

**MINUTES FOR THE BELLS BEACH COMMITTEE
MEETING 4
1 August 2016
5.45 PM – 7.48 PM**

PRESENT:

Sandra Ahlquist (Chair), Cr. David Bell, Bryon Powell (Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation), Adam Robertson (Surfing Victoria), Cahill Bell-Warren, Dave Mathews (6.05pm), James Dean (6.10pm) and Graeme Stockton (until 7.30pm).

APOLOGIES:

Cr Eve Fisher (phoned in to apologise for not attending and thank the Committee as she is not standing for Council at the upcoming elections), Kate Sullivan, Andrew Cherubin

IN ATTENDANCE:

Other people in attendance were Rowan Mackenzie (Manager, Environment and Community Safety, SCS), Ross Lister, (Project Management, SCS), Gabrielle O'Shea (Environment Officer, SCS) and Matt Taylor and Pru Farrer (Business and Tourism, SCS)

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Minutes of Meeting 3 on 1 August 2016 were confirmed

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:

NA

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Confidentiality

With reference back to the Committee's Terms of Reference, Sandra led a general discussion around confidentiality in meetings, in the minutes and in discussions with people not on the Committee. Confidentiality is important to enabling the sharing of information and maintaining the confidence of external organisations. The recent discussions with the World Surfing League was discussed. There was also discussion around what is recorded in the minutes and how long it takes to make the minutes public.

Action for all committee members: If the subject matter at a Bells Beach Committee meeting is confidential, prior to the discussion commencing it should be clearly stated that the discussion is confidential.

Action for all committee members: Confidential discussions will remain within the Committee. Detailed notes may be taken by Council officers as a record of the discussion, but the minutes will list the topic of discussion but not the content.

Action for all committee members: Draft minutes for the meeting will be circulated by Council officers to Committee members as soon as possible after the meeting. If there are no objections, the minutes can be released as a draft (and made publically available via the Committee webpage). Final minutes will be released after approval at the following Committee meeting.

2. Update on the review and renewal of Public Land Tour Operator Licences

Matt Taylor and Pru Farrar updated the Committee on the review and renewal of the Public Land Tour Operator Licences in the reserve, including the number of expressions of interest, following an extensive advertising process.

Council will make a decision on the submissions at its meeting on 23 August 2016.

The Coastal Management Plan provides for up to 8 licences to be issued. If 8 licences are not issued initially, if additional licence submissions are received within the licence period, Council may grant additional licences if they are fully compliant with the agreed terms. All licences issued will expire on the same day.

Council Action: Signage providing for parking of tour operator vehicles will be altered to ensure the number of parking bays set aside for tour operators matches the number of licences issued.

3. Proposed car park line marking and enforcement

At the last meeting Council advised that it would implement altered line marking. However, further work on a final line marking plan has taken longer than first thought, so new line marking has not yet been implemented. The latest line marking plan (Attachment 1) is proposed to be implemented shortly. At this stage, only the Bells/Hammerhead car park is included in proposed changes. The intent of the new plan is to provide for safe and clear and easy to understand parking. Enforcement will focus on safety concerns.

The Winki car park line marking is acknowledged to have a number of issues eg some bays are not the minimum width according to the relevant standards and others are not marked on the intended angle. New line marking for Winki will be developed as part of other works this year including widening of the footpath through the car park and new bollard placement.

Action for all committee members: The line marking for the Bells/Hammerhead car park will be implemented by Council shortly, in line with Attachment 1. Committee members have one week from the circulation of these draft minutes to provide final comment on the plan to Ross Lister.

Council Action: Council will work with VicRoads on appropriate marking and signage of Bells Beach Road near the entrance to the Winki car park, to ensure roadside parking and enforcement fits in with management of the reserve's car parks.

4. 3D imaging of the reserve

In March, Council organised for 3D aerial imaging of the reserve. A demonstration of the images was shown at the meeting. Potential uses include risk management, event planning and on-ground works planning.

5. Former helicopter landing area viewing platform update

Ross Lister provided an update on the platform:

Council has a preferred contractor for the works. They are expected to be formally appointed shortly.

There were some minor changes (improvements) to the structural drawings.

There will be some disruption to traffic within the car park during construction. This will last for approximately five days and traffic control will be used to manage vehicles.

Works will be completed in early September 2016.

Landscaping may occur in two batches, and one lot of planting may be associated with the annual Rip Curl Planet Day in October.

Council Action: On-ground works will commence in August. If there are any changes to the proposed works these will be circulated to the Committee.

6. Rip Curl Pro Bump In/Out Audit

Rowan Mackenzie gave an update on the audit. Council has received the audit report from the consultants Otium. The report makes a number of suggestions for improvements and Council has met with Surfing Victoria to discuss the recommendations.

Adam Robertson briefed the Committee on some of the issues the audit raises for Surfing Victoria eg use of the Winki break and logistics/infrastructure around this, public access to the Bells car park during the bump in and bump out, improved signage/information for the community during the bump in and bump out and improved project planning and management. There are confidentiality issues related to negotiations with the WSL and arrangements with contractors involved in the event.

After discussions around the points raised, it was agreed that the Committee requires more detailed information before it can make any meaningful comment on proposals such as use of the Winki break or short-term closure of the Bells car park during set up. This information will become available when Surfing Victoria completes a new project management plan for the event (this is currently underway).

Surfing Victoria Action: Surfing Victoria will complete a detailed project management plan for the Rip Curl Pro. The new project management plan will be used to inform discussions on bump in/bump out options and general event management at the next meeting of the Committee in November.

7. 2015/2016 Bells Coastal Management Plan implementation summary

The financial details of Year 1 (2015/16) works were in the process of being finalised so were not available at the meeting. They are now available as Attachment 2.

For 2016/17, key activities in the reserve are planned to be:

- a) Design of the Winki car park pathway changes and line marking
- b) Design of a treatment for the steep gravel beside the concrete path to the Winki lookout and the steep gravel near the picnic tables in the Bells car park
- c) Fencing and bollard upgrades; and
- d) Stormwater quality assessment and scoping of ideas.

There were discussions around planned works such as different steep surface treatments and the nature of stormwater issues ie visible litter versus pollutants/nutrients (more Committee members were concerned with visible litter).

Council Action: When available, Ross Lister to circulate design principles and brief for proposed projects for Committee comment.

8. All Ability Advisory Committee letter regarding all ability access during the Rip Curl Pro

The All Abilities Advisory Committee wrote to Council in June to express concerns over potential access problems for people with disabilities to the Rip Curl Pro after a visit to the event in March. The concerns centred around the growth in vegetation limiting the ability of people in wheelchairs to view the surf breaks from the accessible platform and bar area. The Advisory Committee recommended that Council maintain vegetation potentially impacting the views of people in wheelchairs.

Council's arborist also visited the site when the accessible platform was set up and has suggested that 20cm could be trimmed from the vegetation following the current contours of the vegetation to preserve the natural look. The arborist advised that trimming of this amount would not have long term impacts on the health of the vegetation, would maintain views from the accessible platform and would maintain the natural look.

There was a brief discussion around the proposal and it was considered reasonable that minor trimming be trialled.

Council Action: Council's arborist will trial contoured trimming of up to 20cm of vegetation in the agreed area impacting viewing from the accessible platform. The impact of the trimming will be evaluated prior to any subsequent vegetation management works.

Meeting close

The meeting closed at 7.48 pm.

NEXT MEETING

Monday 21 November 2016, 5.30 PM, Shire offices for a 5.45 PM start

ATTACHMENT 1: Line marking plan for the Bells car park

BELLS BEACH RESERVE LINE MARKING



NOT TO SCALE

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					<p>DESIGNED MG</p>			<p>DATE JULY 2016</p>	<p>DESIGNED RL</p>		
No.	ZONE	REVISION	APPROVED	DATE				<p>DESIGNED PM</p>	<p>GENERAL ARRANGEMENT</p>		

ATTACHMENT 2. 2015/16 Expenditure in the Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve

**Draft summary of expenditure Bells Beach
Surfing Recreation Reserve 2015-16**

Expenditure items	Amount
General maintenance activities such as vandalism repair, graffiti removal, tree trimming, fire prevention, litter control, toilet cleaning, park furniture, plumbing	\$14,094
Nature reserve crew for reserve visits up to three times per week	\$29,064
Project management time, works coordination, Coastal Management Plan staff time	\$26,270
Weed control, brushmatting, planting, jute matting	\$11,174
Sub-contractors/consultants for design, Rip Curl Pro audit, annual geotechnical advice	\$24,797*
3D scan of reserve	\$12,000
Water expenses	\$1,154
Electricity expenses	\$2,001
CMP editing, Task Force, Bells Beach Committee, catering, equipment hire for launch	\$8,204
Bells Beach Road repair to eroding table drains	\$2,436
Total expenditure	\$131,194

*This is not a final figure as carry overs are yet to be clarified