

## **MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Date:** Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2020.

**Venue:** Remote meeting conducted on Zoom

**Present:** Adrian Alexander, Plamen Bassarov, Michael Dawes, Kath Herrmann, Andrew King, Sue Livingston, Georgina Roussac, Peter Wilton, Judy Simpson

**Attending:** Robert Newman, Karen Pearson

**Apologies:** Lindsay Alexander, Peter Egan, Jordana Goodman

**Meeting Opened:** 7:45 pm

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### **Open Forum:**

**Minutes** *Proposed* Georgie Roussac, *Seconded* Plamen Bassarov

Minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 were accepted.

### **Business Arising from Previous Minutes/Outstanding Action Points**

***Carried Over:*** Discussion of the draft Membership Policy

***Carried Over:*** Peter Egan will write a draft letter to the Disability Commission drawing their attention to the issue of non-wheelchair compliance in Wilkes Avenue and circulate the draft to the committee prior to sending it.

***Carried over:*** Peter Wilton will investigate the issue of a centre page in the Gazette being devoted to Artarmon Village Inc and report back to Exec if this makes financial sense.

Georgie Roussac has been unsuccessful in her attempts to contact Raveena Randhawa through email and text regarding her role as Editor of the Artarmon Gazette.

**Action:** *Georgie Roussac will again attempt to contact Raveena Randhawa to meet and clarify Gazette team arrangements.*

Robert Newman has changed the resolution of the website, deleted the Star Search site and continues to prune the obsolete content.  
Andrew King is in the process of contacting several web designers regarding upgrading to WordPress.

**Action:** *Adrian Alexander will forward the contact details of either Christine Kelly or Peter Wang to Andrew King to discuss redesign of the website.*

**Action:** *Peter Wilton will contact Norma Shankie-Williams about the issue of the public toilet*

**Correspondence - As circulated**

Sue Livingston reported on an email from a Member regarding the DA for change of use and fit out for a sex service business at 84 Hampden Road, Artarmon. The Member queried whether this was an instance where the APA would get involved. After discussion around permitted use within zoning and items of non-compliance including proximity to similar businesses, the Committee agreed the APA should investigate further. Peter Wilton advised the Member should lodge an individual objection and encourage other individuals concerned to do so as well. 10 objections will require the DA to be referred to the Willoughby Local Planning Panel.

**Action:** *Plamen Bassarov will examine the DA documents and send feedback to the Committee.*

**Action:** *Sue Livingston will reply to the Member advising that the Committee agreed it would investigate further and encouraging him to garner support from other residents to submit their individual objections.*

The DA related to Cleland Park was discussed and consideration was given to the APA making a submission to Council. Adrian Alexander commented that there were few major changes involved in the application. Robert Newman commented that the development would allow better access to the Guide Hall. Karen Pearson reported that the Artarmon Guides were very happy with the proposal. Michael Dawes suggested the APA lodge a submission in support of the DA. The Committee agreed to this.

### **President's Items**

#### **Finalising the APA Submission on the WCC Integrated Transport Strategy**

The workup of the draft APA submission requires finer focus on the issues relating to Artarmon. The published deadline for submissions is 9<sup>th</sup> April however Norma Shankie-Williams has granted an extension to 14<sup>th</sup> April.

**Action:** *Michael Dawes will work with Peter Egan to develop the Draft APA submission and will put it on Google Docs for input from Committee members on key issues they would like included in the submission.*

Georgie Roussac encouraged the Committee to feedback comments with a view to submitting by the April 9 deadline.

#### **EIS Warringah Freeway Upgrade**

Georgie Roussac canvassed opinion on sending a copy of the APA Submission to Gladys Berejiklian in her role as our local member. The Committee agreed that, in the current COVID-19 emergency, the Premier would have greater priorities. The Committee agreed against sending it.

#### **Feedback on the New Format APA -News**

The President sought feedback from the Committee on the new format of current APA news delivered through Mail Chimp. Michael Dawes reported that there were 217 recipients, it was opened 136 times, 31 clicks on embedded links, 7 had bounced and there were no unsubscribes. Karen Pearson commented that it looked very professional.

#### **APA Priorities for 2020 (Document circulated)**

Georgie Roussac drew the attention of the committee to a document open for discussion regarding APA priorities for 2020. The President encouraged the Committee members to consider the document and have any comments and input prepared for the May meeting.

**APA Position: 8-10 storey limit vs 5 storey limit for Hampden Road/Local Centres Strategy**

In the Council meeting of 9 December 2019 Cr Nic Wright proposed an amendment to the Local Centres Strategy 2036 to restrict height control in Artarmon from 8-10 storey to 4-5 storey in accordance with the recommendation in the Heritage report. The motion was carried. The President has received feedback from APA Members in support of and opposed to the decision. Some members of the Committee are very concerned about the negative impact on Artarmon that this reversal will have and wish to lobby Council to adhere to the 8-10 storey proposal. Georgie Roussac suggested more investigation of evidence for the pros and cons of the two positions to present a brief paper outlining both positions for further discussion in the May meeting. During the ensuing discussion there emerged a sense of urgency in approaching Council on this matter. Considerations discussed included the advantage of attracting larger retail shops with the larger floor space ratio, commercial viability and potential obstacles with property owners' positions on amalgamation. Issues around the possibility of developers being successful in undesirable spot rezoning approval in the case of the lower height limit were considered against the chance of the same possibility for 8-10 storey limit. Some members of the Committee argued that an 8-10 limit was more aligned with the Local Centres Strategy and the likelihood of developers successfully overriding the LEPs would therefore be reduced compared with the lower limit. Adrian Alexander illustrated this point by providing examples where this protective strategy had prevented height increase approvals in St Leonards and Chatswood. After lengthy discussion, the Committee favoured an 8-10 storey limit. As the Committee is committed to consultation with its Members, consideration was given to what form that could take. It was pointed out that the original strategy of 8-10 storeys was arrived at after extensive community consultation. Michael Dawes queried publication of the results of the community consultation. All agreed this is a very complex and important issue and needed further examination and input from Council officers.

**Action:** *Peter Wilton will contact Norma Shankie-Williams to arrange a meeting with Georgie Roussac and Michael Dawes to discuss.*

### **Wilkes Avenue Upgrade – Next Steps**

Michael Dawes circulated the response to APA concerns from Hugh Myers, Project Manager, Streetscapes including a revised landscape plan. It is the view of the Committee that the position of the APA expressed through meetings and correspondence has had little impact. The option of inclusion in the plan of the old library site and the lane behind in the concept was raised by a Committee member but Council has made clear that the Wilkes Ave Upgrade budget is quarantined for that project.

Consideration was given to meeting with the Councillors regarding the APA's position.

**Action:** *Michael Dawes will email the Councillors and Mayor regarding Hugh Myers' response and the position of the APA.*

### **Council Governance – Finding of Councillor Misconduct**

Discussion to be carried over to the next meeting as the findings being subject to appeal.

**Action:** *Peter Wilton will circulate the document from the Deputy Secretary, Local Government, Planning and Policy.*

### **Other Business**

In the light of the COVID-19 emergency, Adrian Alexander proposed suspension of publication of the Artarmon Gazette until the situation improves. He pointed out that NewsCorp has ceased production of its community papers due to the drop in revenue from advertising and that this issue will likely impact the Artarmon Gazette similarly. There is also the personal safety issue of deliverers leaving their houses in a time where only essential excursions are acceptable. The Committee agreed to suspend the Gazette and reassess the situation for the September issue and that e-News could support our role of communicating current issues. The concept of publishing the Gazette online was considered, but the Committee decided to retain the Gazette in its current format.

Adrian Alexander reported that most advertising debts from the previous Gazette have been paid and expects the remainder to come in soon.

**Open Forum**

Karen Pearson made comment that she supported the 8-10 storey height limit on Hampden Road and suggested consideration of a membership campaign to reach more Artarmon residents.

**Next Executive Committee meeting** – 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 at 7:40pm.

**Meeting closed at 9:45 pm.**