

Kuaotunu Residents and Ratepayers Association
Minutes of Committee Meeting
held at Kuaotunu Hall
11 August 2021

*note that the July meeting was cancelled, because of too many apologies and nothing urgent on the agenda requiring re-scheduling

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

Meeting opened: 6 pm

Present: Brent, Courtney, Kate, Carrie, Alastair, Erica, Luke

Public: Steve Hart, Isobel Gilbert-Palmer, James Muir

Apologies: Danny, Kathy, Bruce

1. Public input

Steve Hart: Following vandalism to planting on the strip of land adjacent to Pumpkin Flat Road (details in Steve's letter, Dropbox Correspondence), Ed Varley (TCDC roading manager) has recommended the planting be removed (to be replaced by a grass verge, requiring maintenance). SH requests KRRRA's support in asking TCDC to retain the garden, and replant with low shrubs & grasses that won't affect visibility, that won't need maintenance. The committee will give its support if the majority of affected residents are in agreement. **SH will get a rough proposal together, discuss with residents, and come back to us.**

James Muir: has had several meetings with Heron Trust (which owns the wetlands/grazing adjacent to the recreation reserve). He has walked around the property with them and shown them what an asset it could be ecologically and to the community, and

- They are slowly coming round to the idea of moving the fences and planting (and possibly a viewing platform, footpath later on...). They are looking at JM's plans to fence along the western side, nearly up to the recreation reserve.
- However they also want to retain their relationship with Garrick Simpson (who leases the land for grazing). It is important to persuade Garrick that wetlands do not cause or contribute to flooding.
- Heron Trust also asked if there would be volunteer support for cleaning up if there were debris brought downstream by flooding.
- JM has also talked with Waikato Regional Council who are happy for him to be the point of contact between WRC, Heron Trust, and the community.
- WRC will pay 35% of fencing costs; JM suggests that funding be found to cover the other 65% to make it as easy as possible for Heron Trust to agree. CP warns that any public money spent on private land will always be in jeopardy; however other funding bodies (eg DoC, council) won't put money into private land so if the community values the wetland we have to pay for it. BP thinks Heron Trust should contribute $\frac{1}{3}$, and the community $\frac{1}{3}$.

Next steps:

- KRRRA think of ways of funding a portion of the fencing
 - buy-a-post drive
- **JM to talk to fencing contractors** for quotes (BP recommends getting it done right, professionally, rather than cobbling leftovers together); also to Mark Simpson who put in the original fence
- **JM to discuss a wetland trust** with Heron: either forming one, or joining JM's extant trust.

Future steps: form a Catchment Group (landowners want to see the wetlands progress before committing to this). Hopefully, in a few years' time, Heron Trust might be so thrilled with the wetlands that they put it into a QEII trust which will protect it in perpetuity.

Note: current regulations require fences to be minimum 5 metres from waterways, and Council should be notified if any cattle are within that distance; they can force the cattle to be removed.

Many thanks to James for his work on this.

Isobel Gilbert-Palmer: is attending just to listen, but also asks why there are no minutes after April on the website.

-Because we cancelled the July meeting, so the May minutes have not been approved yet (that will happen tonight).

2.Minutes: Minutes of the previous committee meeting, held 20 May 2021, accepted as a true and accurate record. **moved:** Carrie **seconded:** Courtney **Passed**

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

Kathy: ✓

Danny: ✓

Carrie: has asked Chris Twemlow to attend this meeting and give an update on the Waitaia track plan, but he's been busy. **Carrie will follow up with Chris.**

Brent: water quality doc - some uncertainty what this refers to. Biosphere update see item 5.1 below.

Erica: water-quality follow-up with James Muir ✓. Lay-by conversation with concerned residents: they suggest just closing the access to the back, leaving enough room for cars to enter and turn around to exit forwards. Another suggestion from the meeting: a high fence to make it difficult for fridges and sofas to be rolled off trailers. **Erica to draft letter to Waka Kotahi asking for funding for fence.**

Alastair - see Item 5.4 below

3.Correspondence:

Correspondence is in the Dropbox.

Correspondence accepted, moved: Carrie **seconded:** Brent **Passed**

Matters arising from the correspondence:

See SH public input, above, and items 5.3, 5.5 below

4.Financial Report:

Carrie read Kathy’s report in her absence. In the account: \$9,408.00

Number of current members 185, down from last time as the grace period for renewing subs ended in June. No expenditure requiring approval.

Financial report accepted ~~and expenditure approved~~, moved: Carrie **seconded:** Brent
Passed

Matters arising from the financial report:

Kate, Erica, Luke need to renew their subs.

5.Items for Discussion:

5.1 Biosphere update: Hui and Working Group meetings

Kate briefly summarised the Environmental Hui: all the groups working in the community met for the first time to share information about themselves and their activities, and open a conversation about working together towards shared goals. Minutes from the meeting are in the Dropbox.

Brent talked about the working-group meeting that followed the hui. When these minutes are finalised they will be forwarded to KRRRA. Main points:

- map: Dean Glen (Otama, TCDC) and Nick Kelly (DoC) are going to pool resources to produce a multi-layered map
- pillars: the five pillars of the biosphere (*used loosely, for want of another word at this stage) were identified:
 - invasive flora- and fauna-free
 - clean water systems
 - Dark Skies
 - replenishment & restoration of marine environment
 - retention of the integrity of small coastal communities

This last is contentious as it will require the limitation of residential development. The next working group meeting will focus on solidifying these ideas. BP signalled to the KRRRA his position, that we need to push the limitation of development, central-government mandated, if pillar 5 is to stand; without it the other pillars fall too. Courtney: shouldn’t these working-group meetings be open to the public, to get fuller support from the community?

-Meetings are closed for reasons of practicality (fewer people=more efficient discussion); however all three ratepayers’ groups have approved the group in principle, and there is diversity within the group (IE, large landowner, DoC, Ngati Hei).

The purpose of this group is *discussion only*, no actions are taken without full consultation with the communities.

5.2 Update on water quality project

See Public Input above

5.3 Update on traffic calming, cycle/footpath

Discussion of Ed Varley's (TCDC roading manager) letter (Dropbox correspondence), washing his hands of any and all actions he had previously agreed to. The committee is **very disappointed** that an elected body - whose wages we pay - chooses to ignore our very serious concerns about safety on our roads.

Members of the Committee suggested that the community will react very badly once the lack of action is widely understood and some may be tempted to take matters into their own hands. Meanwhile, the Committee through Brent will draft a strongly worded response to TCDC and also seek further support from the Kindy, Mercury Bay Area School, Fire Service and the MB Community Board.

5.4 Domain Board update

AB: reports that TCDC has accepted a quote (approx \$30,000) from their preferred maintenance provider to resurface the tennis courts (recreation courts). TCDC will contribute $\frac{1}{3}$ and the DB $\frac{2}{3}$, leaving some funds left over to spend on other projects on DB land. He asserts it is a positive thing for the community, that the DB is able to spend community-donated monies on necessary maintenance on DB land.

The majority of the committee is frustrated with the lack of transparency from the Domain Board, who are operating on behalf of the community but are accountable to no-one. (When the DB was established it was accountable to the TCDC, who no longer recognise it as a legal entity.) BP requests to see minutes from DB meetings and their funding-application process. **Alastair to ask Birgit for minutes** but notes that meetings are very informal and records may not have been kept. BP also requests that the DB proactively informs the community of how much they are spending on the tennis courts.

5.5 Tsunami sirens update

BP attended the TCDC meeting on this topic. We confirm KRRRA's decision (April 2021) to support the Council's decision not to replace sirens. There are many other technologies that can reach more than 90% of Kuaotunu residents, and KCERT have robust procedures. AB notes that it is not just long & strong earthquakes that should prompt evacuation: even small, distant ones can trigger tsunami due to the intervening geography & geology.

5.6 Seismograph update

AB reports that GNS/GeoNet has fixed the seismograph in the Blue Fridge Valley; not only is it now operational, it is the most sensitive and least noisy in the whole network, because it is in solid rock in a mine shaft, and sheltered from wind. **Alastair to draft an article for the next Newsletter.**

5.7 Dark Skies update

AB walked us through his proposal for the IDA and TCDC for a Dark Sky Community (which is less onerous on landowners than a Sanctuary). He has collated information from other Dark Skies around the world, and drawn up examples of what it would look like for specific properties in Kuaotunu (see Dropbox correspondence). The proposed number of lumen/lumen fittings per acre of property is purposely high, allowing for room

to decrease should the IDA request it. The process from here is to get TCDC to agree to include it for future District Plans, then take it to IDA for approval.

6. Any other business:

KN: Labour Weekend roadside clean-up needs to be organised at the next meeting. **Brent to add this to the agenda.**

LR: will continue to lobby TCDC and Ngati Tamatera for consent to move the skate ramp he has built from his garden to the recreation reserve.

AB: showed us the Dark SKy Handbook, which includes mention of Kuaotunu. Suggestion: to donate a copy to the library.

Watching brief:

- helicopter landing pad
- Civil Defence Community Defense Response Plan
- Aquaculture development plan
- annual Labour-weekend road-side clean-up (see 2021 April minutes for details)

Meeting closed: 8pm

Next meeting: Thursday 23 September

ACTION SUMMARY

who	what	done?
Carrie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● get Chris T to next meeting with Waitaia track plan update 	
Erica	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● draft letter to NZTA re funding fence (lay-by KT Hill) ● renew sub 	
Luke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● renew sub ● get photo of logging truck going round corner 	
Kate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● renew sub 	✓
Courtney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● send Kathy photo of pram & truck crossing road 	
Alastair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ask Birgit for DB meeting notes ● draft article for next NL, re seismograph 	
Brent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● add road-side clean-up organisation to agenda for next meeting 	
Steve Hart	get planting proposal together, (Pumpkin Flat Rd), get feedback from residents, come back to KRRRA	
James Muir	cost fencing on Heron Trust wetland, talk to Garrick & Mark, liaise with WRC, discuss formation of wetland trust	