

# **Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents' Association**

## **Minutes of Annual General Meeting at Portage Resort Hotel on 19 April 2025**

The meeting opened at 2.00pm.

**Present:** Andrew Caddie (Chair), Stefan Schulz, Jan Kerr, Hanneke Kroon, Sylvia Withell, Ross Withell, Murray Robson, Tania Croucher, Hazel Wilkes, Fay Watson, Tony Watson, Scott Watson, Richard Stewart, Heike Koester, Maggie Stewart, Susanne Sheehan, Bruce Withell, Cynthia Jones, Lorraine Rolston, Ron Rolston, Ralph Jones, Trevor Offen, Jean Hollis, Phil Garing, Alison Cusiel, Alex Stevens, Susan Stevens, Barbara Faulls (Councillor), Raylene Innes (Councillor), Ben Minehan (Councillor).

**Apologies:** Heather Cameron, Alistair Cameron, Adrian Harvey, Ady Harvey, Alistair Edmond, Alison Edmond, Robin Bowron, Lynley Offen, Kevin Bright, Nicky Bright.

**Welcome:** President Andrew Caddie welcomed members to the meeting and also the three Councillors present - Raylene Innes, Barbara Faulls and Ben Minehan.

**Minutes of AGM 2024:** The minutes of the 2024 AGM were unanimously received and confirmed (Andrew Caddie/ Ron Rolston). Carried.

**Change to Rules of the Association:** Andrew Caddie explained the reason behind the proposed change to the Rules of the Association, namely to allow members to approve potential changes to the Rules using an online system like ZOOM, ahead of the coming into force of the new Incorporated Societies Act in 2026.

It is resolved that the Rules of the Association be amended by adding the following as a new clause 6.2A:

### **6.2A Virtual Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)**

**An Extraordinary General Meeting called pursuant to Clause 6.2 of the Rules of the Association may be held virtually by using an audio/visual communication system (eg ZOOM).**

**If an EGM is to be held virtually then the notice advising members of the date, time and subject matter of the EGM shall also include the appropriate virtual invitation sign-in details. Voting at a virtual EGM shall be conducted via an electronic poll.**

**A member present at the start of a virtual EGM shall be counted as always present for the purposes of a quorum notwithstanding that the member may have disconnected and left the EGM prior to its formal conclusion. The remainder of the provisions of the Rules of the Association shall apply to any such virtual EGM amended to suit the circumstances as required.**

Proposed Andrew Caddie, seconded Trevor Offen. Carried unanimously.

**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 paid tribute to the Committee for their hard work on roading which had resulted in things moving forward on a much better basis than had originally been proposed by Council.

The Committee had met eight times, 13 Chatlines had been sent out to members, a number of formal submissions and presentations had been made, and there had been four operational roading meetings with relevant parties. As well, Andrew had engaged with Councillors and Council staff regularly, and members of the Committee had attended mediation sessions on the Marlborough Environment Plan (MEP) and formal hearings, including the Environment Court.

Andrew said that since he had been on the Committee, roading issues had risen to become all encompassing, especially with the damage to the road after the storms in 2021 and 2022 but also prior to that due to the lack of timely and competent maintenance. After the storms, there was even the question as to whether the road would be replaced by marine only access. However, due to the Committee's hard work, a positive outcome had been achieved. In response to the Council's suggestion of a special levy for Kenepuru ratepayers to help fund the road repairs, Trevor Offen along with the Committee had prepared and presented a paper analysing the shortcomings of the preferred approach by Council and its consultants. A 50% reduction in the proposed levy was the result - an outstanding achievement. It had been a very demanding time for the Committee.

With respect to business-as-usual (BAU) road maintenance, meetings with relevant Council staff continued. Alistair Cameron, Scott Watson and Richard Stewart had combined their strengths to produce a work-in-progress spreadsheet which has now been accepted by all involved and Scott Watson now chairs those meetings with Marlborough Roads and Council. Andrew said he is most optimistic that the progress to date re BAU will continue, especially as the Kenepuru Zone Manager is very willing to engage with KCSRA. Andrew noted that Alistair Cameron was retiring from the Committee. He had made a big impact in addressing roading issues and Andrew thanked him for his support and contribution.

With a significant amount of money about to be spent on road recovery, much of it from NZTA, the Committee has got agreement to include progress on this at the regular meetings. An eye is also being kept on allocation of spending so that what is put down to Kenepuru Rd is actually spent on Kenepuru Rd.

The Committee had made submissions and joined appeals relating to marine farming under the MEP eg on the discharge of plastics. The Association made its own appeal on marine farms in inappropriate places in Kenepuru Sound but had been overtaken by events, in particular legislation put forward by the Minister of Fisheries Hon Shane Jones and so had withdrawn from the appeal. Andrew thanked members of the marine subcommittee – Trevor Offen, Hanneke Kroon, Richard Stewart and Adrian Harvey for their time.

Andrew reported on the Environment Court case re coastal occupancy charges, which the Association was involved in. Donations had been received from four boating clubs to go towards Association costs. Days before the hearing, the Council advised that it and aquaculture appellants had reached agreement which put a spoke in the wheel of the Association's case. The case went ahead but going by the Judge's comments at the end of the hearing, it seemed the Association had been unsuccessful. The Judge's final ruling is yet to be published.

The Committee had concerns about storm water issues around the Portage subdivision and a sub committee consisting of Tania Croucher, Alistair Cameron and Richard Stewart made a submission and presented their case. Changes had been made to the plans as a result. Andrew noted that Tania was retiring from the Committee due to her professional commitments and thanked her for her valuable input over the years. He hoped that she might come back onto the Committee in the future.

A new flyer had been published, the project being largely led by Tom Wright and sent to ratepayers. Andrew thanked Tom, who was retiring from the Committee, for his work for the Association over the years.

Andrew finished his report by thanking other members of the Committee – Stefan Schulz for his work on the website, communications, setting up ZOOM meetings and keeping financial details; Murray Robson for liaising with Portage to set up the meeting venue; and also thanked the 300+ members for supporting the Association. Adrian Harvey is also retiring from the Committee after many years. Andrew thanked him for his support and contribution.

Andrew proposed that his report be received and approved, seconded Scott Watson. Carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Stefan Schulz reported to the meeting on the financial statements, which had been circulated prior to the meeting via the KCSRA website. The accounts had again been checked by Community Capacity Accounting, as to any errors in calculations and good operating systems.

Major items on the income and expenses side were the Coastal Occupational Charges, income from the boating clubs and expenses of the expert witness and legal fees. Subscriptions were a major income item and Stefan urged members to contact their neighbours and suggest they become members, as numbers were important. A new initiative for the Association this past year was a presence on Facebook.

Although there had been a deficit in the past financial year, there were good reserves such that the Association is financially sound.

There was a question from the floor about the timeframe for Coastal Occupancy Charges to be levied. Andrew replied that first the Environment Court had to release its decision and then the Council had to put things in place. It might be possible in the Council's 2026/27 financial year.

Stefan moved that his report and the financial statements be accepted and approved (Stefan Schulz/Richard Stewart). Carried unanimously. The financial statements will now be filed with the Registrar of Incorporated Societies.

**Sounds Advisory Group:** Ross Withell's report on SAG meetings was available on the KCSRA website. Ross said the official minutes of the meetings were on the Council website for those interested. There was some discussion about the possible removal of the DoC facilities at Cowshed Bay. Ron Rolston expressed disappointment given the huge amount of money that had been spent on the effluent system that wasn't working and was being removed. Murray Robson had suggested a simple solution to the problem but had been advised that it needed a DoC staffer to implement it. It was agreed to watch any further developments.

Ross's report was received and confirmed (Andrew Caddie/ Stefan Schulz). Carried.

**Councillor's Comments:** Barbara Faulls reported on Council issues to the meeting. She thanked Ross for attending SAG meetings and also outgoing Committee members. Issues mentioned included Antenno being a good source of information, new Cook Strait ferries, water reforms whereby the Council would soon be consulting on two options for the way forward (although it was unclear if there is any relevance to Sounds residents with their own water infrastructure), the NIWA survey of the seafloor showing lots of still pristine areas but definite sedimentation in other areas. She also mentioned the contestable funding available for up to \$15,000 for small community initiatives.

In response to a question about whether the three councillors are standing again, the answer was yes. Andrew mentioned the Marlborough Roads recovery newsletter being very useful. Barbara acknowledged that communication in 2021 and 2022 was too technical and could have been better. There was a question about the dredging of the Havelock channel and whether the dredge could also be used to fix the problems with the local jetty being high and dry at times. But it was pointed out that there would have to be two separate resource consents.

Andrew thanked the Councillors for attending the meeting, as they left at that point.

**Retiring President – Summing Up:** Andrew having been President for seven years and retiring at this AGM, he offered some reflections on his time as President. In hindsight, the first three years had been straightforward and then the pace had picked up after the July 2021 storm event. The Committee had set out to try to mitigate the adverse impacts of marine farms in the Sounds and along with like-minded groups had taken part in various Court cases. They decided to try to influence policy through the MEP, but it turned out to be a very long process – over 10 years. Andrew said he didn't realise how wedded Council staff were to old ideas and so receptive to industry demands. The Committee had made some gains but not huge given the time and effort taken.

The workings of the Committee had improved greatly over his time as President through the use of ZOOM. The wide and diverse skill base on the Committee had worked well, as well as continuing the consensus decision making approach started by

Ross Withell. In terms of media coverage, it was important now to use professional assistance as the scene had changed so much.

On the marine farming front, getting the scallop fishery closed after the impact of commercial dredging clearly showed in the catch figures was a very successful initiative, although it took two years. KCSRA's initiative on salmon farming using Hanneke Kroon's analysis showed mortality events were clearly linked to water temperatures and nature will have the final say in whether King Salmons Blue Water farm will be successful or not. Adrian Harvey's presentation to the Hearing panel on the release of plastics into the environment by the mussel industry persuaded them to introduce a new policy. Trevor Offen's paper on cumulative effects using aquaculture industry models was persuasive.

On roading, Andrew said he has great confidence in Scott Watson leading the charge going forward.

Andrew has a small role in the future – attending a mediation session in May and perhaps later in the year assisting with putting in place revised Rules (Constitution) to enable registration of the Association under the new Incorporated Societies Act. He said he has found the last seven years to have been very interesting and exciting, with some frustrations and lots of hard work. But it was appropriate to allow the new Committee time to regroup. He said it had been an honour to work with the Committee over this time.

#### **Election of Officers and Committee:**

Andrew Caddie proposed the re-election of Stefan Schulz as Treasurer, seconded Ross Withell. Carried unanimously.

He then proposed the re-election of existing Committee members - Hanneke Kroon, Robin Bowron, Trevor Offen, Kevin Bright, Scott Watson, Murray Robson and Richard Stewart. Seconded Stefan Schulz. The meeting agreed that Committee members listed above be elected for the 2025/2026 year. Carried unanimously.

Two further Committee members were proposed by Andrew – Ross Withell and Phil Garing (seconded Scott Watson). Carried unanimously.

Since there were no candidates for President and Vice President, Andrew proposed a solution to give the Committee just elected time to allocate portfolios and decide the modus operandi going forward.

It is proposed that:

#### **The AGM direct the Committee now elected to meet and:**

- 1. Decide how the Committee will divide up and manage the main workstreams (portfolios) amongst the Committee for the coming year;**
- 2. Identify and recommend a nominee for the position of President to co-ordinate the workings of the Committee for the coming year;**

**3. Report back to members with its recommendation(s) and setting a date for a virtual EGM to enable members to review the Committee's recommendation(s) and as appropriate ratify the same at the EGM.**

Proposed Andrew Caddie, seconded Ron Rolston. Carried unanimously.

**General Business:**

**Honorariums:** The honorariums stand at: Treasurer \$350, Secretary \$350, President \$450. Andrew Caddie proposed these remain at current levels for the 2025 year, seconded Tania Croucher. Carried unanimously.

**Thanks to Retiring President:** Trevor Offen took the floor to give a vote of thanks to Andrew Caddie who had been President for seven years. He noted the large number of meetings, Chatlines, mediations and other Association business Andrew had been involved in over that time. Andrew had achieved a lot due to his high standards, professionalism, political and legal awareness and administration prowess, not to mention his delegation skills. He noted that Jan Kerr, AGM minute secretary, was also retiring and acknowledged her help in providing media advice and proof reading. He was pleased to present Andrew and Jan on behalf of the Association with a voucher redeemable with a local artist.

The meeting closed at 3.30pm.