He then asked for comments from the floor.

The first speaker said that she had already volunteered to take on the position of Secretary in the WCCC if the decision of the meeting is that the community council should continue. She stressed that Weston Creek was a good place to live but it could be better and it could only get worse if there was no community body to lobby on behalf of residents.

Ms Barbara Brinton then stepped forward and addressed the meeting from the front. She said that the community council was in good shape and that it had performed valuable work in the past. In fact, she said, the community council was highly regarded in ACT Government circles for the high quality of the work it did. In recent years it had been difficult to get enough volunteers and this put in jeopardy the valuable community work being undertaken. In the future there were going to be more problems and the community council was still needed and if it didn't continue the community would suffer. In her professional working life she was responsible for managing a large group of volunteers at a national institution and there the volunteers received rewards for their work such as free membership of the institution and concessions on buying research materials. The WCCC could not offer any rewards on this scale but there was the reward of the satisfaction of doing valuable community work. She also said that she had been on the committee for five years but her increased volunteering commitments in other areas meant that she no longer had enough time for committee work. Should this work lessen in the future she would come back to the community council. She asked that everybody think seriously about volunteering to work for the community council.

Mr Noel Tregoning then spoke to the meeting saying he was an existing committee member and was very keen for the community council to continue. He said that he was not able to take on the position of Chairman but he would stay on the existing committee.

The Secretary then asked if there was anybody who wanted to advocate that the community council be wound up. There was no response to this invitation. The Secretary then asked that a formal motion be put and Catharina van Moort proposed a motion that the WCCC continue and this was seconded by Edward Irvine.

There was more discussion and then the Secretary put the motion to the meeting and it received unanimous support.

**4. Endorsement of the minutes of the November 2006 meeting:** The Secretary apologised to the meeting that he was unable, because he only had limited resources at home, to print off multiple copies of the minutes. He explained that during the last half of 2006 minutes had not been endorsed by following meetings. It would be too time consuming to go back over all the meetings but interested people could consult the draft minutes on the web page. It would be time consuming enough to read out part of the minutes for the last meeting and he tried to keep this item as short as possible. The minutes of the November 2006 meeting were accepted by a vote from the floor.

**5. Action following on from the minutes:** At the last meeting Mr Ross McKay from the Chief Minister's Department had addressed the meeting to advocate the establishment of a virtual retirement village in Weston Creek. This is considered to be outside the normal business of the community council but the meeting agreed that the WCCC should write to Mr McKay suggesting that the community council is willing to host a special meeting of interested Weston Creek people with the object of establishing a separate committee to pursue this idea. After that the WCCC would have no further responsibility. The draft letter was read out and this action was endorsed by the meeting.

**6. Call for volunteers to join the committee:** The Secretary then said that the WCCC still needed volunteers for the committee now that the decision had been made to continue. The following people volunteered to join the committee (in no particular order):

Ms Kylie Paulson; Ms Barbara Campbell; Ms Kate Alexander; Mr Daniel McCarthy; Ms Jackie Fry; Mr Edward Irvine; Mr Barry O'Shannassy; Ms Simone Hunter; Mr Vaughn Marshall; Mr John Burke; Mr Stuart Kearns; Ms Hilary Shelton; Ms Joanna McKenzie-Kay; and Mr Tim Dalton.

The Secretary asked all the new volunteers to leave their contact details before leaving the meeting and he also said that the most pressing need was for a Chairman. It was agreed that this be left to the next committee meeting for further discussion and decision.

**7. Endorsement of draft letter to the ACT Electoral Commission on new boundaries for ACT electorates:** The Secretary explained the background to this and said that in past years the community council had supported the view that Weston Creek should not be split for electoral purposes. The matter was open to the floor for comment and the suggestion that the paragraph beginning "We recognise that the Molonglo electorate etc" should be deleted from the draft was accepted by the meeting. The amended letter will be sent to the Electoral Commission as a submission.

**8. Payment of due accounts:** The meeting agreed that accounts due for the flyer and distribution, telephone account, the new trade mark for the WCCC and for the new domain name be paid. (An account from the Post Office for renewal of the subscription to the post office box was also received and this will be paid and submitted for endorsement to the next general meeting.)

**9. Use of vacant school sites:** The meeting agreed that this item be held over for the next general meeting.

**10. Any other business:** A member raised the issue of new fences and gates being erected on Narrabundah Hill (adjacent to Eucumbene Drive, Duffy) saying that these had severely hindered residents' enjoyment of the area. It was now impossible for mothers and children to have access to the site. A suggestion that stiles be erected was not accepted because these were not accessible to many people.

**11. Date of the next meeting:** The Secretary explained that the community council had received a number of emails asking that the day of the meeting be changed from Wednesdays. He said that the dates of the meetings had been advertised as widely as possible and for that reason it would be best to stick to the advertised schedule. However, the question of future meeting days would be a matter for the new committee. Therefore the date of the next meeting of the WCCC will be Wednesday, 28 March 2007 at the Weston Club in Liardet Street, Weston beginning at 7:45 pm.

The meeting closed at 9:15 pm.