

PQCEG minutes meeting 10

2.30pm 7 May 2019 Somerville Community House

1. Attendance

Chair: Rob Gerrand
Chris DeFreitas
Jo Murray
Gerard Lynch and Julia Adler ERR
David Chalke Tyabb Ratepayers
Martin O'Shaughnessy and Heather Hutchinson EPA
Paul Lewis Shire
Dianne Anderson
Daniel Petroni
Susan Milton and Franc Amendola (BERG)
Kerren Clark (minutes)

2. Apologies

Vince Lopardi SRW, Emma Gasper, Ian McLeod, Martin Reeves, David Bergin, Leah Collins, Kate Blake, Geoff Gilbert

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

Approved as circulated.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

Nil.

5. Complaints protocol

Noted and agreed this does not prohibit residents from raising concerns with their local representatives.

6. Community grants program

The advertisement has been circulated and members were invited to circulate. David said he would insert it in the Association newsletter.

Paul commented on the earlier CFA grant and noted that a permit may be required for the variable messaging board. He will reach out to the CFA.

7. Site activity update

The naval base project is nearly complete with only three or so big days remaining.

An emergency job was completed for Melbourne Water and Chris anticipated that June and July will be quiet.

The main loop road inside the site is being continually graded and repaired – ongoing exercise.

David asked whether other areas of the quarry had been opened up and if that could be the source of the noise about which Di has complained. Daniel confirmed Stage 4 has been open since July 2018, and no different equipment was being used on site. Chris also replied that it has been open for 10 months so that is doubtful.

Di asked whether rock is being excavated and Chris explained that sandstone, interlaced with the clay, continues to be excavated. Susan asked what it is used for and Chris said that the material is used for road sub-base (sometimes mixed with rock from other quarries as part of the road pavement) and dam lining.

8. Complaints and compliments register

Jo tabled the register and the website was update Monday 6/5/19.

9. Tree planting and bund works

Bund works are complete, and 3,000 trees have been planted, fertilized and watered. There are 4,000 more on order and as the space is already quite full, he is not sure where they will be planted.

The trees should be established by spring and the Chair suggested a site tour. It was agreed that a tour in spring is desirable.

Susan asked if there is a variety of trees – there is a substantial variety of endemic plants from the list supplied by council and local residents.

10. Safety

The formal response from the shire about a stop sign and speed limits was circulated and discussed.

David observed that the temporary signs are being stolen. David thanked PQV for the prompt response to getting the signs replaced. Chris said they are not easily removed, with a vehicle being required to remove them. Paul said that while cameras can be set up, they are probably not warranted. He offered to investigate an engineering solution. Julia asked if the limit could be painted on the road. This is not a viable solution while the limit remains temporary. It was noted that there will be a return to the permanent limit when the intersection upgrade is completed.

Franc asked why it had not been done. Paul reported that while officers recommended the upgrade, it was not supported by councillors. He noted that the issue will be voted on a second time in the near future.

11. Dust

A chart reflecting dust results for last 24 months was circulated with the agenda. Results are compliant with guidelines.

The Chair asked whether the dust had abated, and Di said it was just as bad as ever. The Chair asked if it was reduced by the rain and Di said yes.

12. Noise

Di reported that the noise was unbearable the last two Mondays and Tuesdays. She complained of banging and reversing beepers. Chris and Jo confirmed that all on site vehicles owned by PQ have been fitted with squawkers and that the reversing beepers are on off-site trucks. It is a legal requirement that road vehicles be fitted with beepers that cannot be removed/disabled.

Reversing is required only rarely, when a truck is overloaded. Jo reported that today one of 21 trucks was overloaded, and this was by only 20kg out of 40 tonnes. Chris said that the loading operator is the best he has ever seen. Even this minor difference must be

corrected by law and operators are prohibited from climbing on the truck to remove any amount of product by the OHS Act.

Gerard asked whether the beepers could be on other properties along the road and Chris said it was possible.

Paul asked whether there are recordings of the noise and Daniel referred him to the ARUP report which has been tabled at the committee and supplied to the EPA and ERR. Paul noted that monitoring represents assumed compliance but if activity has changed there may be an amenity issue. He said that PQV is not responding to specific complaints.

Chris said that activity has not changed and noted that works are generally confined to the main quarry pit, other than road repair. Daniel also said that the road was repaired during the period of the noise monitoring.

Paul said that specific times and lengths of time need to be recorded and offered to send the Shire's noise log spreadsheet to Kerren for circulation. He added that council does have a noise monitor and it can be requested although there is likely a long waiting list.

Daniel said that ERR have been invited to conduct noise monitoring and he now extends the invitation to the Mornington Peninsula Shire.

David asked that responses on the complaint register be individualised. Jo said it is easier to investigate when the complainant phones her or Chris when the event was occurring. This allows them to investigate at the time rather than trying to reconstruct after an email has been reviewed.

Paul noted that while there is no obligation to act, it is the neighbourly thing to do. He added that in order to respond times and dates are essential.

Daniel asked Jo and Chris to please ensure that recorded responses are specific to each complaint. Jo requested that with regards to any complaints people should follow the complaints protocol and ring either Chris or herself. It will be easier to identify the source of the complaint if it is at the time of it happening/or happened rather than a few hours later via email. This will assist with putting a more realistic response on the complaints register and also for the quarry changing what we are doing at the time to eliminate/reduce any noise.

David reiterated his question from the last meeting and Daniel reported that the consultant advises that the professional opinion is subjective and based on 20 years experience. Paul offered for the council's noise expert to review the ARUP's report.

13. General business

Frank enquired about the water discharge licence and Daniel said there has been no change since the last meeting and there is no current discharge.

Susan asked about overflow and Daniel said that it follows the natural swales in the area.

Frank asked why is there no risk assessment for a flood? Daniel said a event flood is not a discharge and if a discharge from the quarry is required it is managed on site within the existing quarry pit and dam on the property.

He also said that if an emergency requires a discharge the EPA is notified. Chris added that a flood is highly unlikely. At present the dam is far from full and even if it is full water can be discharged into the main pit.

Frank asked why not apply now for a discharge licence in case there is a major flood? Martin said that a licence is required only when discharge is on a regular basis. He commented that he believes that the application is almost ready for submission and Daniel said that he does not currently have authority for submission. Martin added that there is no obligation to apply for a permit for an unlikely event. The vast majority of quarries do not have discharge licences. However, if discharged water is contaminated the company is liable even without a licence. The onus is on the company to keep the water on site.

Heather referred to a new EPA framework to be adopted in 2020 that aims to be more preventative. She offered to provide information to Kerren for circulation.

Susan asked whether PQV undertakes water testing. Chris said that it does but of late there has been no water to test. The testing is to form background data for the discharge license application.

Susan said BERG conducts tests further downstream and she would like to see PQV results for comparison. Daniel agreed to supply results at next meeting.

14. Next meeting

2.30pm Thursday 8 August 2019