

**MINUTES**

**Red Hill Community Association**

**5.30 pm Thursday 18 May 2023**

**Scott House Arthurs Seat Road Red Hill**

1. **Present:** Carolynn Massola (Chair);John Eldridge, Bruce Kiloh, Jane Reynolds (Minute Taker)
2. **Apologies:** David Maddocks; Kerry Watson; Rob Commerford; Brett Trebilcock.
3. **Acknowledgement:** The chairacknowledged the traditional owners of the land on which the Committee met, Elders past present and emerging.
4. **Disaster Recovery Community Resilience:**

Stephanie de Bruin, Community Based Bushfire Management Facilitator (CFA) and Sam Norris, Captain, Red Hill Fire Brigade were welcomed. They addressed the committee seeking support for their proposed disaster resilience strategy and requesting representation at a future Workshop.

Summary points were:

* The concept is a community led strategy – supporting communities to reduce bush fire risk and better manager disaster recovery in a more co-ordinated way.
* This local initiative is being led by the Red Hill Fire Brigade aiming to involve local service agencies to be part of a community resilience action plan.
* This initiative grew out of learning from the big October storm event where authorities were slow (over a week late) to respond to Red Hill requirements. Electricity and mobile phone reception was unavailable to most residents. There were households cut off by road closures due to fallen trees with no water and electricity.
* The local brigade deployed local residents and contractors to clear the majority of major roads in the first three days of the crisis pending attended by MPS and SES.
* A draft Plan document has been prepared and Steph has been able to obtain approvals from relevant authorities to enable a planned local response in the first three days with insurances to cover those who are deployed to help, for example, contractors giving their services and also other volunteers. It is envisaged that after the first three days the relevant emergency services would take over.
* Local community services would be delegated functions such food water clothes.
* A hub would be established at the Recreation Reserve for co-ordination of communications and response plans. This would promote consistent messaging and co-ordination.
* There are plans to ensure that a telephone tree can operate supported by a battery and/or diesel generator which would ensure the mobile tower(s) operate through the initial aftermath. This would also support sms alerts etc.
* A Trust Fund is planned to support reimbursement of expenses/costs to any contractors who give their services, for example, fuel for chainsaws to avoid out of pocket.
* A community workshop is planned this year to map out strengths/gaps and to stress test our local capabilities and capacities through scenarios. There are well documented overseas examples of this process working well (eg: Christchurch New Zealand after earthquake experience). Each local organisation would be invited to send 2-3 representatives.
* United Energy have acknowledged problems and undertaken to provide a better response system in future.
* Mornington Peninsula Shire has also acknowledged that the post storm response was inadequate and is very supportive of this community led resilience plan.
* The idea of neighbours helping neighbours will be promoted – each road might have a shared contacts list and improved capacity to communicate and assist each other at the micro local level. This would echo the old Community Fire Guard program – there might be a street hero nominated for example to lead the street response and necessary support.
* Information will be sent to rate payers.
* It was acknowledged that the number of Air B n B is a challenge in terms of managing disaster preparation and response.
* It was acknowledged that the next few summer seasons are likely to present high fire risk.
* There was discussion about other relevant local networks which could contribute.

It was agreed that RHCA will return to Steph and Sam after the June meeting when the full Committee can discuss the above and decide on participation in the proposed Workshop.

1. **Minutes of Previous Committee Meeting**

John Eldridge moved acceptance of the Minutes to the previous meeting. Seconded by Bruce Kiloh. The previous minutes were accepted with no amendment.

1. **Secretary’s Report**

Correspondence discussed included:

* Councillor Gill’s email about Council dust suppression for unmade roads (distributed to members).
* Acquittal of the BBQ Grant.
* Confirmation of Bunnings BBQ fundraiser in August arranged by John with thanks from Committee. Relevant administration is in hand.
* Councillor Gill’s emails in regard to the toilet maintenance in the community reserve which has attracted concern from Food on the Hill.

Committee noted above and decided that the President would write to Councillor Gill (or Shire Offices) emphasising the need for these community toilet facilities to be regularly maintained and properly functioning. At this stage, the Committee did not support replacement of the existing facilities noting the likely $M cost of replacement and the fact that there are other toilets available at the Recreation Reserve. **Action CM**

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

Report is deferred to June meeting as Treasurer was an apology.

1. **Business Arising**

**ANZAC Day – 2023**

Noted as extremely successful and well attended. The only feedback requiring follow up is that some people could not hear and therefore a better sound system is needed for future events.

**Shoreham Road Safety Signage – Chevrons**

Committee noted that those at the Pt Leo Road corner junction have been removed.

**BBQ Acquittal**

It was noted that our funds are low particularly as: the BBQ expenditure exceeded the grant (as we were required to contribute funding under the terms of the grant); and our membership number has dropped. The Bunnings BBQ will help boost funds.

**Station Shelter Grounds**

Council has acknowledged but not yet substantively responded to the Committee’s request for periodic maintenance of the surround grounds.

**Station Signage**

Supplied by Mens Shed – further discussion required regarding reconciliation of payment made to Men’s Shed.

1. **Community** **Hub Updates**

No report this month

1. **RePower**

John Eldridge reported that:

* The last meeting was less effective as key people were unavoidably unable to attend and therefore John sees the need for more back up people.
* Rosebud has achieved a backup battery funded by Mornington Peninsula Shire
* Community publicity is planned in places like HillnRidge.
* John attended “Local Hero” training by Green Moves designed to help locals promote central messages related to reduction of carbon emissions.
* Next Repower meeting is 31 May at 7.00 pm.

1. **Other Business**

The Committee noted interest in the issue raised by Rob Connor related to difficulty and onerous requirements getting approvals for local events.

**Next Meeting –** 5.30 pm Thursday 15 June

**Community Coffee Catchup** – 9.30 am Friday 2 June

**Meeting Closed at 6.45 pm**