

Kingborough Community Consultative Forum

Annual General Meeting

Kingborough Council Civic Centre, Kingston
9.30am, 11 June 2016

Minutes

Present:

Initials	Organisation	Representatives present
KCCF	Kingborough Community Consultative Forum	John Cox (Chair)
		Tony Ferrier (Secretary)
BBPA	Blackmans Bay Progress Association	Wayne Burgess
CALSCA	Coningham & Lower Snug Community Ass.	Mike Jackson
FNB	Friends of North Bruny	Di Blackwood
HPA	Howden Progress Association	June Walker
KCA	Kettering Community Association	Neil Broomfield, Chris Ireland
KBCA	Kingston Beach Community Association	Santhe Parker
KLGA	Kingborough Land Care Advisory Group	John Cox
TCA	Taroona High School Association	Gina Hurn
	Unaligned	Rob Crosthwaite

Council: Mayor Steve Wass, Cr Sue Bastone, Gary Arnold (General Manager), Tony Ferrier (Deputy General Manager)

Apologies: Peter Laud (KCA), Gloria Lonergan (SCRA), Cr Dr Graham Bury

Business:

1. Minutes of AGM held 13 June 2015

These were accepted as an accurate account of the meeting.

2. Chairman's Report

This was read out by the Chairman and is attached as Attachment 1.

John indicated that he would not be standing again as Forum Chairman. There was a general thank you from the Forum members present for John's last five years as Chairman.

3. Verbal Report from the Mayor

The Mayor described a number of matters from the last few months, including:

- The longstanding Mayor of Grootegast, which is Kingborough's sister-city in the Netherlands, passed away last week.

- Progress is being made in regard to Local Government reform and the General Manager will provide a summary in the General Meeting.
- Council has expressed its concerns in a submission to the Tasmanian Planning Commission in regard to the proposed State-wide planning scheme.
- In the last year there have been two new Councillors – Sue Bastone has replaced Bernadette Black and Paul Chatterton has replaced Nic Street.
- Council has set its rates for next year – with a 4% increase and the introduction of a stormwater rate. This level of increase is necessary for Council to get back to a budget surplus without reducing existing services.
- There are to be no anticipated increases in the Federal Assistance Grants and the TasWater dividends – which, if they had been paid, would have reduced the rate increase to 3.25%.
- Council has been participating on a traffic congestion taskforce set up by the Minister for Infrastructure.
- The public are voting on a name for the proposed development precinct that is the former Kingston High School site. The results of the architectural design competition for the proposed community hub on this site will be released next week. Work will commence next financial year on road construction within the site.
- The General Manager and Mayor have met with all Tasmanian senators seeking support for the redevelopment of the former Kingston High School site. Labor has committed \$5M if elected.
- Kingborough was lucky to miss the flood damage that the north of the State experienced last week.

The Mayor thanked all Forum members for their time attending the quarterly meetings and that Council appreciates the views and suggestions provided. He looks forward to the Forum having another positive year.

In response to the Mayor's statements, Mike Jackson expressed his concern about the 4% rate increase and that it is more than twice the current inflation rate. This would have an impact on retirees and Council should consider borrowing more in times of low inflation. The Mayor said that the Council is very appreciative of the impact that rate rises have within the community, but that Council is implementing a long term financial plan that requires 4% rate rises to get Council back into surplus by 2020. In the past Council has not adequately covered for asset depreciation and now has very few options other than to increase revenue. Council has not been able to identify opportunities for savings through major reductions in service levels.

Mike asked as to whether a total freeze on the TasWater dividend is likely. The General Manager said that Council receives about \$1.8M per annum and that the freeze is on the future anticipated increases for the next 10 years which means that Council has agreed to forego about \$400K over this period.

Gina Hurn asked if there was any rate relief for pensioners. The Mayor said that Council considers rebates up to about 30% and there also exist similar potential reductions from TasWater and other services.

Neil Broomfield asked whether every ratepayer is contributing to TasWater indirectly. The Mayor said that this would only be the case in regard to the impact of the lost dividend increases. However this is countered by the fact that all ratepayers (including those not connected to reticulated water and sewerage) benefit from the annual dividends – bearing in mind the dividend is in recognition of the past Council expenditure in constructing the assets that TasWater now obtains an income from.

June Walker asked about the Barretta levy and the Mayor confirmed that it would not be charged next year.

Rob Crosthwaite commented on the 4% increase and agreed that there was merit in why it is needed however acknowledged that it may be difficult for some ratepayers. He also said that he was disappointed in the final selection of the shortlisted names for the former Kingston High School site and that they lacked imagination.

4. Election of Office Bearers

Chair: Wayne Burgess
Deputy Chair: John Cox
Secretary: Tony Ferrier (Council)

were nominated and elected unopposed.

5. Meeting Dates

Future meetings are to occur about every three months, with the exact date to be determined at the closure of each General Meeting.

Neil Broomfield commented on the fact that the Forum has no formal constitution. Wayne Burgess said that it was originally formed as a loose alignment of local community groups. Some general rules were set out at one of the first meetings (eleven years ago) but they were never formalised. This matter will be considered further at the next Forum meeting. Rob Crosthwaite commented that one of the original principles was that the Forum would not make decisions on particular issues but would facilitate discussion so that matters can be brought forward or referred back to the representative community organisations.

Meeting closed at 10.20am.

ATTACHMENT 1

Chairman's Report Annual General Meeting 11-6-2016

The KCCF was established in March 2005 with the purpose:

To facilitate and encourage community consultation and to recommend to Council Consultation arrangements on specific issues

To consider and contribute to Council priorities, issues and directions;

To improve consultation between Council and the community:

To establish sub committees as required considering specific issues.

I will not be nominating for the Chair this year as I feel having served in the position since 2010 it is time that someone else had an opportunity to enjoy the privilege.

I would like to thank all Forum members, the Mayor and Councillors, Council staff and community representatives for your attendance and support for the benefit of your groups and

the community. I also thank the General Manager Gary Arnold and Deputy General Manager Tony Ferrier for his work as Secretary; both have been most willing to present detailed Council information and explanations as well as answer wide ranging questions on Council matters.

This year has seen the State Government proposal for Council amalgamations bring about Kingborough, Hobart, Clarence and Glenorchy Councils agreeing to commission SGS Economics and Planning to undertake a feasibility study into voluntary amalgamation and/or resource sharing to be done in conjunction with financial assistance from the State government. Some initial discussions have also been held with Huon Valley Council with both councils having an open mind as to future opportunities. No agreement with Huon Valley Council has yet been reached on a joint feasibility study, similar to the one that Kingborough has embarked on with other Hobart based councils.

Also the continuing development toward implementation of a uniform State Planning Scheme has progressed with submissions from Kingborough Council and the community being lodged. Concerns were raised about the new scheme's proposed provisions. The State government's final provisions are proposed to be released later this year.

The former Kingston High School site and its future has now been resolved to the point where it should soon have a new name as a result of a naming competition and have a design plan for the Community Hub and internal roads.

John Cox
Chairman