

**DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE BELLS BEACH COMMITTEE
MEETING 4
21 November 2016
5.45 PM – 7.45 PM**

PRESENT:

Sandra Ahlquist (Chair), Cr. David Bell, Adam Robertson (Surfing Victoria), Cahill Bell-Warren, Dave Mathews, Andrew Cherubin, Graeme Stockton and James Dean (6.20pm).

APOLOGIES:

Bryon Powell (Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation).

IN ATTENDANCE:

Other people in attendance were Rowan Mackenzie (Manager, Environment and Community Safety, SCS), Ross Lister, (Project Management, SCS) and Gabrielle O'Shea (Environment Officer, SCS).

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Minutes of Meeting 4 on 1 August 2016 were confirmed

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:

NA

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Works update

An update was provided and discussion occurred on:

- a) New viewing platform at the former helicopter landing area. The majority of the new viewing area has been completed and it is looking good and we are receiving positive feedback. There were delays of around 6 weeks due contractor health issues, but we were still able to work in with Rip Curl doing the planting as part of their Planet Day activities. The bike racks are still to go in and after discussion with the committee Council will try black powder coating the galvanised steel and spray paint if chipped.
- b) Line marking of Bells car park. It was confirmed that the line marking will go ahead as per the plan circulated at the Committee's previous meeting. This will happen shortly followed by education and then enforcement of car parking requirements.
- c) Planet Day 2017. Rip Curl held its 17th Planet Day in early October with around 25 staff working in the reserve for two days hand weeding African Weed Orchid, applying brush matting, spreading mulch around revegetation areas and planting out the new viewing area and erosion sites. Their staff also worked at other coastal reserves in Torquay on these days. The commitment and contribution of Rip Curl staff to these environmental works is greatly appreciated.
- d) Surf Rider and SANE working bees. Our local Surf Rider Foundation group had a working bee to collect litter and SANE continued to focus on African Weed Orchid removal. Thanks to these community groups for their ongoing hard work.

Action: Graeme Stockton to forward Adam Robertson details of future community group working bees for circulation amongst local surfing groups.

2. Upcoming works

Ross Lister outlined upcoming works and these were discussed by the Committee:

- a) Widening of the pathway in Winki Pop and changed car park layout. Survey of the site has been completed and a preliminary concept plan produced. A draft concept plan will be circulated to the Committee. If wheel stops are used then fewer changes to the kerb will be required, keeping the costs down. For the line marking, it is planned to widen bays that don't meet the current standard and to change the angle of bays so the same number of spaces can be achieved while widening and adding crossing points.
- b) Winki traffic island fencing. The contractor has quoted on the works and they will be completed prior to Christmas. This will help with managing toileting issues and trampling of new plants. The use of sustainably grown and harvested timber was discussed.
- c) Treatment of the steep gravel sections alongside the concrete path leading to the Winki lookout and steps. Different treatments are being considered to deal with the ongoing washout of these areas and pedestrian slipping risks from pebbles washing onto the path. The path is also 1.5m wide when it should be a minimum of 1.8m. There was discussion on possible treatments such as wood inlays and concreting of edges. There was support for considering overall narrowing of the width of the fenced walkway down to 2.4m (this would allow for a 1.8m wide path with 0.3m space on both sides of path to enable people to walk without the fence obstructing their arms/surf boards), installing a new exposed aggregate path to 1.8m wide (poured over the top of the existing path), and revegetation of the approximately 1.5m wide gravel strips no longer required for the pathway edges. This will require further design and cost estimates which will be provided to the Committee.
- d) Base of the Bells steps. There has been a structural inspection of the base of the steps due to new areas of erosion. It appears that the erosion is occurring into previously imported fill. Results will be known soon and will inform whether any remedial works are required.
- e) Rock wall extension installed in 2014. For the first time since this rock wall was extended at the base of the Bells headland, there was enough flow down the creek to test the wall. It looked to function as designed with the wall deflecting the water to prevent further erosion pressure on the cliff base.

Action: Ross Lister to circulate draft Winki Pop car park design to the Committee when it becomes available.

Action: Ross Lister to investigate changes to the steep gravel edges of the pathway to the Winki Pop lookout and steps, and circulate design options and costs to the Committee.

Action: Gabrielle O'Shea to investigate sustainable procurement guidelines for the purchase of materials for use in works at Bells and circulate this information to the Committee.

Council Action: Once guidelines for sustainable procurement are agreed, Council to use these guidelines in day to day management of Bells.

3. Rip Curl Pro bump in/bump out Audit

The audit was received in June 2016 and Surfing Victoria and Council have been working on a response to the recommendations of the audit.

Adam Robertson outlined key recommendations that Surfing Victoria is working on which include:

- a) Preparation of a detailed project plan of all activities associated with the bump in/bump out, which will facilitate improved decision making and efficiencies.
- b) Closure of the Bells car park to vehicles for up to 7 days during the bump in/bump out. Pedestrian access will be provided for on the edge of the work zone to enable access to the toilets and the Bells steps. Closure to vehicles will improve safety and should speed up the bump in/bump out.
- c) Improved public notification of disruptions during the bump in/bump out including the use of onsite messaging and social channels.

Surfing Victoria is confident the changes will lead to a reduction in the total days required for the bump in/bump out, and this will be monitored during the 2017 event. Adam also advised that the infrastructure in the Winki Pop car park should remain the same during 2017 compared to previous years even if that break is used more often. Effective crowd management will be a key to controlling any potential environmental impacts associated with competition surfing at Winki Pop.

Action: Surfing Victoria to continue to work on implementing the recommendations of the Audit.

Council Action: Council to prepare a summary of actions being undertaken in response to the audit and make this publically available.

Action: Surfing Victoria and Council to monitor the Pro during 2017 and report back on the impacts the trialled changes have had on the bump in/bump out, particularly the duration.

4. Events update

A summary of events held during 2016 and the known dates for 2017 were tabled (Attachment 1).

The issue of rubbish connected with events was raised, including temporary trail markers which are not all collected.

Council Action: Council to discuss the management of rubbish generated by events and request organisers find alternative products and/or improve clean up post events.

5. Other business

- a) Councillor Representatives for the Bells Beach Committee. The Councillor Representatives will be nominated on Tuesday 22 November 2016.
- b) Illegal camping at Bells. Committee members advised that illegal camping seems to be increasing. Officers advised that our local laws team will be doing more enforcement on this once the line marking has been changed and they start enforcing parking conditions.

Council Action: Officers to advise the Local Laws team that illegal camping at Bells seems to be increasing.

Meeting close

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

NEXT MEETING

Monday 20 February 2017, 5.30 PM, Shire offices for a 5.45 PM start

Other meeting dates for 2017 – 22 May, 28 August and 27 November.

ATTACHMENT 1. Events during 2016 and known proposed events 2017

Events at Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve 2016

Date	Event	Organiser
15 January	Bells Bash Cliff Run	Jan Juc Lifesaving Club
22 March - 5 April	Rip Curl Pro including trials	World Surfing League and Surfing Victoria
9 April	Surf Coast Trek	Give Where you Live
20 to 22 May	Australian Indigenous Surfing Titles	Surfing Victoria
18 OR 19 June	Hells Bells	Torquay Boardriders Club
26 June	Surf Coast Trail Marathon	Tour de Trails
20 August	Aggregate 4 - Torquay Boardriders Club	Torquay Boardriders Club
3 & 4 September	TOLL Victorian Open Series Round 5	Surfing Victoria
3 September	Surf Coast Century	Rapid Ascent
8 October	Aggregate 5 - Torquay Boardriders Club	Torquay Boardriders Club
29 October	Aggregate 6 - Torquay Boardriders Club	Torquay Boardriders Club
28 November	Afterglow Night Trail Run	Tour de Trails

Events proposed for Bells 2017

Date	Event	Contingency date (if applicable)	Organiser	Comment
13 January	Bells Bash (cliff top run)	NA	Jan Juc Surf Lifesaving Club	Fun runs of various lengths starting and finishing at Jan Juc Lifesaving Club, passing through Bells on the Surf Coast Walk trail http://janjucsurfclub.com.au/bells-bash/event-information/ .
14 & 15 January	Subway Pro Junior	NA	Surfing Victoria	Two day junior competition. Breaks not in use for the event may be used by surfers not participating in the competition. More details at https://www.surfgaustralia.com/states/vic/events/subway-pro-junior-bells-beach-victoria .
20 March to 5 May	Rip Curl Pro 2017	NA	Surfing Victoria	Set up for this event will be from 20 March to 8 April. Surfers can continue to use the breaks at Bells and Winki during setup for the Rip Curl Pro but there may be access and parking restrictions. Rip Curl Pro Trials 2017 , 9 & 10 April. The Trials will make use of one of the breaks within the Bells reserve. The break used will be determined by the conditions on the day and may vary. Breaks not in use for the Trials may be used by surfers not participating in the event. Rip Curl Pro 2017 , 12 to 24 April. The Rip Curl Pro will be held sometime over these dates, with the surfing conditions determining the actual times, days and break used. Refer to the World Surfing League website http://www.worldsurfleague.com/ for live updates during the event. The breaks not in use for the competition may be used by surfers not participating in the Pro, but note there will be access restrictions. Rip Curl Pro pack up , 25 April to 5 May. During these dates infrastructure for the Pro will be dismantled. Surfers can continue to use the breaks at Bells and Winki during this time but there may be access and parking restrictions.
26 to 28 May	Australian Indigenous Titles 2017	NA	Surfing Victoria	Three day competition. Breaks not in use for the event may be used by surfers not participating in the competition. More details will become available at https://www.surfgaustralia.com/states/vic .
2 & 3 September	TOLL Victorian Open Series Round 3 & Victorian Teams Titles 2017	NA	Surfing Victoria	Two day competition. Breaks not in use for the event may be used by surfers not participating in the competition. More details will become available at https://www.surfgaustralia.com/states/vic .
9 September	Surf Coast Century	NA	Rapid Ascent	Trail running event with runners passing through Bells on Surf Coast Walk at various times of the day. More information at http://rapidascent.com.au/SurfcoastCentury/ .