

Goolawah Cooperative

General Meeting 7th July, 2018

Chair: Peter O'Hara

Minutes: Rose Mahar

Attendance: John Tennock, Peter O'Hara, Tarrik Morssi, Peter Wells, Belinda Ball, Roger Ball (D), Michael Clancy, Alwyn Hunter, Ralph van Hulst, Trinh Nguyen (D), Clint Campisi, Jim Ronchetti, Margaret Leech, Rob Hewitt, Greg Ryan, Callum Lawson, Wayne Ellis, Julica Jungehulsing, Petra Kusseler, Atmo Kusseler, Anne Tennock, Al Blake, Ralph Erthel, Russell Childs, Kevin Harper (D), Lexie Gonzalez (D), James Galletly (D), Daniel Rose (D), Rose Mahar.

Apologies: Mohini Browngedge, Mark Doonan, Nityama Martin, Sattwa Horne, Alicia Fox, Bronwyn Little.

Visitors: Sainttina

Meeting open: 9:05

Confirmation of June Minutes:-

Proposed: Roger **Seconded:** Lexie

Approved unanimously

Business Arising from Previous (June) Meeting: -

New Tractor and the tractor usage agreement – Roger

Roger picked up the new 68 hp tractor from Bundagen and the new offset slasher. All prospective users will need to read the operating instructions and sign a usage agreement. Ralph VH is working on a proforma based on work safe/farm safe procedures. The draft machinery usage agreement will be put on the website.

Rules Update: P&G Committee – Peter O

Peter, Denise, Roger & Belinda have been working through the rules, by-laws and policies to iron out any discrepancies and problems and to update them. When this process is completed the updates will be posted on the website for consultation.

Goolawah operates using a 3 tier structure. The formal rules are the legal requirements set by the Department of Fair Trading and can only be changed with the approval of DFT. The By-laws are the internal rules such as the no dogs & cats rule and can be modified by the community. The third tier is the policies which reflect how we operate. We thank these dedicated members for their hard work and commitment.

Koala Habitat Trust: update – Dan

Dan explained that Goolawah's submission for the first round of funding was due by Friday. There was discussion about the location of koala habitat in Goolawah and what our role in protecting the area would involve. There was some apprehension expressed about where the Biodiversity Conservation Trust funds are coming from and Dan said he was unable to get a definitive answer from the fund representatives. Some other environmental groups such as the Nature Conservation Council are against the BCT. Members were concerned that it may operate like a carbon offset scheme whereby developers pay money to the fund which then allows them to complete developments without regard for the environment. There was a lot of doubt about how best to proceed

at this stage and a straw poll vote was held to gauge the mood of meeting. Based on the outcome of the straw poll it was decided to shelve the process at this time until we can get further information about where the funds are actually coming from. Members are encouraged to do their own research on the issue.

Paul Martin Memorial – Lexie

Lexie put forward a proposal to mark out a walking trail as a memorial for Paul. The trail would be marked on a map and would visit all the sites where Paul and helpers placed nesting boxes in the past. Lexie will contact the nesting box builder for more information and with the help of Wayne will begin the process.

Reports: -

Secretary - Ralph

Ralph reported that he included the employment of contractors in our public liability insurance coverage. Council have issued an updated list of grey water systems for which Goolawah pays rates.

DA/Roads - Ralph

Following meeting with S. Reinhold (Kempsey council) Geraldine Haigh is putting together a compromise plan to take to council. This should be completed soon. After the recent heavy rain our roads have suffered some damage. It was decided to wait until the roads dry out and to revisit the issue next month before taking any action.

Membership

- Ralph E moved to ratify the membership of Jim & Cindee. Seconded: Trinh
Approved unanimously
- Sainttina – is in attendance at the meeting & is going through the membership process.
- Tarrik reported that there have been lots of enquiries

Machinery - Roger

Roger reported that the old tractor is going well at present and is currently fitted with the slasher. Frank welded and repaired the slasher so it is working again. Frank also looked at the new tractor regarding a plan to put bars and a roof over it and also a heavy bar on the front to protect vital parts from damage. Greg Ryan also did some work on the tractor.

We thank Roger, Frank and Greg for their hard work and dedication in maintaining the machinery.

Fire - Roger

- There was some discussion about the community response to clearing of the fire break along Northgate Road. There seemed to be a breakdown in communication and a problem with the work completed by N. Hobbs in that he went further into the bush than expected and caused some regrettable damage. It was decided that in future a better system needs to be employed to make sure work is completed more sensitively. Strategies such as marking of trees and

constant supervision of any contractors may reduce the risk of future unwarranted damage occurring. It was also noted that now that we have our own verge mower we should be able to do a lot of this work ourselves.

- Mention was made that Roger received an accusatory email from Harvey blaming him personally for the issues relating to the construction of firebreaks around the community. It was decided following discussion that the Directors would send Harvey a letter requesting a written apology to Roger as his action contravenes the community's code of conduct.
- The cut-off date for completion of fire reduction slashing/mowing is 14th August. Fire restrictions usually start at the end of August so community members are encouraged to get their sites on order and burn off and push piles before then. Tarrik is going to try to burn the old push piles behind his place in the next few weeks and it was mentioned that there are several others in that area that need our attention.
- Ralph will send letters thanking the fire brigades that helped with the fires.

Treasury; including work claims – John

John presented the Treasurer's Report as tabled & on the website.

Proposed: John **Seconded:** Roger

Approved unanimously

- Work claims from Kevin, Peter & Julica, and Greg Ryan.

Proposed: John **Seconded:** Kevin

Approved unanimously

- John is preparing the paperwork for the annual audit so that the report will be ready for the AGM. He will also get advice from the debt-collectors about recidivist non-paying members and the best method to deal with them. There was a straw vote about making it 3 strikes and you're out when it comes to non-payment but there was little support for this.
- Annual Budgets
John proposed that Annual budgets for Fire Management \$4000, Tractor & Machinery \$5000, and Road Maintenance \$25000 be set at the same totals as last year. These were approved as part of the treasurer's report. Subsequently, Ralph expressed concern that given the current state of the roads \$25000 would not be enough for the year. There followed some discussion regarding how the budget is going regarding total expenditure, surplus etc. Perhaps there is a need to have a separate budget meeting with the directors? John offered to do a profit and loss analysis to be put on the website prior to the next meeting.
Thankyou John for your hard work and dedication as treasurer.

General Business: -

1. Treasurer Proposal re continuing road levy (of \$500)

John proposed that the annual road levy of \$500 should continue until the DA is resolved.

Proposed: John **Seconded:** Julica

Approved unanimously

2. Augmentation of meetings structure (GM's to be more frequent than three-monthly)

Following closer reading of the rules it has become apparent that there is no need to change the current meeting structure as a 'Special General Meeting' can be called at any time if given 2 weeks notice. It was therefore decided not to proceed with the proposal as noted in the newsletter. Julica mentioned she held some proxies which were no longer needed.

3. Occupation Certificates.

Kempsey council issue occupation certificates to residents after they have completed their final inspection. Individuals must request a final inspection. For more information see the DA Tracker on council's website.

4. Kevin requested permission to cut down 3 regrowth trees from in front of his block to be used in construction. Approved unanimously.
5. Alby has vegies available from the community garden.
6. Julica outlined some issues to do with the printing of the newsletter. Some discussion ensued about whether we want printed or e-copies; about the cost of the printing and whether or not members should pay for printed copies; about Ralph's costs not being covered due to the maintenance of his printer and should the community pay for repairs? etc. A straw poll revealed that most members prefer to receive a colour printed version of the newsletter. To be continued.

Gratitude Round:-

Thanks were given for everyone's attendance & community spirited contributions at the meeting. Special thanks to all the people who worked on the Last Resort, to all those who attended Larry's 75th birthday celebrations and the hard working community members who hold down positions such as treasurer & secretary and who contribute to various committees and groups such as men's shed.

Meeting Closed: 12:15