

**WILLOUGHBY BAY PRECINCT**  
**PART OF NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY PRECINCT**  
**SYSTEM**



**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD**  
**THURSDAY 11th July 2024**  
**COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM**

**ATTENDANCE:** 15 people attended the meeting  
**APOLOGIES:** 3 were recorded  
**GUEST SPEAKER:** Councillor William Bourke

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes for the 13th June 2024 meeting were adopted

***Motion carried: 10 in favour, 5 abstentions, 0 against***

**Guest Speaker – Councillor William Bourke**

Has been a Councillor since he was elected at last election in December 2021. North Sydney resident for 20 years – has lived in Harrison St, Neutral Bay, and in Shirley Rd, Crows Nest and now in Mount St, North Sydney.

**Member of Sustainable Australia Party** – a small party with evidence-based policies that aims to put the environment at the centre of all decisions and policies; this includes transport and planning. WB is concerned about growth at any cost; rapid densification; loss of tree canopy; loss of biodiversity.

**Achievements**

- Repair cafe. Recently moved a motion in Council to establish the Fix-it-Hub at the Coal Loader, a free repair workshop on the second Saturday of the month from 10.00am to 1.00pm. It's staffed by volunteers. Residents can book to take something in to be repaired. WB would like a society where we use things longer and recycle and repair things, rather than sending things to landfill.

- Pushing back on over-development. WB believes the planning system favours developers. Has consistently pushed back on over-development and has been at the centre of the change the direction of Council in this regard.

**Disappointment** - moved a motion to establish a Tree Register, which would add another level of protection for trees but was unable to get support for this. North Sydney has lost around 30% of its tree canopy over the last 20 years.

**Questions from Precinct Members**

**North Sydney Olympic Pool** - what is your feeling on this and could we get another grant?

A: WB as a user of the NSOP was surprised when it was decided by the previous Council that the whole facility would be rebuilt and enlarged. He thought it needed a refurbishment not a wholesale redevelopment. WB voted for the project review. The review found that a key mistake was to keep the design and construction contracts separate and for the construction contract to be signed when the design was not finished. WB is not aware of any other grants coming from the State or Federal Governments but will follow this up.

**Council Rates** - Willoughby Council rates are believed to be going up 15%. What about North Sydney?

A: North Sydney rates are increasing in accordance with the NSW rate peg. WB is concerned about the fiscal imbalances between different levels of government in Australia. WB would like to see the Federal Government which collects the most revenue giving Federal Assistance Grants to local government at the level it once did (it used to grant 1% of revenue, now it's half that). WB is not keen on selling public assets especially in the case of a natural monopoly. Would not want to see Council assets that are revenue-generating sold.

**Significant Tree Register** – Why didn't this get support?

A: The report from Council officers came back saying it wasn't worth doing. WB felt a register, as in other local government areas, would add an additional level of protection. North Sydney has lost around 30% of our tree canopy in the last 20 years.

**Will Councillor Bourke be running again?**

A: Very close to making a decision. Sustainable Australia Party is trying to get someone elected to the NSW Upper House.

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

### **Brightmore Reserve Visual Amenity Improvements**

Sydney Water has carried out painting of structures at Brightmore Reserve work site.

### **Refurbishment of the Brothers Memorial in Brothers Park**

Precinct awaiting response to motion passed at May meeting.

## **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

### **1. Council Summary of Actions Arising**

- Yet to be received.

**Precinct notes that this is the second consecutive month for no SOA**

### **2. Development Applications**

- Nil

### **3. Traffic Committee Meeting ( 7/6)**

- Nil

#### 4. Extraordinary Council Meeting (18/6)

- Item 6.1 – Notice of Motion 09/24 Neutral Bay Village – Low to mid Rise Housing Reform- Crs Spenceley & Bourke

Chair reported she addressed Council on this motion. Council unanimously adopted a resolution which noted the Station and Town Centre Selection form sent to DPHI on 15 May failed to positively implement and served to undermine Council's resolved position to refrain from nominating MU1 zones (eg Cremorne and Neutral Bay) and E2 zones (eg Cammeray) and resolved that Council would write to the DPHI to formally rescind its earlier response and would submit a transparent and authorised response addressing the DPHI criteria. The Council also resolved that the CEO facilitate an urgent industry-appropriate review of the internal process that resulted in the submission of a form contrary to Council's resolved position and report back on appropriate measures to rectify the contravention and strengthen Council processes.

Council's revised submission dated 21 June 2024 is on Council's website. The implementation of the Low and Mid Rise reforms have been delayed until September and it is unlikely the outcome re Neutral Bay and Cremorne will be known before this.

#### 5. Council Meeting (24/6)

- Item 8.1 - MM01 State Heritage Listing of the Orpheum Picture Palace

Council resolved to thank the Minister Penny Sharpe for the heritage listing, Fiona Gracie and the Cremorne Conservation Group and Council staff for their advocacy and contribution to the listing.

Voting was 9 votes to 1.

For: Crs Baker, Beregi, Bourke, Lamb, Lepouris, Mutton, Spenceley, Santer & Welch

Against: Cr Gibson

- Item 8.2 - MM02 Diverse and Affordable Housing, Memorandum of Understanding with Homes NSW.

Council resolved to seek to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Homes NSW to expedite delivery of new and refurbished social and affordable housing within the North Sydney LGA and that a report on funding options for the Parraween Street car park / community centre / affordable housing project be provided to Council.

Voting was 6 votes to 4.

For: Crs Baker, Beregi, Bourke, Lamb, Santer & Welch

Against: Crs Gibson, Lepouris, Mutton, Spenceley

- Item 10.3 - Operational Plan & Budget 2024/25 - Post Exhibition Report
- Item 10.10 - North Sydney Local Planning Panel Reformation

Council is now required to endorse the appointment of the Minister-approved Chairs and list of nominated experts to enable the reformation of the North Sydney Local Planning

Panel. The new Principal Chair will be Dr Robert Stokes, former Minister for Planning in the previous State Government. There will be four rotating Council selected community representatives.

## **6. CPC Meeting (18/6)**

- CPC meeting 18/6.

PM reported the CPC was given an update on new smart parking meters that are being installed. These will be cashless, solar-powered and parking can be managed via an app on a smartphone. The CPC resolved to form an infrastructure sub-committee with specific reference to the WFU/WHT projects. The CPC was advised of a concern regarding a Councillor-administered social media site.

## **7. Council & Other Memos**

- 18 June – Council Caretaker Period and Provisions related to the upcoming Local Government Election

Note: Caretaker period commences Friday 16 August 2024. Elections are Saturday 14 September 2024.

- 18 June – NSW Government housing reforms
- 2 Jul - NSW Government Growth Precinct Plans
- 5 Jul - Internal Staff Move - Lucia Sandoval
- Jun-Aug – Sydney Water Update – completion due early 2027.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **National Tree Day**

NSC is celebrating National Tree Day with a planting in Brightmore Reserve on 28 July 2024.

### **Community Centre Toilets in Neutral Bay**

A Precinct member has expressed concern over the state of the toilets, especially the disabled toilet, in the Neutral Bay Community Centre, having found toilets blocked and overflowing.

**Precinct asks Council to please check on this situation.**

### **North Sydney Electorate**

The Federal electorate of North Sydney has been identified for abolition in the redistribution. If it goes ahead, Willoughby Bay Precinct will become part of Zali Steggall's seat of Warringah. The deadline for submissions is tomorrow Friday, 12 July 2024.

### **A Precinct member raised the following two items by email:**

Road surface condition in Montague Rd, especially north kerbside lane between Fifth Avenue and Macpherson street – missing/broken surface areas adjacent to the kerb do not assist tidy parking and are becoming trip hazards.

**Can Council advise if resurfacing is programmed?**

The Precinct member has written to Council with respect to a deteriorating front finial on a dwelling in the Montague Conservation Area asking whether there are any heritage grants / loans available for repairs (not a listed heritage item) but has not received a reply.

**Can Council please advise on this?**

**Other issues reported by a Precinct member by email:**

Boat trailer arrived in front of 23 Wonga Rd Sunday morning 16 June. By Monday evening NSC Ranger had marked with a cone the narrow crossbars overhanging the footpath. Three weeks later a safety cone was placed to the offside rear (the trailer was not easy to see on dark rainy nights despite having two red flags which look black in the dark). This might have been the Ranger doing his monthly audit in the first week of July (likely to be tagged in first week of August for 28 day removal). **Precinct thanks Council's Rangers for their ongoing monitoring of trailers and actions to ensure safety of residents.**

Copies of ultra-luxury brand publication "Boulevard Magazine" have been dumped in public places rather than placed in letterboxes. This includes being thrown onto footpaths and into bushland on the harbour side of Wonga Rd. They need a more reliable distribution person.

—  
Meeting closed at 8.45pm

Next meeting will be on Thursday 8 August 2024 at 7.30pm

Council Contact Details:

Phone: 9936 8100

Fax: 9936 8177

Ranger Services 9936 8100

**WEB:** [www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au)