

SUFFOLK PARK PROGRESS ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
November 30, 2022

Attendees: Donald Maughan, Karin Kolbe, Matt Cotter, Margaret Wiles, Helena Maughan, Helen Revis, Noelene Plummer, Tony Christy, Bill Payne

Apologies: Christine Guinand, Philippe Soria, Peter Ormerod, Prue Page, Magdalena Gustafsson

Acknowledgment of Country

Approval 2021 AGM minutes

moved by K. Kolbe, seconded by M. Cotter.

Treasurer's report presented by Philippe Soria (see below)

Move to accept Treasurer's report by K. Kolbe, seconded M. Cotter.

President's report presented by Donald Maughan (see below)

Move to accept President's report by K. Kolbe, seconded by M. Cotter

Nominations for next term:

Seven nominations were elected unopposed.

President	Donald Maughan
Vice President	Philippe Soria
Treasurer	Philippe Soria
Secretary	Christine Guinand
Members	Margaret Wiles
	Peter Ormerod
	Matt Cotter
	James Norton

Magdalena Gustafsson has sadly resigned from the committee.

She has achieved remarkable success in bringing our community together after the flooding. We wish her all the best.

Treasurer's report

From 30/09/21 to 30/09/22

Opening balance: \$2967.07

income:

- memberships: \$195

expenses:

- design / print \$378.95 (logo / t-shirts)
- Crazy Domains \$39.60 (domain name)
- Tekwizard \$65.70 (website)

- Vista Print \$51.70 (tennis banner)

- Fair Trading \$48.00

Closing balance: \$2578.29

President's report by Donald Maughan

It is once again my privilege on behalf of the Suffolk Park Progress Association committee to present the President's report for the 63rd AGM

This report covers the period March - November 2022

At the last AGM in March I reported that the **pedestrian crossing on Broken Head Rd** near the RSL aged care facility was due to be installed by the end of June. Unfortunately Byron shire was hit by a series of disastrous floods which totally took over Council's available resources, and staff have been relocated and refocused into urgent remedial action. As a result the pedestrian crossing lost its priority. We have been in contact with Council's new Roads & Traffic manager (James Floctan) but as yet no timeframe has been committed for completion of this project.

Gaggin Park

Following more lobbying from SPPA, in late July Council installed a bird nest swing which is more enjoyable for families with small children, and a ground-level hurdy-gurdy. Council also tidied up the landscaping in the playground area.

Linda Vidler Park

SPPA were successful in lobbying Council to install five more bench seats around the pump track and a row of bench seats along the perimeter of the community garden. Council completed the development of a drainage plan for the W end of the park, which is now being subject to a REF (review of environmental factors). Council obtained a government grant to complete this work, as well as sub surface drainage on the soccer field, and hopefully this work can be completed early 2023.

Soccer club premises

The SPFC were successful in obtaining a \$400,000 grant to build change rooms and a canteen facility separate to the existing toilet block. Design works have been completed and Council are planning to commence building early 2023. This is an exciting outcome for one of Suffolk's major sporting groups, congratulations to Magdalena Gustafsson, President SPFC and her committee.

Suffolk Park beach accesses

Many of these access points have degraded wooden step paths, and this was pointed out to Council in the past months. However with the drain on Council resources due to disaster recovery, this work has been delayed. We have sent photos, and Council Open Spaces have advised that these paths are now under review.

Suffolk Park tennis courts

There is significant damage to the court surface at the SE corner of the courts. Council obtained funding via flood recovery grants, and will commence work after formal confirmation. A new group called Byron Community Tennis has formed, and are attempting to drive the development and upgrade of the courts, and lobbying Council to formalise the hiring, usage and maintenance of courts. They are seeking assistance through Tennis NSW for funding. SPPA are working to assist them with this project.

DA 9-15 Clifford Street

As you may know, there was a DA before Council to build a large development on this site. The community rallied to oppose it and SPPA joined with other community members to petition Council to reject this DA on several points of non-compliance. The DA was rejected. This was a great example of how united community action can have a positive action in protecting our village. The developer is now taking this DA to the Land & Environment court in an attempt to overrule the Council rejection of the DA.

2022 Flooding

SPPA facilitated a community meeting on May 10 to give the community a forum to voice their concerns about the flooding and its impacts. It was attended by 30 people, and from that meeting SPPA put together a summary of community concerns and forwarded it to Council General Manager. In the last month Council have held a series of meetings to do further consultation with community regarding this flooding event.

SPPA banking

After our last AGM in March, our longstanding treasurer Margaret Wiles handed this role over to Philippe Soria. Our banking had been done so far with Southern Cross Credit Union, however after they closed their Byron Bay branch we moved our banking to the Commonwealth Bank. Under Philippe's guidance the SPPA has now attained "not for profit" status which gives us tax exemption.

Other

SPPA have again this year worked closely with and have alliances with local community groups in the shire, these include CABS (Community Alliance for Byron Shire), Byron Shire Council Roundtable discussion group, the Town Centre Masterplan Committee, Bay FM, Byron Bay Historical Society, Byron Community Tennis, Suffolk Park Rural Fire Service.

On behalf of the SPPA committee I acknowledge and thank some of the wonderful other community groups that contribute to our thriving little village - the Suffolk Rural Fire Service, the Suffolk Park Football Club, the Community Garden, and the Suffolk Park Hall committee.

We also acknowledge and thank the local businesses who support and assist our SPPA team: SPAR, the Park Hotel, Baz & Shaz, the Suffolk Bakery, and Suffolk physiotherapist Anthony D'Orsogno.

Finally, I thank the SPPA committee for their ongoing support and dedication : Christine Guinand, Philippe Soria, Margaret Wiles, Magdalena Gustafsson, Matt Cotter, James Norton and Peter Ormerod.

I particularly want to express my gratitude to Magdalena Gustafsson who is stepping down after several terms on the committee. Thank you Mags.

Let's continue to acknowledge and support all those who live in our village because that is how we grow and protect our youth and their families.

Other business

Bill Payne talked about the ICOLL and the plan for Tallow Creek. (see summary below)

Karin Kolbe proposed that a 30 km speed limit be applied to all roads in Suffolk Park. This was unanimously accepted. Our roads are dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists due to the lack of footpaths, cars parked on nature strips, inadequate lighting, and lack of No Stopping signs on street corners. Traffic calming measures such as speed bumps and chicanes should be increased.

There was discussion about changing the name of the Suffolk Park Progress Association to Suffolk Park Community Association.

Bad drainage has caused much of the flooding in Suffolk Park. Council should fix our inadequate pipes and drains once they have finished remediating the landslips.

There should be an emergency plan for potential future disasters. It is important to build community contacts and know one's neighbours.

SPPA is keen to be involved in the implementation of actions to clean up and improve the Baywood Chase lake.

Bill Payne: Tallows Creek flooding issues

Council's licence and policy to open a flooded Tallows Creek is based on a number of factors including:

- flood levels exceeding a predetermined height,*
- having a predetermined amount of rain falling or about to fall and*
- approval from State government agencies and Arakwal Corporation*

These current operational constraints make it almost impossible to open the creek.

In mid 2021 these constraints allowed flooding to persist for at least 3 months. This resulted in significant damage to local ecological and public health. Namely large tree kills, noxious aquatic weed infestation, destruction of residents' backyards, foul smells, increased mosquito activity and closure of public infrastructure.

Previous opening programs have controlled these issues by using more frequent minor openings as the time of flooding is a major factor in creation of the above damage. Such systems have not lead to major fish kills. That is flood inundation should be limited to three weeks not three months..

Advice from expert hydrologist and hydraulic engineers considered Council's perception that the creek discharged principally via decanting to be incorrect and that most of the flow moved as gradually varied flow.

These observations and opinions would permit more frequent openings and address community concerns. A community group called Save Tallows Creek was created to bring these issues, observations and requests for action to Council and Councillors. Although undertakings were given no change has been made. This is because of the operational constraints referred to above.

Council is currently reviewing the management of Tallows Creek under its new Coastal Management Plan (CMP). The operational constraints can be changed via the new CMP. The above matters and opinions should be kept in front of Council staff as a matter of priority to try to gain good community and environmental outcomes.