

Northbridge Progress Association Inc

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at St Marks Hall, Northbridge
on Thursday, December 8 2011 commencing at 8.05pm

Attendance: 38 members and guests

Welcome: Vice-president John Lightfoot (chairman) welcomed members and guests including guest speaker the Hon Gladys Berejiklian and Ward Councillor John Hooper.

Apologies: Cr Giles-Gidney, Peter McNair, Rob Coote, Alex Norquay, Jenny Roxburgh

Quorum: The chairman noted that a quorum was present.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on December 6 2010 were tabled by the chairman who noted that they had also been available on the Association's website for about 12 months. **RESOLVED** that the minutes are approved.

The minutes for the General Meeting held on October 6 2011 were tabled by the chairman who noted they had been available on the website for about two months. **RESOLVED** that the minutes are approved.

Guest Speaker

The chairman introduced the Member for Willoughby and Minister for Transport Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP. She referred to the current NSW Planning Review and noted that an Issues Paper had been released that day. She said she believed strongly that local Councils should be responsible for their own LEPs and stated that the government would "return planning powers to local communities".

In regard to new IR laws, she noted that the government had inherited a non-sustainable situation and needed to reduce costs.

The Minister was pleased with progress in her Transport portfolio. She had established Transport for NSW, which centralised transport planning and policy. She had hired six new deputy directors with specialised expertise and was also enhancing the department's project management skills. Sydney Ferries would be franchised in 2012. Electronic ticketing would be introduced to ferries in 2012 and to trains in 2013, with buses to follow.

In response to a question, the Minister said that there would be an opportunity to review the draft Willoughby LEP and that NPA should make its views known to the Minister for Planning. In regard to a Northbridge traffic study, she noted that there was a process whereby Council could apply for a grant to carry out such a study.

To ease congestion, the Minister said that a rapid bus transit way was being considered from the northern beaches to Warringah Freeway. In response to a suggestion that bus route 267 be extended to St Leonards and RNSH, she urged the resident to write to her. The department was examining the problems caused by locating the 202 and 204 bus stops in different locations at Wynyard.

Treasurer's Report for the year ended June 30 2011

The Treasurer reported that NPA's main source of revenue continued to be advertising in *The 202* newsletter. She thanked Pam Clifford, who was Treasurer for 15 years up to August 2011, and Michael Ball, NPA's volunteer Auditor. She encouraged residents to renew their memberships for 2012 or become a member. **RESOLVED** that the Treasurer's Report is adopted.

President's Report for 2011

On behalf of the President, the chairman reported on the major issues for the year – the proposal for a 116-bed aged care facility, the review of NSW planning laws, and efforts to achieve a traffic study for Northbridge. He mentioned several other local issues, including re-surfacing Northbridge Oval and The Concourse project. The President noted that the Association had supported Council in many of its activities. He thanked the local Member and the three Ward Councillors for their efforts on behalf of the community and commended local historian Pam Clifford on her two community awards. He thanked the advertisers in *The 202*, the Honorary Auditor, the Public Officer and everyone else who makes the Association successful. **RESOLVED** that the President's Report is adopted.

Election of the committee for 2012

The chairman reminded attendees that only members paid up prior to the meeting may nominate office bearers or vote. He handed the chair to Peter McLachlan to act as Returning Officer.

The following nominations for committee members in 2012 were moved, seconded and accepted in turn:

President:	Peter McNair
Vice-presidents:	Ron Hicks, John Lightfoot
Secretary:	Malcolm Lye
Treasurer:	Sheila Prater
Editor of <i>The 202</i>:	Penny Lye
Committee members:	John Becroft, Grant Sheldon, Rob Coote
Delegates to the Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations:	Jenny Roxburgh, John Lightfoot, Ron Hicks

The Returning Officer declared that the above committee members were elected for 2011 and returned the chair to the chairman John Lightfoot.

By acclamation, the meeting thanked Pam Clifford for her important contribution to the Association. Pam had stood down as Treasurer during the year after 15 years in the role.

Ward Councillor's report

Cr John Hooper said that, as a Councillor, his personal view was not as important as the opinion of the community and those most affected. His job is to represent their views and to find sensible solutions.

Cr Hooper said that it was not sensible that Council agenda papers were posted on a Thursday night for a Monday Council meeting. He called it "agenda by surprise" as it restricted community consultation and feedback to just a few days. In that time, he needed to seek community feedback and decide his position on 13 recommendations for managing traffic and parking at Northbridge Oval and to determine his position on seven options for redeveloping Willoughby Leisure Centre costing from \$30 to \$51 million. Cr Hooper asked for NPA's views on these issues before the Council meeting.

Residents agreed that NPA would write to Council seeking a deferment of these items so that Ward Councillors could seek community views and make more informed decisions. NPA would also propose to the Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations that the time allowed for Councillors to seek community feedback and Progress Associations to review Council papers was too brief.

Cr Hooper noted that Council had had a big year, completing The Concourse, the Incinerator, Northbridge Oval re-surfacing and Northbridge Baths Masterplan. He said that The Concourse was "a magnificent facility and a great asset to the arts community" but the great challenge for the Council in 2012 was to complete The Concourse project to address the lack of a hotel on the site to provide the forecast revenues from conferences to be held at The Concourse. He said that the costly theatres will/may not be able to pay their way and he was pressing Council for a revised financial plan for the facility so that the project can be completed. In response to a question, he said that Council had promised that residential rates would not increase to pay for The Concourse but mentioned that "Many Councillors support a Sport and Recreation Levy" to help with Council's finances.

Cr Hooper said that he was working for a sensible solution to improve the 149 Certificate process to ensure that potential property buyers are more fully informed about the flooding situation on a property.

General business

- The President of Northbridge Football Club, Rory Grace, said that issues with increased use of Northbridge Oval reflected population increases in the area. He did not see a major traffic issue around the oval. He noted that Northbridge Oval is the only one available to NFC for State League games because it has change rooms. Cr Hooper noted that, if Northbridge's synthetic surface proved successful, Council was contemplating similar surfaces on Naremburn and Chatswood ovals.
- Residents noted that the management of traffic, dust suppression and dirt on the road are being handled well by the developer during the demolition and excavation phases of the new aged care facility in Sailors Bay Rd.
- The coordinator of Neighbourhood Watch in Northbridge, Janet France, noted that fridge magnets had been delivered to all households with *The 202*.

- David Taylor noted that there are big issues facing the community and that Council processes should improve to ensure that residents are provided with more information in a timely manner.

Next General Meeting

The next General Meeting will be held at 8pm on Thursday February 23 2012. One of the speakers will be the new Centre Manager for Northbridge Plaza.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm. Members joined in Christmas refreshments.

Chairman: Date: