

assess 11/2/04 RBH

MINUTES OF THE GUNGALIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
12 November 2003

The Vice President, Roma Hoskins, opened the meeting at 7.35 pm. Ian Rucroft took the minutes for the meeting. Roma advised that she has received a petition from Steve Pratt relating to concerns about Policing in the ACT. Roma invited those supportive of the petition to sign it; and/or to circulate the document, if they were interested in being active on this issue.

1) Attendance: Those present are registered on the attendance sheet (Approximately 15 people). There were a number of apologies, which are registered on the meeting attendance sheet.

2) Oct Minutes: The minutes of the October meeting were unable to be accepted due to the unusual circumstance where there were not two people at the November meeting who had attended the October meeting. This item was deferred to the December meeting of the GCC.

3) Finances: In the absence of the Treasurer, Roma Hoskins presented the meeting with a financial report: a) Gungahlin Community Council account has \$9,355. b) Gungahlin Community Council Hall account has \$4,749. c) The GCC also holds \$3,636.36 as the remainder of a grant to publish a booklet relating to the Gold Creek Homestead.

Motion: That the financial report be accepted -- Moved Jon Reynolds; Seconded: Ian Rucroft. The motion was carried without dissent.

4) Following discussion relating to these agenda items: The following motions were considered by the meeting:

a) **Motion:** That the GCC Executive write to the relevant authority/ organisation to requesting that a post box is installed at, or adjacent to, the Nicholls shopping complex.

Moved: Shirlee Goodall; Seconded: Douglas Mayben – The motion was carried without dissent.

b) **Motion:** That the Gold Creek Homestead Community Working Group (GCHCWG) be acknowledged as a sub-committee of the GCC. That the GCC appoints Yvonne Miller as the interim convenor of the sub-committee and authorises Yvonne to act in that capacity. Note Yvonne advised that she was prepared to act as the interim convenor of the GCHCWG.

Moved: Roma Hoskins; Seconded: Shirlee Goodall – The motion was carried without dissent.

5) Kerrie Tucker MLA (ACT Greens): Roma welcomed Kerrie and invited her to address the meeting. Kerrie informed the meeting that as the only MLA representing the Greens she considers herself as representing all areas of the ACT region, including Gungahlin.

Kerrie identified several issues as being of particular interest to her at this time. These include Homelessness; The current inquiry into maternity services in the ACT; Children at risk of not finishing school; Environmental issues; Public transport needs; Air port related issues, including noise; The Canberra Plan/ Spatial Plan and other issues referred to her by members of the community.

Kerrie advised that the ACT Greens had opposed the construction of the Gungahlin Drive Extension as they consider that better options are available for Gungahlin residents. The ACT Greens consider that issues like employment for the Gungahlin Town Centre/ Mitchell district and construction of Light Rail can make a considerable contribution to Gungahlin, without creating environmental negatives.

Roma then opened the meeting for questions to Kerrie Tucker. Issues discussed included: Child care; Nature corridors; Light Rail and the power source for Light Rail; Gungahlin Town Centre development and traffic issues; The Barton Hwy/ Gundaroo Rd intersection; The Bill of

Rights; Family structure and the issues related to the Bill of Rights; Gold Creek Homestead; Fire abatement and Environmental issues. Childcare in Gungahlin was discussed, with Emma Lea Sheather identifying issues related to childcare waiting lists in the Gungahlin and the limited options for users. (see item 7 and the article in the December 2003 issue of Gunsmoke).

Kerrie undertook to talk to Bill Wood about the Gold Creek Homestead and to familiarise herself with the issues relating to childcare in Gungahlin and the Barton Hwy intersection. Kerrie also invited residents to contact her if there were issues that they would like to discuss with her.

6) Canberra Co housing: A representative from Co housing addressed the meeting in relation to the Gungahlin co housing project. The project is planned to have between 15 and 30 households with a range of housing, from single units to 4+ bedroom homes. Co housing developments exist in other Australian/ NZ cities, such as Fremantle, Auckland, Hobart, Adelaide, and Melbourne. Co housing is also supportive of "Green" options and offers opportunities for supportive accommodation, low cost housing and community support for disadvantaged persons. Although the homes have normal facilities, like kitchens, there are also common facilities for communal use. This offers an opportunity for residents to participate in group and/or sharing arrangements, such as recreational activities, meals rostering etc; similar to an aged care facility.

The organisation has been given a grant (from the ACT Government) to develop a feasibility study/ concept plan and they are in the process of requesting a direct sale of land in the Gungahlin district.

7) Child care services in the Gungahlin district: The GCC is aware of the continuing shortage of childcare places in the Gungahlin district. This issue is compounded by a general shortage of childcare places throughout the ACT. Recent developments have been the sale of land for a "private" childcare centre and the opening (1 Dec 2003) of the ACT Government's facility in the Gungahlin Town Centre.

The GCC Exec committee is concerned about information, which is indicating that the GTC childcare facility has been awarded to an organisation that is proposing to have a fee structure that is considerably more expensive than other Gungahlin childcare centres. It is understood that this fee is \$55 per day. It is understood that the current fee range in Gungahlin is:
GTC = \$54 per day for long-day-care, including all meals and nappy service.
Nicholls = \$ 44 per day for long-day-care, including all meals and nappy service;
Ngunnawal = \$ 47 per day for long-day-care, including morning and afternoon teas plus nappy service.

It would appear that there are no local alternatives for Gungahlin users, seeking centre-based childcare. There is little chance of competition when the waiting lists are: Ngunnawal 180+; Nicholls 300+; GTC 200+. Although it is recognised that some potential users would be on all 3 waiting lists, it is estimated that there are more than 350 users still requiring childcare (after the GTC facility is full). The GCC is aware that there was at least one conforming tender that had a proposed fee of \$ 45 per day for long-day-care, including all meals and nappy service. A rough calculation is \$10 per day for a 90 place centre = \$4,500 per week going out of the Gungahlin district. The GCC is endeavouring to get written confirmation of the GTC's fee structure. If the difference (in the fee) is as currently understood, the GCC will need to consider options.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.