



MINUTES OF MEETING PORA AGM 2023/24

Thursday 19th Nov 2024 7.40pm at St Annes Primary School

1: Present: See attendance list

President Mark Haley welcomed to all attendees.

Apologies – Trevor Street, George Macrokanis

Minutes of previous AGM:

Move that the Minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Proposer - D Mc Niff. Seconder - Serena Williams. Carried

2: Presidents Report: tabled.

Summary – PORA had another year of learning, donating and punching above its weight.

There were ongoing consultations with Manningham Councillors and administration re the Chalet, public toilets and the Park Orchards Community House and Learning Centre (POCHLC).

Thanks to Shane Dickinson we made good progress on subscription payments methods, software updates and the website.

PORA held a well-attended public meeting on the State Government proposed "Neighbourhood Activity Centres" of which Park Orchards is one.

PORA engaged professional town planning consultants who contradicted what the Manningham Council CEO advised to PORA re the restrictions on the Council buying the Chalet for a Community Hub.

We closed the ANZ bank account and centralised our banking with Bendigo Bank in Warrandyte – no more fees and very co-operative.

We made numerous donations to community groups with the money we received via the gold coin donations from the market.

The market continues to be a success – all credit to Nicole Volk with help from PORA committee volunteers.

I thank you all for your contribution to PORA and to the Park Orchards community.

Question: D Mc Niff - What is the status of the Monopole? The committee were divided on this issues and Mark independently liaised with concerned citizens to raise funds and retain a barrister to make a submission. The installation company withdrew the application and instead installed a minor extension on the existing pole.



Question: What is the status of proposed Neighbourhood Activity Centres? Park Orchards was not initially named in the assessment process. Council then decided that Park Orchards is now in the mix, without any community consultation.

3: Treasurers Report: tabled

It has been another stable and fruitful year thanks to the success of the market and Nicole's hard work. Our Term Deposit is now \$40K and we donated \$1,850 to various community groups. A significant expense was the fees for the Town Planning Consultant.

4: Park Orchards Market Report: tabled.

Fully booked, but still challenging, a diverse range of stalls, lots of social media work to try to improve attendance.

Committed to supporting local community groups by providing free sites at the market – Lions, Ambulance Victoria, Neighbourhood Watch, etc.

We host talented local buskers and thanks to Bendigo Bank we now have a marquee so that they can perform protected from the weather.

Donations were made to Park Orchards Primary School, St Annes Primary School, Scones Together and the CFA.

Market visitors often come from far and wide.

Many thanks to Volunteers who make my managing job easier.

We now have a Defibrillator that we loan from Bendigo Bank for market days. Suggestion - Xmas cake and letter to the bank for their ongoing support.

The President requested that all the above reports be accepted.

Moved: Serena Williams. Seconded: Matt Wagenfeld. Carried.

5: Nominations and Election of Office Bearers for 2024-2025 Committee:

The President appointed D Mc Niff as the Returning Officer who declared that all positions now declared vacant.

Application for President – Mark Haley elected unopposed.

Application for Treasurer and Secretary – David Connolly elected unopposed.

Application for General Committee Members: Christopher Filipidis, Elizabeth O'Callaghan, Serena Williams, Nicole Volk, Shane Dickinson. All elected unopposed.



7: Future Visions for PORA:

Ongoing Council Liaison – essential, challenging and to date frustrating.

Repurposing of the Chalet as a Neighbourhood Activity Centre and a Community Hub incorporating the Park Orchards Neighbourhood House and Learning Centre.

P.O Public Toilet – ongoing concern and a frustrating lack of liaison from Council.

8: General Business:

Sewerage: published report inconclusive. Yarra Valley Water trialled different septic tank concepts. There were concerns that the design of the test installations was flawed. Apparently, some of the dispersion fields were incorrectly laid out. It is assumed that they will sewer the whole Park Orchards area in the long term. Council does not communicate with residents. YVW and the Council did not seem to be talking to each other.

Public Toilet: originally proposal to Council by PORA used location guidelines (based on Mitchell Shire Council). Location of public toilet cannot be near school, etc. PORA's conclusion was to place the facility next to the shops. Council said that they did not own this land. Council is looking at a location near the tennis club. The Mitchell guidelines say this is totally inappropriate.

General: PORA has been on a steep learning curve in liaising with Council:

- POCHLC: very unclear as to who owns the POCHLC property.
- PORA goes through the Budget, and it is confusing. E.g. \$500,000 for Park Orchards Community Hall. What is this building?
- Consultation for amenity services in Warrandyte and Park Orchards. We made a submission; the report is to be issued in January and Council purchased a property next to the POCHLC for \$1.6m in October. No community consultation.
- We suspect that Community Engagement Policy is a government requirement. But the Council administration does not seem to be interested or want to listen to what the community says.
- Out of all the CHLC in Manningham, the Park Orchards CHLC is the most efficient and busiest, but is the least supported by Council with building upgrades.
- What are the Park Orchards rates over the last 10 years and what is the local expenditure over that time. We cannot get a direct answer.
- How did Council assess the Chalet? "After an extensive evaluation the Council decided that it was not suitable" but no report was written or is available to PORA. PORA asked via FOI for the report. The response was there is no report. It was only a "process".
- Should approach Minister for Local Government re this.
- Need to document the communication between the two parties.
- Wonga Park seems to have the same issues that PO does and there is no Ratepayers Association there.
- It seems that Councillors keep the residents entertained, but the Administration runs a big business and ignores the public.

No further business – Meeting closed at 8.50pm

Attendees invited for drinks and nibbles.