



BRAIDWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

General Meeting

July 19th 2022 at 5.30 pm
Braidwood Servicemens Club

MINUTES

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we are meeting and pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES:

Welcome: Erin Brinkley (Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Group)

Apologies: John Tuckwell, Cr Kenrick Winchester, Janene Collins, Gilly Burke

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD JUNE 21st 2022

Moved: Catherine Bell

Seconded: Steve Kidd

3. BUSINESS ARISING AND NOT INCLUDED IN GENERAL BUSINESS

- a) **Water Supply fees and charges Update** – no new information.
- b) **Skate Park Update** – Catherine Bell reported that work had commenced in preparation for installation of the piping of the creek at the Skate Park site.
- c) **Braidwood Common Update** – Sue reported that a staff report to Council on the Common was expected at the last Council meeting but the matter was deferred. Sue, Annie Duke, and Ben Gleeson met with Rebecca Ryan (QPRC CEO) on Friday June 15th to discuss the Common. No decision has yet been made re a possible s355 Committee to replace the current lease arrangement. Rebecca has deferred this until August.
- d) **Telstra Outages** – Sue explained that Alison Sexton-Green is trying to have Telstra investigate communication issues in Monga. Telstra have said there is battery back-up on Mt Gillamatong but it doesn't last long after power outages. Sue has emailed Chris Taylor (Telstra Regional Manager) and he has agreed to follow this up once an "end-to-end review" has taken place. David Anthony said he had spoken with Chris Taylor on behalf of the fire crews in Mongarlowe. He and Paul Bott have invited Chris to visit and see the situation at Mongarlowe and Charley's Forest. Chris said he would attend.

David explained that there must be a business case for a new tower and there is limited money to build and connect.. Chris Taylor has said the usual case was to ask for money from State or Federal govt, and he was amenable to that idea. He will view 4 possible sites for a tower. Kristy McBain is supportive and pushing for action.

George Sheriff recommended we push really hard on the grounds of the communication needs of emergency services. Trish Sargeson believed everyone

should have coverage to avoid the potential for medical emergencies with no reliable communication.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE:** As listed in attached report

5. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

a) Community Housing Sub-Committee: Sarah Leheny reported she and Sue had met with Anna Wyllie, a director with the NSW Dept of Regional Development, to confirm our planned proposal was feasible. Anna was happy with it and advised to proceed. Sarah had analysed Braidwood's stats from the 2021 census and was now ready to add detail to our proposal framework. The plan is to present it to the council for inclusion in their Affordable Housing Strategy.

Rebecca Ryan, QPRC's new CEO, is looking at Crown land near Hassall Reserve with a view to building modular housing for key workers. She is also supportive of the Court House accommodation proposal and is keen to progress it.

[Note: For those who are not aware of this, it's an idea for conversion of the Braidwood Courthouse building into several small accommodation units for key workers. The Courtroom itself would remain intact. The building at present is almost empty and will remain so unless an 'adaptive reuse' proposal is accepted]

b) Seniors Events in Spring and Summer: Our BCA grant application has been approved by QPRC but is awaiting approval from the NSW Govt. The intention is for seniors and others from Braidwood and surrounding areas to meet socially as a way to reconnect after the disasters of the last few years. Proposed events include:

- a lunch at Gundillion (catered by Di Izzard)
- a High Tea (catered by Vanessa Bunn) in November in the National Theatre;
- an event at the Araluen Federation Hall;
- Lunch at Nerriga;
- (possibly) a monthly lunch with volunteer cooks in the Old Anglican Hall.

Bendigo Bank have agreed to fund buses for travel outside Braidwood, and hall hire if needed, for these events. Planning is continuing while we await confirmation of the grant from the NSW Govt via QPRC. We hope that from these events a Seniors Association for Braidwood and district will be created.

Cathie Owen suggested a Senior Citizens Association membership may cover insurance for lunch events in the Anglican Hall.

e) Medical Services in Braidwood: Trish Sargeson referred to several Facebook posts complaining of a shortage of doctors at the MPS (Braidwood Hospital). Trish is the BCA representative on the MPS Community Consultation Committee. She said that at the moment there were enough nurses at the MPS and that the hospital was better served than it had been for a long time. There is currently a VMO there Wednesday to Sunday for two weeks a month for (possibly) the next six months. People were complaining with little background understanding of the facts. Trish believed there is an issue with current Medicare subsidies for doctors and that pressure should be applied to government to increase Medicare subsidies. It remains difficult to get doctors to come to rural areas for many reasons. This is an Australia-wide problem.

George Sheriff suggested the MPS have a Q&A day. Trish thought it better if the Publicity Officer wrote an article for the newspapers to explain the situation and issues. Trish said we

are lucky to have the ambulance service and great hospitals only an hour away and we are better off than many regional towns.

Kerrin Glover suggested quarterly updates from the MPS to advise of their status, and perhaps some good news stories.

Steve Kidd asked if we could lobby Federal government for help with medical staff. Trish advised we needed to establish our needs first and that we are restricted by NSW Health rules. Steve offered to speak with a retired doctor friend to get advice on how to approach government.

David advised to approach this very carefully. He said we are lucky with what we have and there is very little in the way of nurses and doctors to recruit. But we need to keep talking with the appropriate authorities and our local members.

d) Proposed Community Hub in Braidwood: Sue explained her community hub idea. She had talked with Rebecca Ryan and Jacqui Richards from QPRC, and is meeting with Jacqui to talk about it further. More information will be circulated once it is available

e) Lascelles Street Upgrade: Council has awarded the contract for the upgrade of Lascelles Street to Shail Construction for the amount of \$1,506,052.07 (incl GST).

f) 15 Year Review of NSW State Heritage Listing: Local consultation is complete. An invitation to visit Braidwood has been extended to James Griffin, the State Minister for Environment and Heritage.

g) BCA Facebook Page: Catherine Bell announced the BCA Facebook page and advised it was not a discussion page, but for info posts, surveys, etc. Posts could be reposted from this page to sites that did allow comments. This would mean the BCA committee was not responsible for engaging with comments.

h) Review of Council Committees: Sue explained the Council's review of s355 and Locality Committees. s355 Committees manage Council facilities. Activities are covered by Council's insurance. Under new arrangements, one councillor is allocated to each s355 Committee, with an alternate Councillor as a backup. Locality committees existed previously but were unsuccessful. Council is looking at other options to engage with the local communities. Councillor Katrina Willis has pushed for Council to set up ways to contact smaller village committees instead of expecting these committees to report to Council.

David mentioned all volunteers on s355 committees are regarded as volunteers for Council. This means all volunteers need to do the online mandatory courses council workers need to do. F

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) George Sherriff mentioned issues raised in the community re unacceptable behaviour in Braidwood pubs. He has spoken with Hollie Baker-Boljkovak and believes the pushback would have more impact if it also came from men's groups and they had buy-in. He said pubs can do a lot to keep patrons in line and manage behaviour. Conversation has started and the BCA is on board.

b) Guest speaker Erin Brinkley (Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council) talked about the new Bombay Reserve sign/display board, which was now going through community consultation. It was designed by Chris Payne, who developed the poster for Mongarlowe

River. Erin is looking for our feedback, detail, and what we want included on the sign. We will advertise this via the local media.

Phillip Owen asked who owned what? Erin explained that Water NSW own the land. Bombay Landcare also have an interest as this is part of their area.

George said Apex and the Rugby club had planned to offer dollar for dollar when it came to clearing up the reserve, but was unsure why the idea was knocked back. He asked if Erin had any insight as to why. She said everything needed approval from Water NSW (even animal surveys). Sue thought perhaps it was to do with giving the area time to recover post-fires. She mentioned that there is a very rare plant (*bossiaea bombayensis*) growing there which needs protection to recover after the fires. Water NSW had a fence built to protect the area where it was recovering after the fires. It will take several years to reach the stage of recovery via self-seeding.

Trish asked about recording history and management of old gold diggings. Erin is trying to get those features drawn on the map, but nothing is being done to preserve them. There is no legal obligation on NSW Water to protect threatened species or preserve gold mining history.

Erin flagged that USLC has funding to build a community nursery, but they are looking for a suitable site. They need land the size of a suburban block. George had a concern there are commercial operators in the same field. Trish suggested land behind the Masonic Lodge.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 16 August 2022