

Minutes of the Piha Ratepayers' and Residents' Association

Committee Meeting held at Piha Bowling Club, 7.00 pm, 11th May, 2021.

1. Attending: Hanneke Bouchier (HB), Graham Cleghorn (GC), Daniel Caley (DC), Jane Caley (JC), James Dickenson (JD), Blair Strang (BS), Natasha Tombleson(NT), Mike Hales (MH).
2. Apologies : Ken Cowan, Graeme Carrie, Sean O'Brien, Anthony Piggins
3. Open Forum : Two members from the Piha community appeared, wanting to talk about a skatepark. (Steve May. Ph 021 061 9156, and Krissy May). They seemed unfamiliar with prior history of discussions surrounding the skatepark, and seemed unaware of all groups that had a stakeholder interest. A brief dialogue followed, and they were informed that a meeting would be arranged for all interested groups to meet with the R&R, to be arranged on return of KC. They would be advised. They agreed to become members, and follow-up will be done to register this new membership.

A second presenter was Peter Hosking, who provided information on the wasp eradication programme being undertaken by Pestfree Piha. Much of it is information of interest to the community at large. Peter agreed to prepare a presentation, to be sent to the R&R for inclusion in our internet outreach.

4. Elected Representatives: Sandra Coney for the WRLB offered the following:
 1. Board is still working on finalising its works programme for the year. Noted that the WRLB area is large, the population is small and funding is population based.
 2. Board will meet with the Council's governing Body to seek additional funding for specific projects. Contentious issue is the weed bins funding. Funds for all-year round bin will be sought.
 3. Toilets are currently being repaired.
 4. Alligator weed is being sprayed in the affected areas. The Claud Abel pond will be next.
 5. A pocket of land near Glen Esk road is especially affected by weeds, which the R&R has sought to have cleared. This is Regional Park land and Sandra is trying to have Regional Parks lead a weeding bee with community support. (Jane C. asked that sufficient notice be given to enable working bees to be organised.)
 6. Roadside weed control about to start in Piha. Carried out by Community Facilities.
 7. Les Waygood Park. Landowner consent has been given to Piha Kidz Charitable Trust to develop a cycle track.
 8. Discussions ongoing around the campground area.
 1. Re Council contact for local parks. Shaq Reitveld has moved into another job. A new person for west Community Facilities still to be appointed. In the meantime, Justin McKelvie is taking queries.

5. Confirm minutes from meeting of 13th April, 2021.

MOTION 1: That the Minutes of the 13^h April, 2021 be accepted as a true and correct record.

CARRIED: JC/NT

6. Inward and Outward Correspondence:

MOTION 2: That the inward correspondence be received and the outward correspondence be endorsed.

CARRIED: BS/HB

7. Financial Report

- Graham mentioned that the R&R consider a contribution to costs for recent ANZAC dig-out of the lagoon. It is understood that Willy Beggs donated his time and digger to the task. Committee might discuss some consideration to be given him. This was agreed, and an appropriate amount to be determined.
- Graham Cleghorn – Presented the monthly reports & approval of accounts for payment.

MOTION 3: That the financial Report for the period ending February 28 be received, transactions endorsed, and accounts for payment as tabled, be approved.

CARRIED: GC/JD

8. Library Report: Nothing to report

9. Post Office Report: KC

- There are still outstanding post office boxes unpaid. JC and GC actioned requests by three box holders for invoices to be sent to them, and this has been done.
- Further update information about outstanding invoices to await return of KC.
- JC will give some thought to how the R&R might better ensure prompt payment, with options to be discussed in time for the next AGM

10. Water Quality Report: GBC

- HB noted that the previous month's meeting was that the Committee (HC, GC and HB) would work on a consent application for creating a tidal flow path between the lagoon to the sea. Work has been done on that, including GC's contact with local iwi representation.
- HB updated Committee on events since the last monthly meeting, in particular the fact that there was a lagoon dig-out done immediately prior to the ANZAC parade, without which the parade could not have taken place on the beach. Items of correspondence surrounding this action was shared with Committee, including what was known about the matter of waiver of consent for that occasion. GC has prepared diary notes of the lagoon dig-out which attended.
- A few days later (28 April) KC and GC met with The Council's Healthy Water and Safe Swimming Manager, Nick Vigar. This was a follow-on from where the R&R had got to prior to the 2019 Covid lockdown. The main purpose of this on-site meeting at the lagoon was to undertake salinity test. GC has prepared a report of that meeting detailing the results. Significant is that the Council will provide GC with a salinity testing kit and work with the Council to continue checking salinity status. GC had had the foresight to collect lagoon water sample prior to the ANZAC lagoon dig-out which were available for comparison.
- In further discussion following the tests, Nick Vigar advised that the preparation of a Consent Application for future dig-outs would be made by Healthy Waters and Safe Swimming.
- Current diary notes (mentioned) are in draft form and will be added to the R&R record when confirmed.

11. Piha Wetlands Trust: HB

- The formal opening of the school house will take place on June 13th.
- There is as yet no progress on the planned MOU between the Auckland Council and the Wetland Trust, due to lack of funds.

12. Auckland Transport matters:

- No useful discussion on Piha Roads. MH noted that some resurfacing work was planned for 11 May and HB noted that a large roadworks vehicle was parked near the lookout.
- Awaiting response to letters sent to the Council, regarding roads and footpaths.

13. Website/Facebook

- SO was away and the committee awaits his return to progress the website.

14. General Business

- **Post Office.** DC has generously donated a computer to the Post Office. The required set-up and anti-virus measures will likely be done by Simon.
- **Tracks.** Committee recognises that the opening of tracks is an uphill struggle. JD has had several email exchanges with the Council about this. He has agreed to assemble a concise "bullet point" summary of where he got to. Further discussion to be had on what further steps the R&R might take, especially in light of the problematic parking pressures building up at the Mercer track where people are seeking alternative tracks to walk. Locals are unhappy about the volume of cars, and the fact that there is parking on a heritage site. Committee noted that walking tracks among the top Piha attractions. While expectations to have all tracks opened is unrealistic, it may be that specific tracks might now be opened up for public use. Further enquiry warranted.

Meeting closed at 9:46 pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday 8th June, 2021. 7:00pm at Piha Bowling Club.