

Goolawah Co-operative

Annual General Meeting Minutes 13 August 2022

Commenced: 9.04am

Minute Taker: Rose Mahar

Chairperson: Wayne Skinner/Craig Singelman

Acknowledgement of Country Yahway - Barri Dhungatti

Attendance: Rose Mahar, Samantha Wong, Jenny Skinner, Alicia Fox, Erika Schuster, Natalie Lawler, Elizabeth Locke, Lee Albert, Denise Cobourn, Peter Wells, Rob Hewitt, Dennis Cobourn, Anne Tennock, Clint Campisi, John Tennock, Russell Childs, Callum Lawson, Aliya Aamot, Ralph Erthel, Larry Knight, Leah Skinner, Marty Cole, Mairead Shorten, Alwyn Hunter, Mark Doonan, Peter O'Hara, Anna Du Chesne, Andrew Barson, Marc Rosenthal, Anadean Douglas (Sakura), Ben Adams, James Galletly (Lilyana), Justine Shaw, Frank Dykshoorn, Mark Green, John Brumpton

Directors: Kevin Harper, Bron Little, Ralph Van Hulst, Nick Reid, Julica Jungehülsing, Wayne Skinner, Craig Singleman

Apologies: Aaron Beahan, Sainttina de Moleay, Jac Larsen, Ric Marie, Belinda & Roger Ball, Jim Ronchetti, Cindee Pascoe, Gerard Shea, Christina Meyer, Steve Hall, Dan Rose

Visitors: Jack Pickett, Virginia Reid

Proxies: Sainttina de Moleay, Aaron Beahan, Stephen Campbell, Michael Clancy, Harvey Creswell

Inactive members are not permitted to vote at a General Meeting either in person or via a proxy (Rule 41a).

Confirmation of previous minutes: (Chairperson)

PROPOSAL: To accept the previous Minutes.

PROPOSED: Wayne

SECONDED: Craig

Approved: Unanimous

Directors standing down.

Nick Reid, Julica Jungehülsing, Kevin Harper, Bronwyn Little, Craig Singleman,

Wayne Skinner, Ralph Van Hulst.

Election of Directors.

(Rule 33 f and g) The following six candidates (in alphabetical order by last name) had nominated before the nomination cut off date to fill six of the seven director positions that become vacant as a result of the Directors standing down. As there are only 6 nominees these six candidates are declared elected.

Ralph Erthel, Julica Jungehülsing, Jac Larson, Nick Reid, Craig Singleman, Wayne Skinner.

PROPOSAL: (per CNL 172-174) To agree to declare the 6 nominees as a group as elected Directors of Goolawah Cooperative for the 22-23 year by a single resolution.

PROPOSED: Wayne

SECONDED: Craig

Approved: Unanimous

PROPOSAL: To agree to declare the 6 nominees as a group as elected Directors of Goolawah Cooperative for the 22-23 year.

PROPOSED: Wayne

SECONDED: Craig

Approved: Unanimous

Vote for remaining director.

Ben Adams was the only nominee so there was no ballot required.

PROPOSAL: (Rule 33e – Closed proxies are permitted). To approve the nominee as Director of Goolawah Cooperative for the 22-23 year.

PROPOSED: Wayne

SECONDED: Craig

Approved: Unanimous

Election of Office Bearers & Committee Members for 2022 - 2023:

Treasurer – John Tennock

Secretary – Rose will continue until Natalie is available to take over in December/January. Jenny will assist Natalie.

Finance Budget: Wayne Skinner, Ralph Erthel, Nick Reid, Denise Cobourn

Fire Management: Craig Singleman, Andrew Barson, Mark Doonan

Flood Warden: Craig Singleman, Andrew Barson, Mark Doonan

Newsletter Coordinator: Mairead Shorten

Web Administration: Peter O'Hara

Nomination for Committees & Director Portfolio Allocation:

DA committee: All directors are committee members (Vote of thanks for the DA committee)

Membership: Justine, Marty, Ishbel

Social: Larry

Internal & External Road Maintenance: Craig Singleman, Clint, Ralph E., Kevin, Callum, Mark G.

Tractor & Machinery Maintenance: Ralph Van Hulst, Kevin (Vote of thanks for Ralph VH and men's shed)

Policy: Board plus Denise, Marty and Peter O as needed

Landcare: Jac, Nick, Denise, Lee, Alby

Camp Kitchen Maintenance: Bron (Vote of thanks for Bron)

Complaints & Feedback: The Board of Directors

PROPOSAL: To accept all the elected Office Bearers & Committees.

PROPOSED: Wayne Skinner

SECONDED: Andrew

APPROVED: Unanimous

The directors will discuss and choose their portfolios at the next Directors Meeting.

General Meeting Component

Treasurer's Report & Work Claims: (John)

PROPOSAL: To accept Treasurer's Report and Work Claims.

PROPOSED: John

SECONDED: Wayne

APPROVED: Unanimous

PROPOSAL: To draw down the full capital plus interest when our NAB Term Deposit #9783 (BSB: 082-674 Acc: 345229783) matures on 23 August 2022, and to close this account. The balance to be transferred to our NAB Business Account #6867 BSB: 082-798 Acc: 488646867

Signatories on the Term Deposit account are Wayne Skinner and John Tennock

Rationale: The account isn't earning a lot of interest and this frees up the money to complete the first stage of Nevertire Road as per the DA conditions.

PROPOSED: John Tennock

SECONDED: Wayne Skinner

APPROVED: Unanimous

John also spoke about the need for 3 signatories on each of our accounts, with any 2 able to sign, in case of emergency. This may require a policy change to specify 3 signatories for each account. Natalie offered to be a third signatory on all our accounts. All the directors must submit their ID to the bank as part of 'Know your Client' requirements. John is also working on ideas for raising the capital required to meet the DA conditions. He has concerns about the community reaching GST levels with our income.

Business arising:

Special Resolution:

PROPOSAL:

To accept the Goolawah Co-operative Ltd Annual 2022-23 Administration and Infrastructure Budgets as posted on the Co-operative website.

PROPOSED: Wayne Skinner,

SECONDED: Bronwyn Little

Rationale:

The budgets consider the administration expenditure and requirements for infrastructure replacement and projects for the 22 – 23 financial year.

2021-22 Surplus has been placed into consolidated funds.

The outstanding liability for completion of the road per the DA is not considered in this budget however it is in the 10 year Master plan.

Should funding be required for Court action against KSC regarding the DA appeal, this will come from the Infrastructure DA road fund.

Liability exceeds revenue in both 2022-23 budgets however it is considered that the Levies remain the same with additional funding requirements taken from consolidated funds.

Contingency of \$10,000 has been included.

Funding for any new projects may be considered and approved separately at a GM during the fiscal year.

APPROVED: Unanimous

PROPOSAL: To Ratify (Rule 12d) the transfer of share 73 as a second share to Aliya and Crow Tribe.

Rationale: Aliya and Crow have completed the Share transfer and Ratification forms for share number 73 and have paid the Share capital. Wendy Penney has also agreed to transfer the Share to Aliya and Crow.

PROPOSED: Peter Wells

SECONDED: Ralph Erthel

APPROVED: Unanimous

Director's meeting minutes: (Wayne)

Available online.

Secretary's Report: (Rose)

Annual Stock return completed.

Finance report: (Wayne) See special resolution – budget.

DA Report: (Wayne)

S34 Conciliation Conference held on 9th August outcomes.

The conciliation conference was held remotely and was overseen by a commissioner from the Land & Environment Court. Each party supplied a statement of facts and contentions. Overall, the commissioner was very supportive of Goolawah Co-operative, however Kempsey Council wouldn't budge on the requirement to seal Nevertire Road. We did achieve some gains including a reduction in road width to 4m and the requirement to dedicate the crown roads was removed. All conditions, aside from ongoing maintenance were removed from Illa Langi Road. The development will be split into 2 stages – stage one is to seal in front of the neighbours' properties. Stage 2 requires the remainder of Nevertire Road to be sealed, however we have requested 5 years to complete this stage so that we have time to raise the funds required. This was a hugely significant meeting and the final written agreement should be approved on 24th August. This written document will be a firm commitment from the courts and must be adhered to by both parties. We have a consultant working on the design of the cross section of the road which will then be submitted to council.

There was some discussion about how much money we need to complete stage 2 and how those monies will be raised. This is to be referred to subsequent meetings for consideration.

Huge vote of thanks to all the Directors and the DA committee for their hard work in bringing this to fruition.

Road Report: (Kevin)

A lot has happened in the 2 months since the last road report, work started and went to completion in a window of dry weather that closed so fast that the grader was being loaded onto transport just as it started raining. It rained until it flooded testing out the new road surfaces. Nevertire held out well enough as it had a chance to bake hard in the sun for a few days before the deluge, Illa Langi on the other hand became a quagmire. The low part of the road between Hobbs' place and Maria held up fairly well with the grading and

the loads of dirty gravel that had been put on it but the hills and the red clay flat past the airstrip became a bog very quickly.

Guerrilla roadworks done without any reference to the roads co-ordinator then proceeded to destroy the new drainage that had been done along that stretch and did us no favours at all.

During the first lot of work I got a seriously distressed phone call from Dekka the contractor about a member who stopped the grader in a dangerous manner and proceeded to give the professional operator a big serve, claiming to be a better operator with all the knowledge in the world on the subject of roadbuilding (lets call him Member D). Dekka was not happy with this turn of events and I had to do some serious calm talking to keep this contractor on side with the co-op. Our previous contractor had been put off our job by similar abuse from the same member D.

Minutes later I received a phone call from member D proudly boasting that he had given the young grader operator a serve about his inability and lack of knowledge of roadbuilding. I then had to use serious Mr Harper Teacher voice to convince member D that he had done the wrong thing and has No Authority from the Co-Op to speak to the operator at any time.

After the flood, roadworks resumed for another job lot consuming 12 truck and dog loads of a much better sealing gravel mix for mainly the clay section of Illa Langi Rd. The floodway on Nevertire was also fixed up at that time.

The total spent for the two sessions of roadworks amounts to approx. \$55,000. A lot more could easily have been spent. I'd like to thank APH and Dekka for helping us to stretch our budget and achieve a good result that will hopefully hold in good condition for quite some time into the future.

During all this time I have been running around like a blue arsed fly seeing to the works to ensure we get value and a decent job done, with criticism and disruptive behaviour thrown in to the mix it has been a very stressful few months. Thanks to the majority of members who gave the road crew room to move and were appreciative of the work being done.

Complaints and Rule Breaches:

1. Atmo and Petra complaint against Mark Green re noisy rooster.

There was a lot of discussion about this issue. Mark spoke to the reasons why he has a rooster. Mark said he tried to approach Atmo to discuss the complaint but they weren't home. Mark didn't think his current rooster was particularly noisy as both he and his children aren't woken by it. Other neighbours did report hearing the rooster in the early hours of the morning. Mark conceded at the meeting that he would get rid of the rooster.

Some discussion points:-

- Keeping chickens for eggs, meat and fertilizer is a valid activity using permaculture practices;
 - Roosters are essential to maintain a flock. They ensure the hens lay fertile eggs and help protect the flock from birds of prey;
 - Depriving neighbours of sleep is inconsiderate;
 - Suggestions for fixing the problem so that all parties are satisfied may involve having a soundproof enclosure, having a 'community' rooster that could be housed in an isolated location or purchasing approved fertile eggs when hens are broody.
2. Dave Van Megchelen for breach of Rules.

There was a lot of discussion about this issue. Dave received a letter from the board outlining his breach of conduct to which he never replied. Some members felt a fine was in order as this is not the first time his behaviour has caused difficulty with our road contractors and ultimately cost the community a lot of money.

PROPOSAL: The community requests that Dave Van Megchelen have NO contact with any road contractors engaged in road maintenance or construction. Further, he is also instructed to consult with the community road co-ordinator before undertaking any personal work on the roads.

PROPOSED: Mairead

SECONDED: Anna

For: 25 Against:1 Abstain: 0

Craig will speak to Dave personally.

Policy Report: (Board) Nil

Machinery Report: (Ralph)

The old tractor has some steering issues and the mechanic has yet to submit a quote for repairs. There should be a quote by the time of the next meeting.

Membership Report: (Julica) Update on current membership situation.

At a recent meeting the membership committee discussed the 'no' vote at the last GM. It is hoped to improve the process to weed out any unsuitable candidates before it comes to the final vote, which can be very hurtful and upsetting. Leah suggested using the vision circle and past survey as part of the membership process to encourage a better fit for prospective members.

There has been a new enquiry from a family in Port Macquarie.

Ginny's application is still progressing and she hopes to complete the membership process in the next couple of months.

Libby Stewart decided not to proceed with her application.

Fire and Flood Report: (Craig)

During the last flood event Craig received a phone call from Bill from the SES warning about the rising flood waters. SES have been good about making sure that everyone is OK.

Craig will put together some notes to instruct members how to find the relevant local Maria River flood information online. There is a bit of lag time between the flood gauge (Green Valley) and Nevertire Road. Also the Big Hill flood gate is blocked so the water backs up and impacts Nevertire Road. A suggestion was made to put up depth signs as indicators next to the road.

Due to the ongoing wet season we are having, the opportunities to slash or burn off have been limited. All members are encouraged to maintain their sites by keeping grass under control. If anyone requires assistance they should contact members of the fire committee.

The Landcare group is hoping to organise a cultural burning workshop soon and Hot Spots are still planning a workshop for next Autumn.

The men's shed had an initial burn of accumulated garden waste at Gold Mine Hill recently but it didn't burn well because the material is too spread out. It needs to be consolidated then relit. A suggestion is to construct a ditch to facilitate easy unloading of waste.

Social Committee Report: (Craig)

A successful social event was held on the occasion of Larry's birthday despite the wet weather.

General Business / new items:

Russell Childs: Proposal to remove trees from site to prepare for building project.

Russell spoke to this and clarified some points.

- The 5 trees to be removed are actually on community land, not on Russell's site;
- They will overhang some parts of his new building;
- He has had to put the planned building close to his boundary due to a prior DA that effectively limits where he can build;
- No site plan or accurate measurement of the trees were provided.

For: 15 Against: 3 Abstain: 9

Approved

Project updates:

a) Camp Kitchen Accessible Toilet (Wayne)

Some areas need a second coat of paint and there are a couple more railings to go in. Then it will be ready for the final inspection.

b) Red Hill Last Resort (Julica)

Proposal to spend the remaining 2164.02 \$ from our budget on external contractors to finish the project (lining of Cupola, connection of water tank).

(This excludes the earth floor which will/might be done later and is of no relevance to the KSC ticking the Fire Shelter off.)

This proposal was withdrawn because Wayne Skinner and Mark Doonan have volunteered to finish the building.

c) Red Hill Playground (Marty)

It's been too wet to do much. The bark from the steppingstone logs has been used to mulch Jac's screening project. A large plank to repair the see-saw has been donated. Some left over sleepers from the camp kitchen project will be used to enclose an area under the monkey bars to contain the soft fall material.

d) Red Hill Safety Project (Wayne)

The safety signs have yet to be decorated by the children.

Next meeting: Saturday 8th October 2022 Camp Kitchen 9am