

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE 62ND MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, THE 6TH AND 7TH
NOVEMBER, 1947, AT THE DEPARTMENT OF
THE INTERIOR, CANBERRA.

The Committee met at 10 a. m. on the 6th November.

PRESENT:

Mr. B. J. Waterhouse (Chairman)
Mr. C. S. Daley (Executive Member)
Senator C. A. Lamp (Chairman Parliamentary
Standing Committee on Public Works)
Mr. R. J. Keith Harris
Mr. H. M. Rolland
Mr. F. J. Walters. (Acting Chairman on 7th November
in Mr. Waterhouse's absence)

CONFIRMATION
OF MINUTES:

The Minutes of the 61st meeting were confirmed.

NOTIFICATIONS:

The Executive Member reported -

- (a) that, after the election of new members of the Advisory Council in September, Mr. Fraser had ceased to be Chairman and thus was no longer a member of the Committee;
- (b) that the Chairman was unable to remain for the meeting on Friday, 7th November, but that to assist in consideration of the items on the agenda he had arrived in Canberra on Wednesday, 5th November, and had discussed the various building proposals with the Director of Works and himself as a result of which it was possible to clarify some matters particularly in respect to the proposed Community and Shopping Centres in regard to which the Minister was most anxious to have early action taken;
- (c) that the Director of Works had kindly arranged to make available the services of Mr. Redmond to assist the Committee in considering various plans which he had prepared.

These items were noted and it was resolved to place on record and advise Mr. Fraser of the Committee's appreciation of the cooperation and assistance rendered by him as an ex-officio member.

COMMUNITY AND
SHOPPING
CENTRES:

The Chairman stated that the Executive Member and he, on the previous day, had discussed some general principles with the Director of Works, the Principal Architect, Mr. Weidner, and the Architect of the Planning Section, Mr. Redmond, in relation to the Government's desire that some immediate provision be made in the developing residential districts for local shopping facilities.

The points dealt with had included problems involved in obtaining convenient disposition of the shopping portion of Community Centres with regard to access from the rear for service, the provision of garages and incidental residential accommodation, so that the harmony could be achieved in relation to the balance of the shopping section and other community provisions.

B. J. W.

The Executive Member referred to his previous report to the Committee on this matter and indicated the substance of a later report prepared at the Minister's request to indicate what was practicable and desirable in making this urgent provision.

By arrangement Mr. Redmond attended the meeting and submitted sketch plans which had been reviewed as a result of discussions of the previous day. These were dealt with as follows:-

(a) Narrabundah (Demountable Housing Subdivision)

The Committee noted that the sketch plan for a shop and attached residence in this area formed one unit of the shopping block included in the community buildings in the approved layout plan (No.C.D.1140) for the temporary Workmen's Subdivision.

Mr. Redmond explained that the construction of the buildings would be in keeping with that of the adjoining residential area, namely a steel framed structure sheeted with asbestos cement. The Director of Works' report referred to the importance of screening the back yard of the shop from the road alongside Railway reserve and also from highway traffic on Sturt Avenue. It was noted that the proposal provided for a separate service road 12 feet wide to be taken to the back of the shops and screened with a 6 ft. high lattice fence and planting, as indicated in Drawings No. T. P. 85/47 and T.P. 89 /47.

The plans also included Drawing No. A.C.T. 17363 showing a plan of the shop and residence, its relation to future shopping development and also an elevation to the street.

It was resolved that the Committee approves generally of the scheme as shown in the plans submitted.

(b) Ainslie: Wakefield Gardens.

Consideration was given to a sketch plan (No. A.C.T.17410) which indicated a scheme for erecting two units of the proposed shopping section of the Community Centre in Wakefield Gardens, providing for one residence on the first floor above the two units. The plan was arranged so that the units could form one shop or two separate shops, one connected with the residence and the other as a lock-up shop.

The Committee noted that the sketch provided for readjustment of the original preliminary design by encroaching to some extent on the area designated " Music Lawn". It was thought that there would be little objection to this alteration as there was reasonable space for making adjustments in the plan for the Community Centre as a whole.

The Committee considered that the awning in front of the shops should be of cantilever type and that its width should be reduced to 10 ft. and that of the concrete concourse to 10 ft. also, for the present, with provision for increasing the width of the latter if required.

Subject to this modification it was resolved that the Committee concurs generally in the arrangement shown in Sketch Plan A.C.T.17410.

In discussing the matter with Mr. Redmond it was understood that, apart from the initial shopping section, the plan for the whole of the Centre would be reviewed and submitted later to the Committee for consideration.

(c) Yarralumla: Section 60

Mr. Redmond submitted to the Committee for consideration a sketch which provided for the erection, on Section 60, Yarralumla, of a store

Alan

The Executive Member advised that he had submitted a special report on this subject for the Minister's information in view of strong objections lodged by the Presbyterian Church to the erection of a Works Hostel on Capital Hill on account of the possibility of drunken or disorderly persons passing through the Church grounds on their way from the Hotel Wellington to the Hostel.

The report indicated the various sites that the Committee had inspected in association with Departmental officers and the difficulties of one kind or another that had been encountered in adopting one or more of these as sites for a camp or hostel. Mr. Daley mentioned that he had indicated his opinion that the location suggested for the Hostel at Capital Hill was a good one, situated as it was amongst standing trees and screened by rising ground from the residential areas of Forrest and Deakin. He had pointed out that objections lodged to the proposal for building the Hostel were based, he believed, largely on people's recollections of the old type of workmen's camp which it was not proposed to reintroduce, and that proper regulation of the hostel should obviate any serious embarrassment to the Church authorities.

The Minister had considered the matter and decided to approve of the adoption of the site, requesting, however, that the question of giving some protection to the Church authorities by fencing the grounds be gone into. This was being done by Departmental officers.

The Committee noted that the site indicated in the plan of layout was within an area which it had previously inspected and considered suitable for the purpose, and, after discussing the details of the plan, it was resolved that the Committee concurred in the proposed building arrangement for the Hostel as set out in Drawing A.C.T. No. 17350.

(b) Mount Ainslie Hostel:

The layout for the proposed Works Hostel at Mount Ainslie was indicated in Plan No. A.C.T. 17333 which showed a central dining room, kitchen, lounge with services and five sleeping huts on each side of the central block all linked with a covered way to the latter.

After reviewing the tentative site plan the Committee was of the opinion that it provided a suitable layout for the project, arranged conveniently in relation to the site in which the Committee had already expressed its concurrence.

(a) Narrabundah: Demountable Housing Subdivision.

A communication was received from the Director of Works forwarding plans indicating a proposal for the erection of 135 demountable dwellings in the workmen's area at Narrabundah. A copy of the site plan (C.D. 1140) showed the dwellings proposed coloured in pink and this was accompanied by a detailed layout plan (No. A.C.T. 17278) and plans indicating designs for two-bedroom and three-bedroom dwellings. Drawings Nos. A.C.T. 17202 and 17203 respectively.

It was noted that the present proposal comprised the sections required to complete the original scheme, and that the proposed layout and disposition of the houses were in accordance with the plan previously approved.

After examining the plans and discussing the details it was resolved that the Committee concurs in the proposal, including the layout for the houses and the designs for the two and three bedroom dwellings.

RPM