

Northbridge Progress Association Inc

Minutes of General Meeting held at Northbridge Golf Club
on Thursday February 24 2011 commencing at 8.05pm

Attendance: 24 members and guests

Quorum: The President noted that a quorum was present.

Apologies: Pam Clifford, Jenny Roxburgh, Peter McLachlan, Grant Sheldon

Welcome: The President welcomed Cr Gail Giles-Gidney, guest speaker Sally Hamilton and other members and visitors. He noted that St Marks Hall was no longer available for meetings and another venue was being sought.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on December 6 2010 were tabled by the President who noted that they had also been available on NPA's website for more than two months. **RESOLVED** that the minutes are confirmed.

Guest speaker

Sally Hamilton, Director Sustainability Projects, Willoughby City Council, gave a presentation on the subject: "Save money, save the environment".

She said that 37% of the average household electricity costs were for hot water. These costs could be reduced by up to 90% by use of solar systems and heat pumps. Substantial rebates are available from the State and Council. Sally said that domestic heating/cooling and kitchen appliances and lights contributed 23% and 16% to household costs respectively. These could be reduced by using energy efficient appliances, turning off stand-by power and using compact fluorescent lights or LEDs.

She noted that the NABERS website allowed a resident to rate a home. A 5-star house consumed 4 to 6 kWh per day whereas a 1-star house consumed 30kWh per day.

Council's preferred suppliers for solar hot water and power systems, heat pumps and rainwater tanks can be found on www.ClimateCleverShop.com.au

Sally presented information about ClimateClever programs for apartments, schools and businesses. She noted that Northbridge Public School is: "amazing for taking on environmental and sustainability programs."

In regard to Council's own energy saving efforts, Sally said that major projects included a co-generation project at Willoughby Leisure Centre which will produce energy cost savings of \$40,000 per year and 300 kW solar panels above the Westfield car park in Chatswood. She said that Council is developing a program to offer a free sustainability building advisory service. A "sustainable house" at 34 Devonshire St showcases simple sustainability ideas for the house and garden. 37% of Council's greenhouse emissions are from street lighting and discussions to replace the current lights with LEDs are ongoing with Energy Australia.

In support of Sally, sustainability “champion” Janet France commented that the installation of a solar hot water system in her home had reduced her electricity bill by 25%. CO2 emissions fell from 4 tonnes to 1 tonne per year. Subsequently, she installed 1.5 kW solar power panels at a net cost (after rebate) of \$6000. She sells excess power to the grid at 66 cent/kWh and her electricity bills are now zero.

A lively question and discussion period followed Sally’s formal presentation.

Ward Councillor’s report

Cr Giles-Gidney reported on a number of local issues and responded to questions from attendees:

- Despite a unanimous Council vote against the proposal, a State JRPP had recently approved the proposed 116-bed **aged care facility** in Northbridge, with minor concessions, notably an increase in parking spaces. Seven Northbridge residents, including John Lightfoot for NPA, had addressed the JRPP. The JRPP chair had opened the meeting by dismissing community concerns about non-compliance with SEPP controls and its concerns about traffic and parking issues. Cr Giles-Gidney noted that the Mayor had dissented from the JRPP decision but the Council officer on the JRPP had voted in favour. There was no appeal against the JRPP decision.
- A proposal to develop 663 residences on the **Channel 9 site** in Willoughby is being reviewed by Council. The TV tower will remain on the site. The approval authority is with the State, through Part 3A. Council is establishing a community consultation process on which NPA is not represented but will receive regular reports. It was noted that a Coalition government, if elected, had promised to repeal Part 3A.
- The renovated **Burley Griffin Incinerator** will be opened on March 5 with an art exhibition. The cost of the renovation had blown out from \$1.5M to \$4.2M because serious problems, including concrete cancer, had been discovered during building works.
- Work on rebuilding **Chatswood Mall** is proceeding, with trees and watering systems currently being installed.
- The re-surfacing of **Northbridge Oval** with synthetic grass is expected to be completed by end-March.
- Council’s **outdoor smoke-free policy** has been launched and adopted in malls and cafes.
- A public meeting attended by 60 people had reviewed the proposed **Market Garden** development on Eastern Valley Way. The main issue was the number of car parking spaces allocated to each of the 80 proposed residences. The meeting had voted unanimously for (mainly) two parking spaces per residence, as proposed by the developer, and Council had subsequently supported the proposal. Cr Giles-Gidney stated that no decisions had been reached about vehicle and pedestrian crossings on Eastern Valley Way for the development.

General business

- A member noted that a **proposed new Woolworths supermarket in Smith St**, Willoughby, was forecast to reduce traffic in Northbridge by 10% and remove more than 2 million kilometres of traffic movement per year from Willoughby roads. He asked how Council’s decision not to re-zone the site to allow the supermarket to proceed could be reviewed. Cr Giles-Gidney responded that Council officers had opposed re-zoning and that Castle Cove councillors were opposed to the proposal because of traffic impacts. She was also concerned about the zoning, traffic and potential impact on Castlecrag and High St shops.
- Janet France reported on the latest **crime statistics** for Willoughby and noted that there had been no break, enter and steal incidents in Northbridge during the period December to February.
- Janet France noted that **Earth Hour** would be held from 8.30 to 9.30pm on March 26. NPA had sponsored the purchase of beeswax candles for the six Northbridge restaurants which would be participating.
- The President said that **Clean Up Australia Day** was on March 6. NPA had organised collection bags for clean up of Northbridge Baths and car park from 12.15 to 2.15pm that day.

Next meetings

- The President announced that a public **“Meet the candidates”** meeting would be held on Tuesday March 15 at 7.45pm in Northbridge Public School hall.
- The next NPA **general meeting** would be held on Wednesday May 4 at 8pm at a venue to be announced. The guest speaker will be Willoughby City Council’s General Manager, Nick Tobin, speaking about Willoughby developments, including The Concourse project.

The President closed the meeting at 9.45pm and members joined in refreshments.

Chairman: Date: