Minutes
Downer Community Association committee meeting
7 pm Monday 4 May 2026

1. Acknowledgement of Country (Chair Robyn Rennie)

2. Attendance and apologies

Attendance: Robyn Rennie (Chair), Leon Arundel (Secretary), Jacqui Pinkava (Public Officer), Amit Barkay and Jane Teasey (Committee members), Amy Barthet (Centre Manager), Ilka Carter, Greg Mulvaney, Aniko Carey, Peter Carey,
Apologies: Miles Boak (Treasurer), Bea Brickhill and Ramya Victor (Committee members).

3. Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting- 6 April 2026

The minutes were accepted.

4. Action Items arising from previous meetings

See list attached below

5. Correspondence report (Jacqui Pinkava)

See correspondence report below

6. Treasurer's report

The Treasurer provided a financial report for the year to date via email.
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7. Centre Management Report (Amy Barthet)

A person wishes to use a room in the Centre to offer free IT training and therefore would like to get the room for free. The committee agreed that people wishing to offer such services may submit proposals for support to the committee, in writing and/or in person at a committee meeting). A similar situation was raised by a youth dance group also wishing to get much reduced rates due to community contribution factor in what they are offering.
Agenda item for June Meeting- develop guidelines for a room rent grant.
Amit and Amy reported that the floor in the East Room is subsiding doe to movement of the building's foundations, leaving a gap between the floor and the wall. Amit proposes to fill the gap with sealant as it is unlikely that ACT Property will do anything about it.

8. North Canberra Community Council report (Leon Arundell)

Report of committee meeting 15 April is attached below

9. Proposed Melba St Pedestrian crossing

We were advised on 8 April that Roads ACT would reinspect and reassess Melba Street against the warrant for a pedestrian crossing in proximity to Atherton Street and Bradfield Street within two months. The date and time of the reinspection to be requested as this greatly affects the results.

10. Responsibility for managing the verge

The ACT Government's Landscape Director has advised that this is the responsibility of the the adjacent lease holder [?] and that a footpath on the western side of the Downer Centre to *The*

Goodwin and *The Bradfield* is inappropriate as, unlike the footpath at the eastern side, it would direct users to the carpark/ road with no adjoining/ receiving pedestrian network.

11. Petition for traffic calming measures at the Downer shops

Greg provided a copy of the petition, for consideration. Jacqui agreed to circulate it to the committee for comment by 11 May. Following agreement on the wording, the next step would be to ask an MLA (eg. Thomas Emerson) to sponsor the petition.

12. DCA Website

Amit has been in discussion with Gaffer Designs re; domain change etc. He recommends migrating to a new domain name (possibly downer.asn.au), with a redirect on the old domain (downercommunityassociation.org).
Committee agreed to new URL to be www.downer.asn.au

13. Floriade Plantings

Community to be invited to plant bulbs and annuals near the Downer Centre on 30-31 May. Amit is not available to coordinate. Amit to advise when bulbs and annuals are available for pick up from the Yarralumla Nursery. Jacqui has agreed to pick up.

Agreed that a landscaper be engaged to prepare the verge for plantings. DCA to meet costs.

14. Contact with Goodwin Downer Village Manager

Robyn reported that she has yet to receive a response to her correspondence with Riddi Shah. Suggested she approach again with a cc to Erik Boddeus, Executive Manager Retirement Living.

15. Other Business

Tradies DA Version 2- The committee agreed that the Chair should make a submission on the Development Application for redevelopment of the Dickson Tradies site, fully supporting the submission by the Dickson Residents Association.

Next Committee Meeting: 7 pm Monday 1 June 2026.

AGENDA 4- CONTINUOUS RECORD OF ACTION ITEMS

Completed action items

Completed Action	Meeting Date	Status

Pending action items

Pending action	Meeting Date	Status
Robyn: Petition on safety of the precinct road and car park nearest Gang Gang and the park**.** **Committee to agree on petition wording.** In consultation with Greg, Robyn to approach Tom Emerson MLA to sponsor the petition. **Jacqui and Leon** to promote via email and Facebook. Promotion also through Gang Gang patrons, Vet clients, and Downer dog walkers.	Feb 2026	Greg Mulvaney provided draft wording at the May meeting. The committee to provide comments by email by 11 May.
Miles- submit an application for the 2026 Heritage Grants for new interpretive signs.	Aug 2025	To be done by April- unlikely!
Robyn - Contact the Goodwin Village manager to liaise about our common interests.	May 2026	Follow up due to nil response.
Amit-Contact Lance Williamson Gaffer Designs about Domain for new website in preparation for new site going live	March 2026	In progress
Amit/ Jacqui/all- Floriade- organise landscaper to do pre work, pick up bulbs/annual, promote planting bee 30-31 May. Changed to 13-14 June, plants not ready.	May 2026	In progress
Robyn?- grant program for worthwhile/ community enhancing activities. Clients deemed worthy to then submit application for free room rent.	May 2026	
Robyn- Tradies DA Version 2- DCA's full support of the Dickson Residents Group's submission	May 2026	

AGENDA 5- DCA Correspondence-7 April – 4 May 2026- significant

Incoming

9 April- Miles Boak- letter from Office of Tara Cheyne re pedestrian crossing on Melba Street. Miles feels that the ACT gov has rejected the call for a crossing. The letter indicated a reassessment in 2 months time. Miles called for action- make the issue a human interest case not technical road data.

16 April- Lia Zhao, offering to run free computer literacy classes for older folk on weekends. She is a computer professional and wants to contribute to the community. She lives locally and is now a DCA member. She has spoken to Amy re room bookings etc.

29 April- Christine Butterfield- alerting DCA to Tradies DA Stage 2 now open with submissions due 12 May.

29 April- Jane Goffman- providing draft of Dickson Residents Group draft submission to Tradies DA.

Outgoing:

21 April- Robyn Rennie (Convenor) to Goodwin Downer Village Manager Riddi Shah introducing the DCA and inviting the new Goodwin residents to become members and get involved in the community.

26 April- to DCA members update on CBR Renewal Authority Dickson Precinct- concept plan for surrounding streetscapes.

AGENDA 8- Report of NCCC meeting

The meeting noted the NCCC submission on the ACT Aquatic Strategy and to the Inquiry into Financial Management and Government Procurement Legislative Compliance , and considered drafting submissions to the Inquiry into proposed rezoning of former Braddon Bowls Club site and the Inquiry into Planning (Missing Middle Housing) Amendment Bill 2026.

Leon and the President agreed to work together to address issues relating to conflict of interest, and constitutional issues relating to committee membership, dispute resolution and disciplinary action.