

Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents' Association

Minutes of Annual General Meeting at Portage Resort Hotel on 30 March 2024

The meeting opened at 2.07pm.

Present: Andrew Caddie (Chair), Stefan Schulz, Jan Kerr, Hanneke Kroon, Joop Jansen, Sylvia Withell, Ross Withell, Murray Robson, Tania Croucher, Hazel Wilkes, Fay Watson, Tony Watson, Scott Watson, Richard Stewart, Dennis Chapman, Debbie Chapman, Alistair Edmond, Alison Edmond, Howard Croucher, Tom Wright, Adrian Harvey, Roger Tobin, Jason Tobin, Geof Franks, Anthea Franks, Heike Koestr, Maggie Stewart, Brent Sheehan, Susanne Sheehan, Sue Walker, Godfrey Walker, Susan Stevens, Alex Stevens, Bruce Fraser, Bruce Withell, Jean Hollis, Johnny Young, Maryanne Tipler, Anne Wilson, Ian Currie, John Leslie, Cynthia Jones, Lorraine Rolston, Ron Rolston, Ralph Jones, Ross Withell, Charles Kelly, John Ahern, Kirsten Drayton, Barbara Faulls (Councillor), Raylene Innes (Councillor).

Apologies: Heather Cameron, Alistair Cameron, Vaughan Currie, Tracey Currie, Irma van der Linden, Kees van der Linden, Alison Bowron, Robin Bowron, Trevor Offen, Kevin Bright, Nicky Bright, Christine Martin, Mark Appleby, Janet Appleby.

Welcome: President Andrew Caddie welcomed members to the meeting and also the two Councillors present - Raylene Innes and Barbara Faulls.

Minutes of AGM 2023: The minutes of the 2023 AGM were unanimously received and confirmed (Andrew Caddie/ Ron Rolston). Carried.

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 said it had been a busy year dominated by roading. Fortunately there had been no new storm events but road recovery and maintenance were major issues through the year. The Committee had had 11 meetings, plus 6 operational roading meetings had taken place with lots of pre-meetings, he had sent out 13 chatlines and attended many Council meetings, some with Kevin Bright.

While Alistair Cameron's roading report was operational in focus, Andrew's report covered higher level issues. He went over the process of the Future Access Study (FAS) which KCSRA had participated in fully, getting expert advice and making submissions. The FAS report had gone to NZTA, not as a funding application but seeking indicative financial support levels and the general approach to be taken. Verbal advice back from NZTA was for 71% funding for road repairs, 51% for road improvements and zero percent for marine infrastructure improvements; now a funding application with detailed costings was being prepared by Council. A large proportion of the \$106m needing to be paid for by Council was for Kenepuru Rd. Of the \$106m, \$40m was for marine infrastructure including a \$7m scoping study, which it was said by Council to be at the request of NZTA, although they would not fund it.

Council had prepared various funding options as to how ratepayers might pay for the \$106m. They are putting the five options for funding the road repairs, road improvements and marine infrastructure improvements out for consultation as part of the Long Term Plan. This would be done by way of drop-in meetings and KCSRA urged residents to attend. While three of the options included Sounds ratepayers paying more than other ratepayers, as a kind of “user pays” approach, there was concern that this had never been done before with respect to civic amenities and especially roading damaged by storms. Previously everyone contributed equally regardless of use.

Andrew thanked members of the Committee for their support and hard work and especially Scott Watson and Richard Stewart for the impact they had made on roading issues, including preparing a spreadsheet on road maintenance that had now been adopted by Council; Stefan Schulz who was a major part of the organisation; Trevor Offen for his amazing grasp of technical aspects of cumulative effects; Adrian Harvey for his work on plastics released by the mussel industry into the ocean; and Tom Wright, who was stepping down as Vice-President but prepared to stay on the Committee, for his work on the refurbishment of the Torea War Memorial plaques and also member recruitment and communication.

Andrew also thanked members for attending the meeting and being part of the organisation. Attendees showed their appreciation by applauding Andrew for his report.

It was noted the drop-in meeting at Waitaria was set down for 17 April and a Zoom meeting on 18 April.

Ron Rolston thanked the Council for the brand new flagpole at the War Memorial. The usual Anzac Day gathering would take place there.

The meeting unanimously agreed that the report be received and approved (Andrew Caddie/ Bruce Withell). Carried.

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, which was an organisation that aimed to provide assistance to non-profit organisations.

Stefan reported that KCSRA was in good shape financially. The Roothing Defence Fund contributions came to over \$10,000. Of that \$2,800 had been spent on expert and other advice and assistance.

The Committee had agreed that the subscription would be raised from \$25 to \$30 for the 2024/25 year but due to an oversight this had not yet been implemented. Stefan asked members to spread the word about KCSRA to new neighbours and suggest they become members. A pamphlet could be sent out once a list of ratepayers in the area had been received.

On the horizon was the need to change the KCSRA Constitution to align with the changes to the Incorporated Societies Act coming into force in 2026 and re-

registration under that Act. This could be done at the 2025 AGM or through a special general meeting after the Committee had gone through the template provided to see what changes needed to be made. After discussion, the general consensus was to approve the new constitution at a Special General Meeting, to be done by Zoom.

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

Roading: The roading report by Alistair Cameron had been circulated prior to the meeting via the KCSRA website. Alistair Cameron was unable to attend the meeting. Andrew noted that Alistair's report went over the operational side of roading matters and KCSRA was lucky to have two civil contractors (Alistair and Adrian Harvey) on the Committee as well as Scott Watson who has engineering experience. A lot of effort and persistence was needed in dealing with the convoluted chain of bureaucrats/contractors involved in roading in Marlborough.

The spreadsheet put together by Richard Stewart covered work on Kenepuru Rd that needed to be done. It had been adopted by Council and it was kept up to date at the three-monthly operational meetings. Members were urged to keep contacting Council and Richard on any roading maintenance issues, despite sometimes receiving bland replies from Council. There was a distinction between road maintenance and road repairs. There followed much discussion from various people about the bad state of the road with lots of potholes, trenches, vegetation growing on the bunds, the fact that maintenance was not being done leading to blocked culverts and trees blocking water tables. One member described it as a dramatic failure of public works with no accountability whatsoever and the community was one storm away from having the road closed. Some people were either doing their own road maintenance or paying contractors to do it, in the absence of Council contractors.

Richard said the Council was about to start work on repairs; there were 62 sections to be tarsealed. He was hopeful that progress had been made on getting a road crew to carry out regular targeted maintenance. After further discussion about the lack of road repairs and maintenance, Andrew said that the three hour meeting held recently with the Mayor, Councillors and officials made it clear that the Council had made a judgement call on how the roading repairs are to be funded and they are in charge.

In response to a question about how long the road will be "residents only", the latest information was that once the Portage dropout and the Watertank repairs had been done, the level of civic emergency will be ascertained and it was likely the road would revert to a public road (possibly June).

Barbara Faulls responded to a question about how the marine hub idea was meant to ensure access. She said the Council was made to go through that process by NZTA. They indicated they would not fund road repairs unless a climate resilience option was looked at.

The meeting agreed unanimously to receive and approve the roading report (Andrew Caddie/ Maryanne Tipler). Carried.

Marine Subcommittee: Andrew spoke to Trevor Offen's report on the Marine Subcommittee which had been circulated via the KCSRA website prior to the meeting. The Committee had been working on the Marlborough Environment Plan Variation 1 – Marine Farming, which provided the opportunity for a fresh look at how aquaculture is managed in the Sounds.

KCSRA had presented at the Hearings and was now participating in the mediation sessions. Some progress had been made on the major problem of plastic pollution but it could be complicated to work out which farm the plastic was coming from – apparently necessary for any regulatory action by the Council. Trevor had been a major player in detailing the problem of cumulative impacts and the Hearing Panel had directed the Council to implement a state of the environment monitoring programme to assess the cumulative impacts of aquaculture in the water column. KCSRA was now defending this policy in mediation. The problem is particularly acute in low-flush shallow bays which are rich in biological diversity. Another point put forward by KCSRA by way of an appeal was the lack of competitive tendering for space. What had impressed Richard Stewart as a newcomer to the process was that there were no other community groups present. It was the marine industry, the Council and KCSRA involved in a somewhat harsh process. Even if the policy gets changed, marine farms can object and they get another 25 years under the old policy which seemed especially egregious.

The meeting agreed unanimously to receive and approve the Marine Subcommittee report (Andrew Caddie/ Murray Robson). Carried.

Sounds Advisory Group: Ross Withell's report on SAG meetings was available on the KCSRA website. Ross spoke about the ongoing problem of sedimentation in Pelorus and Kenepuru Sound and this would only be worsened by lack of tarseal on the road.

Councillor's Comments: Barbara Faulls told the meeting the local Councillors understood their frustration about the lack of work on the road. She said, however, that Councillors were concerned with governance, not operational matters. They were unable to get involved in this aspect. The levels of service were decided by the whole Council.

She urged attendees to read the Long Term Plan which comes out on 10 April. The drop-in sessions allowed people to ask questions. If people do a submission, it is important to ask to speak on it. She again mentioned that the Council had been hamstrung on roading by the NZTA process and the amount of funding going into Gisborne. She recommended downloading the Antenno app so people could keep up to date with road closures etc.

The Councillors then left the meeting with no opportunity for discussion or questions.

In response to a question, Andrew explained the historical context of NZTA funding for road repairs: Phase 1 after the July 2021 storm, the Council quickly successfully applied to NZTA for 95% funding assistance (\$83m); Phase 2 after the August 2022 storm, the Council successfully applied for 95% funding assistance (\$53m) for the Waihopai, North Bank Rd and Awatere road repairs. This left Sounds repairs for a

Phase 3 funding application. However the Council then embarked on the Sounds FAS finally resulting in the preparation and presentation of the FAS programme business case. In this document, the Council indicated to NZTA they would like 71% assistance for the costs of road repairs, 51% for road improvements and zero percent for marine infrastructure improvements. This left the \$106m hole for Council to fund.

Election of Officers and Committee: Ross Withell took the chair for the election of Officers. He stated that as Andrew Caddie had agreed to serve another year as President, Alistair Cameron as Vice President and Stefan Schulz as Treasurer and as there were no other nominations, they were declared elected.

Andrew Caddie then re-took the chair and proposed the re-election of the existing Committee members - Hanneke Kroon, Tania Croucher, Robin Bowron, Trevor Offen, Adrian Harvey, Kevin Bright, Scott Watson, Murray Robson, Tom Wright and Richard Stewart. The meeting agreed that Committee members listed above be elected for the 2024/2025 year. Carried unanimously.

General Business:

Honorariums: Tom Wright proposed to the meeting that the honorariums, which had not been changed for a long time, be doubled to \$1,150. The meeting agreed (Tom Wright/Tania Croucher). Carried. Tom thanked Andrew for the work he was doing and the hours he put in on behalf of the Association. The attendees showed their appreciation.

Donations: It was proposed that a \$250 donation to the Nelson Marlborough Rescue Helicopter Trust be made (Andrew Caddie/Stefan Schulz). Carried. Stefan urged members to make their own donations. After the meeting a member made a very kind \$100 donation.

The meeting closed at 4.15pm.

At this point Andrew announced that this would be his last year as President. After 6 years in the role already, it would be time to step down. He thanked members for their attendance at the meeting and their contributions.