

# Woden Valley Community Council Inc.

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## **Record of Meeting**

**1 April 2009**

1. The Chairman, Bill O'Brien, welcomed attendees. Apologies were received from David Menzel, Greg O'Regan, Michael and Helen Evans and Gina Pinkas.
2. Election of Committee Members. Alan Thompson nominated and Chris Erett seconded the election of Ruth Dobson and Shirley Lithgow as committee members of the WVCC.
3. Melrose Community Centre. Richard Hutch from the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services (DHCS) updated the meeting on the Melrose Community Centre on the former Melrose Primary School site. He said that \$30.2 million had been provided to DHCS over two financial years for the conversion of four former school sites to regional community centres and the creation of eight neighbourhood halls.
4. The regional community centres would provide long-term accommodation for community service organisations. Mr Hutch said that Melrose was designated as a health and wellbeing hub and would accommodate a number of organisations including the Brain Injury Foundation, the Asthma Foundation, Nutrition Australia and the Australian Diabetes Educators Association. The project management contract had been awarded to Hindmarsh in September 2008.
5. The architect for Melrose Community Centre was Conrad Moore from Munn Sly Architects Pty Ltd and a development application would be lodged with ACTPLA soon. The expected completion date for work on the Melrose Community Centre was June 2010. Community parks would also be created as part of the redevelopment.
6. It was noted that there would not be a neighbourhood hall in Melrose, a particular concern for the Woden community given there was not a

community centre in the Woden Valley. The Chair undertook to write to DHCS on the need for a neighbourhood hall in the Woden Valley.

7. On the Woden 'Green' Development, Bill O'Brien reported that, despite an earlier agreement, Hindmarsh said they would not be ready to update the WVCC on the development at this meeting. Hindmarsh agreed that the Woden community had a right to be kept informed of a development of this scale in the middle of the Woden Valley. It was noted that Hindmarsh are proposing to update the WVCC at its June meeting.

8. It was noted that Tony Gill from Roads ACT would do a presentation at the May meeting.

9. Lyons Estate Redevelopment (on former Burnie Court site). Bill O'Brien said we needed to get someone along to update the WVCC on the Lyons redevelopment. Some of the development has been approved and construction is well underway. Draft Variation (no.288) to the Territory Plan to allow for a ten storey tower block on the corner of Launceston Street and Melrose Drive, and six storeys across the site was now being considered by the Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works and TAMs. It was noted that the WVCC, which is opposed to this draft variation, would be appearing before the Standing Committee.

10. Proposed aged care facility in Farrer. Shirley Lithgow said an amendment to Mandir Ashram's development application for an aged care facility in Drevermann and Beasley Streets, Farrer had been lodged with ACTPLA. It was noted that the architect of the proposed development could not attend this meeting to explain the amendment and to answer questions.

11. Ms Lithgow said that the amendment, while welcomed, did little to address the key concerns of: the overcrowding and building bulk of the development that was incongruous with the surrounding low density residential and church developments; insufficient private open space; traffic and parking issues; and the unsuitability of the site for an aged care complex. It was noted the deadline for lodging objections/ comments with ACTPLA was COB 21 April.

12. Mr Aggarwal (representing Mandir Ashram Pty Ltd) was present at the meeting. He said he was not in a position to answer questions specifically about the plans but answered a number questions from the floor. It was noted that Mr Aggarwal would arrange for the architect to attend a special meeting of the WVCC to be held within the following two weeks.

13. It was noted that mediation had failed concerning the 16-unit development in Chifley. The developer was unwilling to reduce the number of units.

14. Bill O'Brien reported that the Chief Minister's Dept would be arranging meetings soon with community councils concerning funding arrangements for the councils.

15. The next meeting of the WVCC will be held on 6 May 2009.