



FLINDERS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Reg AO037885B

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

11.00am on Sunday 28 February 2021

Held at Flinders Community Hall

MINUTES OF MEETING

1. Opening of the Meeting

1.1 Acknowledgement

Jo Monie acknowledged that the meeting was being held on the traditional lands of the Bunurong peoples and paid respect to the elders past and present.

1.2 Welcome

President Jo Monie opened the Meeting at 11.00 am and welcomed those in attendance – 52 people being within the COVID safe limit attended.

Jo also welcomed Melisa Burrage – Manager Climate Change, Energy and Water at Mornington Peninsula Shire.

2 Melisa Burrage – Manager Climate Change, Energy and Water “Climate, Energy and Zero Carbon Communities”

Concern around climate change is not new – it was discovered in the 1800s. Currently, global warming and CO₂ levels are tracking upwards. Change is closely related to the clearing of forests, farming and particularly the keeping of animals resulting in increasing levels of CO₂ trapping warmth in the atmosphere. The number of extra hot days each year is increasing with fewer days of lower temperature.

The Paris Climate Accord indicated the need for tighter climate targets to be in place. Mornington Peninsula Shire is working to support the Climate Change Bill before State Parliament. Strong action is needed and Council has declared a Climate Emergency with interim emission targets and a 2040 Zero Emissions Target for the Shire.

During 2020 and the COVID crisis, community consultation was conducted on a draft environment plan to which over 600 responses were received. The result has been the preparation of a Report of over 100 pages listing some 160 tasks which will involve Council and the community. These tasks include adoption of clean energy, more sophisticated transport solutions, more green space and education about climate action. Council is committed to consideration of

climate change in every decision. Currently food production from the Mornington Peninsula is important for the Metropolitan community. The exploration of recycling water for use in agriculture is underway. Land within the Green Wedge can be more effectively used to sequester carbon. The coastline of the Mornington Peninsula which represents about 10% of the Victorian coastline has potential for seaweed farming. Key areas needing to be addressed in a Zero Carbon future of reducing energy use are Electricity (50%) and Transport (30%) representing 80% of the total usage.

Targets for the next 10 years:

- Council to be Carbon Neutral – after offsets. Unfortunately the Shire tip will be a methane emitter for the next 20 years.
- Use electricity from renewable sources and encourage action by the community.
- Install energy efficient lighting and solar panels on Council buildings
- Bulk purchase electricity and create “virtual energy networks”.
- Get off Gas – encourage installation of heat pumps, solar and reverse cycle systems.
- Introduce energy upgrade agreements which include loans for new infrastructure.
- Introduce battery storage - Council currently has 3 small pilot projects.
- Undertake education programs and webinars to provide advice and support to encourage the community to become “climate clever”.
- Monitor power usage and encourage installation of devices that display changes in use of power as appliances are switched on and off.

Many initiatives involve other levels of government. Transport is one such area in which electric vehicles are not the answer. Although the Council has a fleet of electric vehicles it does not propose to become an electric vehicle charging provider. Needed is an integrated transport strategy including better buses, encouragement of walking and cycling, and provision of bike storage. Council is trialing “Smart Parking” at Rye. COVID restriction may have changed work habits so that working from home or from hubs close to home becomes the norm.

Land fill sites continue to emit methane and other gases for up to 30 years. The introduction of a green waste + organic food waste collection program could be significant in reducing the volume of material sent to tips. A four bin system is proposed to deal with glass in addition to current collection. Deposit schemes for aluminum cans including recycling is being considered. A plastic free policy is also proposed. Currently Council is using recycled plastic previously deemed to be waste in the construction of footpaths.

Ecologically sustainable design (ESD) particularly in water management are supported. Recycled water reticulation is being installed at the Briars, in parks and in rural Somerville where there is extensive vegetable growing. The business case for other areas are being examined. Community grants of \$5000 - \$10,000 may be made from a fund of \$100,000 voted by Council seeking a renewables led carbon recovery.

Questions from the meeting:

Q. How does population increase affect carbon emission?

A. Growth is happening as more and more people seek homes on the Peninsula. Council has upgraded its population estimate to 200,000.

Q. Do open fires have a significant effect?

A. In the overall scheme of things, open fires at home are a very small part of the problem – of more concern are forest fires and transport emissions.

Q. There is much concern about CO₂ but what about methane from cows?

A. There is research underway it animals but greater volumes of methane may be emitted from sewerage works which could be collected and used. The Boneo treatment plant has a 50% reduction by 2030 target.

Q. Flinders businesses are plastic bag free – what about electronic waste?

A. Lions have arranged for Council to place an E-waste collection bin outside Flinders hall from mid-March.

Melisa Burrage's team also includes:

Jacqui Salter – Education Officer for the Shire; and

Stephany Delaney – CCF Officer

Jo Monie thanked Melissa for her presentation and Greg Holland presented a bouquet.

Mark Aarons foreshadowed a future community meeting to discuss programs put forward by Beyond Zero Emissions – a think tank associated with Melbourne University. BZE has produced a guide – with ideas for the community and proposed to invite a speaker from the Apollo Bay which has already undertaken an energy project.

2. Apologies:

Ralda Bourne, Maggie Cash, Nancy Findlay, Glenys and Alan French, Don and Muriel Jeffrey, Euan Luff, Pam Marshall, Stephen Newton, Anne O'Callaghan, Candy Ormerod, John and Heather Plant, Philip Ramsden, Judy and Andrew Rogers, Judy and Robin Tillyard.

3. Minutes of the 2020AGM

Jo Monie **Moved**: that the Minutes of the 2020 AGM, having been duly circulated, placed on the Association website, with copies made available at today's meeting be accepted by the meeting. **Seconded**: Graham Lewis. The motion was carried.

4. Presidents Report for 2020 (attached)

Jo Monie recalled the impact of COVID and the lockdown on the Flinders community. Zoom entered our lives. We considered ourselves lucky to be living in Flinders.

The FCA Annual Dinner was held at the Golf Club with Lt Commander Peter Arnold as the guest speaker. The AGM was held on 16 February at which David Marshall, Community Safety Officer, Flinders CFA; and Jeremy Little, Bushland Fire management Officer, Mornington Peninsula Shire spoke on CFA role and Fire risk. Ella Slingsby and Jo Wilton from Ambulance Victoria spoke on the Heart Safe Community. Unfortunately the Community picnic was cancelled.

A number of news letters were posted during the year and the Flinders Village website which is maintained by arrangement with the Flinders Golf Club was upgraded. An independent Flinders Village Facebook page is now operating with over 400 members.

Progress on the Flinders hall has been slow. During July 2020 plans were circulated however the program was caught up in Council caretaker period prior to the elections. Council was however able to make a successful bid for \$2.25m State Government grant for the new building, now referred to as the "Flinders Community Hub". A Place-making grant from the Shire enabled the replacement of the

information panels in the Park kiosk. The cooperation of the various community groups was appreciated.

The Association has objected to the application by the Flinders Hotel Property P/L for redevelopment of the Motel at 28 Cook Street. The owners lodged an appeal against the failure of the Shire to determine the matter. So far VCAT has held a compulsory conference with necessary formal hearing to commence at the end of March. Amended plans have recently been received increasing parking to 83 spaces but not addressing other concerns. In another matter at 19 Spindrift Avenue, where a dwelling is proposed within 10 metres of the foreshore reserve contrary to provisions of DDO3 the Association has appealed against the grant of a permit by Council.

During the year the committee met via ZOOM and the FCA was represented at RAMS meetings (arranged by Cr David Gill with local groups). Amendment C219 (Neighbourhood Zones) to the Planning scheme remains with the Planning Minister. Discussion occurred with VicRoads, and Council on Glenvale Road, and the Patterson Road Community Garden. With the Lions Club a contribution was made to the Flinders Cricket Club to replace and relocate their Defibrillator (AED), publicity for the St Johns virtual fete and the Christmas Tree in the central park.

Jo Monie noted that John Derham has retired after more than 30 years as the Flinders Postmaster. The new Post Office, being built next to the General Store, will open in April. Contact with Flinders residents on the possible upgrading of NBN services to the premise resulted in 31 expression of interest and some 70 names on a list from the Post Office. Currently a re-survey of priorities within the Flinders community is being undertaken – the last such exercise being in 2017.

Jo Monie has welcomed some new members to the FCA Committee namely: Maxine Cooper Judy Tillyard and Melissa Smith. Jo also noted that Ann O’Callaghan long time past committee member and currently archivist had her 90th birthday this day.

Moved: Jo Monie that the report be accepted **Seconded:** Ashley Fraser, **Carried.**

5. Treasurer’s Report for 2020 (Year ending 31/10/20)

- 5.1 **Financial Statement 2019 – 2020** Susan Grant reported that the FCA started the Financial Year on 1 November 2019 with a cash surplus of \$17,294 and ended the financial year on 20 October 2020 with a slightly higher surplus of \$17,917; being an inflow of \$623.00. Susan outlined the major sources of income as membership subscriptions, donations from members and fund raising at the Annual Dinner. Major expenditure is on the regular newsletter, the website and insurances. (see attached statement for details).

The accounts (attached to these minutes) have been submitted, audited and signed off by the Auditor Darcy Smith, as being a true and fair summary of the Association’s affairs for the period. Questions from the floor related to clarification of expenditure on communications, printing, catering and the grant from the Mornington Peninsula Shire for the Information Kiosk. Treasurer Susan Grant **Moved** acceptance of the report: **Seconded** Melissa Smith **Carried.**

5.2 **Annual Subscriptions for 2021 - 2022**

The Treasurer announced that the Constitution requires that the Subscription rates to apply in the new year be approved at the AGM each year. The Committee recommends the rate remain unchanged namely Membership rates: Household \$25, Concession \$20 and Business \$50 **Moved:** Treasurer: Susan Grant **Seconded:** Melissa Smith **Carried.**

5.3 Election of Auditor

The Treasurer noted that the auditor Darcy Smith was willing to be appointed for the coming year. His appointment was **Moved** by the Treasurer Susan Grant, **Seconded** Neil Hallam **Carried**. Susan also thanked Darcy Smith for the valuable contribution he has made to the FCA over many years.

6. Planning Issues Report – Neville Wale (Attached)

Neville Wale reported that the FCA had reviewed 31 development applications during the year. It has been necessary to lodge appeals to VCAT in two cases namely:

- Application P19/2645 Conference Centre /Motel at 28 Cook Street representing an over development contrary to the policies and guidelines in DDO2 and the Village Centre Design Guidelines. The FCA has participated in a Compulsory Conference and the matter will be heard in VCAT at the end of March.
- Application P18/2281 Dwelling at 19 Spindrift Avenue located on a vulnerable site at the toe of the escarpment. The dwelling is proposed to be closer than 10 meters to the Foreshore Reserve boundary contrary to DDO3 requirements.

Protecting the Green Wedge

Nine applications considered by the FCA involve “lifestyle” properties in the Green Wedge indicating continuing demand that risks the long term viability of farming activities. The State Government review of the future of agricultural land within 100km of Melbourne has a number of shortcomings that threaten the Green Wedge with death by 1000 cuts. It fails to recognise the importance of the Mornington Peninsula Green Wedge for other functions including food production, biodiversity, natural resources and landscape for recreation and habitat.

Protecting neighbourhood Character

Amendment C219 (proposing Neighbourhood rezoning) continues to languish on the Planning Minister’s desk. It is amply justified by the Council’s Western Port Villages Study which advocates more responsive development requirements related to neighbourhood character.

Heritage Review Stage 4

Commenced at the beginning of 2020 this study by RBA Architects was curtailed by the COVID lockdown. The FCA looks forward to being able to comment on the study recommendations in due course.

7. General Business

There were no items of general business.

8. Election of Office Bearers and Committee for 2018

Peter Lain having agreed to act as Returning Officer declared all positions vacant. Peter Lain noted that nominations had been received for positions on the Executive Committee: - President, Deputy President, Secretary and Treasurer and the General Committee. As there was only one nomination for each of the positions on the Executive Committee and there being no further nominations from the floor of the meeting, the following candidates were declared duly elected by the meeting:

Executive Committee

President: Jo Monie

Deputy President: Neville Wale

Secretary: Mark Aarons

Treasurer: Susan Grant

General Committee

There being nominations for Committee, not exceeding the number of positions available, and there being no further nominations, Peter Lain declared the following candidates duly elected:

Maxine Cooper, Ashley Fraser, Neil Hallam, Mark Holland, Jan Moffat, Charles Reis, Judy Tillyard, Melissa Smith and Correne Wassertheil

9. Remarks by Cr David Gill

David Gill referred to the toilets in the Park project and indicated that construction would occur later than anticipated in the 2023 financial year. The Government grant for the new hall referred to as the “Flinders Community Hub” would be matched by \$2.25m from Council and would be in progress over the next year. David also expressed a desire that a meeting be held with the under 40s in the Flinders community to share their views on village priorities.

10. Closing Remarks by President Jo Monie

Jo Monie thanked Peter Lain for carrying out the duties of Returning Officer and the community for attending the meeting.

Mary Iles thanked the Committee on behalf of the community for all their hard work.

11. Close:

The meeting closed at 12.30 pm