

Goolawah Cooperative

Minutes of the General Meeting 6th February 2021

Date: 6th February **Time:** 9:00am

Minute Taker: Louise Roberts

Chairperson: Craig Singleman

Acknowledgement of Country Yahway - Barri Dhungatti

Attendance: Directors:

Nick Reid, Kevin Harper, David Launt (whilst Callum Lawson on service leave), Adam Cvetkovski, Craig Singleman

Members:

Roger and Belinda Ball, Bronwyn Little, Julica Jungehusling, Peter Ohara, Tony Roberts, Alby Hunter, Rob Hewitt, Dennis Coburn, Rick Marie, Jack Larsen, Ralph V Hulst, Greg Ryan, John Brumpton.

Apologies :

Wayne Ellis, Wayne and Jenny Skinner, Rose Maher, Denise Coburn, Frank, John Tennock, , Callum Lawson, Bruce Hore, Cindee Pascoe, Jim Ronchetti,

Visitors :

Paul Cooper (old member) who will be staying with Crow while he assists with building.

Confirmation of previous minutes: (Chair)

PROPOSAL: To accept the previous minutes from January 2021 general meeting

PROPOSED: Dan Rose

SECONDED: Nick Reid

Carried unanimously

Business Arising :

1. Camp Kitchen – Disabled Toilets report from Wayne

The construction is progressing.

Posts, Frame and some joists are built. Bearers, Joists and Flooring are on site.

Next steps are:

- To continue with constructing the Flooring.
Pour concrete around posts and slab.
Order and Lay besser blocks for the Composting chambers
Complete Joists and Flooring for Toilet
Order the framing, then construct the walls and roofing
Order the roofing and wall sheets and install
Order railing timbers and construct
Order and install Disabled Toilet handrails and backs to toilet seats
TOTAL Expenditure for DA Camp Kitchen Disabled Toilets Project (Budget) **\$10,000;**
(Spent) **4937.02;** (Available) **(5062.98)**

Noted that construction is progressing

2. Koala Project

The Expression of Interest Paper work (EOI) has been attended and submitted by Craig on behalf of the Cooperative .

For noting: There will be a meeting on the 18th February in Crescent Head Hall for all EOI sent in. Craig is going to this meeting and invited anybody who wishes to join him. Peter Ohara wishes to go

ACTION : Craig to put a message out on the phone tree regarding this.

3. Gazette and Calendar

Jack spoke about the new team (Jack, Anna and Griff) who would like to take on the production of the Gazette. At this stage the Gazette will be electronic with members who want a hard copy to print their own due to time constraints. The team are seeking input from everyone with stories and photos.CoC

With regards to the Goolawah Calendar for 2021 it is thought it will be inserted into the next Gazette publication due in March.

Roger proposed the New team thanked for talking on this role.

SECONDED : Kevin

Julica and Griff were thanked for their hard work over the last couple of years.

4. Co-operative Secretary

A request for an update about what is happening with Steve Campbell and his role as Co-Op secretary was asked.

It was clarified by the Directors present that Steve is still the Cooperatives Secretary but has been asked to step aside pending answers to questions. Wayne Skinner has stepped into this role during this period. Dan Rose is assisting only while Wayne is away. The Board are waiting to receive Steve's response to questions. Steve has requested that the questions be clearer and that the meeting be in person. The Board are drafting a response.

ACTION : An update will be provided as more information is received.

New laminated share certificates are now available from the Cooperative Secretary.

REPORTS :

Secretary Report

Farm insurance is due 6 Feb 2021 still not clear whether this insurance is the correct one for Goolawah. Liability insurance exists as two policies and is due in July 2021. One liability insurance is for such occasions as injury on Goolawah and another for Directors liability in case of a legal action.

ACTION : Required Wayne Skinner to continue to investigate farm insurance.

Rates notices received and paid.

DA Report

Wayne is waiting on Hones Lawyers to respond with draft of DA Amendment.

Waiting on the need for a traffic report.

Road Report

Callum has met with George and is awaiting a quote.

General agreement was more potholing needs to be attended, and gravel to be ordered. Discussion about whether to have 2 piles of gravel one for Machinery Shed and one for Red Hill.

ACTION : Directors to organise gravel for potholing and decide if there should be 2 piles depending on cost.

Update on Maria River road

Following on from a conversation with Hastings Council (in charge of the project) Peter Ohara updated the meeting with the following :

- The Funding is secure
- The next 12 Months will be obtaining environmental approvals from the State Government.

- The following year is the tender process followed shortly afterwards with construction.

Currently Kempsey Council web site still stating no grading of Maria River road till May. Members encouraged to ring Kempsey and complain about the state of the road.

New road signs have been put up on Crescent Head Road.

Machinery Report :

Hydraulic Arm on the new tractor is fixed.

Brakes on the old tractor need to be fixed and is being addressed.

ACTION : Mens Shed will erect sign on old tractor regarding caution around brakes.

Discussion around putting the slasher on the new tractor. There are positives and negatives for this proposal and requires more thought. It was decided the best way forward is how to use learn how to use the new tractor.

Policy Report:

A meeting was held to discuss the Co-ops policies. The discussion was informal with the Complaints policy receiving the most focus.

There was over 20 people at that meeting with the outcome that people would print a copy of the current policy put their “red pen” through what they believed needed changing and and providing suggestions with what needed change.

This process is continuing. It was noted by the meeting attendees that the minutes for this policy meeting have not been released and this needs to happen.

ACTION :

- Bruce to provide a full updated report on the feedback and suggestions received by the membership and ensure all the community is aware of this process and can contribute (as no minutes published).
- Board to publish minutes from that Policy meeting.

Membership Report :

All transfers noted on today’s meeting agenda are in the final stages of being completed.

The cooperative is still receiving some enquiries of interest in the Cooperative.

Complaints Report :

Quiet January with no new complaints received.

Current disputes with the Board:

As the Fitzpatricks have not taken up the offer of internal mediation, their complaint has been closed.

Michael Clancy has not agreed to formal mediation , however some communication has commenced and the Board has offered Michael the option of setting aside his complaint until the complaints management policy review is completed.

Discussion :

How do the complaints team and policy team work together to update the current complaints policy if this is the outcome of the feedback received by the community.

ACTION: Nick and Bruce to discuss how to bring the process together to enable any updates to the policy that is required.

Social Committee report :

It was noted there has been many social events across Goolawah and a lot of fun.

To note within the next 2 years there will be a few members turning 50 and watch this space

Fire and Flood Report :

Flood: La Nina is still continuing. Goolawah normally receives a lot of rain around Easter.

Fire : As a consequence of the rain the grass and weeds across Goolawah has grown and will present a hazard when the next spell of hot and dry weather commences.

Several members of this team have done an inspection across Goolawah and a report is being developed with suggestions on how fire hazards are managed.

ACTION : Craig to table report next meeting.

Treasurers Report :

Treasurer's report was circulated at the meeting. There remains confusion over the billing system as Goolawah. After review it appears to be around the 90 day billing cycle with the new bill being received within a couple of days after the 90 day cycle.

A suggestion has been proposed to change the billing cycle from 90 days to 30 days with monthly reminders being provided till the next billing phase.

Further clarification is needed as to what happens with the interest on late payments between the 30 and 90 days

ACTION : For Community discussion at next General Meeting.

Work Claims :

Sattwa: 18 hours construction fire assembly shelter Red Hill

Accepting of the Treasurers Report

Proposed Craig

Seconded Kevin

Treasurers Report – Passed unanimously

Work Claims

In Favour 7 : 1 against : 8 abstaining.

Motion passed.

General Business

Directors, Treasurer and Secretary Nomination Process for next AGM: (Nick)

Cooperatives National Regulations have a sample process in Model Rules for a non-distributing co-operative with share capital, that is available to all cooperatives, that defines an approach to receiving nominations for Directors. Members can nominate a month before the AGM with their details and qualification, and a notice sent to the community 6 weeks before the GM to ask for nominations.

This enables the community time to make available the voting forms and be prepared on the day for receiving votes.

Proposal: That a question would be presented to the community at a GM to decide if the community should pursue this approach. If it is agreed to pursue then we would publish the Rule change to the community at least 21 days before the following GM to ensure the community understands the process.

Discussion around scenarios where there is not enough directors as the Cooperative must have 7 can this be done at the AGM ?

Proxies were problematic at the last AGM if this suggestion is accepted it would give people the opportunity to vote themselves

It was also suggested that next year should be a full female Board with support from most of the meeting attendees.

ACTION: For discussion amongst community members and to be brought back to next meeting.

Planting More Trees on the Oval at Red Hill

Ishbell has put forward a suggestion to carry on with planting more trees on western side of Red Hill Oval.

Clint has offered to donate the top soil left over from his dam build to this project.

Following discussion the following needs clarification before a final decision can be reached.

- If mounds are made with the soil, is the proposed design ensuring they are low enough to enable mowing
- Could markers and pegs be laid out where the proposed trees will be planted
- Budget for the project perhaps some landcare budget money could be used but would need to be fleshed over further.

Once this has been sorted there was agreement to explore further

Motion proposed to explore further Ishbell

Seconded Craig

Motion passed with 1 abstaining.

ACTION : Ishbell to report back to the meeting with assistance.

Sandpit and access road

Jack raised concern that the road near the sandpit which joins the fire access road has collapsed and the fire track appears compromised.

It was agreed the whole area is compromised and requires improved management.

ACTION ; Board to review and bring back proposed management plan.

Meeting Closed 11 am