

MINUTES OF THE GLEBE SOCIETY'S TWELFTH A.G.M.
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 12TH AUGUST, 1981 AT THE
GLEBE TOWN HALL.

The meeting opened at 7.44 p.m. and formal proceedings finished at 10.10 p.m.

Apologies : Eric Sandblom, Walter Moore, Harry Seidler, Ron Stowe.

Minutes of the Previous AGM : These were read by the Secretary. It was proposed by Peter Stanbury, seconded by Mike Reynolds, that they be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the 11th A.G.M. Passed on the voices.

The President's Report : Tony Larkum asked that his formal report, published in a previous Bulletin, be taken as read. He went on to some other matters, as follows : He hoped for an easier year for the new committee, after the difficult and energy-draining 12 months past. The Society finds the TAFE inclusion on the Glebe High School site, already over-crowded, disturbing. The new Leichhardt Council has required our involvement as a Society because of the "Open Council" attitude. The Train Ride cost has inexplicably risen by 50% making it too expensive to mount another Ride. The Light Rail Symposium to be held at the Opera House was to cater to both the lay person and the specialist. He mentioned the progress on parks and other protests that had occurred. The potential sale of the Glebe Project to the State Government or private enterprise could not be decided until April, 1982. The new committee should work to preserve the area as being effectively under State Government control (given that the Commonwealth was definitely going to dispose of it) and not allow it to be broken up.

The President thanked those Society members who had worked away quietly during the year. Merle Larcombe and Jan Macindoe on the Bulletin production; Doris Sharpe and the Bulletin distributors; Nan Waterford (coffee mornings) and those who had opened their houses; Alan Robertson and Eric Sandblom for the extensive work and expertise on Town Planning and committees. The President moved a special vote of thanks to Eric Sandblom, who was leaving the district. The motion was seconded by Bill Nelson, and Eric is to be presented with a copy of "The Glebe Project" book from the Glebe Society, inscribed by Tony Larkum. He also thanked Betty Wright and Jeanette Knox for their work in social activities. The turn-up of only 40 to the recent Birthday Party was disappointing, as it was such a pleasant event for those who did come. Thanks also to Max Solling, for his readiness to help out on all matters historical and for dealing with letters requesting historical information. To John Buckingham and Bill Nelson for their work on Blackwattle Bay and Federal Parks issues and defining Glebe Society policy for presentation to Council. The President thanked John Hoddinott, the outgoing Secretary, for his contribution to the Society's activities over the previous two years. A copy of "Australian Art and Architecture, Essays presented to Bernard Smith (the Glebe Society's founder and first President in 1969)

was presented to the Secretary. An inscription from Tony and Bill Nelson was included on the flyleaf. Peter Stanbury spoke thanks to the Secretary. John Hoddinott replied by thanking Tony, Bill and Peter for the completely unexpected gift, and reminded members that the Society prospered because of the problems facing the suburb and because over its 12 years there had always been people ready to shoulder the load. Our successes over 12 years were sufficient reward. He thanked the committee for its work and support over his four years as Treasurer and Secretary.

The Treasurer's Report : Mike Reynolds asked that his report be taken as read as it had been published in the previous Bulletin. Tony Larkum proposed, John Hoddinott seconded, a vote of thanks to Mike, who was standing down, for his two years of work as Treasurer. Mike explained that in November the Society's funds would be boosted from the House and Garden inspection and that the Society's finances were more than adequate.

Planning Report : Alan Robertson presented a detailed report on the areas of town planning and the Leichhardt Planning Scheme. A summary follows. The gloom at the previous AGM has given way to a brighter future now. Four hundred and fifteen (approx) home units or town houses are currently being built or agreed to in Glebe. The two most controversial developments, A.W. Edwards and Pabco in the Wigram Road west area have been scaled down, from 102 to 86 units and 53 to 47 units, respectively. The height of the Edwards development has been reduced from four to two and a bit on the Minogue Crescent frontage. The roof is now to be pitched, not flat, and the introduction of balconies have been an improvement, if not particularly attractive still.

Four units have been removed from the Wigram Road frontage of the Pabco development, this area going to open space. A 10 metre strip plus the existing 4 metre existing (Waterboard-owned) strip is to become a walk, landscaped at the developer's expense. The proposal to keep the Pabco site as a park is, in Alan's view, too expensive at \$3.8 million, money better spent on other projects.

The Local Government election and new Planning legislation since the last A.G.M. have affected our area significantly. Council is now, with its new powers under the Act, tending to work to a compromise with developers. Council sub-committees are starting to gel.

There were more than 1000 objections from Glebe against the Leichhardt Planning Scheme. Alan praised Mr James Colman's supplementary report on public objections to the LPS as being very good indeed. Council has recently held a symposium on the Scheme with participation from residents and groups. A new proposal has been sent to the Department of Environment and Planning with recommendations for reduced densities, for instance the Bishopsthorpe and Toxteth estates new densities to be 150 persons per hectare. Most of Glebe would be protected under these new proposals. A proposal to prevent demolition of listed buildings is under way.

Alan reported that the Interim Conservation Order on the University Hotel, corner Broadway and Glebe Point Road, has become a

Permanent Conservation Order in May. A measure of agreement has been reached with the owner on redevelopment. The Local Government Plan allows for a special development of the site. The height of the development should not be more than the existing structure, stepping down to about two storeys. Development approval is expected in the next 12 months, conditional on restoration of the three verandah levels. Alan commented that the triangular TAFE building proposed on the Glebe High School site was unwelcome on the crowded site and that it was 3 to 4 storeys in height. The expected school population is 800 in 1985 on a site suitable for 600 pupils.

The owner of "Merton", 61 Ferry Road, had requested permission to demolish the building because of structural weaknesses. The Heritage Council has replied to our letter, asking for an engineer's report. Glebe Society member, David Mathlin and an engineering colleague had made such a report in which they stated that the building was not in danger of collapse. Consequently the Heritage Council has put a 130 Order on it, preventing demolition.

The Johnston Valley Parkland proposal has not progressed. Council has approved it in principle, but the issue is still dormant. There needs to be more work done on the idea.

The Glebe Society has written to the authorities concerned about the proposed sale of the Glebe Estate, and provided moral support to the residents. Council has been asked to lower the densities from the LPS figure of 225 pph to 150 pph. A request to the Heritage Council to place an Interim Conservation Order on the Estate produced a rather silly reply. The issue is to be pursued.

The Department of Environment and Planning has agreed to a rezoning of the 461/465 Glebe Point Road site in spite of opposition from Council, the 4-Shores Committee and the Glebe Society. Currently worth about \$0.5 million, the rezoned site could be valued at about \$1.5 million, which combined with several thousand dollars profit on each of the proposed 60 units, seems excessive. The development's height is 3 to 4 storeys, too high for the Harbour Foreshores Protection Zone.

Leichhardt Council's Town Planning Committee on 11th August, 1981, discussed the objections to the LPS from Glebe. The break-up seems strange. All road widenings have been deleted and the Ross Street shopping area has been rezoned as neighbourhood business.

The Bird & Lucas site has been requested to be rezoned as residential by the company on the close down of operations. Council has asked a \$5000 levy per unit in exchange for the 18 units. The developers claim that this \$90,000 contribution for the acquisition of open space is too high, but Alan suggested that it was not too much to ask in view of rezoning and profit involved.

The Sheehy Street extension to Cook Street will not occur because of the Parkes Development buildings. Steps and pedestrian access are now proposed instead. Residents had made 7 objections against the street extension, with two in support.

The grandstand go-ahead at Wentworth Park was a sad loss to the area, one reason being the lack of resident opposition to the development. It will benefit, in reality, only members of a private club. The proposal for a "flea market" at Wentworth Park has not been welcomed by the owners.

Rothwell Lodge, in Ferry Road, was proposed for community purposes in 1969. It is privately owned. It should be preserved and restored, a possible I.C.O. issue.

Beau Olsen asked a question from the floor about the small site on the corner of Taylor Street and Bridge Road, beside Glebe High School. Alan replied that it was being considered for 10 home units, but negotiations were continuing.

John Hoddinott proposed, Diana Sharpe seconded, a vote of thanks to Alan for his report and his work throughout the year. Bill Nelson spoke of Alan's grasp of the issues, his diligence, the time spent by him on the subject and the indebtedness by the Glebe Society for his effort. Bill also recommended that the Society involve itself as much as possible in Council sub-committees, more than we have done so far. Diana Sharpe asked Bill a question about tree plantings. Bill replied that Council had a full plan for plantings over the whole municipality and that the plans could be viewed at the Council's offices.

Parks & Open Space Report : John Buckingham presented his report. Blackwattle Bay Park, an issue contested for 10 years, has been resolved finally. If it hadn't been for local residents' opposition and the Glebe Society, it would have been lost to the public. John gave us a brief history of the green bans, lying down in front of bulldozers, discussions with Mr Landa and the Parkes developments, etc. Finally, Parkes Development seem at last ready to cooperate. A local resident had complained about the dumping of fill on the site. After a meeting, the developer tried to argue his case. Now, six proposals later, a resolution has been reached. This demonstrates democracy in action, John said.

The Glebe Society's subcommittee includes John Buckingham and Bob Armstrong for the Blackwattle Bay park. The plans for the new park were presented. "Venetia" is to be reroofed and fenced off. Bob Armstrong said that he was very pleased with the response from Council and its officers in the tripartite talks and discussions. He said that Council would probably have to spend money on park furniture, upkeep, etc., and that the Society may need to keep up pressure in that area to ensure that the park reaches fruition.

John reported on the Bicentennial Park proposal for the Jubilee/Federal Park area on Rozelle Bay. The area is still kept by the Maritime Services Board for "future port purposes". The Steetely site, once a chemical site, was proposed for a scaffolding storage area which the Glebe Society successfully opposed. More recently, the site has been suggested as a dry berth storage area, like Birkenhead Point. The release of the area depends on Mr Ferguson. Bruce McKenzie has drawn up an excellent set of plans for the park, and it is one of the seventy proposals received so far by the

Bicentennial Committee. The Glebe Society will pursue the issue.

History Report : Max Solling mentioned the series of talks to be presented at the Glebe High School in the evening around October. He referred to the Permanent Conservation Order issued on 15th May, 1981 on the University Hostel. Similar submissions were being prepared on the Joss House. Max's talk was entitled "Some Glebe Institutions" and presented some historical events of last century, including a St. Barnabas school excursion in 1865 with about 600 people walking down Broadway to participate in a ferry trip. Notable groups active then were the Glebe Musical Society and the Glebe Athletic & Pastime Club which included boxing, tinwhistle blowing and skipping in its activities.

The President thanked Max for his amusing and informative report.

Elections : The Glebe Society Management Committee election results were as follows with the proposer and seconder in parentheses:

President : Maureen Colman (Diana Sharpe, Betty Wright)
Senior Vice-President: Bob Armstrong (Gideon Rutherford, Bill Nelson)
Junior Vice-President: Doris Sharpe (Jeanette Knox, Mike Reynolds)
Secretary : John Buckingham (Tony Larkum, John Hoddinott)
Treasurer : Gideon Rutherford (Tony Larkum, John Hoddinott)
Committee Members : Bill Nelson (Pat Moore, Sally Nelson)
Neville Holmes (John Hoddinott, Gideon Rutherford)
Betty Wright (John Buckingham, Bill Nelson)
Diana Sharpe (Maureen Colman, Betty Wright)
New Member's Representative: Michael Haugh (John Hoddinott, Tony Larkum)
Jan Macindoe was elected Bulletin Editor.

At this stage, the new President took over the meeting.

Other Business : The Secretary reported briefly on the proposal prepared by Perumal, Barbara & Partners for the DMR-affected area around Lyndhurst. The report was available for viewing after the meeting for interested Society members. The report for rehabilitation

of the neglected area was accepted by the Management Committee as acceptable to Society policy. It was suggested that a coffee morning be held in the area.

Diana Sharpe gave a report on the LRT Symposium. John Hoddinott noted that copies of "The Glebe Project" book were on sale after the meeting.

From the floor, Mr Beau Olsen asked that the Society support proposals for pedestrian traffic lights for the Glebe High School in the very dangerous area of Taylor/Bridge/Darghan Streets. He said that there had been too much buck-passing over the issue. The Management Committee would pursue this matter.

The meeting closed at 10.10 p.m. with members partaking of wine and refreshments.
