

ORA Meeting 8th of October 2024

Started 8:20pm Closed: 9:39

Attendance:

Alison and Graham Stephens, Erica Pike, Dianne Feldtmann, Nellie Vander Hayden, Barb Godde, Don and Janet Heath, Neil Brock, Neil Barclay, Martin Butcher, Deb Humphreys, Janice and Greg Cherry, Darren Edwards, Gary and Cheryl, Arthur Parker, Heather and Maurie Tyers, Jason Mullins.

Apologies:

Joan Maher, Sally Day, Paula McGavin, Bruce Ubergang, Rachel Valender, Sue McGregor.

Acceptance of previous Minutes: from August 24th 2024 meeting

Moved: Janet Heath **Seconded:** Maurie Tyers - carried

Business arising:

Correspondence in: Defibrillator sessions for free 12th and 20th October First Aid and CPR. Contact S.molan@wangeratta.vic.gov.au

Correspondence out:

Continuing to work to address public officers (Erica) takes time to deal with process. Nurses sculpture – applications underway. ORA will auspice the project if grant achieved – looking at \$25k to complete project. Need to have half the funds as deposit before ordering sculptures.

Applications for funds for Bicentennial event – unsuccessful from Rural City

Moved: Barb Godde **Seconded:** Graham Stevens – carried

Financial report:

\$6065.85 in Bank after table tennis money IN. Will be able to cover the cost of the plaque for Naming commemoration

Moved: Janet **Seconded:** Jason Mullins – carried.

Bicentenary Naming of Oxley plains:

Grant application not successful.

Report from Neil: group met on 23rd Sept, Helen Haines confirmed, have invited Tim McCurdy and Councillors. Plaque has been ordered and Paula will do artwork for a flyer. Sally Day is organising the school celebration. Morning tea, displays etc and music. Residents will be informed of details via the flyer. There will be a sausage sizzle in the park after unveiling the plaque. Looking at a combined flyer.

Action: Paula McGavin and Sally Day to organise flyer

Event date: Sat 30th of November – Unveiling of plaque at 10am, 12.30 for sausage sizzle.

Landcare project: No report

Fire Brigade: No report

Oxley Reserve report:

(See detailed report attached)

- Work undertaken for flood mitigation.
- Moyu pony club cross country course this weekend with 120 riders. They have been upgrading the course.
- Campers have alerted committee and Police have responded re: hoons damaging the riding course.
- Attempts at breaking into the honesty box. Will put up some security cameras at the front gate.
- With new group 14 volunteers assisted with works.
- Investigating fencing to keep cattle away from campers. Reserve is very popular with campers, often from Wangaratta and mothers group meet there and travellers in general.
- Healthy population of wombats in the back paddocks with big warrens.

Remembrance Day: committee met, invitations to all have been sent out. ‘Catafalque Party’. Most items have been lined up and should have a bugler.

Martin Butcher – Modern Meeting methods:

Presentation about how groups of people can collaboratively make decisions together. Will demonstrate two processes of graded agreements. Using survey methods – in sharing results and reflection.

1. Easy topic for demonstration
2. Harder topic that is more real – re: solar farm.
3. Next steps...

Social committee: No report

Oxley trail committee: Are meeting in December –
Next meeting Christmas party in the park first Friday in December 6th 2024.

General business:

Arthur Parker & Darren Edwards made presentation about Meadow Creek Solar Farm.

- The solar farm project is 566 hectares on declared special water catchment area
- Total of 198 batteries on site stored in 40 foot containers full of Lithium batteries
- Concerns expressed about fires etc.
- 592 thousand solar panels will be installed.

- Wangaratta planning scheme says that area should not be developed on re: water quality.
- All info on online report.
- Of concern because its massive – concern about water ways and wetland of the site, agriculture and water quality for Oxley.
- Site is a breeding ground for water birds and endangered froglet (done in 2022)
- Proposing to put battery 30 metres from a tributary. The water runs from it into Oxley for Oxley water supply.
- Trucks that will drive down Meadow Creek Road. Over 100 trucks per day – one vehicle every 40 seconds for two years while they build it and if it doesn't flood, and it is built on time.
- Traffic management overlooks Primary School and Oxley township and may impact residents.
- Trucks will start at 5.30am – dangerous during winter re: visibility.
- There were a number of other safety concerns listed e.g. reserve traffic, culverts and other issues along Meadow Creek road.
- Even once built there will be maintenance traffic ongoing.
- Land will be leased to Norwegian company which is funding the development of solar farm by a family based in Melbourne.

Next steps:

(Additional information is available at Oxley shop)

ORA to send a letter of concern about construction of the solar farm and its impact on Oxley township, the environment, water quality and tourism.

Motion: Dianne Feltmann **Seconded:** Arthur Parker - carried

Details for opposing:

For opposition to Hannah Scott concerns of impacts of residents in Oxley and local area and traffic and environmental impact.

Contact:

Application Number: PA2403133 (QUOTE)

Applicant Name: Meadow Creek Solar Farm Pty Ltd

Send to: development.approvals@transport.vic.gov.au

Address: Attention: Hannah Scott, 1 Spring Steet, Melbourne Vic 3000.

Objections must:

- Be made to the Responsible Authority
- Include reasons for the objection and
- State how the objector would be affected.

For more information contact: MCACAG@yahoo.com