

## Minutes - 2020 Annual General Meeting

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DATE: Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
TIME: 2:00 PM  
VENUE: Zoom Video Meeting

1. Meeting Opened at 2:05 pm
2. Present: Committee: Peter McMahon, Andrew Marston, John Trigt, Margaret Rhodes, Sue Res  
Members: Linda Marston, Peter Spence, Honey Spence, Ronnie Bauer, Don McLeish, Kevin Griffin, Graham Jolly  
Lyll Broughton was present for the meeting opening but left the meeting shortly afterwards due to computer issues.  
Apologies: Kevin Brown, Sue McLeish
3. Quorum was reached with 13 in attendance (minimum 8 required)
4. Minutes of previous AGM 9<sup>th</sup> November 2019  
Kevin queried the bank balance shown in the previous minutes of \$585. This was found to be the bank balance at the meeting date, not at the end of the year. The correct balance as at 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 from bank statements was \$729.17 and the minutes are amended to reflect this.  
The names of all attendees were not detailed and there is no attendance register on file other than the total number as minuted.  
Other than this the minutes were accepted as a true record of the proceedings  
Moved: Margaret Rhodes  
Seconded: John Trigt  
Carried 9 for, 1 against, 2 absentions.
5. Annual Association update: With no current President, the committee prepared an annual update report for members, read out by Andrew Marston.  
Graham pointed out two omissions from the report, namely the complaint lodged by the association about comments from Cr Rothfield about the President, and a formal acknowledgement of the work done by past President Kevin Griffin prior to his resignation. The report is to be amended prior to adoption and is appended to these minutes.
6. Treasurer's report  
There were queries raised regarding accuracy of the brought forward and membership fee amounts. A more detailed reconciliation will be prepared. As the overall figures are an accurate reflection of the financial situation however, the report as presented was accepted and is appended to these minutes.  
Acceptance - Moved: John Trigt  
Seconded: Peter McMahon  
Carried .

7. All Committee Positions declared vacant
8. Elections conducted for new committee members
  - President: One nomination – Margaret Rhodes proposed by Sue Res
  - Vice President: No nominations – no person elected
  - Secretary: One nomination – Andrew Marston proposed by Linda Marston
  - Treasurer: One nomination – John Trigt proposed by Andrew Marston
  - As no other nominations were received, these members were elected to their positions
9. The meeting proposed a resolution to determine a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 8 ordinary members of the Committee for the next year.
  - Moved: Linda Marston
  - Seconded: Andrew Marston
  - Carried unanimously
10. Elections conducted for Ordinary committee members
  - Nominations received:
    - Peter McMahon: Proposed by Andrew Marston
    - Sue Res: Proposed by Margaret Rhodes
  - As no other nominations were received, these members were elected to their positions and 6 vacancies remain available.
11. Confirm or vary the amounts of the annual subscription (currently \$5) and joining fee (\$0)
  - The motion to maintain these amounts was proposed
  - Moved: Margaret Rhodes
  - Seconded: Kevin Griffin
12. Other business
  - 12.1 Graham Jolly proposed that the new committee join Ratepayers Victoria as a member
    - Seconded by Kevin Griffin
    - Carried unanimously
  - 12.2 Kevin Griffin asked what the committee's goals would be this year? The new committee is to discuss this at its first meeting.
  - 12.3 Don McLeish asked that the new committee go out to the members at large to ask what direction they would like the association to take and what issues should be tackled
  - 12.4 Ronnie Bauer enquired about the FOI for the garbage contract; John is to promptly forward the information we currently have to Ronnie for his information.
  - 12.5 Graham Jolly asked that the association and the members provide input directly to the new councillors for inclusion in the new Council Plan. (This may also form part of a future association survey but members should be encouraged to speak with their ward councillors directly.
  - 12.6 John Trigt asked that the committee approach Council to immediately recommence community connection sessions, virtually if not able to do so in person.

- 12.7 Kevin Griffin suggested that Ronnie Bauer, once sworn in as a councillor, may be perceived to have a conflict of interest if he remains an association member. Don McLeish suggested that Council's legal team could provide the necessary advice.
- 12.8 Graham Jolly spoke about a review of the Media Engagement and Governance policies, Suggesting that the local government minister could require such a review if the majority of councillors wish it.  
Kevin Griffin suggested that Ratepayers Victoria may be able to assist the association in regard to a future review.  
Ronnie Bauer believes the incoming councillors are already in favour of this.
- 12.9 Ronnie Bauer left the meeting at 4.03 pm.
- 12.10 Peter & Honey Spence left the meeting at 4.04pm
- 12.11 Graham Jolly moved a motion that the association write formally to Kevin Griffin, as past president, thanking him for his efforts over the years. Kevin responded that he appreciated the sentiment but did not support the motion. The motion lapsed for want of a seconder, with the association expressing its appreciation for Kevin's work.
- 12.12 Margaret Rhodes, as incoming president, said that the association's primary interest will be the association members within the Bass Coast Shire and will be looking for every avenue to extend our ability to help them.
- 12.13 First committee meeting for the new committee to be 26th November at 2pm via Zoom
13. Meeting Closed 4.26 pm

Date 1st July 2020



## Bass Coast Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc.(A0096592H)

### Financial statement 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 to 30th June 2020

	Date		
Income	1/07/2019	Brought Forward	\$729.17
	2019/2020	Interest	\$4.72
	2019/2020	Membership fees	\$455.86
			<b>\$1,189.75</b>
Expenses	15/10/2019	Daylston hall hire	\$60.36
	13/11/2019	Catering AGM	\$22.50
	19/02/2020	CAV	\$59.20
	24/04/2020	Zoom charges	\$57.73
			<b>\$199.79</b>
Account Balance	30/06/2020		<b>\$989.96</b>

John Trigt  
BCRRA Treasurer

We certify that these financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Association

Andrew Marston

Peter McMahon

## Committee Update Report to Members at 2020 AGM

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Saturday 7 November 2020

Despite the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic and the ensuing restrictions, BCRRA has continued challenging Council and engaging with our members and the wider community.

At the beginning of the year we planned township meetings around the shire which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to restrictions. We put together an online survey to gauge community feelings about current issues, Council and the association. Results and recommendations were shared with the Council.

We set up our new website with a concise summary of Council meetings, copies of Public questions and Council's responses, and links to Council meeting archives as well as details about the association.

We supported the Newhaven community in their concerns over the location of the proposed regional skate park in their locality and their many issues with the engagement process. For other reasons, the project was deferred.

After years of lobbying, Council finally commenced live streaming of meetings in May after this was forced upon them by Covid regulations. It's worth is proven with viewing averages just under 200 per meeting stream. Even councillors who were initially reticent expressed support. The temporary State Government requirements for virtual meetings lapsed at the end of October, coinciding with the end of Council's agreed 6 month trial period. We await their report on its effectiveness and to see if they continue live streaming once in-person meetings recommence.

We made a submission to the budget, challenging Council on a number of issues and successfully promoting an increase of approx 20% to the footpaths GAP program.

We also made a submission to the Governance rules, successfully achieving several amendments to proposals we feared would restrict proper engagement. There will be further opportunities when the policy is reviewed in the future.

Kevin Griffin, the Association's President and a tireless advocate for the community and ambassador for the Association over the past four years, informed us in June that he would not be nominating for any committee position at the end of the current term. Had it not been for his concern and passion this association would not have been formed back in 2016, and the time and effort Kevin has put into the committee and the Association will most definitely be missed.

When a gap in the planning laws appeared to enable a 10.5m high wind turbine installation in a residential street, committee members assisted the local community and we helped raise awareness of the issue, which has state-wide implications. We have also approached Ratepayers Victoria for their advice and currently await their response.

We ran a second online survey to gather community questions for Council candidates, which were finalised at an online public meeting and put to candidates as an alternative to a virtual "Meet the Candidates" session. Their responses are available on our website as a part of our election coverage. During the election period we reached a very large number of people through our Facebook and web pages, boosting our visibility in the community.

Also during the election, disturbing allegations against one candidate were made public by The Age, with information revealed by confidential correspondence disclosed by an unknown source. Without taking a position on these allegations, but fearing a loss of integrity in the election process, we wrote to the Minister for Local Government and the Attorney General requesting they intercede and either resolve the issue prior to elections or delay the election period. No action was taken, but ultimately the allegations were dismissed and the candidate went on to be elected.

Following the public circulation of correspondence in September from a councillor impugning the President, Kevin Griffin, the committee lodged a complaint with the Council requesting an apology to both the Association and the President. When the Association was warned that further personal correspondence between the councillor and Kevin was being attributed to the Association, and continued to be widely circulated, the committee took steps to clarify the matter. At this time, Kevin felt his position on the committee to be untenable, and tendered his resignation with immediate effect.

We continue to progress our FOI request seeking details of the current Bass coast Waste Management Contract, lodged in June 2019. A complaint was lodged with the Ombudsman in September 2020 for assistance as we still await the information requested.

At the date of this report BCRRA has 78 financial members, a total email list of over 450 contacts and over 400 Facebook followers.