

## Draft Minutes

### Bronte Precinct Meeting Monday 20.05.25, AGM

Commenced 7.01pm at Bronte Public School (In person)

Attendees: 12 residents including Precinct Executives Alma Douglas, Alex Ellis and Grant Beard, and Cr Josh Spicer

1. **7.01pm Alma Welcomes everyone, Apologies** – Cr Fabiano  
Attendees: 12 residents and Cr Josh Spicer
2. **Minutes Accepted from last meeting.** Moved Alex, Seconded Grant.
3. **Responses to Minutes** from Council are discussed. Most of the responses are satisfactory, in progress or as expected.
4. **AGM.** Current members step down from their positions on the committee. The meeting is kindly taken over by Council staff member Sam McGuinness. Sam then puts forward the committee positions individually and asks the room for nominations and voting support. Results:
  - Chair: Alma Douglas
  - Secretary: Alex Ellis
  - Traffic: Grant Beard

Meeting handed back to the chair, Alma.
5. Ecological Restoration of Bronte Gully Presentation by Executive Manager, Environmental Sustainability Sam McGuinness.

Waverley Council has a long-term restoration for Bronte Gully, the current plan extends to 2045. Council has divided the gully into a grid-like divisions to be able to tackle sections at a time with weed eradication, native replanting and maintenance.

The Environmental Action Plan is currently on exhibition at Council under the Integrated Planning Documents. Sam encourages everyone to take a look and 'Have Your Say' on the website to make your thoughts heard.

A few questions are raised about the mowing schedule and current maintenance. Sam does concede the Park staff are understaffed at the moment and chasing to keep up. Previously this may not have been the case. He also reminds attendees of the voluntary bushcare and waterfall care groups residents are welcome to join and assist with.

The group thanks Sam for his presentation and updates on Bronte Gully.

## **6. Christmas Day at Bronte Beach Update**

There was a meeting that took place at Bronte Surf Club Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May hosted by council to give residents an update on the discussion around curbing and better controlling the activities of Christmas Day on Bronte Beach. The council presented residents with 4 options to choose from as to the course of action council should take for Christmas Day 2025. These options were predetermined and not constructed by residents on the evening.

Consequently, and unsurprisingly, the residents determined their own 'option 5' which was to put a stop to the entire event starting now with age and location targeted social media posts among the many suggestions. Information to circulate that explains half the 'party' lawn will be consumed by temporary facilities and hoarding fences to allow for the surf club development. Plus, the obvious safety risks of the water when alcohol is involved was discussed from the perspective of both the volunteer lifesavers and paid Lifeguards. None of options 1-4 display any consideration for the safety of thousands of drunk people swimming.

It is not known whether council staff on the evening and since took on board the 'option 5' sentiment and action.

## **7. Community and Safety Report**

Grant gives an update from his attendance of the April Police Meeting. Ten year trends are discussed and the general report is that sexual assaults are up, drug offenses are up but break and enters are trending down. Ways to avoid scams and fraud were discussed.

There are changes to the licensing laws. Police have less power in regards to noise complaints.

There are 450 licensed premises in Waverley. The government is pushing for live music and entertainment to come under the liquor and gaming umbrella.

Traffic – As previously reported by the precinct, e-bikes and e-bikes on footpaths are a problem police are aware of. Children under 16 on a path is considered ok and if they are accompanied by an adult.

25km/hr is the maximum acceptable speed for an e-bike. Helmets must be worn in Australia, but the issue police are having is that many non-locals are riding them where helmets are not compulsory in their home nations.

Waverley Council have entered into discussions with the e-bike companies such as lime bikes to tidy up and regulate the distribution and dumping of the bikes.

The truck parking issue long documented by this precinct. A suggestion is that the local councils should all get together to lobby the State Government to lower the current laws regarding trucks parking in built-up areas limit and add in caravans and trailers (currently,

trucks with GVM under 5 tonnes can park under the same conditions as cars). This would affect real change.

**Motion:**

Bronte Precinct request Waverley Council monitor illegal parking and the received snapsend-solve reports for the no stopping zones on Murray and Alfred Streets, and the corners of Belgrave Lane.

That Council place an immobile planter box on the no stopping areas of exit to Belgrave Lane, Murray St and Alfred St to prevent recurrent illegal parking.

That council monitor with ranger presence the double parking on Belgrave St to stop at the shops from Murray St both ways.

Proposed: Mindy  
Seconded: Michael

Carried.

**General Business**

- Surf Club update, the cost to build is now nearing \$32million, it is reported. Waverley Council is now seeking a loan to service the build. The attendees seem shocked over this given other Surf Clubs have commenced their renovation or build with generally 100% of the funds secured beforehand. Questions directed at the councillor present.

They have \$3million of federal funding, potential seawall funding as this is a new State requirement, amount not disclosed yet, and we are awaiting a State Government funding grant. Ratepayers would like further transparency on what this is costing.

- The old Council Chambers and a relationship with Easts Leagues is discussed. What is the relationship here? Which way are the funds flowing? Are there funds changing hands for the re-purpose of the old Chambers? Again, further transparency to the residents required here. Is the community consultation for the re-purpose of the Council Chambers a fait accompli?
- It is highlighted that given the delays over the Surf Club re-build, the approved plans for the South end new toilet block would have really been beneficial and should have been completed by now if Council had acted upon them. Building cost increases noted too. Too late now and an opportunity lost. Locals will utilise the yet to be built temporary toilet and changing facilities during the Surf Club build and old South end facilities.

Major Flooding concern in the low-lying dip of Palmerston Avenue requires immediate attention from the Council. Please see attached evidence

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oI0I9RZCzy0RhPGLULcUZp\\_rOb6RgaQe/view?usp=drivesdk](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oI0I9RZCzy0RhPGLULcUZp_rOb6RgaQe/view?usp=drivesdk)

- Local resident Simon educates the room on the serious volume of water during the ever-increasing high-level downpours we are experiencing around numbers 13 and 15 Palmerston Avenue. The stormwater drainage is at capacity and needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency. The drainage capacity is said to have been updated 5 years ago, however this is failing regularly in storms. 3 residents report continuously contacting Council to no avail. The ground floor apartments and common areas of 13 and 15 have flooded, fences are warped and soil is eroded. This is also a safety issue with the school located within 100m of this area. The parked cars on the street are also adversely affected, water levels almost to the top of the tyres causing internal water damage.

We are aware there is a flood study occurring, but this does not alleviate the need for immediate attention here.

**Motion:**

Bronte Precinct requests that priority be given by Council to a commitment to increased capacity of the stormwater system and maintenance of the stormwater system in Palmerston Avenue (outside 13 and 15) as a matter of urgency.

Proposed: Simon  
Seconded: Alex

Carried.

As a side note, this is basically exactly where Council proposed to first put an EV charging point!

- Waverley College Junior Campus Development.

Resident Clinton discusses the latest in the Development Application for the Waverley College Junior campus and its impact on parking, safety and even homeless people located in the jungle area. The College made a presentation to the Charing Cross Precinct on the proposed development; Bronte Precinct would benefit from the same.

**Motion:**

Bronte Precinct request ward councillors to approach Waverley College to request a presentation on the proposed college development at the next Bronte Precinct meeting.

Proposed: Clinton  
Seconded: Alma

Carried.

- Discussion on the proposal of and funding for a talked-about memorial in Waverley Park for the Hungarian Liberation/Uprising. There is a request for one, but the origin is unclear. Perhaps part of the diversity action plan?

Alma thanks all for attending.

Meeting closed 8.50pm

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