

UNION PRECINCT



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Minutes - Wednesday 3 March 2021 held at McMahons Point Community Hall, Blues Point Road at 7.30 pm

Co-Chairs: MC & KR, Secretary MCH Treasurer: ID. Meeting chaired by KR & MC; minutes by MCH. Present: 10 – as per attendance sheet.
Apologies: PM, RM GM, MM. DH

The meeting was called to order at 7.31pm.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Following introductions of the committee members, the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 3 March 2021 were accepted as a proper record of the meeting. ID moved and KR seconded the adoption of the minutes.

MC noted that COVID meeting practice had been adopted and additionally all attendees had had their temperatures checked.

2. Development applications

The Chair reported the following Development Application information from NSC:

- **DA 26/21**, 37 Carr Street, Waverton
Alterations and additions to a dwelling including demolition of existing indoor pool and dormer windows, addition of a porch and balcony dormers and various other changes – Submissions close 26 February
Noted.
- **DA 44/2009/4**, 140 Blues Point Road, McMahons Point
Modify DA 44/2009 for various modifications to a dwelling including internal and external changes – Submissions close 26 February
Noted.
- **DA 266/20**, 26 Euroka St, Waverton
Alterations and additions to existing dwelling and landscaping works – Approved 9 February
Noted.
- **DA 231/20**, 5 Mil Mil St, McMahons Point
Alterations and additions to dwelling including first floor addition – Approved 9 February.
Noted that plans were modified.

- **DA 377/17/3**, 32 Lord Street, North Sydney
Modification of consent - raised garage roof, new dwelling roof, internal reconfigurations, bi-fold doors, landscape works to road reserve, aluminium boundary fence. Comments due 19March. JC provided background saying this is a longstanding DA from 2017. There are numerous issues; height, the fence not keeping with the character of the area, excavation work could cause issues to a large gum tree; and the current nature strip has value (proposal is to have it grassed over). The opposition by neighbours was noted on these grounds.

3. Waverton Peninsula working group – update on last meeting

MC and KR are members of the Waverton Peninsula working group which discusses the future of Berrys Bay. The last meeting was held in November 2020. A motion was passed that NSC should seek to acquire the lands at Berrys Bay from the State Government before work commenced on the WHT worksites.

At the NSC meeting in February there was a dual motion regarding these sites in Berrys Bay.

1. For NSC to acquire the land from the State Government now and lease back to the State Government during works on the Western Harbour Tunnel. This is so that NSC can secure the future of the site once state infrastructure projects are complete.
2. The second motion was passed to enter into negotiations with the Sydney Heritage Fleet (SHF). It was noted that this does not form a commitment but is a process of negotiation.

The Precinct raised concerns regarding motion two – namely that it wanted an open and transparent process for potential future use of the site. While it notes that no commitment has been made to SHF, it calls for NSC to ensure transparency of the process and opening it up to other options. As per the Precinct’s minutes of the October meeting when representatives from SHF presented, ***“The meeting resolved to write to the SHF stating that we liked the concept plan in principle, however the plan was not sufficiently developed to give support, as many aspects were still under consideration. Residents also noted that the final proposals should be totally transparent and honest.”***

There is also meant to be a State Government group to assist in preparing a plan of management for the sites in Berrys Bay. This does not appear to have commenced yet.

There was also a discussion about Dolphin Wharf which currently has decommissioned commercial boats moored in Waverton Bay/Berrys Bay. Several people expressed concerns that Berrys Bay and Waverton Bay could become a floating junk yard and there are pollution concerns from these “junk boats”.

4. Blues Point Road traffic and foreshore park usage

The Chair relayed the comments made at the February Council meeting regarding the increased use of foreshore areas for commercial and wedding events. Council passed resolutions to have the Director of Open Space and Environmental Services prepare a report for Council outlining options to manage Blues Point Reserve and other foreshore parks to ensure they are available for everyone to use and that the report include options for improving signage within the parks if needed.

The Precinct welcomes Council’s resolutions in this space and looks forward to the results of the report.

The Chair also recapped the traffic issues on Blues Point Road. These were mainly related to speeding and excessive noise from motorcycles and cars. In response to the Union Precinct February meeting minutes, Council's Manager Traffic & Transport Operations has advised that recent traffic and speed counts in Blues Point Road between Lavender Street and Warung Street revealed the 85th percentile speed is 39km/h to 47km/h.

Notwithstanding that the 85th percentile speed is below the 50km/h speed limit, the following recommendations were made by the Traffic Committee (in part):

- a) *That Council consults with the affected community with regard to the speed cushion traffic calming scheme for Blues Point Road between Princes Street and Blues Point Reserve.*
- b) *Council request police enforcement of excessive noise from vehicles, illegal parking and street racing as raised by local residents, particularly on Friday and Saturday evenings between 9pm and 4am.*
- c) *That Council request TfNSW install a speed camera in Blues Point Road between East Crescent Street and Blues Point Reserve.*
- d) *That the traffic calming proposal be included in any funding applications for the McMahons Point (Blues Point Road) Public Domain Upgrade Masterplan and vice versa.*

The Precinct welcomes action from Council in this area. specifically it supports traffic calming. It also asks if the following points could be considered by the Traffic Committee and Council:

- **Raising the pedestrian crossing**
- **Reducing the speed limit from the current 50kms per hour to 40km per hour**

The Precinct also asks that the consultation area for the Blues Point Road speed cushions be broad to take into a larger number of residents. not only those located closest to the proposed speed cushion site.

In discussing the area around Blues Point Reserve, there was a question from the floor regarding the Henry Lawson Crescent Boat Shed. MC provided an update saying that is set to be purchased by the State Government. The office of the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces has confirmed that a Proposed Acquisition Notice was issued on 5 February, following completion of the statutory six-month negotiation period. This starts a 90-day compulsory acquisition period, following which an acquisition notice is gazetted and compensation is determined by the Valuer General. Once that is complete, it is intended the land will be incorporated into the foreshore park.

5. Additional comments from summary of actions

The Chair provided an update from summary of actions from the February meeting that had not been addressed earlier.

- **DA 13/21 and DA 11/21, Noakes 6 John Street** - Council's Executive Assessment Planner has advised that comments are noted. Any concerns regarding the adequacy of documentation and level of detail provided in the DAs should be included in submissions, together with any other issues of concern.

Both DAs are being assessed by an independent planner. The assessment process will consider the legality of the buildings, whether the buildings are fit for purpose and whether they meet building codes and standards, among other considerations.

- **North Sydney Olympic Pool (NSOP)** – Comments noted by Council’s Director Engineering & Property Services.

Council is hosting an online information session on 16 March 2021, from 6pm to 7pm regarding the NSOP redevelopment. Interested community members must pre-register to be sent the Zoom link. Questions to be addressed before (via the registration form), during and after this session. For more information visit <https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/InformationSessions>

MC noted that the shed down on Munro street is being renovated and is now being used for storage of items from the pool.

- **Traffic issues and speed controls around Union/Euroka/ Woolcott/Carr**
Council’s Traffic & Transport Engineer had advised that a proposal for a Give Way sign and line marking in Woolcott St at Euroka Street was referred to the Traffic Committee on 26 February 2021. Once approval is received, Council will begin the installation of the signs and line marking.

The line marking in Bank Lane at Union St/Euroka St will be carried out under maintenance at the same time the signs and line are installed in Woolcott Street.

Council will distribute consultation letters to residents in Union Street and surrounding streets for the 3 proposals on the speeding issue in Union Street within the next few weeks.

The Precinct welcomed the actions from the Traffic Committee and Council and thank them for this. The Precinct notes it is yet to provide its ideas for medium and longer-term suggestions to manage the traffic in the area, as it will wait for these actions to be completed so as not to duplicate efforts. It also notes that the flower bed on Union St/Bank St has been shaved and thanks Council for this.

- **Henry Lawson steps onto Waverton Park** - The Precinct asked for a handrail to be installed at the previous meeting. Council’s Street Alive Project Officer has advised that the works undertaken at Henry Lawson Steps were restorative, aimed at preserving the heritage value of the site, while also reinstating the existing staircase. The grade of the steps has not been altered and a handrail is deemed not necessary.

6. Sculpture exhibition in Sawmillers Reserve

Council grant for exhibition in Spring 2021. The \$70,000 grant was noted.

7. Sawmillers Reserve facilities

SW from the North Sydney Scout Group in Munro Street addressed the meeting regarding the toilet facilities within the Scout Hall and how it was not appropriate to give access to the public to this toilet as it was within the Scout Hall and people would have access the main hall. The Scout Hall has had issues in the past with providing public access and it did not work. SW wanted to ensure that the Precinct members understood the issue with the toilets at the Scout Hall and the Scouts wanted to be cooperative.

SW noted that the Scout Hall used a private sewerage connection to the main sewer line in Sawmillers Reserve which had limited capacity. SW suggested that a toilet facility in Sawmillers Reserve using the main sewer line seemed appropriate. The provision of other facilities within Sawmillers Reserve was also discussed by the meeting including additional kayak and boat storage.

The meeting unanimously resolved:

“The Union Precinct supports more infrastructure within Sawmillers Reserve including additional kayak and boat storage, recreational facilities and toilets using the main sewer line.”

8. Future Speakers

Noted that LM has offered to speak at the April meeting regarding her thoughts on a Harbour Walk proposal (Blues Point to Carradah Park) and Kayak storage.

9. Information from Combined Precincts Committee Meeting

KH provided a report from the recent North Sydney Council CPC meeting which was held on the 23 Feb 2021. His report related to several items including:

- MLC Building in Miller Street has been recommended by the NSW Heritage Council for listing as a State Heritage item.
- NS Pool closure as from the 1 March. An NSC Zoom meeting has been scheduled for the 16 March to enable residents to raise questions and to receive feedback on the development plans.
- COVID 19 ... good news that the spread of COVID virus has been minimised over the past 40 days. Caution and restrictions still prevail with some easing of the regulations.
- The NSC Precinct Review is ongoing ... reports have been provided by Plancom following round two of consultations. Concerns still prevail about the guidelines for the Combined Precinct Committee operation and for the number of Precincts and boundary arrangements. Concerns were raised about how Precincts will best operate in the future and the timing arrangements given the pending Council Elections scheduled for Sept 2021.
- Western Harbour Tunnel ... matters of concern and impacts were discussed.
- Urban Planning Controls and proposed developments especially in the Cremorne and St Leonards areas were causing some concerns.
- NSC publishes a Regular E News bulletin for distribution to Precincts. Discussion evolved about the distribution of the E News to wider precinct residents and members. Information is available on the NSC website.
- More detailed discussion was held about Social Impact Assessment procedures and response processes; Smart Roads and their impact driver readiness, tollways and usability; Social and Affordable Housing availability and plans in the NS area; Crown Casino opening and implications for business and visitor opportunities in the NS area.
- Clean up Australia Day is set for the first weekend in March. Various sites have been established including ones at Sawmillers and Waverton Oval.
- The next meeting of the CPC is planned for the 20th April.

10. Any other business

- **Additional DA Information**

The Chairman noted that a late advice from NSC indicated that the DA for 61 Bank Street had been withdrawn.

- **Precinct Newsletter**

JC from Edward Precinct advised that he prepared a monthly Precinct Newsletter in PDF format which contained useful information for residents. The Union Precinct resolved to send out the Monthly Precinct Newsletter in PDF format with the Agenda to our mailing list.

- **Clean Up Australia Day**

The Chairman noted that it was Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday and that a group was meeting at the Scout Hall.

- **Blues Point Road Beautification**

CB asked that an update of the Blues Point Road Beautification proposal be provided by NSC.

Could Council please provide an update to the Precinct on the status?

11. Next Meeting 7 April 2021

Closure - The meeting closed at 9.26 pm.

Signed as a correct record

Chair