

Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents' Association

Minutes of Annual General Meeting at Portage Resort Hotel on 3 April 2021

The meeting opened at 2.05pm.

Present: Andrew Caddie (Chair), Barbara Faulls (Councillor), Stefan Schulz, Jan Kerr, Hanneke Kroon, Sylvia Withell, Ross Withell, Murray Robson, Hazel Robson, Kevin Bright, Alistair Cameron, Tania Croucher, Dave McFarlane, Dorothy Lewis, Bruce Withell, Jean Hollis, Ron Rolston, Don Kerr, Wendy Lerner, Adrian Harvey, Tom Wright, Trevor Offen, Lynley Offen.

Apologies: Robin Bowron, Allison Bowron, Lynda Scott Kelly, John Leslie, Mary Leslie, Kees van der Linden, Irma van der Linden, Mike Fitzgibbon, Helen Fitzgibbon, Kim Jones, Sandra Jones, Abbie Watson, Brett Cusiel.

Minutes of AGM 2020: Due to Covid 19 restrictions on gatherings, the 2020 AGM had been held electronically, as per government guidelines. The minutes of the 2019 AGM, the financial statements and the election of officers for the year 2020/21 had been confirmed and agreed by 50 members. This was noted by the meeting.

President's Report: Andrew Caddie spoke to his report on the past year which had been circulated prior to the meeting via the KCSRA website. He noted the Committee had met six times by teleconference call and once face-to-face. Communication to members had continued by emailed newsletters and information posted on the website. One of the main reasons KCSRA had been formed thirty years ago was because of roading issues and these were still at the forefront today. The Committee was pleased at the progress of the cyclic road crew but would continue to monitor effectiveness and efficiency. The Committee had met recently with representatives of the new roading contract joint venture (Hebs/Fulton Hogan), Marlborough Roads and Councillor Francis Maher. This was a most cordial and useful meeting but the Committee would continue to engage with and monitor roading matters. The President noted the solid progress made with regard to preservation and restoration of the Marlborough Sounds scallop resource via its engagement with the Southern Scallop Working Group. Andrew noted that MPI had asked that the Implementation Plan not be placed on the KCSRA website until they had formatted a webpage friendly version. In the interim, members were invited to request an email copy from him. Andrew thanked Trevor Offen and Hanneke Kroon for their work on submissions to the Marlborough Environment Plan which was now going through the mediation process. Andrew concluded by thanking Ron Rolston for his time on the Committee. Andrew noted the leadership of former President Pat Williams who had now left the district. The meeting unanimously agreed that the report be received and approved.

Treasurers Report: Stefan Schulz reported to the meeting on the financial statements, which had been circulated prior to the meeting via the KCSRA website. He noted that honorariums for the 2020/2021 year did not appear as they were paid

late. They will appear in the following years accounts. In response to a question from the floor on what NIF was, it was explained that the Natural Integrity Fund was funded from donations and was used for expenses linked to marine environment projects. Dave McFarlane noted the cost of teleconferencing and suggested the Committee review other cheaper options. Stefan acknowledged there were other alternatives e.g. Zoom, which was free albeit for up to 40 minutes, but using the telephone was a simple and secure method. Zoom works over the internet which could be unstable in the Sounds. The telephone allowed non-Committee members to participate when invited and there was no need to install software on your computer. For these reasons, teleconferencing was used. There was a comment about the honesty box money donated for use of the boat ramp being substantially up on last year although acknowledged many users were not paying.

It was agreed that: The meeting note the advantages, efficiency and effectiveness of the current teleconferencing facility preferred by the Committee but asks that a watching brief be kept on alternative technological developments. Proposed Andrew Caddie, seconded Adrian Harvey. Carried. Opposed by one member (Dave McFarlane).

It was agreed that: The meeting receive and approve the Financial Statements presented to the AGM and they be filed with the Registrar of Incorporated Societies. Proposed Stefan Schulz, seconded Andrew Caddie. Carried. Opposed by one member (Dave McFarlane).

Roading: The President invited Alistair Cameron to brief the meeting on roading issues. Alistair detailed the work that had been completed but noted the unsatisfactory work methodology with road crews travelling from and to Blenheim which shortened the time available for working. Roding issues had proved to be difficult to make progress on. The strict health and safety requirements were stated to be a barrier to having a local contractor do the work. It was suggested that the actual requirements be put on the website so that local contractors could see what was needed, although Alistair said it was clear that authorities wanted control to be maintained in Blenheim. The Committee had been told Kenepuru Rd was a low volume traffic road that already had a lot of money spent on it. Francis Maher the local Councillor with the portfolio of roads was very approachable and the Committee would continue to persist and was optimistic progress could be made. In response to a question on speed limits on roads in the Sounds, Barbara Faulls advised that this had been looked at along with changes to speed limits in other roads around Blenheim and a reduced speed limit would be implemented in due course. She urged individuals to make submissions.

Sounds Advisory Committee: Ross Withell spoke to his report which had been circulated prior to the meeting via the website. He noted a review of SAG was taking place as to its effectiveness. Individuals could likely opt in to get SAG emails and minutes themselves and Ron Rolston suggested roadworks etc could be notified that way. Ross was thanked for his work on SAG.

Marine Subcommittee: Adrian Harvey spoke to the meeting about the problem of plastics in the marine environment and the local citizen science Frayed Knot project. A cleanup had taken place in conjunction with the Marine Farmers Association. As a result of the amount of plastic found, KCSRA had laid its first ever complaint to the

Council. The response had been that the discharges of plastic were historical and the Council could not prosecute because they could not tell which marine farms were at fault. There have been two audits of the plastic collected and there has been no reduction in the amount found between those dates indicating it is not historical but rather a continuing problem. Andrew noted the need to connect all the Council “silos” and bring the MDC Coastal Environmental Scientist into the picture. The vexed issue of the clumping of mussel buoys was also discussed and how this practise might be contributing to the fine plastic particles found on the beach. The Committee believes the Council needs to take action by actively monitoring the discharge, prosecuting offenders and changing its policies to endorse sustainable practises.

It was agreed that: The Association continue to work with and to press the Council as outlined above. Proposed Adrian Harvey, seconded Hanneke Kroon. Carried unanimously.

Community Infrastructure: Noting the community infrastructure the Association had supported in the past, Andrew asked members about whether coin operated rubbish bins should be made free, given the number of times certain of the facilities seemed to be malfunctioning. There were views for and against and it was decided to leave the issue for the time being.

Councillor’s Comments: Local Councillor Barbara Faulls was introduced by the President and invited to brief the meeting. She began by saying she was very happy for any individuals to contact her directly about any issues of concern. She noted the representation review currently underway to determine how many councillors there should be and whether the ward system should be maintained. This was a formal process required under the Local Electoral Act 2001. She encouraged members to become engaged with the process. The second matter was on forestry with respect to roading out logs and the impact on the environment and talks were underway about a land transition fund to compensate remote forestry owners not to log the forests. She spoke about the Te Hoiere Pelorus project – a community project to empower the local community - on which progress is being made. Finally, she spoke about the importance of the local community having a say in management of their area eg with respect to tourist numbers. A suggestion was made that Councillors be bussed around the region so they could be made aware of the extent of what there is and alert them to particular issues. Barbara agreed this would be a good idea.

Election of Officers and Committee: The President vacated the chair for the election of President. Barbara Faulls took the chair and stated that as Andrew had agreed to serve another year as President, and as there were no other nominations, he was declared elected.

It was agreed that: Andrew Caddie as President, Tom Wright as Vice President and Stefan Schulz as Treasurer be elected for the 2021/2022 year. Proposed by Ron Rolston, seconded by Ross Withell. Carried unanimously.

It was agreed that: Committee members Ross Withell, Hanneke Kroon, Tania Croucher, Robin Bowron, Trevor Offen, Alistair Cameron, and Adrian Harvey be elected for the 2021/2022 year. Proposed Andrew Caddie, seconded Stefan Schulz. Carried unanimously.

Further nominations for the Committee were called from the floor. Murray Robson was proposed by Alistair Cameron, seconded by Ross Withell. Kevin Bright was proposed by Ross Withell, seconded by Alistair Cameron.

It was agreed that: Murray Robson and Kevin Bright be elected to the Committee for the 2021/2022 year. Carried unanimously.

General Business:

Honorariums: It was agreed that the President (\$225), the Treasurer (\$175) and the Secretary (\$175) be reimbursed at the current rate. Proposed Adrian Harvey, seconded Allison Cusiel. Carried unanimously.

Donations: Andrew Caddie noted that KCSRA no longer donates to other organisations partly because the donations in the past were very small and also it makes more sense for individuals to donate thereby earning a tax donation. Hanneke Kroon agreed that KCSRA money should be used for members benefit. Murray Robson suggested the money gained from the boat ramp donations could be donated to the rescue helicopter.

It was agreed that: The equivalent of the boat ramp money be donated to one or more of the rescue helicopter organisations to be decided by the Committee and this be mentioned on the sign beside the boat ramp. Proposed Andrew Caddie, seconded Murray Robson. Carried unanimously. Consideration could be given to which organisation is carrying out the majority of the evacuations in the area.

Helicopter Pad: A question was raised about why the Association chose the particular site for the proposal to Council for hardening as a helicopter pad. The answer was given that it has been used in the past as such as it was well located, free of hazards such as overhead wires and it was road reserve, but was very dusty in summer conditions.

Admin Issues: Dave McFarlane raised a number of administration issues including putting Committee minutes on the website. However Andrew Caddie said these were more in the nature of working documents containing strategic and sensitive material and were thus purely intended as an aide memoir for the Committee itself. The Presidents Chatline and Association website were aimed at providing information to members. Dave was also concerned as to the details and location of the registered office of the Association. Stefan noted the registered office was correctly displayed on the Registrar of Incorporated Societies webpage. Andrew confirmed this met the legal requirements. The reference in the rules to the Registered Office being at Waitaria was because this was the initial registered office back in 1991.

In response to another query about the positions taken by the Committee on matters such as aquaculture and forestry, it was agreed that the work of the past Committee was endorsed and the meeting urged the new Committee to keep up the good work. Proposed Andrew Caddie, seconded Don Kerr. Carried unanimously.

The meeting closed at 4.15 after a round of thanks from the Chair to all attendees.

