



WOLLSTONECRAFT PRECINCT MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 9 February 2022 at 7.30 p.m.

1. **Attendance:** 20 residents and 3 Councillors attended which was the self-imposed maximum capacity.
2. **Apologies:** JS; BB, A F
3. **Annual General Meeting and election of Officers:** (See separate minutes)
4. **Confirmation of minutes of meeting held on 8 December 2021:** Motion: That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 Dec 2021, having been circulated be taken as read and are hereby confirmed. Moved SY Seconded MP. Resolved unanimously.

5. Matters Arising:

- **Wollstonecraft Station Access Upgrade:** The report from the Chair was noted. Progress is very slow. Material shortages are obvious, and very few workers are on site. Completion is expected before mid-2022 with a target by April.
- **Planning Proposal 1/21 - 270 & 284 Pacific Highway Crows Nest - Management Report PP01.** The management report will be on the agenda of Council's meeting on 21 February for Council to consider a response. Residents who wrote to Council are encouraged to address Council at that meeting.

Residents are also encouraged to make representations to the local member for North Shore (Felicity Wilson) and the Minister for Planning NSW (Anthony Roberts) about the increase in height gifted to developers about this and other sites in the 2036 Plan as compared to the draft Plan.

- **Planning Proposal 7/21 - Cnr. Pacific Highway & Hume Street.** A report from management regarding the proposal will not be on the agenda for the Council meeting on 21 February with the possibility that it could be as late as April. This is another site that had heights increased in the Final 2036 Plan. Precinct has made representations to Council about the many non-compliances of the proposal.
- **Australia Post for Crows Nest:** The report from the Chair was noted. Cr Baker reported that the federal member for North Sydney (Trent Zimmerman) and the local member for North Shore NSW (Felicity Wilson) are both reacting positively to Council suggestions for funds to support projects in Crows Nest where most of the

forecast population increase will occur.

By a show of hands, the meeting was unanimous in its support for the relocation of the Crows Nest Post Office into Crows Nest on the old site at the corner of Hume St and Pacific Highway. This will require commitment from two governments and very little if any funding from either government.

The Chair will write again to both political representatives. Cr. Baker indicated that Council will support this effort.

- **Holtermann Street Carpark Redevelopment:** The project is on public exhibition for community consultation until 28 February. It involves the demolition of the existing car park, excavation of about 25,000 sqm of rock, developing a new underground car park and constructing approximately 1,600 sqm public open space above with connection to the existing Crows Nest Community Centre. The Chair spoke to his report and to the public information session on 8 February, led by the director of Engineering Duncan Mitchell. On 9 February, Council management responded to the preliminary comments/questions submitted by the Chair. Copy is attached.

By a show of hands, residents present unanimously supported a park that had nearly all green space and an absolute minimum of hard surfaces. It also felt that a kiosk was not necessary to activate the space but if a kiosk is chosen, the location as depicted in Option 2 on the roof of the amenities would be the only acceptable choice. Widening of the Holtermann St footpath by taking the on-street parking spaces is supported. Precinct will make a submission along these parameters. Residents are encouraged to also make their own submissions.

Visit: <https://yoursay.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/holtermann-carpark> Submissions close 28 February.

6. General Business.

a. There were six Questions with Notice for Councillors included in the business papers:

- i. **Shirley Road, Wollstonecraft rail bridge and the five ways road intersection at Carr St and Crows Nest Rd.** Council staff provided a written response. Copy is attached as Q&A. Apart from line marking on Shirley Road which will be done as immediate maintenance, the roundabout at Shirley/Belmont/Milner and the five ways intersection in Waverton both depend on government funding and prioritisation within the Local Area Traffic Management plan (LATM). No certainty about either of these projects at all which is quite a disappointment. Road works at the Rail Bridge is in the control of Transport for NSW which means these should be complete by mid-2020.
- ii. **Public Forum and Addressing Council:** Precinct is keen to have the Council revert to earlier practice at meetings where there were no

restrictions on the number of speakers on any agenda item, whether for or against and that each agenda item that attracted speakers was brought forward so that Councillors could listen to arguments for and against and then resolve the item by debate. Cr. Baker spoke in favour of this, having been an outspoken critic of the existing restrictive system. Cr. Bourke required time to listen to the issues and decide upon evidence and argument when the matter is brought to Council for a decision. Cr. Santer, a past officer of Hayberry Precinct, supported the Precinct's position.

Precinct will write to other Precincts and raise the matter at the CPC meeting on Tuesday 15 February.

- iii. **Precinct System Review:** Precinct asked if this matter could be quickly resolved on the basis that the only outstanding matters of importance were the number of Precincts to be supported, the amount of support that would be provided both by staff numbers and direct expense and tidying up the Code of Conduct including the issue of redaction of minutes. It has been agreed that Precincts will determine their own agenda and who they invite.

Cr. Baker spoke in support having been a consistent critic of the review that was seen as a means of neutering the Precinct System. Cr. Bourke required time to listen to the issues and decide upon evidence and argument when the matter is brought to Council for a decision.

Cr. Santer supported Cr. Baker and added that he intended to propose a motion at the next Council meeting in support of greater Precinct autonomy in selecting its office bearers and matters for discussion, with incorporation of these principles in the Precincts' Code of Conduct. The motion would also call for Council to incorporate a fixed agenda item at its meetings devoted to consideration of submissions from Precincts.

Precinct System Review is on the agenda for discussion at the CPC meeting on Tuesday 15 February.

- iv. **Hume St Park Stages 1 and 2:** Precinct asked when Stage 1 is expected to be completed and what progress has been made on the Stage 2 works, provision for which of \$1.8 million was included in the last four-year plan and budget commencing 2021/22. Nothing has been reported since.

Cr. Baker advised that subject to reasonable weather, Council expects Stage 1 to complete in February and be opened in March. As to Stage 2 which includes the relocation of Kelly's Place, three sites have been proposed and all three rejected. Meanwhile work is progressing on a Development Application (for public consultation) and subsequent

approval. This matter will be followed up at the April meeting of Precinct.

- v. **Strategic Plan and Budget for period beginning 2022/23:** Precinct asked for more transparency in the review process so that the community was able to provide comment at all stages of the detailed plan and not at the final stage in July each year as has been the practice in the recent Council. Cr. Baker spoke to this question by explaining that the process for submission and review of the plan is under consideration with a view to improving transparency and available time for community consultation.
- vi. **Willoughby Road Mainstreet Area Upgrade:** This is a major project initiated in 2014 details of which can be read on Council's website: https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Business_Projects/Council_Projects/Crows_Nest_upgrade
Eight years later and funding has not been provided. Council was asked to advise the status of the project.

Cr Baker responded that she had raised the issue by notice of motion during the last term of Council 2-3 times to no majority support; that it is open to the new Council to prioritise the works in this year's budget process and that my personal opinion is that there is a dedicated revenue stream (Crows Nest Levy) of \$300,000 per annum to support the works and any loan that may be needed to bring them forward.

- b. **DA429/21 at 11A Hazelbank Rd.** Ms KF addressed the meeting. Cr. Baker advised that because the development is in a Conservation Area it will be determined by the Local Planning Panel and Council will not have a say other than by its representatives at the LPP meeting. Ms KF was advised to make a robust submission and to encourage nearby residents with similar concerns to also make submissions.
- c. **Other business:**

- i. Precinct asked Councillors about closure of local roads and in particular, Hume Street: It is understood that Council levies and receives fees from developers when a local road is closed. Council was asked to advise how much is received and how it is spent? Council was also asked to investigate the way in which the traffic lights at the intersection of Alexander St and Pacific Highway operate so that the right turn from Alexander into the Highway provides a green light at every sequence and that sufficient time is allowed for all vehicles to make a right turn safely. **ACTION for Council and Traffic Committee.**
- ii. SY advised that a new planning proposal for the Fiveways Site at Crows Nest had been lodged with Council on Christmas Eve 2021 and provided brief details. Discussion focussed on what appeared to be a request for excessive height and a very high number of car parking spaces for a small

number of residential apartments on a site so close to a new Metro station. A report will be prepared prior to our next meeting.

7. **Next Meeting on April 13, 2022.** Mr. Alan Edenborough representing the Sydney Maritime Museum will deliver a presentation on their proposed plans for Berrys Bay.

8. **Meeting close at 9:20 pm**

9. **Attachments:**

- a. Holtermann St Car Park Redevelopment – Response from Council
- b. Traffic issues Wollstonecraft/Waverton – Q&A Response from Council