



Gateway to the Manning!

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Minutes of the JRCPA Management Committee

Meeting on 14th June 2008, 3.45pm at 2 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) and Michael Williams (MW).

Apologies:

Treasurer Bruce Shaw (BS), Ordinary Member Kerri Williams (KW).

GF opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming. GF also thanked DL for allowing us to hold our meeting in her studio. CB then read through the agenda for today's meeting. Discussions relating to the following agenda items are summarised below:

New Membership Applications

No new membership applications have been received in the last month.

ITEMS CARRIED FROM THE AGM:

Raised Telstra Box

A letter is to be sent to GTCC in relation the raised Telstra Box outside of 1 Thomas Street (at the corner of Thomas street and Pacific Highway, next to the store). It appears that there has been considerable erosion of the area behind the box – which is now a Health and Tripping hazard. CB to send a letter to GTCC to ask for their assistance.

Newspaper and Web Advertising

DS will review pricing for advertising in the Bi Monthly Newsletter and the JR website and report to the Committee. David will look to get support from local businesses and CB will contact some corporate sponsors.

Local Crime Subcommittee

A discussion was held around the amount of crime currently in the village (and surrounds) and that incidents were increasing – with little support from the Police. Several reports have been given to Police via the Police assistance line – but to no

avail. MW suggested that a 'Neighbourhood Watch' program be established in the village. MW has offered to manage this as a Subcommittee of the JRCPA Inc. MW will organize an article on the subject for the upcoming (and first) edition of the JRCPA Newsletter. This will focus on asking the community to be aware of crime and to be extra eyes and ears for Police.

A standard form will be created with a hotline number for village residents to call to report the crime. The important message here is to report all incidents – no matter how minor as the Police will take more notice if we report all crime. Village residents are encouraged NOT to take photos of offenders as this may cause retaliation. Best advice - Just get a description of offenders. RH mentioned that if you are reporting a crime – you can remain anonymous. CB has a meeting with Taree Police to discuss increasing level of crime and request further assistance. MW agreed to do an article for the upcoming newsletter on the formation of Neighbourhood Watch.

Skate Park

A discussion was held around the skate park that was proposed some years ago for the village. This may assist with the level of juvenile crime in the village. We would need to consider this and the potential location. A suggested location is on the council land on the western side of the Pacific Highway (just opposite the hall) where the council currently owns a corridor originally intended to be a road. There was also discussion around the establishment of a Youth Activities Subcommittee being formed to assist the Youth of the village and we would look for volunteers to assist with this.

Local History Subcommittee

Discussions were held around the establishment of this important Subcommittee. With only a few local publications pertaining to local history (Johns River School Centenary and The Forge) there is a real need to locate other sources of information. DL has offered to assist with transcribing the School Centenary 'hard copy' document into electronic format and CB will contact Bev Yates to obtain a copy of 'The Forge'. Approval has been given by the School to copy the Centenary document and CB will organize approval from the publishers of The Forge. Once both documents are transcribed – they will be placed in the JR website as a permanent record of these two documents. A discussion was held around gaining further local history. It was agreed that:

GF will contact Les Crossingham and Dennis Cook.

RH to contact Brian Fletcher

CB to ask Bev Yates to contact Eileen Kidd and Dot Crossingham.

DL to contact Phillip Isaac.

The JRCPA will look to sponsor an afternoon tea, or a "Senior Story Day" for the above to ask them to talk about local history and stories. Their conversations will be recorded, transcribed and placed on the JR Website. It was agreed by all that this is an important initiative for the committee and the association in an effort to capture their

stories for future generations. CB to also contact the War Memorial in Canberra to understand whether the village had any residents who fought in WW1 and WW2. The JRCPA would like to create an honour roll in the village and also to be posted to the JR website.

Next Community Forum Meeting

Planning is underway for the next Community Forum. Further advices will be issued shortly as to date and time.

Telstra NOT Supporting the Village with Basic Broadband

Telstra does still not want to assist the village with a decent Internet (ADSL basic broadband) service. It is understood that parts of the Stewarts River, Isaac's Lane and Moorland areas already have this ADSL service – but unfortunately – Telstra is unwilling to extend the service to the residents of Johns River Village.

DS indicated that he was told by two Telstra technicians that ADSL has been pulled through to the Telstra Box near the Johns River General Store. He was informed that the main problem is the Universal Service Obligation which shackles Telstra to higher voice provision standards making ADSL dodgy for the village.

The JR Public School has an excellent T1 (super broadband) service provided by the Dept of Education, underscoring there are no technical feasibility issues, just profitability. DS is to contact TSN to see if they can assist with a ‘group’ service – meaning if enough residents of the village expressed an interest in being connected to ADSL then they could put together a package for residents. CB is to contact local members Rob Oakeshott and Mark Vaile to ask for their assistance in lobbying Telstra and Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy, Minister for Broadband.

Understanding the Roles of the Village Groups

CB is to prepare an article for the upcoming 1st edition of the Newspaper. This will assist residents of the village to better understand what each of the village groups – such as the JRCPA, Trustees of the Community Hall, P and C, etc do in the village. DS will talk to BS about doing a few short paragraphs on his role on the Post-Bypass Committee.

Update from the Post-Bypass Committee

CB gave an update on the latest progress from the Post-Bypass Committee. The Committee has chosen a preferred supplier for the Urban Design of Johns River. Andrews.Neil UDG (Urban Design Group) – a firm from the Central Coast has been awarded to project. The next Post-Bypass Committee meeting will be held in Johns River on Friday 20th June and 3 representatives from Andrews.Neil will be in attendance at that meeting.

The design group will be spending a lot of time in and around the village to gain a full understanding of what the residents want moving forward. **Andrews.Neil** has been

given all the information and work that the JRCPA Inc has done since October last year – which included all the feedback gathered at Community Forums.

CB indicated that this was a great win for the community and further reinforces the work that both the JRCPA Inc has done and also the support from GTCC and RTA. CB also indicated that we can draw on the expertise of Dr. Mary White and Daintree Gerrand given their wide knowledge in their respective.

Update from Community Information Group (CIG)

RH gave a brief summary of the latest meeting. RH indicated that Traffic Management was one of the main issues for the Alliance at present – ensuring that motorists are travelling at the required speed limits posted throughout the construction area. RH indicated that there will be a greater Police presence to enforce these speed limits. RH further went on to explain that Noise Limits within the construction zone was within limits and the Liaison Manager – Louise Neville welcomed calls from concerned residents in relation to any issues – be it noise or other.

Subcommittee Suggestions

Apart from the ones mentioned earlier in this meeting - the only other one was for a Newsletter Subcommittee – and volunteers are required to assist with articles for the Newsletter. A discussion was held around the name of the Newsletter. It was agreed that the Johns River Journal (JRJ) would be best. DS is working on the 1st Edition at present and would be seeking sponsorship and advertising (refer earlier comments regarding web and newsletter pricing). DS will also talk to the Alliance to see if they would like to place an article in the JRJ.

Coordinating Village Group Activities

CB indicated that we have a few groups within the village – such as the JRCPA Inc, The Trustees of the Johns River Community Hall, The Johns River School P and C and the Johns River Rural Fire Service. It is about time that we work more closely together to understand each of the group's challenges, opportunities and charters. CB indicated that we need to hold a meeting between these groups to ensure we are working towards a common goal.

CB indicated – that as the President of the Hall Committee – he would like to see more people volunteering at the Hall on market days. CB also indicated that the School and Fire Brigade may need assistance with running future activities/fundraisers and that is where the community needs to band together to support the local groups. CB is to organize a meeting of the groups to discuss future opportunities.

OTHER BUSINESS

Bins and Rubbish around the Village

GF indicated he sent a letter to GTCC to ask for more Bins in the village. We are after an **additional** 3 bins – One near the General Store, another near Michael and Kerri's and a third near the shelter shed at the Hall. To date, GTCC has not been forthcoming with a response, so GF to chase up.

No Standing Signs

MW indicated that he would like some assistance with the erection of a Non Standing sign near his driveway. On numerous occasions – vehicles park in his driveway making it impossible to get out. CB to discuss with GTCC and RTA to get a new sign erected.

Sleepers on Council Land at Pacific Highway Residences

MW raised an issue relating to sleepers/copper logs placed in the front of houses. The issue that MW is looking to have answered related to if a homeowner places sleepers/logs at the front of their house to restrict people parking in that area – who is liable if someone trips over the sleepers? The quick answer – if the sleepers/logs are placed on the landowner's property and someone falls over them – then the landowner is liable.

If the landowner has erected these on property outside of their boundary – that is on council land – and council has not given consent for these sleepers/logs to be placed there – the landowner who placed them there is liable. In most respects – the landowners Home Insurance policy has a 'public liability' component contained therein – and this would cover accidents within the property of the Insured. If outside of this area – then insurance may not cover. This is general advice only and you are best to seek your own legal and financial advice pertaining to public liability.

No Standing Signs/Congestion around the General Store

Issues were raised about the safety of motorists and pedestrians near the General Store. There are times when vehicles are parked two and three deep near the shop which causes safety concerns for the pedestrians. It was agreed that any new streetscape or design for the village needs to carefully consider this area in front of the shop and service station to cater for both motorists and pedestrians alike.

40kph School Zones

CB indicated that the school children coming off the buses (Eggins and Busways) during the start of and end of school time could be at risk with motorists not obeying the 40kph flashing lights on buses. CB is to investigate with the RTA whether Johns River could have 40kph school zones signs erected between Thomas and John streets – and also on Stewarts River Road so that motorists take extra care during the school zone times of 8.00am to 9.30am and 2.30 pm to 4.00pm.

Playground at the Hall

For some time now the village has been devoid of a safe playground within the village. The old one was removed some time ago as it was not up to the standard and located in a dangerous place (right near Thomas Street). CB has been in discussions with GTCC and has encouraged them to lodge a submission to State Government to get a grant for the playground.

GTCC has lodged the application to the State Government with CB asking Local Member Rob Oakeshott for his support. If granted – the new playground will be erected at the Community Hall on a site safer than the previous playground. Cb will continue to work on this project and will involve the Dept of Lands when required.

Timberline

For many years now the old and abandoned Timberline Service station site has been closed for business. Once a thriving service station, restaurant and caravan park – its current owners – United Petroleum – have let it go to a state that is unsightly to the eye. It is not the best welcome for visitors to our village and certainly not the impression we want people to remember when they pass by. For many months – CB has been lobbying GTCC and the owners to tidy their property up. CB has now been in discussions with United Petroleum (who are based in Melbourne) and within the next week – there will be activity at Timberline. Our local Jim's mowing man will be assisting United with removal of unwanted weeds and grass that has accumulated for the past 2-3 years. CB says – so keep your eyes on Timberline.

Stewarts River Road – Over the last couple of months – with increased heavy traffic and rain - the pavement on Stewarts River Road has deteriorated. If you have to travel regularly on that road – you may like to contact Louise Neville – Liaison Manager for the Alliance to voice your concerns as to its condition.

Drainage/Town Water/Sewerage – Firstly on drainage – with the recent rains – there are more and more areas that are becoming increasingly wet and drainage around the village is becoming a concern. DL indicated that water levels are rising - and she saw this first hand when driving through the forest a week or so ago. Around the General store – there is always a large puddle with a decent shower of rain – which sometimes takes days to disappear. Around the Tavern and the Tea Tree Creek area – seems to generate a lot of water that simply does not get away.

The Urban design group will need to look at all of these issues when planning the village for the future. Now on sewerage and town water – it is clear that if Johns River is to grow and develop – it will be dependant on either connecting the village to Taree (water and sewer) – which is not considered viable – OR for each house site to have an onsite treatment system (such as Biolytic or Nova Clear) OR for the village to have its own 'mini' treatment works.

The latter would cost approx \$500,000 to develop plus infrastructure costs (connecting the village to the system) – the long term benefits would be excellent as 'grey water' could be used to water gardens, etc – thus saving water in the long run. Certain residents have indicated their support for 'staying the way we are' and some

for a 'new alternative'. Certainly, we need to consider options to assist us in becoming more 'water sufficient' especially with global warming and prolonged drought periods. In the meantime – the JRCPA will investigate any rebates available for water tanks – solar energy – onsite treatment systems and advise the community in the next edition of the JRJ.

Membership Lists

If you are a member of the JRCPA – you are entitled to a list of your fellow members. If you would like a list – they are available only from the Secretary/Public Officer for the nominal cost of \$1. Please note that these lists cannot be copied or used for personal direct marketing campaigns without the consent of the Committee of Management.

ALL- No further items

No other items for discussion.

Meeting closed – 6.30pm– 14th June 2008.

Minutes confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting held.



R G Ferrero

President of JRCPA Inc.