

Date: 3rd December 2020

Venue: Stockton Senior Citizens Hall

PRESENT: Willow Forsyth, Ian Taggart, Peter Twining, Ron Boyd, Barbara Whitcher, Rainnie Carter, Scott Brooks, Marilyn Rolston, Geoff Rolston, Sheila Moran, Les Moran, Amanda Plumstead.

APOLOGIES: Bruce Niblett, Debbie Griffiths, Keith Craig, Kate Johnson, Cathy Shepherd, Dave Williams.

TIME COMMENCED: 7pm **TIME COMPLETED:** 9pm **CHAIR:** Jenny Allen

MINUTES: Melanie Taggart

1. Present and Apologies.

COVID RULES as per Stockton Senior Citizens Hall

Thanks to members of Stockton Senior Citizens to allow SCG to meet in their premises and anticipate an ongoing partnership.

2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest and Confidential items. Nil

3. Minutes.

The format will be changed due to feedback that the minutes are too long. **Action: JA and DG**

Amendment to SCG minutes 29/10/20 BW

See 5. Outstanding Actions /Items

a) "Philippa Hill will actively ignore any community group other than SCLG" from SCLG/NC recording of 15/10/20 meeting

Added to minutes that three SCLG members disagree with that interpretation.

b) "SCLG are frustrated with CN" ...insert 'at times' after 'are'.

c) " Frustrations of SCLG to be listened to by council". Insert 'at times' after 'Frustrations'.

All opinions/statements from members should be consistently named /initialled.

Minutes moved by MT, seconded BA.

4. Presentations

4.1 SCLG Charter

Presentation by BW: Is SCLG an advisory or steering group? Clarification of role of SCLG was presented by BW.

Key points of document were summarised. See attached SCLG terms of reference

Discussion:

Question 1: SB If SCLG disagrees with NCC viewpoint on a particular matter, does this appear as unconstructive to NCC.?

Response BW: NCC do listen and do not think SCLG are unconstructive when disagreeing as SCLG always handle issues in a courteous but forceful way

Question 2: JAI Is it possible that these disagreements are minuted so the Community is aware of SCLG's stance. Would this further improve the opinion of SCLG in the community if when NCC make a decision without SCLG's knowledge or agreement it would be noted in SCLG meetings minutes.

Response BW. These objections are noted in previous SCLG minutes.

Comment: BA. The community not only SCG need to be made aware of these minutes and SCG might be able to assist here.

4.2 Draft communication strategy

JA noted that this has been sent out to Executive and SCLG for feedback.

The strategy describes how the SCLG, SCG and NCC best can communicate.

This will need to be revised and sent to all SCG for comment: **JA to revise and circulate after meeting with BW.**

5. Outstanding Actions

JA noted:

5.1. the amendments to Community Group Strategy, Rules of Association of SCG and Responsibilities of Meetings Protocol. Moved by RC seconded MT

5.2. Contact list completed, thanks to PT

5.3. Proposed future speakers Port Waratah Coal Services and local police commander.

5.4. Stockton swimming pool meeting to be arranged before next season starts in 2021.

5.5. SCG website presentation.

a) Feedback required from SCG members

b) Administrator to website is still required, all changes to website have to go through executive committee

c) Minutes and financial statement to be added to website.

d) Sharon Fraser and Dan Bright to be given a gift of thanks for value of \$100 each. **Action: JA and IT**

5.6. Possibility of a newsletter to be written monthly, possible volunteer already. Could be placed on the website.

5.7. Meeting with Andrew Smith Worimi, a BBQ was proposed that the Worimi will fund to liaise between the local Aboriginal community and SCG.

5.8. Hunter Community Forum discussion whether SCG should join. At present no other community groups have joined. Expression of interest from SCG but will wait to see what other groups do.

5.9. Rugby league posts requested to be available during summer, email sent no response

5.10. Ballast ground behaviour, there has been no progress with cameras. Maybe trees best option. Neighbour vigilance not a long term option. Council now concerned about damage to area. So hopefully council will come up with solution.

6. Standing Agenda Items

6.1 SCLG: Report from BW.

BW noted that:

6.1.1 Ian Taggart to replace Kate Johnson in SCLG.

6.1.2 Joanne Rigby's response to queries raised through member correspondence post October SCLG meeting sent out to all SCG members.

6.1.3 No decision made as to potential use for tetrahedrons/tank traps.

6.1.4 In December a list of potential coastal management strategies will be received by SCLG and be forwarded to SCG. This list will also be forwarded to consultants to carry out a feasibility assessment of all options. A workshop then will be carried out with SCLG in late January to discuss these findings.

6.1.5 No plan for shoreline retreat at Caravan Park, there will be protection.

6.1.6 NCC and PON working together to repair Breakwater, then the access to beach will be repaired.

6.1.7 Any concerns can be taken by BW directly to NCC.

6.1.8 Hard copies of Stockton works update available through BW.

6.1.9 Discussion

Question 1: JA Why was the CMP divided into 3 parts?

Response BW: to save on time and resources of NCC.

Question 2: IT When will there be a timeline available from NCC when substantial sand will be on beach.

Response BW: Best likely source/cost of sand will be from river, earliest December 2020. There is a concurrent push for offshore sand nourishment.

Comment JA: Community should be made aware of delay in sand being placed on beach. Perhaps a community forum/information session should be held so whole of Stockton community can have a say.

Question 3 JA: Should we take sand that is immediately available or take a risk to wait longer for larger quantities of sand that are not 100 percent certain?

Response from BW and group discussion: There are a variety of differing opinions on this.

Comment BA: Appears to be a pattern emerging of delays from NCC, the community needs to be aware of this.

Question 4 IT: Can the \$4 million be used to source trucked sand be used for other sand sources? BW, RB and AP commented. The consensus from SCLG was yes.

Comment IT: In Stockton works update to community, no mention of change in CMP plans. Community are led to believe that sand nourishment will occur as in CMP.

Comment JA: Council need to use plain English to communicate with residents.

6.2 State Taskforce

Report by BW: Not a great deal to report. Next meeting Tuesday 8/12/20

6.3 PON

Dave Williams was not present to provide a report

6.4 NCCCE

JA noted on behalf of KC that there has been no meeting since previous report

Working Party Group reports

6.5 Stockton Beach and CMP

IT noted that:

6.5.1 A list of questions were sent to SCLG. The most important was timeline for sand replenishment but already discussed previously in this meeting.

6.5.2 Coastal engineer been approached to review studies on Stockton Beach (Angus Jackson)

Break water and channel often not discussed so it will be good for SCG to have a written report from an outside expert.

6.5.3 Latest sediment report does not discuss loss of sand to channel.

6.5.4 Comment JA: Andrew Smith suggested a solution that places holes in breakwater.

Response IT: It is noted that this is technically doable but unlikely to be suitable. It is equivalent to sand bypassing from Nobbys that has been rejected previously on cost grounds.

6.6 Crown Land

RC noted that:

6.6.1 Following up on how much development NCC can carry out on Crown lands without consent from Crown Lands. ie coffee shop/shipping container placement.

It appears NCC can carry out installation of “food preparation and related facilities for people using the reserve” on Crown Land without DA approval. Generally, the understanding is that this would be picnic table, benches and a tap. There is no definition in the Act so it is up to NCC to interpret this.

There are more restrictions on a similar site for someone who is applying for installation of a café. ie 3m clearance from roadway. So generally there are concerns about safety and the planning with its ad hoc nature...

There are no plans according to NCC that the coffee shop/ shipping container will stay on site after one year.

6.6.2 The crown land for both caravan Park cabins and coffee shop/shipping container is not dedicated Aboriginal Land, there has been no application for this to be Heritage listed

6.6.3 Very important that a communication plans set up between Crown Land and NCC.

6.6.4 Scott Brooks nominated to be part of Crown Lands working party

6.7 Orica – AN storage Kooragang Island

JA noted on behalf of KC that:

6.7.1 SCG is not advocating an Orica shutdown, would like Orica to store AN elsewhere

6.7.2 Opinion article by IT in NH “Newcastle learnings form Beirut AN blast” 12/11/20

AustralianSuper article in SMH stating they want to pull back from investments in coal industry. AustralianSuper is a major shareholder in Orica. Letter needs to be sent to Australian Super to encourage them to exert their influence to encourage Orica to be a better community member.

Action: IT

This one letter can be used as a proforma for more letters to other Orica shareholders.

6.7.3 Any other ideas welcome.

6.7.4 Petition will be revisited to see if it can be put back on political agenda.

6.8 Stockton Community Environment and Safety Issues

JA noted on behalf of DG that:

6.8.1 Letter written to Defence ministers re maintenance of defence site. Letter ended up with John Barilaro and have been reassured site will cleaned up by Christmas.

6.8.2 Hunter Water (HW) meeting with SCLG and SCG 10/12/20.

a) Could be potential access to beach through Hunter Water site, though HW do not think they are responsible for funding. This is the responsibility of NCC.

b) Advised HW SCG do not want this parcel of land being sold off to developers

c) possible fencing options discussed. **JA to follow up with options for comment from SCG.**

Possibility of grant funding: lighting of bike track discussed as an option

HW expressed that communication with NCC is frustrating, so highlight that a communication strategy is essential

7. Correspondence

Please contact JA if want to see copies of any recent correspondence as noted in the agenda.

8. General Business and Business without notice

8.1 JA: Incorporation of SCG.

IT commented of benefit of incorporation. Namely:

- a) Recognises Community group as a legal entity.
- b) Allow formal access to various grants
- c) Provides a degree of separation of the committee and members from any legal liability
- d) Yearly cost of \$120 and bookkeeping fees.

Proposed IT, seconded PT **Action: IT**

8.2 JA: There is a proposed fund \$50/week to fund, Treasure Island... "not yet an island but always a Treasure". This was a proposal by SM, LM to help fund things across community. JA expressed great thanks and appreciation for this concept. This account should be transparent and regular statements available to SCG members and the community. Propose set up an account Treasure Island. **Action: IT**

Description, criterion and purpose to be written for fund. **Action :JA in conjunction with SM & LM.**

8.3 Pop up Art exhibition 19,20 /12/20, at 221 Mitchell Street, percentage of profits to be donated to Treasure Island fund.

8.4 Newcastle Voice, encourage community to go online and contribute. Especially feedback on new Stockton streetscape

8.5 Rates for Stockton senior citizen rates should be waived, letter to NCC. **Action: JA**

8.6 Concern over size of buildings/Granny flats being built in Stockton, contact SCG with any information on future plans/building. A new working group to be formed by BA to follow up with any issues.

Next Meeting Thursday 7pm 28 /1/2021 Venue: TBA