

**Kuaotunu Residents and Ratepayers Association**  
 Minutes of Committee Meeting  
 held at the Kuaotunu Hall  
 17 May 2018

**Meeting opened:** 7pm

**Present:** Brent, Chris, Carolyn, Kate, Alastair, Keith, Kathy, Ian

**Public:** Chris & Sheila Westley

**Apologies:** Luke, Isabel

**Public Input:** Sheila, re the Domain Board: she has been told by the TCDC that the DB ceased to be an official body in 1989 and has no authority to act on behalf of the Kuaotunu community; Sheila has particular concerns regarding the library. Brent will be speaking about this in Items for Discussion and Sheila was invited to stay for that.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the previous committee meeting, held 29 April, accepted as a true and accurate record. **moved:**Carolyn **seconded:** Kathy **Passed**

**Kate to post minutes on website; Ian to post link to same on KT Ketchup**

**Correspondence:**

| inwards  | outwards  |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● from TCDC to Alastair as former Secretary, advising submissions open re Reserve Management Plan</li> <li>● from Sheila Westley, a copy of her letter to TCDC re Domain Board, and her response</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● to IRD requesting our tax-exempt status be retained pending further consultation with community to amend Constitution; no reply yet</li> </ul> |

**Correspondence accepted, moved:**Brent

**seconded:**Carolyn

**Passed**

**Financial Report:** \$3617 in the bank; membership unchanged: 222. Reminders have been sent to members that subs are now due; one person has so far taken up the 5-year option.

**Kathy to follow up mid-June with a reminder to pay by 30 June or membership will lapse.**

There was some discussion about the difference between a paid-up member and a member of the wider community, ie. what the added value is for membership. The wider community can see minutes, newsletters, attend meetings: currently the added value is voting rights. Brent said it's vital to maintain community engagement and we should aim for 100% inclusivity.

The Cashbook Complete software was cheaper than expected, as we didn't need the invoicing module for now. We need to renew the krra.org.nz domain name for another year. Kathy tabled a claim for website expenses and Alastair had some AGM expenses to be approved.

Resolution: that the committee approves payment of expenses totalling \$265.74, itemised as follows:

- \$231.13 website (including \$85 Cashbook Complete software)
- \$34.61 card and copying for AGM

**Moved:**Kathy

**Seconded:**Keith

**Passed**

**Financial report accepted, moved:** Brent

**seconded:** Kate

**Passed**

### **Items for Discussion:**

#### Brent's meeting with Allan Tiplady, TCDC

- Brent read to us from his notes of the meeting which were subsequently confirmed by AT
- *some brief background:* under Glen Leach's Mayoralty Community Boards were empowered with operational responsibilities as well as strategic, and things could be actioned from the Whitianga office. However operations have now been centralised back to Thames, and AT has a bigger area to cover than just Mercury Bay.
- *Blackjack Boat Ramp* the Council currently has no plans to expand or close the boat ramp. Basic maintenance will be carried out; however there is nothing on the schedule for this currently.
  - The committee discussed the fact that nothing would be added to the schedule unless we keep asking for it.
  - Ian has spoken to the Coastguard; they have no requirement for the Blackjack boat ramp; their large boat is always launched from Whitianga, and is quicker than driving round and launching here. Their small boat is launched from the KT boat ramp.
  - Keith has spoken to Stu Arnold from Matarangi FB; the Blackjack ramp could be useful for their IRB, but mostly the maintenance is for leisure use.
  - **Keith to draft a Request For Service to Allan Tiplady for basic maintenance - including brief statement from Stu Arnold**
- *Domain Board* the TCDC position, from AT, is that all Domain Boards were dissolved in 1989 and all assets were returned to the jurisdiction of local bodies or the Crown; Kuaotunu's were returned to the Crown therefore now come under DoC jurisdiction; however for some reason this process was not followed through with the KT DB so it is *not* dissolved, but it has no legal status
  - Alastair says the KT DB still exists because of outstanding Treaty of Waitangi land claims
  - obviously there is still much opacity to the situation; Keith suggested the KRRALiase with the DB to ask what the plans are for the assets; Kate said that even though the DB is separate from the KRRAL they may be linked in public

perception, and regardless as community representatives we should be able to answer questions the community may put to us on this and other issues

- Brent emphasised the need to follow this up with respect for the DB, who have had, and still have, the best interests of the community at heart, and to ask the questions in a spirit of transparency and openness.

Resolution: that the committee asks Alastair to approach the DB with the recently-learned background of its anomalous status and with the following questions:

- how much money does the Domain Board have?
- where did the money come from?
- is there on-going revenue?
- what are the plans for the use of Domain Board money?
- who is responsible for the maintenance of current built-up assets and improvements?

Carolyn asked if there was any conflict with Alastair being the point-man here; the committee were all happy for him to continue.

**moved:**Brent

**Seconded:**Kathy

**Passed**

**Alastair to meet with the DB and email the answers before the next meeting.** He said we could possibly have answers within a week. Sheila expressed concern with the possibility of the library project progressing before these questions have been answered.

- inextricably linked to the Domain Board point is the *Library*; there was much discussion about the process - which is in the purview of the Library Group not the KRRA - and the current status, and the spending, and who's going to cover costs that the DB money doesn't... in summary, surveys were undertaken and reported at the January Public meeting, showing that the majority of the respondents wish the Library to continue, and that the majority of respondents agree to the toilet block on the Domain as the preferred site, and it's not our job to second-guess those surveys, but it *is* important for us to be informed. **Ian to ask the Library Group for an update on status since the AGM.**
- also connected to the Domain Board point is the *Petanque Court*. AT's note: it was fully funded by the DB; the TCDC only approved the location
  - Alastair's report from his discussions with the DB re the petanque court: the initial idea came from Isabel; she did some research and presented plans and specs to the DB which at the time included Dugald Hoyland and Alastair Brickell. There had been questions raised in the community about the building, but the court/piste/terrain was built according to Petanque NZ specifications in terms of size (3m x15m is specified for school and public use), and construction (a boundary proud of the surrounding ground is recommended for safety and to contain the gravel); and the surface is the correct material (a very nice South Island schist with bits of greenstone!). From what he has observed on other courts, Alastair feels the pea gravel may be too deep, leading to comments the court is unplayable, in terms of the boules not travelling. The DB has undertaken to remove some of the material and store it, then have some local "experts" play to see if that remediation has been successful. The committee thanked Alastair for his report.

- *Rubbish Compactor*: AT says the Council plans to leave it there - it is working - but agree that suitable signage is necessary. AT will follow this up with Thames.
- *Helicopter Landing Pad location change*: AT says the Rescue Service had asked if a concrete pad could be provided by the Kuaotunu community (Chris questioned whether the Rescue Service would initiate this request). Someone in the community asked for the landing place to be moved to the Blackjack Reserve because of possible interference with the proposed skateboard half-pipe. Brent told AT that, from anecdotal information, the community in general was strongly against a move; AT said the community's wishes would be respected. Keith pointed out that in over a decade of landings there has never been any problem using the Domain: the KT Fire Brigade are practiced at setting up the site; the landings take place on the sports field so there is no interference with the other grass area where the half-pipe may be; a windsock has been installed to facilitate the helicopter; there is easy road access for the ambulance and parking for the Fire crew. Chris suggested a letter be sent to Allan to put the community's wishes to keep the landing where it is, and to inform the KRRRA if the current arrangements are to be reviewed. **Ian to compose letter to AT, for perusal & feedback by committee before sending.** A copy will be sent to Paul Kelly on the Community Board.
- *Concessions on Reserves* on 30 May the Community Board is meeting to discuss reserve concessions under the existing plan; the KRRRA should ask to speak here if we have concerns re jet-ski concession; AT says the Community Board may not consult the KRRRA with any proposals; Brent said we need to have better liasons with local bodies. **Brent to ask Paul Kelly if normal process is for KRRRA to be consulted (and if not, why not?); Brent & Ian to go to Community Board concessions meeting, pending outcome of meeting with Paul, to register Kuaotunu's opposition to any jet-ski concession.**
- *Review of Reserves Management Plan* Chris has made a submission to TCDC questioning the change of nomenclature for reserves: will change in names change how the council treats reserves and parks? Should WRC parks and reserves use the same language as supercity-Auckland's do? He would like to know if bylaws will override the existing District Plan, or *intention of reserve*. **Chris to register KRRRA's interest to speak to this submission.** There are links on the Reserve Management Plan Review webpage to maps of the KT reserves in question. Brent's summary of the discussion: the KRRRA wishes to be informed of and have influence over decisions made about our reserves; any submissions we make are to be based on the 2009 Community Plan, or the refreshed 2018 plan, depending on the timing.

Arising from Brent's report of meeting with AT: everyone should follow the good practice of making written notes of meetings had on behalf of KRRRA, get them confirmed by the other party within 24 hours ideally, and add them to the Dropbox so the whole committee can read them.

**Brent to send his notes - "supporting documents" - to Ian for the Dropbox.**

#### Ian's submission to WRC re water quality

The WRC's testing showed fecal matter of 20x the maximum standard for contact at the stream mouth during wet times. Ian acknowledged the work done on the report but pointed out there was no on-going monitoring or action plan. He asked them to allocate funds for on-going study,

and offered the community's participation to facilitate this. His submission was well-received by the WRC. There are kits we can use for water monitoring; **Ian will follow up with Dean Allen to see what this community-participation scheme might look like.** Chris was concerned Ian had presented on KRRRA's behalf without us approving the presentation first; the committee at the last meeting had agreed to him doing so, but at that time he did not have any speaking notes; Chris was concerned there were some factual errors in the submission. It was agreed that in future the wording of any submission to a public body on the the KRRRA's behalf should be vetted by the committee beforehand. Chris was concerned about one person having sole jurisdiction over the water-quality "portfolio"; Ian assured him this would not be the case; Kate suggested that sharing all supporting documents in Dropbox would be a way of having everyone involved rather than needing to form a sub-committee. Brent reminded us to celebrate the cornucopia of enthusiasm around the table, but to acknowledge the relative new-ness of this committee and the learning curve of sharing information.

On a related matter Ian has been asked to apply for a position on the Coromandel Catchment Committee. The KRRRA agreed it would be great for him to have this role. **Ian to apply for Coromandel Catchment Committee. Kate to write KRRRA letter of endorsement for same.**

#### Communications Team Update

- Ian, Kathy, and Isabel have met to work on website; it is nearly ready to be reviewed by the committee, to test the concept and the workings. **Ian/Kathy to send link to committee for feedback.**
- Surveys in general: due diligence on survey Qs is paramount. Carolyn has agreed to be survey-coordinator.
- Kuaotunu katch-up: we acknowledge it is a separate and very different entity to the KRRRA and it is a v useful point of contact with a whole swathe of the community we might not otherwise reach. We individually should endeavour not to become embroiled in social-media conflict; however if we see a post that we know from our meeting minutes to be incorrect, we should contact Ian who will contact Katch-up admin; we can also direct readers to the website to look at the minutes.

#### Community Plan refreshment

- Brent believes this is the most important thing we do this year and would like to have a draft questionnaire and methodology for approval by next meeting. Chris thinks this time-frame will give sketchy results, that community engagement takes a lot of time. Brent says we can initiate a movement/vision that may outlast us as a committee.
- Kathy suggested we use questions from the old plan (deleting those no longer relevant), and ask for respondents to agree/disagree; Brent is concerned this is too black and white; Carolyn says we need a mix of qualitative and quantitative questions, and likes the idea of a ranking scale. She recommends SurveyMonkey and will work with Kathy on this.
- **Kathy to compose a post for KT Katch-up signalling our intention to refresh the plan, encouraging people to start thinking about it**

- Carolyn and Kathy to draft a survey and send it to committee for practice run, before next meeting
- everybody to send their top-priorities list to Carolyn
- Collated results of the final community survey will be presented at a public meeting.

**Any other business:**

Alastair raised the question of who should approve minutes after the changeover of a committee. He has a concern over the deletion of a sentence re Chris and social media from his 15 March minutes (pre-agm committee) by the 29 April post-agm committee. Alastair agreed to this change at the time in the interests of moving forward but has since changed his mind and feels it was wrong. All pre-agm committee members had had ample opportunity to challenge the minutes before they were proposed for approval and Chris had not done so. Alastair emailed all of the previous committee except Chris, and they supported his position that the original minutes were a true and accurate record; Evans Young requested that his strong objection to such an amendment having been made be tabled at this meeting. Brent agreed that we were out of line and formally apologised for changing the minutes. Keith, Ian, Kathy, and Kate agreed that as a process, letting the minutes stand as originally written in spite of a committee member's discomfort with the content was the correct and ethical thing to do; Kate said she had agreed to the change in spite of that in an attempt to avoid any further conflict such as the current discussion.

It was agreed that the struck sentence be re-instated and we move on.

The Kauri Dieback Forum action will be deferred to the next meeting.

**Meeting closed:** 21.32      **Next meeting:** Thurs 21 June 18:00 @ Luke's (tbc by Brent)

## ACTION SUMMARY

| who       | what  | done? |
|-----------|---|-------|
| Kate      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• post 29 April minutes on website</li> <li>• compose letter in support of Ian's CCC application, send to committee for approval</li> </ul>  |       |
| Kathy     | mid-June follow up subs reminder  |       |
| Keith     | draft RFS to Allan Tiplady re basic maintenance of Blackjack boat ramp  |       |
| Alastair  | meet with Domain Board, clarify status, ask re plans for \$; email answers before next meeting  |       |
| Ian       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ask Library Group for update since AGM</li> <li>• compose letter to AT, recording community's wish for helicopter landing to remain at sports field</li> <li>• attend Comm Board mtg with Brent - see below</li> <li>• follow up with Dean Allen re on-going water quality monitoring</li> <li>• apply for Coromandel Catchment Committee</li> <li>• send link for website trial to committee</li> </ul> |       |
| Brent     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ask Paul Kelly re Community Board's normal process for consulting KRRRA re things like concession proposals</li> <li>• attend Comm Board mtg (if still ness, after meeting with PK)</li> <li>• send AT meeting supporting documents to Ian for Dropbox</li> </ul>  |       |
| Chris     | register KRRRA's interest to speak to Reserve Management Plan Review submission   |       |
| Kathy     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• compose post for KT Katch-up signalling intention to refresh Comm Plan</li> <li>• work with Carolyn on survey</li> </ul>   |       |
| Carolyn   | draft survey Qs for Comm Plan with Kathy, send to committee for trial run   |       |
| Everybody | send their KT Top Ten (or five or whatever but I liked the alliteration of 10) to Carolyn for consideration for survey  |       |