

## **WAVERTON PRECINCT MEETING**

**6 June 2023**

### **MINUTES**

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm at the Waverton Uniting Church Community Hall.

Chair: IG

Minutes: DL

Attendance: 27

### **WELCOME AND APOLOGY**

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting, and guest Therese Mann, General Manager of North Sydney Council.

Apologies received from Margaret Petrokovski

### **CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

It was

Moved by KA

Seconded by VY

***“That the May 2023 Minutes be accepted”.***

Carried unanimously.

### **GUEST: THERESE MANN, GENERAL MANAGER, NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL**

Ian Grey introduced Ms Mann who commenced in her role at the Council in November 2022.

Ms Mann outlined her background in finance and local government, having family history in the sector. She had experience of a Precinct system before at Randwick Council and reflected that the Precinct arrangement was about positive engagement, and respectful, intelligent and ongoing dialogue - and that she felt that it worked very well in the North Sydney Local government area.

The General Manager role is about constant change and her focus and first priority in the role was regarding strategy and staff - getting the culture right and with good, consistently applied and well monitored processes in place. In January, Ms Mann proposed to the Council that they change the structure from six divisions into three. The three divisions are: Corporate Services; Open Space and Infrastructure; and Community Planning and Environment. The re-set is designed to deliver a more consistent and higher level of service delivery for the people of North Sydney.

Ms Mann outlined that another focus for her was making improvements in the use of technology to deliver better services. She noted that local government tends to have less integrated and less up to date IT platforms compared to State or Federal governments or major corporations.

Residents then put questions to Ms Mann for response on specific issues of relevance to the people in the Waverton Precinct.

### **North Sydney Olympic Pool:**

- Ms Mann acknowledged that this had been a very challenging project with Covid, bad weather, skill shortages and budget increases all playing a part. These costs have not been bedded down but Ms Mann expressed optimism that this will occur.
- An Independent Programmer had been engaged to provide monthly updates to the Council. It is anticipated that the difficulties of co-ordinating between the two contractors will be greatly reduced with this person now on board.
- A Quantity Surveyor has been engaged to assess variations.
- A Project Specialist has also been hired to provide advice on quality processes that must be in place. This person has already had a meeting on site.
- Another appointment is a new Leisure and Aquatics Manager who is currently preparing a business plan for the operation and offerings of the facility once finished. This person can speak at Precinct meetings in the future.
- Ms Mann said that the Council is working on an estimated completion date of April 2024.
- How funds will be raised to meet the cost of not only the new Pool project (and also other projects) was raised. Ms Mann outlined how Council running costs are higher but income has dropped. The rates in North Sydney are quite low compared to other local government areas. It is about getting the balance right. Ideas from residents were discussed.

### **Waverton Bowling Club:**

- Ms Mann was unable to provide any updates on the situation relating to the Waverton Bowling Club.
- Land Council and NSW Government meetings had not occurred yet. The new government is still trying to find its feet and this may take a while. Ms Mann confirmed however, that it is definitely on the agenda for discussion.
- The site is currently zoned public recreation so no residential development can take place on the site.
- Ms Mann did not oppose the idea that the Precinct Committee establish its own link with the Aboriginal Land Council and create our own dialogue as we await high level

meetings to progress this matter. She felt that it was up to the Precinct who they invited to their meetings.

### **Berry's Bay Plan:**

- Ms Mann said that there was no significant movement on this Plan as new Ministers are still getting briefed in their new roles. A meeting may happen in a few weeks time, and Woodley's Shed will also be a topic of discussion at that meeting as well as cottages at the site. She noted it does seem firm there will be a new Park created. It is the Council's idea to activate the cottages as art/culture pop-up facilities as this can happen quite quickly – before any construction begins. Works would have to commence with making these sites safe. This idea will be put forward after the July budget for a September commencement at the very earliest.
- Ms Mann said that it needs to be made clear who owns the new park - the State Government or the North Sydney Council or the Greater Parkland Authority. She was very confident the new park will go ahead, but the owner and manager of the space also needs to be made clear. Council prefer it be under their care and control.

The meeting warmly thanked the General Manager by acclamation, for attending the meeting and presenting on such a wide range of issues.

### **EXISTING BUSINESS:**

#### **Motions from last meeting:**

- The damaged area of road on Bay Road (adjacent to the Hall) remains an issue and is still a danger to residents - particularly those on foot and two wheels. A resident put to the meeting that his information is that this is an issue that requires intervention by Sydney Water. A trench had to be inserted to attend to a fire hydrant upgrade to an adjacent apartment block, and this has damaged the natural water course. It needs to be investigated if this assessment is correct or the damage is being caused elsewhere, and fixed by the correct authority.
- A new lessee for the Coal Loader Cafe is being sought. Ms Mann was able to add to this that a number of prospective lease holders had looked at the site but expressed a concern at the lack of foot traffic. They did not understand that the Cafe "was" the generator of the foot traffic. The Council is trying hard to find a lease holder for the site.
- It was noted that the Council monitor community noticeboards every 6 weeks and remove outdated notices. It is not appropriate the people take down signs they do not agree with.

- Regarding the re-zoning of bus zones to car parking after 7pm and on weekends along Bay Road, it was noted that while Council supports this idea, to do this will require the Council to make an application to NSW Transport (which is the decision-making authority).

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

It was raised that cars regularly remain in parking zones longer than the time they are zoned for. This includes several cars belonging to Capo Pizza. The Chair undertook to speak to the Pizzeria owner and also take it up with the Council to increase ranger patrol of this area.

The recent resurfacing of Balls Head Road was seen to be of a modest standard. There is a clear joining line down the middle of the road, which will lead to water based erosion over time and the manhole access is suspect and poorly aligned in places.

It was:

moved KA

seconded VY

***“That Council be asked to inspect the resurfacing of Balls Head Rd for quality control to ensure the work is up to standard. Further, that Council confirm whether they routinely sign off on this sort of work even when the contract for the work is not with the Council.”***

Carried

#### **DAs:**

No DA's to report this month.

#### **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:**

Nil to report.

#### **NEXT MEETING.**

Next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 4th July, 7.30pm, Uniting Church Hall, Bay Road Waverton. All local residents are most welcome.