

## Minutes

### Bronte Precinct Meeting Monday 02.09.24

Commenced 7.01pm (via Zoom)

#### Attendees

Alma Douglas	Verity Styles
Alex Ellis	Melinda
Clinton Reilly	James Pelosi
Cr Fabiano	Keri Spooner
Cr Tony Kay	M. Paula Masselos
Michael and Karen Frankel	

- 1. 7.03pm Alma welcomes everyone, Apologies** – Grant Beard away, Ivan Power late exclusion apologies.
- 2. Minutes Accepted from last meeting.** Moved Alma, Seconded Alex.

Alma briefly runs through the summary of Council responses to the previous minutes.

#### **3. General Business**

- Councillors are moving to the Boot Factory in Bondi Junction, why? Cr Kay offers explanation and notifies us that on 20/09 the staff will move to the Mill Hill Centre. Thursday 10/10 will be the 1<sup>st</sup> Council meeting in the new 'Cloud Room' at the top level. Tuesday 29/10 will be the general meeting for Councillors.

The council chambers on Bondi road either needs alterations and additions or complete knock down and rebuild. Given the concept design plans were quoted at upwards of \$20 million council rejected the tender and have relocated as a more cost-efficient option. The end use of the council chambers is yet to be determined, the matter has been deferred until after new councillors are elected. Suggestions for a public pool, park land or new chambers are potential options.

Cr Kay also informs the meeting attendees that he will not be standing in the Waverley Ward in the coming Local election. This comes as a great disappointment to the Bronte Precinct Committee members and attendees.

Alma then gives praise and thanks to Cr Kay for his 20 plus years of service and dedication to the people of Waverley. He will be sorely missed, this is echoed by the attendees. Cr Kay was always someone the committee and local residents could rely on for an answer, for assistance in any matter and when he didn't know the answer, he would connect you to whomever was best placed to assist. He has been the most regular attendee of any councillors to the Bronte Precinct Meetings over the years,

and when attending he was always present and engaged offering advice and assistance wherever he could. Bronte Precinct would like to sincerely thank Cr Tony Kay for public service above party values, he will be greatly missed and we wish him all the best moving forward. Big shoes to fill.

- Bronte Surf Club DA – The DA has been approved and they were due to commence demolition this November 2024. Given that is right before summer, there has been a deferral request lodged to change that timing to after Feb 2025. Sensible.
- Waverley College DA. Clinton Reilly Brown St resident gives update and opinion – Please see appendix for the preamble and background on this matter.

Motion:

*That Bronte Precinct calls for a DA to be submitted by Waverley College for their proposed works on the junior school campus in the heritage listed 'Jungle', ie the area east of the escarpment, to ensure transparency to the Council and the local residents of what is proposed, and to ensure that the formal Council control and approval process is followed.*

Moved: Clinton Reilly  
Seconded: Paula Reilly  
5 votes, motion carried.

Mayor Paula also to follow up tomorrow on the DA process involving trees on the significant tree list.

- The meeting welcomes Verity and Nick Styles, and fellow neighbour Melinda. They raise traffic and illegal parking issues surrounding the Belgrave lane, Read st, Belgrave st and Murray st areas. They have been residents for 30 years and spent a decade on Read St. Essence of the issue is given the existing businesses on Belgrave St, cars are regularly stopping and parking in the no stopping zones blocking the turning circle and view of cars entering and exiting Belgrave lane. It causes near miss accidents often. Additionally, there is regular positioning of boats, trailers and a high caravan that is parked for extended periods on the lane opening and surrounding streets completely obscuring the view. So there are 2 issues.

Keri Spooner and Cr Kay makes a couple of helpful suggestions, mirrors could help, positioned to give greater vision coming out of the lanes. Relatively inexpensive also.

Marked spots – however following a group discussion it is resolved that this actually takes away more spaces than provides them due to the regulation car space dimensions.

The yellow painted line on the curb in addition to the no stopping signs, also inexpensive.

Curb blisters? Inexpensive also, fairly uncommon though.

Finally a review of the residential parking scheme to include these areas.

It is also discussed that under the Public Spaces Unattended Property Act, it is difficult to enforce if the vehicle or trailer/caravan/boat/business van is legally registered and doesn't go over remaining in the same position for 30 days. It is then revealed there is also a mechanic with between 10-14 vehicles parked in the Belgrave st area with QLD plates mainly who is operating as a mechanic or hobbyist from his garage. This is also greatly contributing to the parking shortage in the area, and given it is unrestricted parking technically they are legally parked. It is also recognised that business owners in restricted parking areas on the Bondi side of Birrell St regularly park their vehicles on the Bronte unrestricted side of Birrell st.

Motion is put forward:

*Bronte Precinct request council to investigate a residential Parking Scheme in Belgrave, Murray, Birrell, Alfred, Read, Brown and Dickson St.*

Moved: Alma

Seconded: Verity

Motion is carried, votes unanimous.

Mayor Paula also to investigate the legality of businesses operating from garage, the executive manager might advise here.

#### **4. Finally**

- Alma and the Bronte Precinct wish to send our heartfelt condolences to lovely Emily Scott, the General Manager at Waverley Council. We are all incredibly sad for Emily and her family's sudden loss, we send love and strength to her at this time.
- Additionally, Father Nick Lucas has also sadly passed.

Meeting closed 8.20pm.

#### **Appendix**

Clinton Reilly's address regarding the Waverley College DA

I have lived in Brown Street with my wife and family for almost 40 years, and we have a commitment to seeing the area develop in a family friendly way. We believe the community will be adversely impacted by the proposed Waverley College Junior School development which involves structural works under the canopy of the heritage listed and magnificent Moreton Bay Fig Tree and have several Issues.

We have raised these in an address to the Council (20/8/2024) and in a detailed document sent to the Council planners and now want to make the community aware. Local residents were not consulted by Waverley College and the project was presented as a *Fait Accompli*. Consultation in 2021 was for a very different plan.

In summary the issues are:

1. Protection of the heritage listed Moreton Bay Fig Tree which is on the Significant Plants Register and this is the main issue.
2. Waverley College contend that this is an Exempt Development. However, it cannot be treated as Exempt Development since the site is heritage protected. The Transport and Infrastructure Act exemption only applies to minor or insignificant works. This is not a minor nor insignificant work.
3. The exact location of the works amongst the roots of the Moreton Bay Fig Tree is a problem for the health of the tree.
4. Associated with the works is a landscaping design. Some of the plants proposed are unsuitable for this location and, being taller than the Moreton Bay Fig at maturity, will grow up and through its canopy. This is another cause for concern for the health of the Moreton Bay Fig Tree. Some are known as being pest species.
5. There will be a significant impact on traffic safety and density in the area as trucks carrying materials are brought into the site area from the blind corner on Brown Street.
6. Although this proposal appears to be less than that proposed three years ago, it is worth noting that the heritage jungle has now been divided into four sections. This is simply Zone 1 of 4. There are 3 other zones identified on the Waverley College website the plans for which are yet to be defined. We fear that this is the first proposal of many. These will reduce the jungle heritage bit by bit and in total may well be more than that of the original 2020/21 plan.
7. The area is a wildlife habitat and corridor for native animals that are under pressure to survive. It must not be disturbed unnecessarily.
8. Bronte Precinct has passed Motions to protect the area and maintain its current use. These should be observed.

In the interests of the local community this development needs to be brought under formal Council review as a Development Application (DA) for approval, modification or cancellation.

**ACTION:** Pass a Motion asking the Council to make this work a Development Application.

Clinton Reilly, 32 Brown Street, Bronte (02) 9389-8943.