



Gateway to the Manning!

Chris Bawn
Secretary and Public Officer
secretary@johnsriver.com.au

Minutes of the JRCPA Management Committee

Meeting on 2nd August 2008 1.10pm at 4 Thomas, Johns River.

Committee Members in Attendance:

President Glenn Ferrero (GF), VP David Shepard (DS), Secretary Chris Bawn (CB), Ordinary Members Rod Heath (RH), Deena Lane (DL), Michael Williams (MW), Kerri Williams (KW) and Treasurer Bruce Shaw (BS),

Apologies:

Nil.

Visitors – Councillor Richard Wilson

GF opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming. GF also welcomed Councillor Richard Wilson (RW) as a visitor to today's meeting. GF noted that RW has been a continued supporter of the Association and the village – which was appreciated. RW also leads the 355 Committee that both CB and BS participate in with GTCC.

RW thanked GF for his welcome and indicated that he would only stay for a short while due to other commitments. RW indicated that the local council elections are on the 13th September 2008 and RW would like our support to assist him with handing out flyers at various polling booth locations (32 booths in all) around the catchment area. RW indicated that Deena Lane and Joe Malvicino have offered their assistance on the day. RW also indicated that he was working with Cr Mave Richardson to cover the various booths around the area. RW gave CB a list of the booths and where there were gaps to fill to date.

RW indicated that to raise his profile – he was looking to have some public meetings and Press Adverts with the development of a profile sheet to give voters an understanding of how he has looked after constituents in the GTCC area.

DS thanked RW for all his support and work for the village and moved a motion that the Association will continue to support his objectives. Motion was seconded by GF – committee accepted – motion carried.

RW then left the meeting.

New Membership Applications

GF then asked whether there were any new applications for membership. DL indicated that her son Darren Lane would like to join and could assist on the Eco side in an advisory capacity. CB indicated that he will email a form to Deena for Darren.

GF then turned to the Agenda for this meeting and the minutes of the 5th July Meeting. All read through the minutes of the meeting with GF proposing that these minutes be accepted – Motion was seconded by BS. All were in favour. Minutes accepted.

ITEMS CARRIED FROM THE PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING:

Raised Telstra Box – Lot 1 – No. 2- Thomas Street

At CB's last meeting in GTCC – he raised the issue again of the raised Telstra Box at the front of 2 Thomas Street. CB commented that council could use surplus concrete from the alliance if this becomes available to effectively fix this area and tie it in with the phone box and general store. CB will keep contacting council re the repairs.

Speed Limits for the village

GF indicated that he had received a letter from GTCC in relation to the letter we sent to them on the 21st November 2007! The letter indicated that during the construction process – the speed limit on Stewarts River Road would be 60km/h. Once completed – this limit will be reviewed by GTCC. GF indicated that it is our intention to have the whole precinct at 50km/h – in line with other communities. The JRCPA will continue to work with GTCC on this point.

Newspaper (JRJ) and Web Advertising

DS handed out a copy of the advertising template for the JRJ. This showed the prices available for adverts in the JRJ. DS indicated that Frank at the General Store has chosen an annual subscription for the Front Page – which was excellent. DS indicated that these add spaces were value for money with a small advert costing only \$49 per year. RH and CB indicated that the Hall Committee would take advantage of the adverts and would take an annual subscription. DS reiterated that these are introductory prices and to make sure we talk with local businesses to get them on board before the prices are increased. DS indicated that the JRJ will have 8 pages and these will be A3 style. The cost in B&W of \$140 per edition. Colour was just too expensive. DS further advised that he completed a news article for the ABC radio – which was aired in July – and that the Camden Haven Courier was preparing an article on the village and the design post bypass. Both of these will be placed on the website once available.

Local Crime Subcommittee

GF asked whether there have been any crime attacks in the village recently. MW indicated that their house was 'egged' last week- and they could not find the offenders. Apart from that – it has been quiet. It does appear that the main offenders in the village are away at present – hence the peace and quiet. MW indicated that he has been in discussions with local residents and they support him with the

reintroduction of a Neighbourhood watch system. MW indicated that he had been in touch with Neighbourhood Watch and was organising some forms for residents to use. KW indicated that she had sent through to CB a copy of the article for the JRJ. CB had never rec'd this – KW to resend.

CB indicated that the Local Police were supportive of our issues – but they need to allocate resources where they are in most demand – and that was in and around Taree. KW indicated that Cooperook Police was willing to assist. CB made further comment that the Youth Liaison Officer – Jack Mundy was willing to attend a community meeting to go through Crime prevention measures. We would need to invite him to the next meeting. CB also indicated that the Police really need our assistance in spotting the offenders and reporting them and be willing to sign a statement. MW and KW to continue with this and report back to the committee at the next meeting.

Renaming of Roads

DS indicated that he had made a submission to GTCC to sort out the issue of the naming of the roads in the village. The issue here is to work out the most effective change of the name for the road – and to reduce the impact on residences, etc. The main issue – Stewarts River Road. DS did speak very quickly here so thought it best to paste in the email to GTCC and ors.....

Hello GTCC and RTA/Alliance Planners!

As we'd discussed variously with you all at the Plan Forum last Thursday, we would very much like to settle the matter of road names and signage now, especially as the RTA has already issued draft plans for signage. We have whittled down consensus on our committee to one of two basic plans.

If you could please GTCC, we need a little short info on how streets get renumbered if we choose one of two existing plans for renaming the roads here.

OPTIONS:

PLAN A:

"Johns River Road" from the new roundabout, through the village centre, to the intersection with Wharf Road.

"Unnamed Drive" (see point 3) from the intersection in the village centre south to the intersection (on ramp) with the new highway.

Advantages: Honours the post-bypass village traffic pattern, where 80% (we're guessing) will travel along the newly realigned corridor between Wharf Road and the new roundabout.

Disadvantages: More householders may be affected by renumbering, given a necessary shortening of Stewart's River Road, starting from the roundabout rather than in the village centre.

PLAN B:

*Retain the **Stewarts River Road** up to the village centre where it goes around the bend.*

"Johns River Road" running from intersection with Wharf Road all the way south to the intersection (on ramp) with the new highway (southbound).

Advantages: Retains existing limits of definition for road corridors, and renumbering on Stewart's River Road is less likely.

Disadvantages: Does not honour the new alignment of the road, and only salient to locals with historical knowledge of the pre-bypass road names.

CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Address Changes

Our goal is to get **a rough idea from you GTCC** as to the comparative numbers of properties which would require renumbering under each of our proposed plans.

- If PLAN A goes ahead, we assume this would also mean **renumbering of properties** from the new roundabout west along Stewart's River Road to intersection with Hannam Vale road. Is that Correct?
- With either plan, we assume that all of the houses along **the existing highway will be renumbered** as they are no longer part of the highway (on it's distance-from-start numbering system) -- having been renamed to a village residential/rural road. Is that correct?

2. New Highway Signage

- Ideally, we would very much like to have **more "exposure"** for Johns River on the approach directional signage for the Johns River exit. If the Johns River Road begins at the new roundabout (or terminates there if the numbering system generally starts in the north, at the intersection with Wharf Road), then the approach signage could read (with the bracketed portion in the standard white block with black lettering) **"[JOHNS RIVER ROAD] Johns River =>, [STEWART'S RIVER ROAD] <= Hannam Vale"**. Clearly this would require early gazetting or indication of intent by council for the road names to the RTA at Council's earliest convenience.
- RTA, is this congruent with your road signage standards?

3. Naming Conventions

The community is **98% solid on the "Johns River Road"** name. It was a clear winner when tested in our Community Forums, and with the survey forms we issued. The only notable reservation was possible confusion with the forest road running through the state forest between Johns River and Diamond Head road, although this is somewhat mitigated by many referring to that as the Johns River Forest Road. Council actually gazettes the portion along the rail line as Marsh Street.

- If PLAN A is adopted, the **orphaned road segment** created running south from the village centre (from the newly realigned and named Johns River Road) to the southbound on-ramp is open for naming. Our **two main candidates**, prior to community consultation, is **"Sid Tiedman Drive"**, named after the author of the Forge, an autobiography of early life in Johns River. Sid was also variously Secretary and President of our Association in the 1930s and 1940s. Another equally popular option seems to be a name derived in consultation with the traditional owners, the Biripi people, possibly **"Biripi Drive"** or similar.
- If PLAN B is adopted, "Johns River Road/Drive" is the only additional name required.

Please forward this to your departments as needed; I wasn't sure who deals with numbering/signage issues.

Thank you so much for you efforts, as always most appreciated!

Skate Park

A Youth Subcommittee has been proposed to look after this issue and it was suggested that MW lead this subcommittee given that he has young children and is close to the youth of the village. A discussion was also held around the skate park and putting this on hold until the Urban Design of the village has been attended to. **On Hold at present.**

Next Community Forum Meeting

We will await the final draft from the Urban Design Consultants. They are due to present this to GTCC in Early September. With Council elections in September – there may be a slightly slower progress on the decision regarding the design. The next meeting could also cover off on the Crime Prevention issue and the introduction of the JR Neighbourhood Watch program.

Telstra NOT Supporting the Village with Basic Broadband

DS indicated that his trial of the much anticipated Optus Wireless service was disappointing. The speed was less than dial up – which is a shame and false advertising by Optus. We will take this issue up with Optus. CB indicated that he had been in discussions with Telstra Technicians to gain an understanding of why Broadband can't be given to the village – when it is available in Isaacs Lane. The short answer is that the exchange (which is in Moorland) is too far away from the village and as such the copper cables cannot send a signal greater than 6 kms. Wireless is far too expensive and satellite is now looking to be a better option. CB indicated that we will continue to push the government to make a decision regarding the 'fibre to the node' option – as this is the only true hope for the village.

Understanding the Roles of the Village Groups

CB has prepared an article for the JRJ based on the four volunteer community groups. CB has approval from all 4 organisations including the RFS.

Update from the Post-Bypass Committee

CB gave an update on the latest progress from the Post-Bypass Committee.

The Meeting held at the hall on a very wet 24th July – was a great success with GTCC, Andrews.Neil, Peter Besseling (Rob Oakeshott office) and Dick Whibley (RTA) in attendance. There were around 20 residents from the village who saw the design work that all had been working on. Andrews.Neil covered off on the design and how they had developed all the areas to complement the village. Residents in

attendance were given the opportunity to comment on the design with the major very happy with the works thus far. Residents were then allowed to place 'post it notes' on the plan to give comments for further consideration. In all – a very successful meeting.

The following day – 25th July – the 355 Committee met with the designers and GTCC/RTA to go through the comments made by the residents. It was pleasing to see that there were not a huge amount of changes required. The main discussions were around the water concerns around the creek area – RTA to review – Naming of bridges and roads to continue (RTA for Bridges and GTCC for Roads). We then discussed the option of funding this plan with initial numbers given by Andrews.Neil. The group will now look at funding solutions and will look at staging these works to be completed over say 5 years. We would need to prioritise the most important works initially – such as community toilets, playground, planting, etc. GF indicated that the businesses in the community who are to benefit from the streetscape design should be assisting to pay for elements of this as kit will assist their revenue over the long term. All in attendance agreed in principle.

CB indicated that we are still awaiting advice on the status of our funding application for the children's playground.

CB commented on the small piece of land near the school – 'Koolyangara' which was developed by school children some 20 years ago. It has become overgrown and needs attention. DL indicated that this was given to the school. KW was unaware of this and will discuss this with the P and C as this could be a school activity for the children and will assist our Eco initiatives.

Update from Community Information Group (CIG)

GF gave a summary of the latest meeting of the CIG.

GF indicated that it has been suggested that other villages along the bypass route form an alliance or association but we need to be careful that others aren't riding on our success and we not benefit from this.

GF further indicated that there was a vacancy on the CIG (a person left from Kew Area). Moorland has attempted to get another member from their area to fill the vacancy but this was rejected by the members.

GF advised that work on Stewart River road was progressing very quickly and that there will be a set of traffic lights installed as a temporary measure during construction. He also continued to indicate that the dirt sound wall will be increased in height to remove the need for a concrete wall. This wall will be planted out with endemic species on both sides.

The Safety Cam- for Trucks-has been moved to South of Coopernook and that this will cause issues for Moorland as opposed to Johns River with trucks wanting to stop and rest, etc.

Blasting will continue in the area as there is still quite a section of rock walls that need to be removed.

Signage is to be finalised soon so Andrews.Neil will need to review this with the RTA ASAP so we get the signage we need for the village.

GF also reported that the Alliance has donations available for Reserve Trusts and they also support Westpac Rescue Helicopter with a Gold Coin Donation on a weekly basis.

Subcommittee Suggestions

We will have the following subcommittees:

History – chaired by member Bev Yates.

Recreation & Safety – chaired by member Michael Williams.

Johns River Journal (JRJ) – chaired by David Shepard (VP & Media Officer)

New one – Eco and Gardening Committee – chaired by Deena Lane.

Coordinating Village Group Activities

This item is still open and will continue to be managed to gain a meeting with all the groups in the village. Expected for completion by End September 2008.

OTHER BUSINESS

Bins and Rubbish around the Village

CB indicated that he contacted Sharon Bryce in GTCC with regards to the Bins in the village. CB was able to secure another one for the public hall area (so there are now two near the oval). CB enquired about the others (near KW and MW's) and also near the general store. GTCC has indicated that they will investigate these areas further and get back to us. They were initially hesitant in these two areas as they see these as the responsibility of land owners. GF asked KW whether she had contacted the rubbish hot line. KW indicated no. GF said that this was the only way Council will do something about the problems. CB indicated he would prepare a form for KW to fill in the time and details of the rubbish drop so she can fax it to GTCC.

No Standing Signs

CB advised that there is nothing can be done with this at present – we are best to wait until the bypass when there will be parking available on that side of the road – which won't block the driveways. Item now closed.

Sleepers on Council Land at Pacific Highway Residences

GF indicated that the explanation as to this issue in the last minutes was sound and no more discussions were warranted. Item closed.

No Standing Signs/Congestion around the General Store

GF indicated that this will be part of the redesign that the consultants are looking at. No further discussions regarding this issue until design has been presented. Item closed.

Timberline

Jim's Mowing man – Bob Lange – has returned from leave and is due to attend to the Timberline site within the week. That will be stage 1 – the next step is to get the owners - United Petroleum – to complete some renovations including a decent fence around the house.

Income for the Association

CB working with GTCC to arrange for some funds for the association (by way of Grants). CB will continue to work on this so we can gain some funds to complete minor projects around the village.

Eco / Gardening Sub Committee

DL indicated that she was very interested in what Dr Mary White was doing in her part of the area and that she would consult Dr White in relation to approaches we could take in the village.

KW – then left to go to work.

DL continued ... Wanting to understand the scope and the goals of the Eco Group /Gardening Group. There are various elements that could be developed by this group – these could include the replacement of Light globes – that are currently free to all residents (including fitting), Effective tree planting and a reduction of backyard burning – which is sometimes a real issue in the village. DL indicated that an article in the JRJ to highlight some of these points is warranted to highlight the changes needed by the community as a whole.

CB indicated that we could kick off the initial works with the upgrade of the Pedestrian Bridge section in the centre of the village. This is a vital link between the village and the school and is used by children and adults alike. The area is vermin infested and a terraced native garden area with some of the large rocks from the alliance would really clean the area up.

GF indicated that Harrington community developed a 355 committee just for Gardening in and around the Harrington Waters Area as the developers handed this back to council to maintain. We could do the same thing here in the village and be covered by the councils insurance for works completed by volunteers.

CB indicated he would discuss this with GTCC and Andrews.Neil regarding the effective design for the area – that will complement their design.

Garden and Outdoor Living Expo.

CB indicated that the Annual Garden Expo is on the 31st August and we would like assistance from some of the committee to help on the day. GF indicated he can assist in the afternoon. GF volunteered DS to man a stall for the association – which could be in association with the alliance. The stall could display the design for the village

with DS answering key questions from the public. With the piles of mulch still available at the back of the oval – it was discussed that DS could issue ‘mulch passes’ for a donation to the JRCPA – these would be \$10 passes which would give people unlimited ability to bring a trailer and collect mulch for their garden. It was also suggested that the association develop some items for sale – such as stubby coolers, for sale to raise money. GF like the idea of calico bags as this supported us with our eco initiatives. GF to organise pricing on the calico bags with the logo of the JRCPA printed thereon. CB to review costs on other items.

CB to contact Louise Neville from the Alliance to invite her to attend with a stall.

ALL- No further items

Meeting closed – 3.50pm– 2nd August

Minutes confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting held.



R G Ferrero

President of JRCPA Inc.