

**MINUTES of the Quarterly Meeting of  
DOVER HEIGHTS PRECINCT**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

**at Magnolia Healing Centre Old South Head Rd, Rose Bay – 7:38pm**

**Apologies:** Valerie Saffer, Hilma O'Reilly

**Attendance:** Mayor Cr Sally Betts, Cr Miriam Guttman-Jones and Cr Leon Goltsman and as attendance sheet

**John Lewis:** Convenor and Meeting Chairman

**Michael Lewis:** Secretary

**Meeting commenced at 7:35pm.**

**Minutes May 2013 and AGM May 2013 Details**

**Arising from Minutes**

Covered in August Minutes

**Minutes August 2013**

Minutes were oversights by Convenor

**Arising from Minutes**

**Dogs-OFF-Leash in Dover Heights.**

Mayor Betts: Cathy Henderson will meet with residents to discuss barriers etc.

John Lewis: Is it possible to set out spray-painted lines where barriers might be.

Mayor Betts: CH will consult with residents and organise education for dog walkers

Jeff Perkins: Commercial dog walkers are letting dogs off leash at Hugh Bamford, which is used extensively by children at play and in organised games.

Jack Jellins: Still a band-aid approach – lack of implementing the Animal Companion Act. Keep on discussing the same issues over and over again. Other council have implemented this act .

Robert Sassoon: Appears to be a pro Dog Walks' bias in Waverley Council.

Mayor Betts: Not true Council pro dog walkers but there are many residents who own (privately) dogs. Have extended off-leash area in Southern side to spread the load.

RS: Problem is the commercial dog walkers – Council has spread the “cancer”.

Michael Lewis: Look at the Health and Safety – legal issues.

Judy Feyzeny: Has owned a dog and walked it in the Coastal Reserves. Restrict commercial dog walkers to a particular time which can be policed by Rangers. Most people are responsible.

JJ: 57000m2 allocated for dog use.

Another Comment: Problem with commercial problems – no way a person can manage 15 dogs.

RS: Council cannot ban commercial dog walkers.

Cr Guttman-Jones: Was absent O/S when Council meeting – received very many emails and when she tried to reply – got many abusive emails.

Cr Goltsman: Up to the meeting date, Councillors were unsure how to make a fair decision. Very difficult to change the status quo – looking for a compromise – not all commercial dog walkers are irresponsible.

Robert Sassoon: Land is Federal land.

Susi Brieger: Many different uses of park as well as dog owners – area has been overused – destroyed – rushing dogs – but has been conflated with “you people don’t want dogs”. How many dogs are reasonable – What is the Health and Safety issues from contact with dog droppings? How can the Environment be maintained – or returned to order.

MJ: Not just the commercial dog walkers.

JL: parking rangers should photograph all people with unleashed dogs.

Question about Parking Meter Times: Cr Betts: Ten minutes grace is usually allowed at meters.

JL: Waverley Council pursues car parkers.

Cr Betts: Only Rangers have power to “book” dogs off leash.

RS: Discussed various rangers, he had met – how they found it difficult to fine people. Problems started when Council opened up Raleigh Reserve to unleashed dogs. There had not been any consultation with local residents. There weren’t any Health or Environmental studies!

Latest questionnaire, implied, “Keep the Status Quo” – but based on an initial “illegitimate” change.

The residents affected had been there for over 30 years and compared with the requirements for erecting a building, nothing was done when the Reserve was open up for free ranging, unleashed dogs.

Cr Betts: She wasn’t a member of Council when the changes were made.

ML: Repeat, only way the matter can be resolved is by way of a legal challenge.

Question: Why not a proper health and environmental survey now?

Cr Betts: Council is struggling to find the history of the original implementation.

Sally Breiger (SB): We should propose that Council carry out an environmental study, a health study and safety study.

Previous motion against “commercial” walking was not taken up by Council.

Cr Betts: Problem was in definition of a “Commercial Dog Walker”.

SB: Referred to published advertisements, of commercial dog walkers, putting Raleigh St as their address.

## **Rate Increases**

JL: Peter Cappe, Director of Corporate Services and Mayor have has copious correspondence.

## **Tabling of Waverley Council Response Report to DH Precinct’s Motions from August 2013, presented to this Meeting**

### **See Appendix**

### **Discussion**

Dov Frazer: **Comment on New Plantings:** 16 of the 62 trees planted were the desirable varieties: Bulli Beauty or NZ Xmas Bush BUT most of the others were Banksias – which are “disasters” – no flowers, dropped branches and cones. It seems that local wishes and sensible planting policies are systematically ignored by Council.

DF: **Rodney Reserve Fence** There has been gradual encroachment of the reserve by moving the cliff fence gradually inwards. And the fence is NOT in an acceptable condition – the wooden parts are constantly falling apart. Officers need to walk the fence before making judgements. “Noted” seems to be equivalent to “Ignored”.

## Agenda

### New Years Eve – NYE

The preparations for the next NYE event at Dudley Page Reserve and others reserves were discussed. The set up, including that at Bondi Beach, is largely the same as last year. Military Rd between Blake St and Lancaster Rd will be closed and any through traffic detoured via Portland St.

### Traffic Issues – Accident between Wentworth St and the Bondi STP in Military Road

JL: There should be “no parking” on the eastern side of Military Road between Wentworth St and the “Murriverie” Stairs – to provide 2 lanes of traffic and a parking lane on western side. There had been a number of recent collisions in this stretch.

Jeff Perkins: Lives at 7 Military Road, on the eastern side, in the stretch mentioned above and does NOT have rear access via Wentworth St. Already very difficult to park and the large grass verge is “off limits” – subject to parking fines. The problem could be alleviated if it were permissible for vehicles along this section, be allowed to park with 2 wheels on the verge – effectively reducing the width of the vehicle on the roadway – giving more space to traffic.

Maureen Jellins: The curb is very wide here – why not narrow it?

Cr Betts: Involves shifting of the under road-edge storm water piping as well as reconstruction of the gutter – very expensive matters.

There were questions about reducing the local speed limit. Many people were strongly against this and Cr Betts said that such a request had to go to the RMS and could take years.

It was noted that most local streets are narrow – there are problems all over the area.

Cr Betts: When you widen a road, traffic speeds up – Hunter Ward has one of the highest car densities in NSW.

**Motion:** Council allow cars to be parked with 2 wheels on the curb, in Military Road Dover Heights, on the eastern side of the road, between Wentworth St and the stairs leading to Hugh Bamford Reserve.

Moved: Jeff Perkins, seconded, Val Saffer – Carried unanimously.

### Roadside Gardens outside Tre Panni, at Blake St intersection in Military Road.

Cr Goltsman described how with local volunteer effort and a very small amount of Council finance, - and a promise of the shop keeper to keep them watered and tidy, a set of very decorative gardens had been planted on what had been an expanse of “sterile” concrete . He was proud of what had been achieved, in beautifying the locality. The meeting agreed that this had been an admirable project and congratulated Cr Goltsman and the other councillors on its achievement. “Win/win”.

### Suggested Dates for 2014

Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Feb – will need be a different date

Mon 19<sup>th</sup> May (also AGM)

Mon 18<sup>th</sup> Aug

Mon 10<sup>th</sup> Nov

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Meeting closed at 9:40PM