

Goolawah Co-op General Meeting

13/7/12, 9:30, Machinery shed

Present: Craig Singleman, Paul Martin, Leah Skinner, Russell Childs, Dave Launt, Larry Knight, Wayne Ellis, Anne Wilson, Rose Mahar, Ralph Erthel, Rob Hewitt, Greg Ryan, Anthony Griffiths, Mairead Shorten, Kevin Harper, John Harkins.

Visitors: Dennis Cobourn, Denise Cobourn, Bronwyn Little, Angelika Linehan, Gordon Tighe

Apologies: Sue Loudon, Brian Hardy, Kirsty Steer

Proxies: Brian Hardy (c), Lucy Hardy (c), Alwyn Hunter (o), Sue Loudon (c), John Noonan (c), Wendy Penney (c), Frank Dykshoorn (o), Rodney Forshaw (o) (o=open, c=closed)

Facilitator: Craig Singleman **Minutes:** Anne Wilson

Motion to pass minutes of previous meeting: Passed.

Treasurer's report: Leah Skinner.

- Working account: \$27029 Term deposit: \$18043
- Missing payments: 18/6 \$500 levy no name. 9/7 \$490 levy no name – Dave Cook? 9/12/11 \$240 DA fee. Please advise Leah if these are yours.
- Owing in annual levies: \$13000

Secretary's report: Anne Wilson.

- Terry Martin's newsletter got returned to sender, I now have no contact details for him. If anyone does please let me know.
- Mistake in minutes of last GM – I included proxy votes for Resolution 6 when they didn't count as the resolution had been amended. Sorry about that, the mistake didn't affect the outcome of the resolution (2 closed against, 7 closed for, all present voted for).
- Outstanding ID checks/stat decs – I have forms here, and Rob Hewitt can witness stat dec.
- Correspondence from council to be discussed in DA report, correspondence to Nevertire Rd residents to be discussed in general business.
- Invite to speak at Rotary meeting
- Ongoing angry emails from John Harkins, "report" on last GM very offensive. Need to discuss the impact of his behaviour on the social harmony of the co-op, though he said he did not want to be phoned regarding this.

DA report: David Launt. Letter from council received asking for more information about the north-south section of Frog Hollow which crosses SEPP 14 wetland. Kirsty has spoken to consultant (Rob Doolan) and Shane Reinhold. Will reply saying the road and culvert was pre-existing and the road height has just been increased and the culvert replaced. Rob Doolan feels we should not push hard at the moment. General feeling at meeting that we need to meet with sympathetic councillors to see how to move the DA forward.

State Government is said to be changing procedure for DA processing, putting it in the power of council committees rather than councillors.

Road report: Ralph Erthel. See report tabled at meeting.

Tractor report: Larry Knight. Jason has finished major service – new seat, paint, new 2nd hand fuel tank, sharpened blades, diff lock, etc. invoice yet to be done, will be in the order of \$3500. Need sound insulation in roof. Fixed little red slasher, but it's still only good for very light duty work (grass on smooth surfaces).

Membership committee: Mairead, Paul, Ralph, Dennis and Denise are in the process of applying for membership and are interested in the Hamlin's share. Barry and Jess are very keen on applying and are interested in Mark and Jen Hawkins' site, but are not present at this meeting. Belinda and Roger want to register Glen as a resident non-member. Mairead has drafted a form to formalise this, and tabled at meeting. Will process non-member residents as per new members. Discussion regarding fees.

PROPOSALS:

Moved to deal with Ordinary Resolution 3 and 4 first – passed.

Ordinary Resolution 3. “That funds raised by the work levy are to be accounted for in a separate budget. This budget is to fund infrastructure on the co-op (such as a community centre, rather than roads, dams and compulsory DA requirements). And that the amount of work hours required should be reviewed by the meeting and adjusted if necessary.” Discussion. Bundagen has an agreement with work for the dole which is working well for them and is worth exploring here. Dave and Rob to investigate further. No adjustment to hours made.

For: 16 Against: 5 Abstain: 2. **Passed.**

Ordinary Resolution 4. “To increase the work levy from \$10/hour to \$15/hour.” Clarified that this does not effect working off annual levy.

For: 18 Against: 3 Abstain: 3. **Passed.**

Moved to discuss with John first about his behaviour. Passed. Talking-stick style discussion.

Separate minutes available on request.

Special Resolution 1. Refer to lengthy wording in previous newsletter. **Withdrawn**

Special Resolution 2. “A person is not qualified to be admitted to membership to the co-operative unless the members, by passing an ordinary resolution at a general meeting, have reasonable grounds for believing that the person will be an active member under Rule 14.” **Withdrawn**

Special Resolution 3. Refer to lengthy wording in previous newsletter. **Withdrawn**

Special Resolution 4. Refer to lengthy wording in previous newsletter. **Withdrawn**

Special Resolution 5. Refer to lengthy wording in previous newsletter. **Withdrawn**

Ordinary Resolution 1. Refer to lengthy wording in previous newsletter. Discussion regarding various possible scenarios, dependants, equality, etc.

For: 6 Against: 11 Abstain: 4. **Not passed.**

Ordinary Resolution 2. “To rescind the by-law this resulted from Resolution 6. at the April 2012 General Meeting.”

For: 1 Against: 13 Abstain: 0. **Not passed.**

GENERAL BUSINESS

Nevertire Rd - Letter sent to landholders along Nevertire Rd to invite discussion about sharing cost of maintaining the road. Cattle grid at Maria River Rd end is in a very poor state of repair – only use with utmost caution.

Cattle – Approx. 8-10 of John Langford's cattle are on our property near Nth Gate. A letter was

sent to John requesting he remove them on 11/7/12. The advice from the council ranger is the only option we have is to round them up and take them to the council pound (at our own expense, and it will cost him a lot to get the cattle out). Moved to put \$500 towards addressing the issue - For:6 Against: 1 Abstain:1 Passed.

Motorbikes – discussion.

Tractor training – Moved to get Gordon and Jason to do a training session on the tractor and accessories on the Sunday following the AGM, and the afternoon of the August CM, depending on availability of Gordon and Jason. Passed.

Community gardens – Russell wants to propagate plants and make a community garden near the camp kitchen. See Russell to get involved.

Tree cut down on community land - Russell cut down a tree opposite his block to make it easier to slash, some members concerned about it. Reminded to ask permission at a community meeting to do works on community land beforehand.

Work claims -

- Rebekah - postage for newsletters \$60.

Levy reduction approved tasks:

- Pot holing roads - see Paul and Anne
- Clearing fenceline along Forest Way – Peter and Chris
- Put guttering on machinery shed - see Paul
- Weed removal on community areas
- Tractor maintenance - see Larry
- Slashing on agreed community areas - see Larry
- Organising children's activities during General Meetings
- All weather notice board for west gate entrance
- Membership committee business
- Website updates - Sue Loudon
- Camp kitchen water supply - Peter Wells
- Sign fixing etc – Griff
- Marking out roads – see Ralph
- Fixing 12V system in camp kitchen.
- Making bike trails – see Frank and Zen

Meeting closed at 2pm.

Roadworks Report June/July 2012 – Ralph Erthel

GME have now left the property – bar a few pieces of machinery which will be collected in due course.

Battling another exceptionally wet year (the area is already set for another year of *double* the yearly average – not unlike 2010 and '11) and a limited budget, the community's road network has nevertheless experienced a significant boost:-

- Illa Langi received a long-awaited and much needed grade and roll;
- Cockatoo Ridge now extends all the way to the end (Peter Farley's) and terminates in an adequate turning circle;
- Cookie Close is now built with a modest turning circle at the end (Stuart's);
- Paradise Park has been built all the way to Grant's in the North and David (Van's) in the South, terminating in an impressive turning circle in the South and containing a number of erosion mitigation-culverts;
- Ironstone – the true “problem child” in this list – has had flood mitigation works to the North and South of the actual road, hopefully reducing the impact of heavy rains on Mark & Lexi's and on the road itself (see hereunder);
- Nevertire Rd has had the left-over of the 180 tons of road base spread from the North Gate to about Lot 16 (second on the left).

Because of the wet weather, almost none of these stretches of road are actually finished. The short daylight hours along with intermittent showers have made this very difficult or nigh impossible! The doubling-up of (*not so*) *final* grade & rolls moreover, would have constituted throwing good money after bad (as the saying goes) and budgetary restraints made this prohibitive anyway. Items 1, 2 and 3 above still require that final going-over and Ironstone, which due to the tree canopy, steep gradient and other such predicaments is one of our most challenging roads, requires somewhat more than that (great it's only a short stretch...!).

Over all however, the new roads are advanced enough to be driven on – this will actually help *improve* them: please drive on the *ridges*, NOT in the ruts!

The tentative plan is to ‘reconvene’ in spring/early summer and undertake these (very necessary) works. The materials will have had a chance to dry out and the Treasury will hopefully have received more monies from the road levy – a sincere thank you to all members who were in a position to dig deep and dig early!!!

Pertinent issues at the time of writing include how much further the cooperative should take Nevertire and possibly the requesting of monetary contributions to road building and upkeep from our various neighbours along Nevertire and Illa Langi.

George Mac Keon of GME is experimenting with a softer limestone-type gravel which has a chance to be crushed *in situ* and thence be pressed into Nevertire's existing surface. This would cost considerably less than the quite pricey road base used elsewhere – in addition to obviating the need for sub-surface grading etc.(test results to be circulated as they come to hand).

Illa Langi's improvisory upgrade will not last long at all (what's new?) and further expenditure for maintenance of existing interior roads is also already on the horizon.

In closing, I sincerely thank all members who have helped me by contributing their time, expertise and effort in dealing with some aspect or other of The Great Work (you know who you are) and for the trust and moral support from the community generally.

Ralph