

## **Minutes of the Special General Meeting**

**JOHNS RIVER COMMUNITY PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.**

**2ND FEBRUARY 2008, 3.50PM AT THE JOHNS RIVER COMMUNITY HALL.**

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Glenn, Chris, David, Rod

### **APOLOGIES:**

Kerri Williams and Bruce Shaw; Tony Galati indicated he did not wish to attend as he has "withdrawn his request for this meeting to occur".

### **OPENING AND PURPOSE OF MEETING**

Glenn opened the meeting indicating that the meeting was called by Tony Galati and 5 other members of the JRCPA Inc – so the Committee of Management of the JRCPA Inc could explain why they appointed Chris Bawn and Bruce Shaw to the Greater Taree City Council (GTCC) Post-Bypass Committee – which was established to assist Johns River Post Bypass. Glenn indicated that just prior to this meeting Tony Galati approached him to indicate he was withdrawing his complaint. Tony then left the community hall.

David explained that as the letter requesting this meeting was also signed by 5 other members, one of whom was in attendance, we still needed to continue with the meeting regardless of Tony's request to cancel, and that our rules had no provision for withdrawing support for a proposed resolution already on the meeting agenda. To do so would leave the Association liable for costs should those members then hold their own meeting after the Management Committee had failed to do so?

Glenn then addressed the meeting to answer the questions posed by Mr Galati and 5 other members of the JRCPA Inc. Glenn indicated that a vote was taken by the Committee of Management – of which Tony was a part thereof. Nominations were received and the votes were as follows: Chris Bawn received 5 votes and Bruce Shaw unanimous. Glenn then indicated it was

important to have total impartiality when being elected as a delegate to the GTCC Post-Bypass Committee and he believed that Mr Galati would not be impartial and that is why he did not vote for him.

Glenn addressed the members present to indicate the Progress Association did not have an opinion on Tony's proposal for an additional roundabout and the realignment of the road into the village. The Progress Association's main aim is to look at the existing road corridor and other amenities of the village to ensure the economic prosperity of the community as a whole.

Joe Malvicino indicated that in his opinion both Bruce and Chris with their wide an excellent knowledge in these areas is just what the village and association need as delegates to the Post-Bypass Committee. Joe also indicated that he would like to propose a resolution that the existing committee and delegates to the Post-Bypass Committee be voted back in at the AGM in March and remain for the term of the Project and to put a stop all this nonsense.

Feeling of the room indicated approval of Joe's suggestion. Glenn suggested to Joe that he formulate a resolution and submit that the President for consideration. David commented that under the current rules we're required to have an AGM annually.

Deena Lane commented on Tony's proposal and indicated that an additional roundabout right near the tavern will create a concrete jungle and not the pristine environment we are working to achieve.

Glenn indicated that the GTCC Post-Bypass Committee was established both to give consideration to our post-bypass urban design issues, and to Tony's proposal for the village to become a Highway Service Town/Village, although Council had never indicated it was actually supporting that proposal.

Chris Bawn indicated to the members the difference between a Highway Service Town/Village and Highway Service Centre. The 'Town/Village' classification was important to villages such as Johns River to ensure they survive post-bypass. It is important to ensure services are available to travelers and visitors to the area.

This would include the provision of food, toilets, rest areas, fuel and other essential services. The 'centre' proposal has been ruled out in a recent GTCC report indicating that there is one being constructed at Purfleet and already an existing centre at Port Macquarie. The distinction between the two is that the 'centre' proposal is mainly designated for 24 hours trading for both food and fuel.

Bev Yates then indicated that there is the possibility that the Moorland Truck Stop – 'Tuckerwagon' will remain in operation. Glenn then indicated that Kew is also being reconsidered given that there are 3 service stations there also. David agreed he'd heard RTA types mention they were pleased with the symmetry of existing services in the Tare to Port Macquarie corridor.

Glenn indicated that he received minutes from GTCC meeting of the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2008 – indicating that .....

## DISCUSSION

*The initial meeting of the group was very productive and its participants are capable of achieving its objectives by the end of 2008. The Community has established a very competent organisation to participate in this matter and is efficient and organised in regard to their consultation with the local community. The Johns River Community Progress Association (JRCPA) has established a web site to keep members of the community informed of progress on this matter.*

Glenn indicated that if the community would like to change members of the Management Committee then the time to do this is in March at the Annual General Meeting.

Wendy Bawn addressed the meeting indicating her satisfaction with the current Committee and indicated how much work the current committee does behind the scenes. The community would be hard-pressed finding others to continue with the job that the current committee is doing. Wendy indicated that "if it isn't broken, why fix it?"

Chris Bawn added to Wendy's comments making reference to Tony Galati's hand delivered letter to the village of the previous week. Tony made comments in relation to "Out-of-towners". Chris indicated that yes – he is an out-of-towner and travels from Sydney every second weekend, an 8 hour round trip, just to help and support the village of Johns River. Chris stated that "if this isn't commitment, then I am not sure what is!"

David indicated that the Committee has been working very hard and trying to keep the peace but the action of one Committee member was causing so many problems and taking up valuable time - which could have been spent on other initiatives to assist the community. We have achieved a lot of things in a very short time despite the interruptions.

Brian Lane addressed the members and thanked the current Committee for all their work so far.

Paul O'Brien asked if there was a hidden agenda to stack votes when a committee member recently paid for memberships for new members.

Glen asked Chris Bawn as Public Officer of the Association to discuss this issue with the members present. Chris indicated that this was an issue that did concern the Management Committee and that a stop was put to this immediately. The Committee became aware of this issue in early December 2007 when there was a large influx of new members proposed by a Committee Member. That Committee member also made mentions to the President that 'they had paid for some members to join'. Chris further indicated that two other parties indicated that they had been approached to 'have their fees paid for by that member to join the association'

The Committee resolved to conduct a full investigation into this matter and ask the Committee Member to give a full explanation as to their actions. A letter was served on that member by the President and a misdirected return attack was the result. The committee then held a meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2007 which was chaired by Chris Bawn as Public Officer. The meeting was held to resolve the issues present in relation to 'payment of fees by a third party'. The full minutes of that meeting are available on the web site as public record.

Glenn thanked Chris for his account of the events. Adding to the same issue, David mentioned that the committee would have been exposed to liability had a member then claimed that they had been bribed for their vote, a situation we must avoid even the appearance of having happened.

Wendy Bawn addressed the members to request the support of the RTA to indicate to Mr Galati whether his additional roundabout proposal is accepted or not. Wendy further indicated that all this nonsense would cease is they (RTA) would indicate their decision to Mr Galati.

Glenn indicated that the RTA still has no word whether the proposal is approved or not and there has been no indication at local CLG meetings. Glenn has sent a letter to the RTA asking where the funding is coming from to consider Mr Galati's proposal – as he will be displeased if the funds have come out of the village funds for post-bypass.

Glenn indicated that they should contact the RTA to request them to make a decision for the sanity of all the village residents so we can get on with the tasks at hand.

Joe Malvicino addressed the members asking 'what had happened to that petition that was signed by certain residents' Glenn indicated that Rob Oakeshott – Local Independent Member for Port Macquarie – tabled the petition in Parliament in October 2007. Glenn indicated the Petitions are tabled all the time and most carry no weight.

Glenn addressed the members asking if there were any other questions of the Committee.

Chris thanked the Members for attending and their valuable support of the Association– given that it was getting late on Saturday afternoon.

Gwen Hall addressed the members – asking a question of the Committee – Gwen made reference to Tony Galati's letter – hand-delivered to the community last week. Gwen made reference to the final sections of that letter where Mr Galati indicated that he 'had no faith in the Committee of the Progress Association'.

Gwen made the point to the members – that if Tony has no faith in the Committee – then why is he still a part of the committee and in fact the association? Gwen called for the association to do something about Mr Galati and that we need the committee to work in harmony as the job is hard enough with in-fighting.

Glenn indicated to Gwen that she should put her comments and recommendations in writing addressed to the President.

Glenn indicated that there is a Committee meeting tomorrow (Sunday) and he had already received several other letters of complaint regarding Mr Galati and his recent actions. These letters of complaint will be served on Mr Galati next week.

Glenn once again thanked everyone for attending today's meeting(s) and for their support of the association.

**MEETING CLOSED AT 4.30 PM.**

Minutes confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting held.

*[ORIGINAL SIGNED]*

R G Ferrero  
President of JRCPA Inc.