

# **KUAOTUNU RESIDENTS AND RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION**

## **MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **HELD AT THE KUAOTUNU FIRE BRIGADE**

**20 April, 2017**

**Meeting Opened:** 6:35pm

**Present:** Gordon McRobbie, Dugald Hoyland, Mel Asquith, Kathy Speirs, Chris Twemlow, Kate Neilson, Evans Young, and Alastair Brickell.

**Apologies:** Bill Muir, Bruce Pilkington, Isabel Gilbert Palmer, Keith Goodall

### **Minutes:**

Minutes of the previous committee meeting of March 16, 2017 were read and approved:

**Moved:** Alastair      **Seconded:** Kathy

### **Matters Arising From Minutes**

#### **1. Tree Clearing on Reserve**

Chris noted that he had seen bones uncovered on the reserve and had spoken to Peter Johnson of Ngati Hei about them. Peter will confirm their nature and significance.

Some of the trees to be removed were quite large and there could be a possibility that some could be milled to salvage some of the timber.

#### **2. Website**

This was discussed at length and strong views were articulated by Chris and Kathy on the merits of the various options.

Chris felt that the way forward was to have him set up a website similar to the "All About Whitianga" website he had been involved with while Kathy preferred what she felt was a more user friendly and simpler Weebly or Wordpress type platform. Kathy felt that the Hall Committee website that Chris had designed was quite difficult to change and maintain and this was an important consideration as there would always be new committee members needing to use it. However Chris said he was very happy to train users and had done this with Kathy and others in the past.

Kate thought it would be good to have a general website that all local groups could be part of and everyone agreed this was sensible.

Gordon noted that we have limited funding for a website but Chris thought it could probably be self funding through paid advertising. Dugald commented that at previous meeting we had agreed to go with Kathy's proposal and he felt that the "All About Whitianga" website might not be quite as successful as claimed.

Kathy thought that a subcommittee to discuss the issue would be sensible and Gordon recommended that Chris and Kathy work together to resolve the issue, possibly with the help with other committee members or members of the public, and report back to this committee.

### 3. Campervan Parking on Domain Board Land

A very brief summary of the history of the Domain Board was given by Alastair, mainly for the benefit of the new committee members.

Although formal approval of the use of Domain Board land for a NZ Motor Caravan Association site had yet to be received, Dugald reported that the Chairman, Dave Wight, had been contacted and was in favour as were the other members. Alastair will follow this up with the Domain Board but he noted that we need to decide exactly where we want this facility first.

There were two possible sites for this activity, one next to the sports field and BBQ and the other opposite Garrick Simpson's woolshed on the old tennis court site. Both had problems with possible conflict with large vehicle movements in an area frequented by children at the sports field site and access to the state Highway and distance to the beach at the old tennis court site. It was worth considering that a petanque court might well be established next to the sports field site in the future.

### Election of Officers

Gordon stood down as Chairman while the election was conducted with Evans Young taking over.

The new officers were duly elected as follows:

Chairman – Gordon McRobbie	<u>Moved:</u> Dugald	<u>Seconded:</u> Chris
Treasurer – Kathy Speirs	<u>Moved:</u> Kate	<u>Seconded:</u> Chris
Secretary – Alastair Brickell	<u>Moved:</u> Gordon	<u>Seconded:</u> Mel

Alastair will send a copy of our constitution to all committee members. Kathy had earlier noted that we do not appear to have a set of "Rules" of our association in our records so perhaps we should look at this in the future. These could probably just be in the form of a modified constitution.

### Correspondence:

Inwards and Outwards correspondence was read by Alastair

#### 1. TCDC (1)

Inwards - from Roading Manager, Matt Busch on March 21 following an informal meeting with Alastair the previous day in Thames, with a copy of the February 2017 Opus report on Bluff Road. This had finally been provided to us following several requests lodged by KRRRA. Matt requested our preference on the same day from the six options outlined in the report.

Outwards - to Matt Busch on March 22. Given the short timeframe Alastair had recommended Option 4 (Rock Removal, Scaling and Installation of Mesh) and outlined his choice in an email to committee members. This was the option eventually approved by full council on April 4 although it is unclear whether they will agree with our additional recommendation to place the debris on the foreshore to provide a base for widening the road in the future or instead apparently pay \$25,000 for this material to be buried at Matarangi.

## 2. TCDC (2)

Inwards - from Sue Costello, Community Facilities Representative, on April 4 requesting attendance from KRRRA at an onsite meeting to discuss the bike rack and community notice board. Kathy and Isabel attended this meeting.

Outwards – to Sue Costello on the same day requesting information on the design options.

Inwards – from Sue Costello on April 12 with illustrations of council's preferred options.

## 2. Waikato Regional Council

Inwards – phone call from Dean Allen, WRC Zone Manager, on March 30 responding to our earlier enquiry regarding WRC responsibility over the camping issue at the boatramp and explaining that it was a TCDC issue as WRC jurisdiction stopped at the MHW level. He would nevertheless be discussing this with Allan Tiplady at their next meeting.

WRC water sampling was ongoing with further testing to be done in four streams in coming months. These were the Kuaotunu Stream, Stuart Stream at Opito, Pepe Stream at Tairua and Taputaputea Stream at Whitianga. Testing would not be for heavy minerals but for bacterial studies to compliment earlier sampling. Alastair noted that he had spoken with consultants sampling the Kuaotunu Stream at the School of Mines Lane bridge after a recent storm event. They indicated that they would probably be sampling at the Waitaia Stream junction as well.

## 3. AGM

Outwards – to Sandra Goudie, Scott Simpson, Allan Tiplady and Paul Kelly inviting them to our AGM.

Inwards – from Sandra Goudie with her apology but requesting a copy of the notes from the meeting and from Scott Simpson with his acceptance.

Correspondence Accepted:      Moved: Alastair      Seconded: Dugald

## **Financial Report**

Kathy reported that the bank balance was \$738.34 in our Now account and \$2208.24 in the On Call account including the \$250 we are still holding for the Food Forest Group.

She noted that an additional \$170 had been collected as subs at the AGM being a mix of renewals and new members.

Report Accepted:      Moved: Kathy      Seconded: Gordon

## **General Business**

### 1. Recreation Facilities

Janine Verner had suggested that perhaps the community should consider a skateboard facility in addition to the petanque court. Alastair commented that we had had one in the past erected on the Domain Board land at the then new tennis court next to the sports field. This was wooden and had become unsafe and was eventually removed. KRRRA would look at community support for a new skateboard as there were now many more children in the area.

## 2. KEA

Chris reported that the Kuaotunu Environmental Action (KEA) group he was involved with had recently been granted \$40-50,000 to spend in the area. It was focussed on predator control and worked to protect Kiwi and other wildlife. Vic McLean was the current Chairman.

## 3. Water Quality

Kate reported that Thomas Everth, a science teacher at MBAS, had been using an electronic monitor to measure Kuaotunu Stream salinity using its conductivity as well as turbidity and temperature.

## 4. Bluff Road

The recent decision by TCDC to reopen Bluff Road to pedestrian and bicycle traffic was considered by all to be good outcome and had achieved what we had long lobbied council to do; namely, not to close the road permanently to all traffic. This option was also the one KRRRA had recommended to TCDC's Rooding Manager Matt Busch and would raise the safety standard of the dangerous section to that of the rest of Bluff Road. With this option there might still be the possibility of reopening it to vehicle traffic at some time in the future as some in the community still desired. It was hoped that council would place the rubble on the foreshore rather than paying to have it buried at Matarangi as had been done during the last earthworks undertaken there.

**Meeting Closed:** 7:55pm

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, May 18 at 6:30pm

*Signed: Alastair Brickell April 29, 2017*