

Minutes of a Meeting of Kuaotunu Residents and Ratepayers Association

Held on 20th September 2017

Kuaotunu Fire Station

Commencing at 6.30pm

Present

Gordon McRobbie (Chair), Evans Young (acting Secretary), Dugald Hoyland, Chris Twemlow, Bruce Pilkington, Keith Goodall, Kate Neilson, Isobel Gilbert Palmer, Mel Asquith (from 6.40 -8,10).

In Attendance

Paul Kelly (Chair, MBCB), Rekha Percival (MBCB), Allan Tiplady (Mercury Bay Area Manager)

Prior to the meeting commencing, Gordon drew members attention to the need to show respect to each other and tolerate differing points of view. He was particularly concerned at the tone of recent emails between members.

Apologies

Alastair Brickell, Kathy Speirs, Bill Muir.

Received

Bruce/Dugald

Public Forum

Gordon introduced Vinnie Russell and his father Doug. Vinnie had circulated a petition in the community seeking support for a half pipe skateboard facility to be built in Kuaotunu and presented to the MBCB. Vinnie brought the committee up to date with progress and answered questions. He advised that;

- The petition had approximately 380 signatures,
- He has offers of support for funding, materials and labour from suppliers, tradesmen and locals,
- His preferred location is on the Domain, adjacent to the tennis courts and toilets,
- The estimated cost is approx. \$15,000.00.

Paul Kelly spoke of MBCB support for the petition and the intent to have Vinnie attend a Board workshop to further develop the proposal.

At the conclusion of his presentation, Gordon congratulated Vinnie on his initiative and advised that the committee would be considering how it would respond to his request for support later in the meeting.

Confirmation of Minutes

Kate requested that it be recorded that her motion for the Mining petition had originally read; **"That the KRRRA passes a resolution to prohibit extractive mineral mining and tailing dams in Kuaotunu and the Coromandel."** and the wording had been changed in the meeting minutes. She accepted that the matter had been addressed and resolved at the 31st Special Meeting. Members stressed the need for clarity and accuracy in the wording and recording of Resolutions and follow-up actions.

"That the minutes for the monthly meeting held 17th August and special meeting held 31st August, be received and confirmed as a true and accurate record."

Keith/Mel

Matters arising from Minutes

Bluff Road

The MBCB representatives were asked for an update on progress in opening Bluff Road to cyclists and pedestrians.

Allan Tiplady responded that he would check with Works and advise.

Paul Kelly advised that the matter was a "Work in Progress" and would take time to ensure all Health and Safety requirements had been adequately met.

Freedom Camping

Gordon addressed the TNZ letter and sought clarification of MBCM's position.

Allan T confirmed that TCDC has a 'licence to manage' the Kuaotunu Boat-ramp which was specific in it's wording in that it was restricted to providing "boat launching and car parking " only. He would investigate if the TCDC's no camping bylaw is relevant to this area.

"That KRRA send a letter to MBCB seeking a 'no freedom campers' sign be erected at the Kuaotunu boat-ramp, and that the Committee continue to canvas the community to agree an acceptable alternative location for Freedom Campers to park in the general area" Gordon/Dugald

Kuaotunu West Footpath

The MBCB reps were made aware of the members concern at the quality of finish and workmanship in the recently completed Kuaotunu West Footpath.

"That on his return, the secretary send a letter to the MBCB expressing the committees concern at the poor standard of finish and workmanship in the Kuaotunu West Footpath" Dugald/Bruce

Meeting with Harbourmaster

Gordon gave a report on the recent meeting with the Mercury Bay Harbourmaster summarising the improvements suggested by the Harbourmaster. These included;

- Installation of a 2nd Leading Light to improve night-time navigation into the ramp,
- Provision of marker buoys at 200 metre off shore to delineate the extent of 5kt zone,
- Provision of 3 dedicated 'ski/access lanes', one at each end of Kuaotunu East beach and one at the eastern end of Kuaotunu West beach, to provide safe, exclusive areas for boats to pick-up and drop off passengers, launch water skiers, paragliders and other water toys away from populated swimming areas.

Following heated discussion, Bruce apologised to Mel and Kate for any offence they may have taken during the debate. It was finally decided to take no further action on the offer to install buoys to delineate the 200 metre exclusion zone and dedicated "beach access/ski lane".

Mel vacated the meeting at 8.10.

Gordon to produce a plan showing the possible buoy locations and circulate .

MBCB Matters

Gordon invited the MBCB representatives to address the meeting on any matter they wished to raise.

Allan Tiplady advised;

- The services engineer responsible for installing the Kuaotunu rubbish compactor had left and he would check on where the installation had reached,
- A preferred site for a new Kuaotunu library was adjacent to the Hall, but that alternate sites were also being investigated,
- That Council was about to embark on its 3 yearly review of the Long Term Community Plan, items of interest to Kuaotunu include;
- Upgrade of Blackjack Reserve toilets, 2019/20
- Completing the Kuaotunu West footpath through to the boat-ramp (subject to TNZ Highway improvements) 2020/21,
- New footpath Village to Waitaia Road, 2021/22
- Funding of library facility, 2021/22,
- Council is undertaking investigations into 'Short' Coastal Walkways around the Mercury Bay,
- Heather Bruce has been appointed as Community Liaison Manager and would be assisting him to meet and interact with Mercury Bay communities.
- Paul Kelly advised that details surrounding the recent closure of the Whitianga Bio-Composter facility would be released shortly.

Community Engagement and KRRR Comments

The MBCB representatives were advised that Alastair Brickell and Chris Twemlow both intended to attend the Whitianga 13th October meeting, and Labour Weekend workshop. Paul K extended an open invitation to everyone present to attend if they found time.

Chris enquired as to what provisions had been made for maintenance of Black Jack Road considering the new subdivision at Opito.

The MBCB representatives vacated the meeting at 8.20.

Mining Survey

Kathy circulated the final results of the KRRR mining survey prior to the meeting. These showed that a total of 206 valid responses were received, with 193 (94%) in favour of supporting KAMAG, 13 (6%) against and 30 invalid replies.

"That KRRR supports KAMAG's call against extractive mineral mining and tailings dams in Kuaotunu and the Coromandel."

Chris/Kate

Keith read out an email response he had received from MIBE following a personal enquiry into the current status of the Ministry's Environment Court appeal.

On his return, the secretary is requested to forward a suitable letter to MBCB to forward to TCDC in Thames conveying the Kuaotunu communities overwhelming support for Council defence of the integrity of the anti-mining provisions in the District Plan.

Keith also expressed his concern at the apparent willingness of some to challenge the views of survey respondents who had made further comments. The Chairman repeated his opening call for members to show respect for others and accept that there are diverse views within the community - The KRRR is an apolitical organisation formed to advocate on matters of interest, impact or concern to the Kuaotunu community and should impartially listen to all opinions.

Community Noticeboard

There was general discussion on the success of the new Community Noticeboard. It was agreed that there was no need to develop guidelines for public notices, rather, judgement and common sense of the Administrator (Kate) is more than adequate to manage the balance between Community information and political/commercial promotion.

Skateboard Petition

“That Gordon send a suitable letter of support for Vinnie Russells petition and ask to be kept informed of final design and location details so as to ensure there is no inconvenience any immediate neighbour or wider community. “

Dugald/Chris

Kuaotunu Library

Isabel reminded the meeting of the Library fundraising events coming up at the end of the month.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm