



MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING – SUNDAY 28th FEBRUARY 2021

1. Meeting commenced 4.35pm.

President Liza Butler welcomed all community members noting what a pleasure it was to see so many people from our community gathered. A special welcome to Kaye Gartner, Councillor Shoalhaven City Council. Liza spoke about the difficult preceding months starting with the bushfires and then the COVID pandemic making it impossible to meet as a community. The result is a backlog of important issues to be dealt with today.

COVID every effort has been made to ensure the meeting meets all standards of COVID Safety as prescribed by the Shoalhaven City Council, including QR sign in, manual sign in, distance seating and sanitizing.

SHOALHAVEN RECOVERY HUB There is a new service available at the Ulladulla Community Centre for health, wellbeing and financial support. We encourage you to use these services if there I a need.

BEHAVIOUR Liza spoke about meeting etiquette as there is an awareness that there are some divisive issues on the agenda

VOTING clarification by Liza Butler that as voting was being conducted under the constitution of the Community Association only paid members could vote. Accordingly as fully paid members registered their attendance they were provided with voting slips and slips to use when a show of hands was required. It was possible to join the association on the day.

WRITTEN BALLOT Liza Butler explained that in her position as President she was empowered to decide if a matter could be voted on by a show of hands or written ballot. Due to the divisiveness of 2 of the proposals Liza will invoke this option to use the written ballot and will call for a show of hands to obtain the agreement of the community. The Executive Committee has concurred. Voting forms were provided. The explanation on how you use the voting forms to be explained at the time of voting. A motion was moved in conjunction with order of agenda changes. By show of hands there was consensus.

ORDER OF AGENDA to be changed to accommodate guest speakers and to bring forward the 2 items of main interest. A procedural motion was moved.

Motion: “To agree to change the order of the agenda to bring forward two issues of community interest, the Viewing Platform at South Gannet Beach and the Skate Park concept and that both issues be voted on after due debate and discussion as a written ballot.”

Moved: Liza Butler

Seconded: Allan Baptist

Carried

WRITTEN BALLOT: Barrie Ellis as Public Officer takes on the role of Returning Officer. Robert Jansma invited to be the scrutineer. Liza called for a volunteer from the community to assist. Paul Gilmour volunteered. Allan Baptist to assist in all areas where required.

Voting cards were issued to all paid members. An explanation of what the “yes” and “no” means after each motion to ensure that everyone is clear about what they are voting for.

2. Attendance Attendance sheet attached. Covid sheet attached for those unable to QR in

Apologies Shelley Hancock, Sandra Worth

3. Minutes last General Meeting conducted on Sunday 8th March 2020 – tabled

Motion: “To accept minutes as tabled”

Moved: Beverley Saunders

Seconded: Liza Butler

Carried

4. Community Projects / Proposals Update

- a. **Gannet Beach Viewing Platform, updated design and concept.** Artist Impressions were available as hand outs.

Liza Butler introduced the concept advising that Des Nicholls and Kerry Callaghan had worked very hard to come up with a design based on community feedback received and they are to be commended for this. They have secured the help of Mark Armstrong who is a world renowned industrial designer having designed the Olympic torch for the Sydney 2000 Olympics among many other achievements. Des Nicholls was invited to address the meeting. Des advised that the concept of the viewing platform arose 3 years ago when he was speaking to some disabled people who were unable to access the area to enjoy the coastal view. From there an initial concept plan was made available to the community and they were asked to comment. There were letters/emails both for and against the proposal. The 3 main areas that caused concern in the community were the actual design of the platform, the traffic issues and environmental concerns. These comments were all taken on board and the result is the latest design which attempts to address these issues. The slope for a wheel chair being pushed is 1:14. The slope for a wheel chair being self propelled is 1:20. Council will take all aspects on board should the proposal proceed

Mark Armstrong was asked to address the meeting. Mark advised that as a designer he firstly spends time on the site to get a feeling for what would work best. What are the benefits. What are the detractors. He noted that the site itself is very denigrated with a lot of weeds, overgrown bushes, dead trees. An aerial view showed that access is made through many different walking tracks all of which trample the natural vegetation which will not have the opportunity to regenerate. Mark noted that if a pathway is provided people generally use it.

The boardwalk design is slightly elevated and made of fibreglass reinforced plastic (FRP) in an open mesh pattern which allows rain and light to penetrate beneath. This will allow the natural grass to re-establish under the boardwalk. The boardwalk meanders in a relaxed way to a low profile platform for viewing. It does not denigrate the natural growth it actually protects it. Mark notes that the proposal is not all about the structure but also the surrounds. It's about native grasses and bushes being able to flourish. Landscaping will be a part of the process.

Des Nicholls thanked Mark for his presentation and rounded off by saying that council environmental officers will determine the final design and size should the proposal proceed.

Motion: "To work with council to design and cost the viewing platform at South Gannet Beach headland noting that this will require preliminary studies relating to the environment, aboriginal heritage and road safety issues"

Moved: Des Nicholls

Seconded: Kerry Callaghan

Comments and questions from the community:

Q. Will there be work with Bushcare to ensure the project covers the work they do to keep public amenity sites in a natural native condition

A. Bushcare will continue to be involved in all areas

Q. Has the problem of garbage been considered

A. The council will look into all aspects when the concept moves to design stage.

Q. Does there have to be a railing around the platform

A. The design is intended to be suitable for everyone so the council will take the need for a railing into account. It would be better for children and the elderly to steady themselves but in the end council will have the final say.

Q. Council landscaping policy for vegetation is 1.2 metres. This policy dates from 1996 and is considered outdated.

A. Councillor Kaye Gartner replied that the council is constantly reviewing things. If that policy hasn't already been reviewed and if this infrastructure requires an amendment to a policy it can be achieved.

Q. The old concept had the viewing platform extending quite deeply onto the headland as far as the rocky area. In the revised plan has that changed at all.

A. feedback from the community showed a preference for the platform not to extend onto the rocky area on the headland. The new design will allow plenty of room for movement on the grass at the end of the platform.

Q. As there will need to be a disabled carpark the site is not suitable. It should be at the south end of Bawley Beach.

Q. Where will the disabled carpark be located. Will all the casuarinas have to be felled to accommodate the car park

A. Council traffic experts will determine the exact location. They would seek advice from environmental experts

Q. Will the coffee van continue in the same location.

A. The coffee van is a completely independent issue which as a community association we have not been involved with

Q. If the viewing platform is to be part of the coastal walk wouldn't it be better to have the platform at Cormorant Beach where there are toilets and more parking.

A. Cormorant Beach was not discussed

Q. This area is a favourite surfing spot. Will the surfers be inhibited in entering or exiting the water by the structure

A. There will be steps off the viewing platform. There will not be any problems accessing the water.

Voting:

YES 95

NO 78

The motion was carried and will be presented to council for further consultation.

b. Skate Park

Sub committee update Liza Butler introduced the concept noting that at the Public Meeting of the Community Association in July 2019 the community voted to

a) investigate the possibility of having a skate park located in the area and

b) to form a Skate Park Committee.

At the Public Meeting in September 2019 the terms of reference for the Skate Park sub committee were tabled.

Shoalhaven City Council have a very comprehensive policy surrounding skate parks, so until the site, design, costings, area demographics have been completed, SCC will not contemplate the idea. The first step in the process has been to identify a suitable site. While COVID delayed any Public Meetings the Skate Park sub committee liaised with council to identify suitable sites in the area. After much consideration the site considered the most suitable is in Bawley Reserve at the southern side of the children's playground and BBQ. The other site considered is at Kioloa but this site would have meant

that the basketball court would have had to be demolished. It was felt that it was not wise to relinquish one community asset to build another.

Motion: “To proceed with the design and costing of the Skate Park at the preferred location – being Bawley Beach Reserve”

Moved: Liza Butler

Seconded: Paul Gilmour

Comments and questions from the community

Comment: Bawley Reserve is not a suitable site for a skate park. It is an area of peace and beauty with significant flora and fauna species. Many of the trees in the reserve are old growth eucalypts with many hollows. It takes over 100 years to gain this size and develop hollows. A large proportion of Australia’s arboreal mammals such as gliders, micro bats and birds such as kingfishers and parrots rely on the hollows in these trees for nesting and they are essential for their survival. There are many of these species found in Bawley Reserve. There is over 300 species of flora in the area of which 36 species are threatened. Of the 36 species that are threatened 20 of them rely on the hollows in the eucalypts. Based on the flora and fauna I consider it inappropriate to have an activity such as a skate park in the reserve. It’s a very beautiful reserve and more suited to contemplation and appreciation of nature. A document from the BioNet Atlas website showing species found in Bawley Reserve was tabled.

Comment: Mark Armstrong’s opening remarks about the Gannet Beach Viewing Platform he said who wants to degrade Bawley Point. A skate park is a degradation of the area.

Comment: Bawley Reserve is a reserve not a skate park. Of all the beautiful areas Bawley Reserve is the most beautiful. People who bought houses in the area did not do so to overlook a skate park. They bought to overlook a beautiful reserve. Some owners only found out last week about this proposal. If the majority of people most effected didn’t know about it. The vote should not be held yet. My proposal is to delay the vote. More time is required investigate details There are trees in the reserve that are a danger, you often see trees that have fallen in the wind. Will it be open 24 hours. How big will the skate park be? It seems that at least 7 trees will need to be sacrificed to accommodate the skate park. Will there be lighting. Is it safe to be tucked away in a reserve out of passing sight.

Comment: Liza Butler explained that a lot the questions would be answered during the design phase. There can be no forward movement until a site is decided upon. It’s a long process. This is just the community part of it.

Comment: Michael Skwarko from the skate park sub committee explained that wherever the skate park was built there would probably be a need to remove trees. The committee understands that this is an issue. The reason Bawley Reserve was chosen was because there is parking, toilets, a BBQ, a child’s playground, shade, easy access to the beach. It would be an ideal hub for young families to gather.

Comment: One of the criteria for skate parks in Shoalhaven is that there is passing traffic and casual observation. Most skate parks are set in situations where that criteria is met. That cannot happen in Bawley Reserve and wondering why that site was chosen.

Comment: Michael Skwarko from Skate Park Committee. The criteria of passing traffic and casual observation was met because the park area is often in use, there are public toilets available and the police would add the reserve to their regular route as a further safe guard.

Comment: the importance of the reserve to this hamlet. Often people meet in the reserve to celebrate the life of someone who has passed away and to reflect on a person's life. It has become a gathering point if someone is leaving the area. It's become almost ritualistic. The area is suitable for that type of gathering because of the quietness and tranquility. Not against the skate park but not in that area.

Comment: I support the skate park. Growing up in Moruya a skate park was built while I was young. We used to ride our bikes there, gather, have fun. It was a safe place to gather. I would like all the children in our area to have that opportunity

Comment: Lived in the area for 2 years. Agree that the area is beautiful. And can understand environmentalists wanting to keep the reserve the way it is. A ritualistic area is a perception depending on your use for the area. My perception is that I can take my young family down there to play. There is already a beautiful area and children's playground there. I would like to see the footprint increased for our young people and to enhance their experiences. I believe our children are our future. I would like to see our children enjoying themselves here instead of having to travel. I take my children to the skate park at Durass. There are no issues there, no violence. Durass is a beautiful community. I would like to see something like that in Bawley Point.

Comment: The area of Bawley Point and Kioloa expands by about 15,000 people at holiday time. Potentially up to 10,000 of those people are kids. The reason we objected to the skate park at Kioloa was it seemed that we were providing a recreation facility for the visitor's kids. With 4 caravan parks and 2 out of every 3 houses rental properties there could be up to 5000 – 8000 kids using the skate park which would be unsupervised and have unrestricted access. We felt it would be bedlam here in Kioloa and believe it would be bedlam at Bawley Reserve.

Comment: about 14 years ago I stated working to bringing nippers to the area. I had about 120 signatures of parents who wanted the program to happen. We started at Kioloa beach, a site chosen by Surf Life Saving Australia. In principle the program was backed by the community but in reality the parents did not bring their children to Kioloa. I am saying that if we had the skate park at Kioloa it would be there to service the caravan parks and holiday home renters not the residents. Understand that is not the vote today but wanted to forward my opinion that I do not want a skate park in Kioloa.

Comment: I am in favour of the skate park. Look around at the number of children here today. What I object to is at the last community association meeting I complained that the community was not being made aware of matters. I feel that everyone in the community should receive an email. I haven't been notified of anything. I would like to propose a motion that everyone in the community should receive email advice. I come to this meeting to find that a site has already been decided for a skate park. I think there is a better site. Adjacent to the men's shed where there is plenty of parking, a pathway will be available, there is passing traffic and all allowing casual observation. I am foreshadowing an amendment to the motion

Comment: Liza Butler pointed out the we are an organisation of volunteers. Even compiling a list of email addresses is a huge task. It is everyone's civic responsibility to be informed. Go to the website where the minutes are posted, the agendas are posted. We have just created a new website which will be even more informative. Information is in the Messenger, on notice boards

Comments: Not inherently against a skate park. Bawley Reserve is not a good site. Not much parking, old growth trees, environmental issues. The main users would be from caravan parks. It would a large inherently ugly structure that would always be bound to be attract graffiti.

Comment: I am here for the environment. I feel sorry for the children who won't see the beautiful trees that would be cut down to make way for a skate park

Comment: In the 2016 census 698 people lived in the area. Of that 698 20% are in the 0-19 age group which I think is the target group. The amount of money that would be spent is astronomical. Wouldn't it be better to use those funds to finish our current projects such as the pathway.

Comments: Liza explained that money is made available by council specifically for skate parks so this project would not be taking funds from other areas.

Liza Butler repeated the motion to explain it is not about size, design, cost etc. It is about the site. Council will undertake their own studies. Liza complimented the sub committee for their tenacity and work. There was continued interjection until we got to the vote. Complaints were made about advertising.

Barrie Ellis explained again the premise of the vote – council was consulted about a possible site for a skate park. They came up with 2 sites. Kioloa was dismissed. Bawley Reserve is now the preferred site.

Voting. If you say NO Bawley Reserve will no longer be considered as a suitable site. The sub committee will return to council to investigate other sites if there are any. If you say YES the sub committee will go back to council to move the project forward.

Voting:

YES	83
NO	95

The motion was not carried. The skate park sub committee will go back to council to investigate alternative sites

- c. **Boomer Crescent Reserve Table and Chairs – Kerry Callaghan** spoke about the project for a table and chairs at Boomer Crescent Merry Beach. This was first raised by a member of the community as a desirable addition for all to use. Council have done a letter box drop in the area. It has received council approval and materials have been set aside to complete the project. It should only be a matter of weeks before council advise a time frame for completion.
 - d. **Bawley Beach Reserve – Additional BBQ and seating – Kerry Callaghan** advised that council have agreed to the addition of 2 BBQs and extra seating at the reserve. Funds have been allocated and council will commence work hopefully in the near future
 - e. **Gantry Historical Walk – Allan Baptist** The gantry historical walk from the Bawley Reserve area to the gantry is a wonderful initiative highlighting the past. A series of signposts using a gentle walk highlighting points of interest. Council has applied for grant of \$150,000 to complete the project. They were not successful in gaining the grant. Allan will go back to council to explore other avenues for funding and any other grant opportunities.
 - f. **Murramarang Coastal Walk – Allan Baptist** no update provided
5. **Finance Report** – Roger Lucas gave a brief overview. As at July 2020 we had \$1786 in the account. This was made up of \$500 from council which is an annual subsidy to assist in the running of the committee and income from memberships. There has been significant growth in memberships in recent times. The balance as at 31st January 2021 was \$2445. The committee have undertaken to build a new website which to date has cost around \$1700. Roger encouraged the community members to look at the website to keep abreast of what's happening as this is the most useful tool we have to communicate with the community.

6. **GoFundMe – Roger Lucas** – this is the fund that raised almost \$80,000 in the wake of the bushfires in 2019/2020 for both Bawley Rural Fire Service and Kioloa Rural Fire Service. The fire captains have been purchasing much needed equipment and we believe they are probably the best equipped rural fire services in NSW. There is still in excess of \$29,000 in the fund for future requirements.
- a) Defibrillators. Both fire captains approached the community association to see if we thought there would be interest in the community if they purchase defibrillators using GoFundMe funds. This would be at a cost of around \$6,000. Our committee agreed it was a wonderful initiative. We now have publicly accessible defibrillators on each of the fire service buildings. They will be maintained by the fire stations and currently Russell Clifton is making enquiries to see if there is a suitable awareness program available.
7. **Solar Initiative / Community Resilience / MicroGrid** – Roger Lucas advised that 18 months ago Endeavour Energy approached the community to see if we would be interested in having a MicroGrid built in the area. A working party was formed including Barrie Ellis, Liza Butler, Glenn Cooper from Sunny Afternoons and Roger Lucas. We had 1 meeting with Endeavour Energy then Covid hit meaning that meetings were not possible. Investigations were delayed. Shoalhaven Council have now taken up the initiative with Endeavour Energy. An application has gone in for a \$4 million grant to build a MicroGrid in Kioloa/Bawley Point area. It's possible that funds will be made available to individuals and businesses in this area to be subsidised for the installation of batteries and panels to feed into the MicroGrid.
- Allan Baptist was successful in obtaining a premiers department grant to install solar power on the community hall building. It went live last week and the community will now be saving about \$2,400 a year on electricity. The hall committee is looking at upgrading the floor in the hall and also at the possibility of an extension. The community association is very pro active in regards to solar energy and will continue to investigate ways of bringing improvement to the community to the benefit of all.
8. **Community Connect** – Barrie Ellis provided information about the progress and funding for the continuation of the path. There is still \$300,000 set aside to complete Phase 2 of the path from Sandmines to Racecourse Caravan Park. The main problem has been drafting plans. John and Helen Nelson have agreed to part of their land being used to complete Phase 2 but the paperwork is taking time. Now the council is considering widening the road which will involve taking more of the Nelson's land. Phase 2 is expected to begin in the next financial year, probably July – August.
- Council have applied to the federal government for a grant to complete the whole path as part of the government interest in regional NSW.
- Q. What will happen to the funds that are already in the Community Connect bank account if the application to the federal government is successful.
- A. Barrie indicated that there is \$42,000 in the bank account at the moment and a promise of \$15,000 to come from Sport and Rec. Should the grant be forthcoming the community would be consulted about what to do with the funds.
- Q. The \$300,000 promised by the federal government is a tied grant and had to be spent by June 2021. If the work will not commence until July 2021 what happens to the \$300,000
- A. The \$300,000 does not have to be spent until FY 2022/2023. That is part of the reason that the progress on the path has been slow as the council have been working on projects that have to start by the end of this financial year. To complicate things the council have been restructuring making it difficult to get to the correct person with enquiries. The \$300,000 is locked in and council believes a further \$1.2 million is required to finish the path.
9. **Inclusion of word Termeil in BPKCA to BPKTCA – Barrie Ellis** The area that we represent includes Termeil. Can we include Termeil in the title.

Motion: “To include the word Termeil in our name to become Bawley Point Kioloa Termeil Community Association”

Moved: Barrie Ellis

Seconded: Beverley Saunders

Carried

Advised we cannot change the name as it effects the constitution. Further discussion at next Executive meeting.

10. Website bawleykioloa.org.au – Barrie Ellis Our old website failed. Some time was spent trying to sort this. A new modern website has been launched. John and Daniel Garrett from SoftCom have been wonderful assisting with all aspects. The website is now live but there is a lot of work still to be done to bring the information up to the level we want. As an aside, we need some photos of Termeil to add to the website when Termeil becomes part of the name of our community association.

11. AGM Sunday 28th March 4pm at Kioloa Community Hall

12. Other Business –

- a) At the last meeting people commented that the association does not do things for community and does not do things for the youth in the community. Unless you come to the association and tell us what you want nothing can be done. You came about a skate park and it’s on the agenda. If you want something done come to the meetings and talk to the committee. It will be noted and moved forward.
- b) Can the association look at the roads that go out to Bawley Point and the gantry area. They are in need of repair. Can the committee also look at the Willinga car park access to beach. There needs to be something done about drainage so that we don’t get the flooding. Liza Butler advised that the committee is in constant discussions with council about the condition of the roads in this area.
- c) Concern about the bush on Bawley Point. It is a significant area for several species that use the headland. Can we look at regenerating the bush on the headland. Is it necessary to have the road so far onto the headland imposing on the natural habitat of these important species. There is a lot of disrespectful behavior in the car park at the end of roadway. Bushcare works on council land. Landcare works on private land. The Bawley Bushcare group work with council supervision on virtually all the foreshore land including Bawley Point headland. There is a separate group at Kioloa working in that area. They welcome the assistance of people to keep weeds at bay and species that are not natural to the area. They also welcome advice from experts. Do not put lawn clippings on the side of the road or into the bush as this promotes the invasion into of weeds etc into the bush
- d) Can the council or department of main roads be approached about the main highway upgrade from Burrill to Batemans Bay. The residents of Termeil need to know how that will affect their homes and businesses. Liza Butler advised that she wrote to Shelley Hancock who was unable to attend the meeting today. She provided several leaflets explaining the upgrade and also emailed several files. These will be placed on the website in due course.
- e) **Community Connect** After the original section of shared pathway was completed by Alison Leslie’s team between Tingira Crescent and the Voyager shops, Graham Cooper and John Ross went to Council in 2012 to secure funds to complete the footpaths in Kioloa. In doing so, it kept the Community Path project going thus Kioloa feels that it has some equity in the footpath project. However, ever since the Community Association has been involved under the guise of Community Connect, descriptions of the path are always described as “from Bawley Point to Kioloa”.

To give due recognition to the concept of Kioloa’s equity in this project, it was felt that the next section of the path should be from Kioloa towards Mudholes.

Barrie Ellis indicated that the Community Connect Project had been divided into Four Sections, Section 1 being Voyager Crescent to Sandmines and Section 2 Sandmines to Racecourse caravan park. Section 2 was chosen as a priority as it was considered the most dangerous part of the route if cyclists were riding on the road, and it is already funded by a federal grant of \$300,000. However, Stages 3&4 from Kioloa to Mudholes and thence Mudholes to Racecourse caravan park would be the subsequent stages to be completed if the Federal Grant for the additional funds was approved as the ANU has already agreed to the path crossing its land from Butler's Creek reserve.

(The Community has completed: Bawley Point Settlement 1.8 kms; ; Kioloa Settlement 1.4kms;
Community Connect: Stage 1: 750 metres-completed; Stage 2: 980 metres- funded; Stage 3 &4: 1.1 km; 1 km respectively; both subject to a grant application)

13. Next General Meeting Sunday 28th March 2021 4pm at Kioloa Community Hall following the AGM

14. Next Executive Meeting Wednesday 3rd March 2021 6pm at Kioloa Community Hall

15. Meeting Closed 6.10pm