

Kuaotunu Residents and Ratepayers Association
Minutes of Committee Meeting
held at Kuaotunu Hall
14 January 2021

Committee members Brent Page, Chair; Kathy Speirs, Treasurer; Kate Nielsen, Minutes Secretary; Carrie Parker, Correspondence Secretary; Luke Reilly, Courtney Linnecar, Carolyn Gibbs, Alastair Brickell, Bruce Pilkington, Danny Bay

Meeting opened: 6:00pm

Present: Brent, Kathy, Carrie, Danny, Bruce, Alastair, Courtney, Carolyn, Kate

Public: Gael & Martin Smith, Jannine Verner, Bill & Lorraine Muir, Margueritte Muellers, Ian Preece, Phil Nielsen, Sheila Westley, Murray Speirs

Apologies: Luke

Brent opened with a reminder/request that all committee members please respond to emails on receipt, even if it's just with a 👍.

1. Public input

Brent thanked the members of the public for being here, and encouraged more people to come to meetings more often.

BM: Boat ramp: Bill organised for left-over rock from Fire Brigade bank repairs to be used at the boat ramp, and paid the roading contractor. He doesn't want reimbursement, but wants Council to be more accommodating of locally-organised improvement efforts, especially in light of how much money they put into boat ramps at Matarangi and Whangapoua. KRRRA will reimburse him (see Financial Report).

Social media: Bill expressed concerns over unpleasant exchanges on Kuaotunu Katch-up recently. Jannine (KT Ketchup moderator) responded that the moderating team removed inappropriate posts as soon as possible, and they have strict rules which they work hard to enforce. The meeting agreed that disagreements are much better handled, and less inflammatory, face-to-face.

Committee: BM commended the KRRRA as "one of the best committees he's seen".

MS and others: KAMAG notice in noticeboard: Martin gave a summary of Oceana Gold's activities in the area: 03/4/2022 is their deadline for completing their exploration conditions, ie drilling. They could be here in Kuaotunu within that time. The KAMAG poster is to inform the community (whom we know from our survey question in 2017 supports KAMAG in its anti-mining stance) of this information. MS and other members of the community questioned why the notice had been removed and four times subsequently was not re-posted. Brent acknowledged that some nuances had been missed in the interpretation of our Noticeboard guidelines: "locally-based services and events" doesn't leave room for "awareness & information" notices of local interest. There was an anomaly in that some other awareness/information notices *were* posted (eg, Kauri die-back, Rings Beach Wetlands, Helicopter Trust).

Brent apologised on behalf of the committee that the anomaly occurred, and noted that it occurred as a result of committee discussion. He assured the meeting that the notice will be posted.

Discussion re the history of the noticeboard: it is the community's board not KRRRA's, KRRRA manages it on their behalf; keys are not publicly available as it was decided open noticeboards can be very disorganised and unattractive; there has been a rotation of managers; the guidelines for acceptable postings are constantly evolving.

A consensus was arrived at, with the committee and the public, of the general guidelines. In summary:

- notices regarding local services, events, and awareness/information of local interest will be posted
- rough proportions: services $\frac{1}{4}$, events $\frac{1}{2}$, information/awareness $\frac{1}{4}$
- notices should include (on the back) a contact name & number as well as expiry date if relevant, so any issues can be handled quietly and quickly. **Alastair to make and post notice to this effect.**
- notices which may cause harm to persons, their jobs, privacy, or reputation, will not be posted

Alastair will re-draft guidelines for the next meeting. Kate will post a message in Kuaotunu Katch-up re the review of guidelines, and apology for the anomaly.

Members of the public were reminded that, as well as the noticeboard, the Newsletter is a community forum not a KRRRA one, and anyone in the community is welcome to submit items for the newsletter; they will be published as space allows.

2. Correspondence

[Most members of the public left the meeting at this point.]

MS has written to KRRRA implying AB has exerted undue influence over the committee and has singled out KAMAG in rejection notices for the noticeboard (Alastair points out that a scallop rahui notice was also rejected). AB felt his & the committee's integrity had been questioned and wished to make a personal response to MS, requesting an apology. After discussion it was decided that a) we believe in our integrity enough not to demand an apology if one is not offered; and b) this meeting was not an appropriate forum for a personal response. It was noted that AB has always acted with the backing of the committee, and no undue influence has been exerted. Danny noted that we are all in fact on this committee to influence others to a certain extent in areas we are passionate about. Jannine undertook to check back through KT Katch-up again, to make sure every inappropriate posting around this issue has been removed, and apologised if any had been missed.

Amended to note that MS made a public apology to Alastair the following day on Kuaotunu Katchup.

Other correspondence is in the Dropbox; relevant matters are discussed later in 5. Items for Discussion.

N.B. The committee approved via email Brent's draft response to Joe Davies re supporting the Opito Bay scallop-diving rahui.

Correspondence accepted, moved: Bruce **seconded:** Alastair **Passed**

3.Minutes: Minutes of the previous committee meeting, held 5 November 2020, accepted as a true and accurate record. **moved:** Kathy **seconded:** Danny **Passed**

Matters arising from the minutes: Running through the action plan:

- Newsletter items (epipens, fireworks rules, public meeting agenda) will go in the next - imminent - newsletter.
 - Footpath - ongoing
 - Public meeting agenda - to be discussed later in the meeting
- All other actions have been completed.

4.Financial Report:

Number of current members 177 (up 6)
\$7404 in the bank. Recent expenses: \$240 epipens
\$30 QR-code for advertising the website

Resolution: that KRRRA reimburses Bill Muir \$200 for rock removal to boat ramp.
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All in favour.

Financial report accepted and expenditure approved, moved: Kathy **seconded:** Carolyn **Passed**

5.Items for Discussion:

5.1 Noticeboard

As noted above, a clarification notice will go in the NB regarding guidelines & contact details - **Alastair**. A short item to go in the NL as well - **Kathy**. **Alastair will also re-draft guidelines**.
The boat ramp noticeboard is under-used; we will start making use of it, in addition to the shop one.

5.2 Public Meeting Agenda & Responsibilities

The meeting is Sunday 24 January, 3pm, KT Hall. Items for the agenda:

- Welcome/housekeeping
- Historical photobook call to action - we need volunteers to drive this project
- Biosphere aspirations, including Dark Skies - update
- responsible freedom camping (not "freedom camping" any more): definition clarified (*fully self-contained and certified vehicles*) and question asked re specific site: does the

community want responsible camping on Midas Road Reserve (AKA old tennis courts; opposite Garrick's). There is currently no other TCDC land in Kuaotunu that can be used for responsible freedom camping.

- Dune care update
- scallop rahui - we support the Opito Bay rahui and would like that survey methodology replicated in Kuaotunu
 - related discussion: the committee would like skilled locals to do this, and will reimburse boat fuel & dive bottles; but we would like an update before the public meeting, and if said locals can't get it done, we will ask Dive Whitianga to help (they helped at Opito). **Brent to follow up.** See also Item 5.8, below.
- traffic calming through village: update (speed along the highway is a separate issue and will be addressed at a later meeting after meetings with Ed Varley)

Not on the agenda, but in case it is brought up from the floor: fireworks: we can't legally ban them, but the individual who puts on a display annually in the dog-exercise area on KT beach should be contacted and encouraged to go through FENZ, possibly make a donation, and arrange for an appliance to be on site. Fire complaints go to FENZ; noise issues go through Council.

Kathy to post agenda on website, in KT Katch-up, in newsletter. Alastair to post copy in noticeboard.

Responsibilities at meeting: 2:30 arrival to set up pews. No attendance register is necessary for a public meeting, but we will have sign-up sheets for membership and for the newsletter at the entrance. A sandwich-board ("KRRRA public meeting next Sunday 24th 3pm All welcome") will go in front of the hall daily from the Sunday before. **Carrie & Brent to sort sandwich-board.**

5.3 Update on meeting with TCDC roading manager

Ed Varley sent a thorough, informative email (in dropbox correspondence). Brent and Matt Linnecar (representing the Kuaotunu Kindergarten) have met with Ed. Brent will summarise at the public meeting.

Related: Frustrations were aired again at how long (>20 years) our community has been requesting action on the hugely important safety issue of excessive speed along SH25 both north and south of the village. There have been several witnessed near-misses of children near Waitaia Road; and many drivers are seen aiming to clock 99 on the Speed Indication sign by the tennis courts. We do not want it to take a fatality for Transit to make changes.

5.4 MB Reserves Management Plan

Carrie has made a submission to TCDC. The committee thanks her sincerely for the huge amount of work she put in. **Carrie will speak to the submission; Brent will support her. Carrie will email the date when she knows it.**

N.B. Alastair has made a submission re the old tennis courts, on behalf of the Domain Board.

Alastair to circulate his submission to KRRRA.

5.5 Dark Skies update

- IDA says we can't have special dispensation re lighting compliance (as Stewart Island got) for a Dark Skies Sanctuary; they recommend instead Dark Skies Community status: we wouldn't need a full lighting inventory, and it would give us 10 years to get all lights compliant.
- the most important step is still to get TCDC to adopt IDA lighting plan
- it will apparently cost \$40, 000 for the consultation to make this happen: we need to lobby Council to budget for this, not be expected to fundraise for it ourselves (KRRRA has previously made it clear that it is an advocacy group, not a fundraising body.) (And besides, we already pay the council to work for us!)
- transit could be persuaded to reduce the number of streetlights, as happened in Matarangi with significant results

There was some discussion of the potential for the KRRRA to become inappropriately focussed on a single issue (eg, Dark Skies, or footpaths, or other) to the detriment of other important aspects of our community; however it was agreed that Dark Skies is one of the pillars of the Biosphere Aspiration and is mandated by the Community Plan Refresh responses. Perhaps Dark Skies updates could come under the broader umbrella of Biosphere in discussions at meetings, to mitigate this perception?

Related discussion: should special projects of this size be KRRRA projects, or should we outsource them to other community groups? The KRRRA is a nursery for aspirational projects; when the projects have enough substance, they spin off into wider groups. The KRRRA has always allowed itself to second non-committee-members on to special groups or sub-committees.

5.6 Biosphere working group

Kate has agreed to join Brent and the chairs and one committee member each from Opito Bay and Otama ratepayers in this working group.

5.7 Dune Care update

- the seed-collecting workshop was well-attended
- the working bee had a good turn-out and lots got done
- Te Rerenga school has been approached re having education days
- seeds have begun being collected - they are sent to a nursery in Whakatane, to be returned here as seedlings

Carrie will find some photos for the newsletter and draft a NL item.

5.8 Scallop rahui

See above. **Alastair will post the A3 laminated notice in the boat-ramp noticeboard, and will post the rescuefish flyer in our noticeboard.**

5.9 Newsletter

N.B. this was not a discrete agenda item, but a rounding-up of newsletter references that arose during the meeting.

There are 449 NL subscribers, and a 67% open rate.

The next newsletter needs to be soon, to get in the pre-public-meeting items. For the NL:

- notice of public meeting time/place/agenda **Kathy**
- apology for noticeboard-guideline-misinterpretation, assurance that the KAMAG notice is up **Kathy**
- dune care update & photos **Kathy/Carrie**
- food forest item **Courtney**
- Local Hub update **Courtney**
- call for ideas for spending KRRRA funds; can be referred to at public meeting (but not voted on) **?Kathy**
- epipen purchase **?Bruce**
- possibly community submissions?

6. Any other business:

Meeting closed: 8:15 pm **Next meeting:** Thursday 25th February 2021

ACTION SUMMARY

who	what	done?
Alastair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● make & post notice for board, requesting contact name & number ● re-draft noticeboard guidelines for next meeting ● circulate his Domain-Board submission to the Reserves Management Plan ● post laminated A3 scallop-rahui notice in boat ramp NB ● post rescuefish flyer in our NB ● post public meeting agenda in noticeboard 	
Kate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● post in KT Katchup re kamag notice apology 	
Kathy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● include short item in NL clarifying Noticeboard guidelines ● draft Dune Care item for NL post public meeting agenda on website, in newsletter, on KT Katchup 	
Brent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● follow up re scallop survey ● support Carrie in Reserve-management plan submission ● sort public-meeting sandwich-board (with Carrie) 	
Carrie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● email Reserve Management plan meeting date ● speak to KRRRA submission at Reserve Management plan meeting ● get Dune Care photos for NL, draft item ● sort sandwich-board (with Brent) 	
Courtney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● draft Food Forest item for NL ● draft Local Hub item for NL 	
Bruce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ?draft epipen item for newsletter? 	

Watching brief:

- helicopter landing pad
- Civil Defence Community Defense Response Plan
- Aquaculture development plan
- Council's Long Term Plan capital expenditure