



Minutes of the 'Johns River Community Progress Association' – Inaugural Meeting

Saturday 22nd September 2007 at Johns River Community Hall.

Meeting: The Meeting was opened at 2pm by Chris Bawn who welcomed those present including Mr Richard Wilson, Councillor with Greater Taree City Council.

Present: Chris Bawn, Robert Glen Ferrero, Gail Stevens, Deena Lane, Brian Lane, Bev Yates, Marian Heath, Rod Heath, Bruce Shaw, M Williams, Kerri Williams, David James, Frank Araldi, Peter Thorp, Joseph Malvicino, Michael Williams, Albert Williams, Krystle Grayson, Teresa Kozak, Tony Galati, Wendy Bawn, Warwick Madden, Jack Honeywill, Aileen Honeywill, Richard Wilson.

Apologies: Ilma Van de Poll

The meeting was called today to discuss the reasons for the formation of the Johns River Community Progress Association and to appoint an interim Management Committee of eight (8) members. There are 4 executive positions and 4 committee member positions available. Chris Bawn indicated that there was a great deal of information relating to the establishment of Associations on the Dept of Fair Trading website and this Association will adopt what they terms as the 'Model Rules'. The Elected Interim Committee will need to decide whether they Incorporate the Association and will also decide on whether Insurance (Public Liability and Professional Indemnity) is taken up. Grant's may be obtained to assist with the ongoing expenses of the Association and the elected committee will review this at their first meeting.

Chris Bawn also indicated that it is important to have a Progress Association considering that the Highway will be bypassed by the end of 2009, that we don't want Johns River to become a Ghost town with little or no patronage from passing traffic. Johns River has always been 'forgotten' when it comes to upgrading and maintaining of infrastructure due to its location – being at the top of the Manning and the bottom of the Hastings'. It is important for us to have a combined voice as 'Your Community is Your Future.

Chris then introduced Councillor Richard Wilson to assist with the Election and appointment of the Interim Committee of Management.

Richard also welcomed those present and indicated how the election of the interim Management Committee was to proceed. Richard also indicated that the Interim Committee was to be appointed for 3-6 months pending the first Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Progress Association.

Richard also mentioned that the Interim Committee need to decide on whether they proceed down the path of Incorporation as there are several costs involved with this process – one of which is Insurance. Richard indicated that several associations have

chosen to come under the banner of Greater Taree City Council (Section 355 Committee) due to the costs of establishing and maintaining the 'incorporated' Association. This Section 355 Committee does come with its own challenges and restrictions.

Richard then gave those present a brief history of his professional background and also experience in running meetings, etc.

Election of Interim Committee of Management.

Richard called for nominations for the following positions:

President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 4 committee members.

President – Nominations received – Robert Glen Ferrero – Moved. - Rod Heath

- Seconded – Bev Yates.
- Tony Galati - Moved – Kerrie Williams
- Seconded – Albert Williams

Robert Glen Ferrero was elected to this position by majority vote.

Vice President – Nominations received – Tony Galati – Moved – Glen

- Seconded – David

Tony Galati was elected to this position unopposed.

Secretary – Nominations received - Ilma Van de Poll – Moved – Bev Yates

- Seconded – Wendy Bawn
- Kerrie Williams - Moved – Robert Glen Ferrero
- Seconded – Michael Williams

Ilma Van de Poll – who was absent at the time of the meeting but indicating in writing that she would be willing to stand if nominated. Ilma Van de Poll was elected to this position by majority vote.

Treasurer – Nominations received - Chris Bawn – Moved – Krystle Grayson

- Seconded – Bruce Shaw

Chris Bawn was elected to this position unopposed.

The following **Committee members** were all appointed to the Interim Management Committee unopposed: Rod Heath, David James, Bruce Shaw, Kerri Williams

Richard Wilson then handed control of the meeting to the new Chairman – Robert Ferrero (Glen).

General Business

Glen opened the general part of the meeting suggesting that there be a balance in the community of older and younger people who respect each others position in the community. Working together will help us achieve the goals we are looking to achieve. Other items raised for general comments are summarized below:

- To become a member of the Johns River Community Progress Association (JRCPA) a joining fee of \$10.00 plus an annual membership fee of \$5.00 is due and payable within 21 days from the date of this meeting. A copy of these minutes and paperwork will be sent to each person who indicated at the meeting that they would like to become a member of the JRCPA.
- Reviewing the opening 'wish list' for the JRCPA – one of the items is playground equipment for the children of the village. It was suggested that the Secretary write a letter to Graham Gardner (GTCC) regarding the provision of a playground to be supplied by council. Bev Yates commented that the Lands Department insisted that the old playground at the Community Hall be pulled down as it was becoming dangerous. Bev also referred to a public meeting that was held to set up a committee for a skate park to be developed. Money raised as a result of this was \$900, which is currently held in trust at the Holiday Coast Credit Union. The skatepark committee fell apart. GTCC was approached to set up the park and it was indicated that there was no council land available to erect such a structure. Bev further indicated that GTCC, in 2001, promised that a new playground be erected – presumably in the Hall Grounds – but again – the promise was broken as 'other towns were more important'.
- Further with the wish list – a suggestion was made that the Secretary write to the Dept of Lands regarding new housing in the area and to also get GTCC involved with the State Planning Authority. Richard Wilson indicated that a new Local Environmental Plan (LEP) was in draft format and is due to be finalised soon. The committee will approach GTCC to obtain a copy of this LEP.
- It was indicated that there is substantial tracts of crown land in the village with the great majority running from John Street south to Diamond Street. These tracts of land border the old 'Timberline Caravan Park Site'.
- Theresa suggested that the Speed Limit be reduced on Stewarts River Road because school children who catch the bus in that street are in danger due to the existing 90kms speed zone. It was noted that when construction of the new Bypass commences a 'work zone' speed limit of 40kms be in place. This will be verified closer to commencement of the bypass.
- Richard Wilson indicated that at present – there was no land available in the village for further building of dwellings. One consideration to any further land release will be the treatment of waste water and sewerage. We may need to consult with Mid Coast Water or the building blocks may need to have an onsite disposal system install – which could dictate the size of the blocks, etc.
- Deena Lane indicated that there are areas of land in the village that are owned by local indigenous people. Land is owned on the corner of Station Street and Pacific Hwy – also 2 blocks in Station Street – which have since been re-purchased by local residents. Deena also indicated that an eco-friendly environment could also attract people to move to the village.
- Chris Bawn indicated that the Beautification of the village is vitally important to the survival of the village post bypass. We need something to attract visitors to the village which will assist to support the shop, tavern and markets. It is also vitally important to have very effective signage to the south and north of the village to encourage visitors to come into the village. Perhaps we could highlight the historical aspect of the area – such as the timber and dairying industry. In fact the Tavern also has a small museum section highlighting this heritage.

- Michael Williams indicated that any Beautification needs to be self sustaining as council would not maintain the gardens, etc.
- It was suggested that a local map be erected in the village as a mini tourist information centre – which would highlight local attractions, services, places of interest, toilets etc.
- It was mentioned that it is vitally important that the JRCPA are in close contact with the RTA through the Bypass process. It will be valuable to have close contact with the members of the Community Liaison Group (CLG) so regular progress reports can be given to the JRCPA.
- Kerrie Williams indicated that there is a lack of public rubbish bins in the area.
- Tony Galati indicated his concern with Semi Trailers coming through the village post bypass. Boral trucks will also need to come through the village. Gwen Hall indicated that speed bumps could be erected to limit these movements; however this would be out of the question. It was further noted that proposed Truck stops along the 33kms bypass area had not been decided as yet. Once decided – effective signage for these truck stops along the route would be required and would alleviate trucks wanting to stop and rest in the village area.
- Post Bypass – the roads in the village will fall under GTCC control. Residents would like to see kerbing and guttering on these roads moving forward – as this is clearly lacking now.
- A point was raised about the current speed of traffic (especially trucks) through the village. Current speed limit is 70kms. The committee is to contact RTA regarding school zones speed limits on the highway to lessen the impact of a pedestrian accident during these designated times. Once construction commences a 50kms speed limit could be in place – and after work times – reverting back to 50kms. This to be confirmed with the RTA and also members of the CLG to support this initiative.
- Bev Yates asked Tony Galati to outline the points in his petition to the RTA for no through traffic in the village (post bypass). Tony indicated that the petition was signed by 50+ residents of the village but no representation was made for the residents of wharf road (north of the village). The new proposal would close through traffic down the existing Pacific Highway route and a new roundabout would be placed north of the main town entrance (on Stewarts River Road) for motorists to enter the village from Stewarts River Road. It was felt by members present that this option would restrict the flow of visitors to the village and that other businesses in town would miss passing trade. Tony indicated that this petition is currently with the RTA for review.
- Warwick Madden warned all at the meeting to be wary of what we ask for in regards to new services, etc. With these can come considerable costs (that is increase in council rates, etc).
- Deena Lane indicated that there would be more noise from truck changing down gears and using compression braking if roundabouts were installed as opposed to the through traffic option in the village.
- Bev Yates indicated that two members of the community (Jack and Jill Honeywill) are offering items of furniture for sale with the proceeds going to the JRCPA. Jack also suggested that a small website be developed to promote the village and its services with links to other sites in the area as well.
- The Committee of Management need to have their first meeting – date to be decided. The date of the Annual General Meeting will be decided at this meeting and members will be notified in due course.

- A suggestion was made that a Xmas BBQ for members of the JRCPA be held at the Tavern – closer to the end of the year.
- The next CLG meeting is to be held at the Camden Haven Golf Club on the 3rd October at 5.30pm. This meeting includes 4 members from Johns River 4 of members from other communities and RTA, Council, Thiess, etc.
- Items on the Wish List for the Village includes:
 - Signage
 - Locality Map
 - Beautification
 - Refuge Island on the Highway for Children
 - Speed Limits
 - Curbing and Guttering
 - Release of Crown Land for future developments and housing.
 - More Garbage Bins
 - Broadband access and Website
 - Play area and equipment for children.

Meeting closed at 4.10pm