



## **DSRA AGM, Swansea Town Hall, Saturday, January 27, 2018**

Meeting declared open at: 2.10

Attendance: see appendix

Apologies: Christine & Colin Ferguson, Alan & Jenny Gifford, Anna & Roger Green, Shaun Flannigan, Nicki Betts

### 18.1.1 Minutes of AGM held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017

To be read and accepted.

Moved: Anne Held

Seconded: Glen Wigg

### 18.1.2 Matters arising from previous meeting (none)

### 18.1.3 Reports from office bearers

President's report. No report as president has resigned. Colin Stevenson gave a short report. Listed some of the outgoing committee's achievements, eg the turn-off land to Swan River Rd; the sign at the beginning of DS Rd, NHW fire signs. Committee has sent a letter of thanks to Peter Geard. Acknowledged Diane Bricknell, Gary Stoward and Jeni Crawford's contributions.

To be read and accepted.

Moved:

Seconded:

### 18.1.4 Treasurer's Report

Audit exemption (not discussed)

Approval of financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2017

Treasurer's report to be accepted

Moved: Gary Stoward

Seconded: Anne Held

#### 18.1.5 Executive Committee election.

As the number of nominations for vacant positions equals the number of vacant positions, the persons nominated were taken to be elected.

President: Cherry Andrews

At this point in the meeting, Colin Stevenson stepped aside and requested the new president, Cherry Andrews, to chair the remainder of the meeting. Diane Bricknell stepped aside as minute-taker. Robyn Moore took the minutes for the remainder of the meeting.

Vice-President: Neville Stewart

Secretary/Treasurer: Robyn Moore

Committee member: Danny Allford

Committee member: Grant Andrews

Committee member: David Cooper

Neighbourhood watch rep (not discussed)

#### 18.1.6 Any business arising (none)

Elizabeth Stroud thanked the outgoing committee for their hard work & achievements.

Meeting closed at: 2.30

### Attendance list DSRA 2018 AGM/GM

Danny Allford	Tricia Jay (by proxy)	Glen Wigg
Sallee Allford	Geoff Jones	Sally Wigg (by proxy)
Cherry Andrews	Maree Keenan (by proxy)	Mitty Williams
Jenny Andrews	Russell Keenan	Neil Wiseman
Grant Andrews	Yon Kikkert	Sue Woolley (63)
Steve Barrett	Laurie King	
Sue Barrett	Terri Lazzari	
Diane Bricknell	Ian McCormick	Additional proxies (not recorded on attendance list)
Jennie Churchill	Margaret McCormick	
Rob Churchill	Chris McEwen	
Jan Cloke	Dan Monsen	Petrus Boekel
David Cooper	Robyn Moore	Yvonne Boekel
Jenifer Crawford	Jo Petersen	Alain Coltier
Stevie Davenport	Leigh Sealy	Janine Cues
Geoff de Ree	Liz Sealy	Susan Henning
Jane Fist	Craig Selkirk (by proxy)	Malcolm Innes
Polly Flanagan (by proxy)	Barry Smith	Gillian Johnson
Diane Flannigan	Dianne Smith	Pamela Lovell
Brett Harrison	Greg Smith	Rick McMahan
Liz Harrison	Colin Stevenson	Sarah McMahan
Brian Hartnett	Maureen Stevenson	Gavin O'Neill
Jacky Harnett	Gary Stoward	Sandra O'Neill
Anne Held	Elizabeth Stroud	Sally Rigney
Ian Helmond	Danae Stewart	Nicholas Shakespeare (14)
Ken Henning	Neville Stewart	
Robyn Irving	David Swifte	
Ross Irving	Mike Tierney	
Leni Jarvis	Lorna Turner	
Ian Jay (by proxy)	Vivian Wang	



## **DSRA General Meeting, Swansea Town Hall, Saturday, January 27, 2018**

Meeting declared open at: 2.45pm

Attendance: see list

The Chair, Cherry Andrews (President), gave a brief introductory speech, welcoming everyone & introducing the new committee again. The outgoing committee were thanked for their achievements & dedicated work & were wished well.

The Chair noted that the new committee aims to consult by holding open discussions and, where appropriate, form working groups to investigate issues and report back at General Meetings, so that the membership can make an informed vote. General Meetings are to be held more regularly, most likely coinciding with Easter & long weekends.

Apologies: As for AGM; also Moira Laverty, Jeremy Furniss, Ann Sullivan

### 18.1.1 Minutes of 2017 General Meeting

To be read and accepted.

Motion that the minutes are taken as read.

Moved: Brett Harrison

Seconded: Dan Monsen

Carried.

### 18.1.2 Matters arising from previous meeting (none)

### 18.1.3 Office Bearers' Reports

As per the AGM

#### 18.1.4 Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

Gary Stoward, the outgoing NHW rep, gave a brief report. The DSRA received a \$600 grant from NHW which went towards upgrading bushfire signs on DS Rd. NHW 'show bags' were available at the meeting for members to take. NHW has two areas of focus for the year: 1. securing vehicles, eg when re-fueling; 2. rubbish bins which are left out for many days, which clearly show that no one is at home. Gary will not be continuing as NHW rep.

Additional information available at the meeting included printed material on how to keep your possessions safe, bushfire information and rainfall records.

The local Police Sergeant was invited but unable to attend the meeting, so Gary read his report. There was one crime reported in the area during the previous year: stealing of fishing rod, fuel & portable fuel tank. Further issues include illegal cutting down of trees in Cambria, crossing of rock barriers allowing access to beach area and lighting fires at Bagot Point. Overall, a pleasing result. The efforts of the DSRA were much appreciated.

Gary also spoke about preparing properties for bushfire:

Lesley King, from Tasfire, was invited but unable to attend the meeting. Lesley King, Gary Stoward & local Fire Chief Ken Nichols are available to give free fire inspections at residents' properties. These inspections focus on issues such as access for fire trucks and advice about water tanks. Lesley King is also available to give individualised advice on your fire plan and the fire activation plan for the whole area. It is believed that there is no cost attached to this service. Anyone who would like to request Lesley to provide this service was asked to give their name to Gary.

Interjection from the floor: apparently, this morning water was stolen from a tank at a property near Yellow Sands Banks Rd.

DSRA with GSBC applied for a grant for 2 new fire tanks (30, 000L) to be installed on DS Rd. Gary emphasised that these tanks won't make your property safe, but may help in the event of a fire. Gary cautioned against taking this water, not only because it may be needed by the fire brigade, but also because the foam in the fire brigade hoses makes the water unsuitable for household purposes.

The Chair noted that Tony Mulder, who is standing as an independent for the new legislative seat of Prosser, was present at meeting.

18.1.5 Swan River Crossing. This item refers to a proposed 6-car barge operating between Bagot Point and Swanwick. Colin Stevenson said that item was added to agenda simply to keep it on the agenda so that residents are aware of the issue and can ask questions. As far as Colin knew, no progress had been made regarding the proposal. The information the outgoing committee has regarding the proposal will be passed onto the current committee. The outgoing committee has contacted council regarding the proposal a couple of times in the last 18 months, but they have no

additional information. Colin emphasised that once the development is advertised, there's only a 2-week window to respond.

Interjection from the floor: concern about dodgy deals happening in Tasmania

Jenifer Crawford commented that Council staff gave letter of approval to developer. This was not the elected members' decision.

Motion to refer issue to committee to investigate community sentiment & report back at next General Meeting:

Moved: Grant Andrews

Seconded: Carrie Brink

Carried.

#### 18.1.6 Council rubbish bins at beach access (approx. 5 km mark), Yellow Sandbanks and Bagot Point

Chris McEwen commented that DS seems to have been left off the rubbish bin map. He suggested a bin is also installed at the pull-off area near the Cambria Drive turnoff. The absence of rubbish bins means that rubbish is sometimes left behind. Chris suggested that this is the sort of thing the DSRA should chase council up about. A bin at the end of Swan River Rd was also suggested, although some members stated that there was one there already.

Glen Wigg noted that residents generally pick up rubbish. Most people will do the right thing if provided with facilities. A few extra bins will add next to nothing to council work load when collecting garbage on DS Rd. The provision of rubbish bins is needed due to the increase of activity on the beach in the last few years. It is possible that people currently use residents' bins that are left out.

Gary Stoward presented some objections raised by the relevant council officer, Tony Pollard, such as the probability that the bins would be used by residents which may lead to them being full and unavailable for tourists; also the cost factor.

Motion: That council be requested to provide rubbish & recycling bins at all beach access points

Moved: Glen Wigg

Seconded: Brett Harrison

Motion to amend motion: insert the word 'cleared' before beach access points

Moved: Dan Monsen

Seconded: Danae Stewart

Carried.

Vote on motion as amended: That council be requested to provide rubbish & recycling bins at cleared beach access points & Swan River Rd & Yellow Sand Banks

Carried. Thank you to Chris McEwen

#### 18.1.7 Bushfire Management Plan

David Cooper raised his concerns with the current bushfire management plan which is quite light on detail. The current suggestion is to stay & defend or vacate. Because he has young children, David will not consider staying & defending in the event of a fire. David's property is close to the Bagot Point end of the peninsula. If the fire comes from the west (the most likely direction), he would also not consider vacating by road (as this would take him into the path of the fire). David asked where that would leave him & his children?

Motion: that the bushfire management plan has a review undertaken by suitably qualified personnel with a view to the plan being amended

Moved: David Cooper

Seconded: Brett Harrison

Carried.

Gary Stoward noted that printed copies of the (recently updated) current plan were available at the meeting. Version 2 of the fireplan has removed the list of safe neighbourhood places from DS because height of sand dunes was considered to create a risk of people being exposed to fire at the beach & the risk of drowning if people were in the water. Therefore, there are no safe places in DS according to TasFire.

Gary advised that the emergency action plan on the Council website includes a section on fire and reiterated seeking advice from Lesley King

Carrie Brink noted the importance of discussing this topic as a community, because we have to go somewhere. TasFire have advised that it may be beneficial if the community gathers together in the event of a fire as we would then be easier to rescue. Carrie suggested that the community needs to take responsibility for this issue

Possibility of asking Lesley to speak to the group, eg at the next general meeting.

David said that if our lives are in danger, we'll go over the rocks at Bagot Point, rather than sit on the beach.

The question was asked: who are the suitably qualified people and how will we pay them?

The Chair introduced the next item, Bagot Point (BP) Management by explaining a change in the order to agenda items. Item 18.1.10 (Update on Bagot Point launching facility) to be discussed as part of this next item.

#### 18.1.8 Bagot Point Management

Yon Kikkert stated that BP is a beautiful, pristine community asset. Another community asset is possibility of launching boats in deep water close to shore, which is not typical of Nine Mile Beach. It is no accident that this access point has had long-term usage, eg by three generations in some

families, over 40 years in others. There is a lot of meaning attached to this access point to a large proportion of community. People buy at DS in order to launch their boats, as BP is the gateway to the Freycinet peninsula.

A few years ago a line of rocks turned up which blocked off the traditional deep-water launching access point, without 'boaties' being consulted or advised.

Over the last few months these people, who had been excluded from the decision to install the rocks, got together, held public meetings, dealt with Crown Land Services and met with the Premier. Every time they have been knocked back. It began to feel as if they were flogging a dead horse.

One of the reasons given by Kathryn Clark (PWS) is that not all sections of the community were in support of any change to the rock barrier. Other options include using a boom gate (see below).

There is some mythology that the gradient at the deep-water launching spot is too steep to launch boats. It is a dynamic system but the gradient good again, as confirmed by a local 'boaties'. Yon stated that there was a need to change the situation where a whole section of community has been shut out from their traditional land use practices without consultation.

Motion: That the community establish a working group to try to integrate the different viewpoints in order to come up with a management plan for the BP area.

Yon invited David Cooper to expand on the boom gate option. David stated that he would like to see rocks moved altogether, although he figured there must be a reason why they were put there. David raised safety issues regarding the general installation of the rocks. The rocks are flooded daily which has a scouring effect. At low tide, water is held in various pools around the rocks which is a risk for infants, young children or others that might trip & fall. Alternate suggestion is to install a boom gate. The would prevent access in the same way that the rock barrier does now. Only those with a key could access the deep-water launching spot. David explained that he doesn't want to allow vehicles access to the beach. His family bushfire management plan is to go to BP. The boom gate would serve a dual purpose: prevent open access to the deep-water launching spot and allow access in the event of fire. The boom gate concept is common to municipal sporting grounds and other public areas. It is used in Bicheno so that 'nippers' & surf club can access to public open space. Keys would only be distributed to local 'boaties' who pay a bond & sign up to a code of behaviour.

Terri Lazzari stated that not everyone in the community was aware of BP issues. The Association wasn't involved. Concern that dialogue started through facebook and that an item went straight onto the agenda from facebook.

The Chair explained that any member of DSRA has the right to suggest agenda items (deferred to general business)

Brett Harrison outlined the option of the BP launching facility. Brett commenced a dialogue with MAST & Jason Jacobi (PWS) to get in-principle approval for the construction of a launching ramp within the currently accessible area. MAST explained that Crown Land Services (CLS) approval was necessary as a first step. Hence discussion with CLS/PWS. To date in-principle approval has not been forthcoming. Jason Jacobi would rather see the Yellow Sand Banks facility upgraded. However, this is only suitable for use during the daytime due to navigation hazards down-stream which are not clearly marked. However, BP is an all-hours facility. Thanks to Ross Irving for providing a map of possible locations for the launching facility. This is a long-term option. A more immediate option would be to have access to the old facility, or a boom gate.

Brett requested the association to continue to approach CLS in relation to each of these three proposals to see which one can be achieved so that a range of community objectives can be achieved. Is there an acceptable compromise?

Jennifer Churchill noted that Council has spent money upgrading the launching ramp in Swansea and asked if this was suitable. Yon Kikkert explained that to access Freycinet from Swansea, 'boaties' had to travel over 16kms of open water each way to get there & back, which is a potential safety hazard. Jennifer stated that she assumed one of the reasons given by CLS for refusing to move the rocks was shore bird protection. She emphasised that shore bird protection is an important part of the discussion.

The Chair stated that there was obviously lots of discussion still to be had. She stated that everyone will get 'another bite of the cherry'. Any further discussion will be reported back to the next general meeting. There is a need to ensure that everyone in the association has an opportunity to respond.

Suggestion to put questionnaire to all members of the Territory for their opinions and input.

Motion: that a working group be formed to progress the management of BP, in consultation with all members & external stakeholders, & report back at the next general meeting

Moved: Grant Andrews

Seconded: David Cooper

Carried

Terri Lazzari stated that she was concerned about the use of proxies as it hadn't happened before

Jeni Crawford suggested that it would be good to be consistent regarding where motions were counted or not.

#### 18.1.9 Constitutional review

Robyn Moore explained that at a meeting in late December between the outgoing committee and members of the renewal group, it was agreed that some sections of the constitution needed to be reviewed to clarify their intent. She explained the process for amending the constitution, as stated in the constitution – that a motion of suggested amendments would be brought to a General Meeting. This motion would then be voted on at the next General Meeting. Amendments require a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority of members present or by proxy to be passed.

Nick Bax asked whether the vote on constitutional amendments could occur at the AGM rather than at General Meetings. Robyn explained that due to the need to put the motion forward at one meeting, and then not vote until the next meeting, this would mean no change would be possible for at least two years.

Motion: That a constitutional review be carried out by a working group with a view to amending the constitution, according to the requirements of the constitution and report back at the next general meeting

Moved: Robyn Moore

Seconded: Dan Monsen

Carried.

#### 18.1.11 Request to GSB Council for the identification and clearing of beach access ways in Cambria Drive and Dolphin Sands

Brett Harrison explained that he had questions about how beach access ways are maintained, after talking to community members on Cambria Drive about the issue. There are different sets of rules applying to Cambria Drive Estate & DS. There are five established beach access ways in Cambria, none of which appear to be maintained by Council, but dedicated community members. Property owners are concerned about bushfire. Issue raised for discussion about equitable beach access & fire prevention.

Glen Wigg stated that there was some maintenance by Council, eg the fire trail near the Meredith River was cleared about this time last year. However, there were safety issues due to 'machinery overkill'. Glen asked how the term 'clear' is defined. He stated that one beach access way (closer to DS Rd) is intentionally not fully cleared to prevent horses accessing beach. He stated that more clearing invites trail bikes etc.

Brett explained that access ways are nominally 10m wide. But for some, people have to walk in single file.

Barry Smith stated that Council only maintains public accesses in Cambria if concerned ratepayers ring them, eg Mal Innes got onto council & got access ways in Cambria cleared. In other words, Council needs to not only cut verges but also keep foot ways in safe condition. Residents are taking the initiative to clear walkways to keep them safe for grandchildren re snakes.

When properties were purchased, footway was present, ie purchasers could be assumed to be aware of the situation. It was recommended that those who are concerned about privacy plant trees on their own block and let other residents who want to use paths have safe access.

Leigh Sealy spoke about ownership of right-of-ways – a long-standing bone of contention. Ownership is different in Cambria and DS. In Cambria, the beach accesses are public access ways and therefore the responsibility of council. DS has 26 private right-of-ways which every other block of whole DS subdivision have rights to use. Therefore, these are not council's responsibility for maintenance. This raised questions about the firebreaks which have been constructed, ie were the owners consulted? Leigh acknowledged that this is a potentially divisive issue because owners of adjoining properties don't necessarily want access ways cleared. Constructing fire breaks may also mean these access ways are used by people who don't have the right to use them. Council's position is that development on these access ways is not possible, ie planning approval would be needed for development. Leigh stated that it is possible to maintain right of ways by cutting vegetation. However, removing trees or doing earthworks is not allowed.

Motion: that a working group look into the legal rights attaching to the public beach accesses in Cambria and the right-of-ways in the DS subdivision. To report back at next general meeting.

Moved: Leigh Sealy

Seconded: Liz Sealy

Carried

Carrie Brink requested that the access way question be linked with the fire safety question due to the likely use of beach access ways if there is a fire. Residents need to be able to run to the beach more than one person abreast.

#### 18.1.12 General Business

Glen Wigg referred to an agenda item he had emailed to the outgoing committee two days' earlier but which wasn't on the agenda. He noted that this didn't matter as it was most relevant under general business. Glen requested that the membership form be amended to include preferred communication option – email, letter, download from DSRA website. People should be encouraged to use email – free & efficient. However, some people don't have internet access or don't know how to access. Those who don't wish to share email address can use website. Glen requested that facebook not be considered at any time as an effective means of communication.

Elizabeth Stroud suggested a motion that agenda be amended to include – item, time frame, outcome required and that Chair is supported to follow agenda.

Stephen Barrett raised the issue of social responsibility – we are a community. Requested that we listen to each other well, that we respect each other's views & that we try to work toward compromise where viable. Issues need to be discussed face-to-face in a reasonable way. An important outcome is to stay as a united community.

Yon Kikkert stated that the DS community network facebook page has 200 people and it has given a broader section of the community a voice.

Gary Stoward stated that the network facebook page has cost the community the old committee.

Meeting closed at: 4.30 pm