INFORMAL NOTES OF MEETING

Notes of informal meeting of the Northcliffe Forest Park Management Committee (NFPMC) held on Wednesday 19th July 2023 at Northcliffe Information and Visitor Centre Northcliffe.

1. Opened 5:26 pm

Chaired by Wendy Eiby.

The Shire of Manjimup respectfully acknowledges the Noongar people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands in which we work throughout the region and we pay our respects to their Elders past and present.'

2. In Attendance:

Spencer Roberts
Wendy Eiby
Graham Evans
Mark Batty

Apologies:

John Bailey

Public:

Cheryle Macaulay via phone link (Cheryle is no longer a Committee member - Terms of Reference amendment adopted by Council at meeting of 13 April 2023)
Thida Baldock
Cam Baldock

3. Terms of Reference

Cheryle Macaulay and Jim Wilson will submit correspondence officially resigning following the current meeting.

Cameron Bladock has submitted a letter to the committee asking to be accepted as a Community Representative.

Thida Baldock will write to the Committee asking to be considered as a Community Representative.

4. Governance

Nil.

5. Declaration of Interest

Nil.

6. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

7. Decisions by Council from previous minutes

7.1 New Committee Member

Mark Batty was approved as a new member and the resolution was adopted by Council at the 13 April 2023 Council Meeting. Terms of Reference were amended to reflect the change.

8. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

8.1 Works Needed on Gardner River Adventure Trail

More clearing needs to be done by volunteers and tree is to be removed by Shire officers on the entry side.

8.2 Sydney Golden Wattle

Wendy Eiby thanked the Shire for the work toward removing Golden Wattle infestations.

8.3 Arum Lilly Infestation

The Arum Lilly identified was not on Crown Land so Spencer said Shire cannot do anything about it. Committee members discussed the likelihood of the Arum Lilly reaching Northcliffe Forest Park and other ideas for controlling Northcliffe outbreaks, in particular in the area adjacent to the Richards property. Graham Evans reported that Ken Moore from Northcliffe had offered to assist with addressing the problem.

8.4 Blackberry Weed Outbreaks

Spencer Roberts reported that the Works and Services team have applied for Shire funds for Blackberry Control. Wendy Eiby said that the committee could work on mapping of outbreaks in the meantime. The aim would be to prepare for spraying in April and May of 2024.

8.5 Cattle encroachment

Spencer Roberts to obtain map of park boundaries so responsibility can be established for action on this.

8.6 Gate on Firebreak below Marri Meander

Wendy Eiby said the gate has been repeatedly broken despite attempts to strengthen it. Frogs are still breeding but have moved to higher ground after DFES firebreak clearing over Summer.

8.7 Volunteers to Assist with Trail Clearing Sessions

Wendy Eiby asked what days/ times worked best for trail clearing for committee volunteers. Sundowners on a Sunday afternoon seemed a possibility.

9. Financial Report

Budget balance is currently zero but we are expecting an allocation of approximately $9,000 once Shire budget allocations are made.

10. Role and Responsibilities of Committee

Codes of conduct will be supplied to new committee members at the next meeting.
Spencer Roberts noted that Northcliffe Environment Centre had disbanded and there will be no representative from the committee in future.

11. General Business

11.1 New Committee Members

Cameron Baldock and Thida Baldock introduced themselves to the committee. Both are hoping to be approved as new Community representative members. Recommendation to be voted on by the Northcliffe Forest Park Committee at the next meeting if quorum is met.

11.2 Twin Karri and Marri Meander clearing

Twin Karri and Marri Meander have been slashed but will need ongoing maintenance work by the committee volunteers. Spencer Roberts noted requirements of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 need to be attended to, and in the mean-time trails should not divert into fresh forest due to tree falls.

11.3 Trail Restoration after Burns

Spencer Roberts to enquire whether DFES money will be available for remediation and reinstating of tracks after burns.

11.4 Forest Park Maintenance

Wendy Eiby said that raking is required at Hollow Butt, Acacia and Town Dam picnic areas and Gardner River Adventure Trail needs to be cleared. Wendy Eiby asked if raked forest debris could be burned and Spencer Roberts said that it was acceptable if appropriately monitored. Spencer Roberts said 2m is the appropriate distance to rake debris back from infrastructure such as toilets and picnic tables.

Wendy Eiby said the broken picnic table at the Town Dam needs to be removed and the two newly purchased tables placed. Spencer Roberts said council staff would do this.

11.5 Town Dam Safety

The issue of the safety at Town Dam in proximity to the public picnic area was raised. Spencer Roberts said he would write to the Water Corporation regarding making dam infrastructure safe.

11.6 Placement of New Signage

Wendy Eiby said she had new signage coming which needed placement in Forest Park. The implications of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 are still being unpacked but Spencer Roberts said it would need to be taken into account whenever trail diversions are required, and when any digging occurs in Forest Park. Spencer said Aboriginal Cultural Heritage issues covered by the Act need to be investigated prior to any digging new posts.

11.7 Watsonia Spread

Wendy Eiby noted the spread of Watsonia on the western boundary of the park around the railway line.

11.8 Nature Play facilities

Wendy Eiby said she had discussed the community requests with Michael Leers for nature play facilities for kids in Northcliffe, and the possibility of locating some areas within Forest Park. The possibility of a number of smaller areas, rather than a single large playground, has been raised. Spencer Roberts noted that liability may fall on Shire and therefore risk management is required for all recreational assets. Wendy asked committee members to note good examples of nature play facilities or exercise equipment when they see them.

12. Next meeting

Spencer Roberts asked that future meetings be held at 4pm to allow earlier return to Manjimup.

4pm Wednesday 18th October 2023 at Northcliffe Information and Visitor Centre.

4pm Wednesday 13th December 2023 at Northcliffe Information and Visitor Centre.

13. Closed 6:10pm

SHIRE OF MANJIMUP

NORTHCLIFFE FOREST PARK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ACTION SHEET as at 19 July 2023

MEETING DATE	ITEM	ITEM OF ACTION	ACTION REQUIRED	ACTION
12/1/2022	12.2	An implementation plan is needed so that Forest Park Management Plan ambitions can be realised	Council to be advised of the committee's intention to create an implementation plan. Committee to meet to work on implementation plan.	Wendy Eiby John Bailey Committee
12/1/2022	12.4	Cattle Encroachment into Gardner River needs to be curtailed.	A detailed map of park boundaries in relation to the river should be obtained. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation need to be asked to assist with the situation.	Spencer Roberts
16/11/2022	6.4	Volunteers to assist with trail clearing sessions	Working bees to be organised.	Wendy Eiby
19/07/2023	8.3	Arum Lilly infestation	The Committee to investigate methods of controlling Arum Lillies on Crown Land adjacent to Forest Park.	?
19/07/2023	8.4	Blackberry weed outbreaks	Outbreaks on Gardner River need to be mapped pending Shire control spraying in April and May 2024.	Wendy Eiby
19/07/2023	11.3	Trail restoration after burns	Communication needs to occur with DFES to establish the availability of funds for trail restoration after burns.	Spencer Roberts
19/07/2023	11.5	Forest Park Maintenance	Town Dam picnic table replacement Broken old table to be removed and new tables placed.	Spencer Roberts
19/07/2023	11.6	Town dam safety	Safety of public around Town Dam water infrastructure needs attention. Spencer to write to Water Corporation to ask them to address safety issues.	Spencer Roberts

19/07/2023	11.7	Placement of new signage.	The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 potentially covers digging posts for new signs in Forest Park. Questions around this need to be resolved to allow placement of signage in new locations.	Wendy Eiby Spencer Roberts
19/07/2023	11.8	Nature Play facilities.	Examples of desirable and viable nature play facilities relevant to Forest Park will be useful for planning.	Committee