



## **Harmer's Haven Residents and Ratepayers Group**

### **Minutes of meeting of AGM 11am Sunday 1 April 2018, 86 Viminaria Road**

**Present:** Ros Eason, Rosemary Paterson, Amaryll Perlesz, Diana McLachlan, Val Grant, John Old, Dave Lane, Maria Zerella, Bev Shaw, Ged Kearney, Leigh Hubbard, Luisa Macmillan, Ron Thomas, Mary Keady, Graeme Keady, Helen Collyer, Helen Laing, John Laing, Cris Larner, Nick and Rachel Ferris, Chris Sferrazza. (23 attendees).

**Apologies:** Aneta Marovich, Kevin Simpson, Deb Simpson, Richard Tanter, Annamarie Perlesz, Tess Edwards, Uli Michel, Jesse and Bibi, Judy and Terry Pedersen, Susie Walker, Luciano Furfaro.

#### **1. Welcome**

Ros welcomed all attendees. A round of introductions was carried out.

#### **2. Minutes of previous AGM, 2017**

Minutes confirmed. Moved Maria Zerella, seconded Bev Shaw.

#### **3. Business arising**

Will be dealt with as it arises in course of reports below

#### **4. President's Report**

Ros reported on the meeting held on 27/3/18 between our representatives (Ros, Dave Lane and John Old), Brian Martin (Team Leader of Parks Vic in our area) and CFA officer Pete Walters. (Also reported in newsletter.) We requested the meeting after some members became concerned at extent of fire break clearing carried out without consultation by Parks Vic at the western end of Harmers Haven, in November/December 2017. Ros tabled the exchange of letters between ourselves and Brian Martin which led up to the meeting, in which we expressed our concern at the clearing, particularly as the CFA had previously stated publically that in the event of fire they would not drive down this or similar tracks at HH.

At the meeting, HHRRG reps got the point acknowledged that people at HH value the natural environment as it is, and do not want to see the secluded character of the place compromised by overzealous clearing, or extension of vehicle tracks on the foreshore. On their side, Brian and Pete said that in fact CFA and Parks Vic would use the tracks in a fire if it was safe to do so, eg to attend a small fire and put it out before it got bigger, and that Parks Vic did need to keep these access tracks in usable condition. However Brian Martin did undertake to inform HHRRG when similar work was planned in future.

#### **Motion**

Moved Luisa Macmillan, seconded Graeme Keady,

*That HHRRG thanks CFA and Parks Vic for meeting with us on 27/3/18, and appreciates the commitment from Parks Vic to notify us ahead of time if any similar clearing work is planned in future.*

Passed unanimously.

#### **5. Secretary's Report**

John reported a possible pollution event on the beach at Harmers, when about 1 March 2018 a gelatinous blue grey sludge appeared on the beach, extending over several hundred metres from the western part of the beach down to Wreck Bay, and in some places lying on the surface of the water extending 10 metres or so out to sea. A description, photo and sample were sent to Parks Vic, and a description and photo to the Museum of Victoria identification service. Awaiting replies. Hopefully this was a natural event however, an algal bloom or similar.

Other matters were the firebreak clearing issue already reported on, and routine letters from our bankers.

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

Luisa tabled the statement of income and expenditure for the calendar year 2017, our financial year. Balance at 31/12/16 was \$5,503.59. At present our balance is about \$13,000, mostly as a result of our Coast Care Grant. This money is not tied so we are free to spend it as we decide.

Luisa apologised for the fact that our WestPac account is still open, after our previous decision to move our business to Bendigo Bank on environmental grounds. (We have opened a Bendigo Bank account, just not closed the WestPac one.) After discussion of the relative environmental merits of each bank we resolved to move all funds to Bendigo Bank, but leave the WestPac one sitting empty for the time being. The chair extended our thanks to the treasurer Luisa Macmillan for her work managing our funds.

## **7. Report of Friends of Harmers Haven (FoHH)**

Amaryll presented the report. The Southern Brown Bandicoot plan is in progress. Fox baiting is currently being carried out. There have been a number of recent bandicoot sightings. As reported in the newsletter we have been weed mapping, including through the use of drones for aerial views.

Over the past five years we have secured \$100K in grants.

We have secured a new DELWP grant of \$48,000 for weed removal. We will need plenty of volunteers to help carry out this work over the next three years.

Amaryll requested that we use some of the \$13K we have in the bank to buy requisites such as gloves, tree guards and stakes.

**Motion:** *that FoHH is authorised to spend up to \$3K of our reserves on requisites for use in our weed removal work.* Moved Amaryll, seconded Helen Collyer, carried.

Rosemary reported that Parks Vic now manages its volunteers through a website called Parks Connect, and that the link is in the newsletter.

Amaryll reported recent feedback about our own 'fantastic' website, and thanked Dave Lane for his work on it. The chair expressed the group's thanks to the FoHH for their excellent work, the core of our activities.

## **8. Election of office bearers for 2018**

President declared all positions spilled.

All incumbents were willing to re-stand, and there were no new nominations. A motion was therefore passed that all positions be rolled over. Proposed Maria Zerella, seconded Amaryll Perlesz. Carried unanimously  
**Office bearers.** President Ros Eason, Treasurer Luisa Macmillan, Secretary John Old. Helen Collyer, Amaryll Perlesz, Rosemary Patterson are also on Executive.

Rosemary, Amaryll and Luisa to continue as Friends Sub-committee. Friends main focus is grants, but they also deal with newsletter and organisation of community days

Any other interested members invited to join the Executive or the Friends Sub-committee group.

## **9. Any other business**

### **Triangle of land, western end of Harmers**

There have been some rumours of possible Council ideas for the use of this triangle of land.

**Motion:** *This meeting authorises FoHH and the Executive of HHRRG to meet with Council representatives in order to seek information about any plans Council has for the use of this piece of land.*

Moved Amaryll, seconded Helen. Carried

**Meeting closed 12.30 pm. BBQ followed.**