**K**uaotunu **R**esidents and **R**atepayers **A**ssociation

Minutes of Committee Meeting

held via zoom

17 March 2022

*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:** 6pm

**Present:** Brent, Carrie, Kathy, Alastair, Danny, Kate, Erica, Courtney

**Public: --**

**Apologies:** Bruce

**1. Public input --**

**2.Minutes:** Minutes of the previous committee meeting, held 3 February 2022, accepted as a true and accurate record. **moved:**Erica  **seconded:** Kathy  **Passed**

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

Brent: **layby -** see Item 5.5 below. Heron Trust **wetlands/stock grazing photo** pending (recap: photo to be sent to Waikato Regional Council to document need for action; fences have not been repaired since 2018 bridge-breaking storm). **Ed Varley/traffic calming** - see Item 5.2 below. **FENZ concerns with traffic calming**: Brent has spoken with Fire Chief Garrick, who has no concerns re traffic calming through the village, just requests consultation on designs & plans. **Bluff Road rockfall** - see Item 5.2 below.

Erica: has purchased **hi-viz vests** ($75) and is waiting for printing quotes. Noel Hewlett has no information re **bike club access to forestry roads**. (Recap: we are pursuing this after a request by John Thorburn at a public meeting last year.) Erica to report (lack of) progress to John T., and keep following up.

Alastair: has not asked for written permission from DB to install a hoop on the **recreation court** but convened an on-site meeting instead with Dugald Hoyland, Dave Wight, Ian Goodall, and Danny, and reports:

* two quotes obtained by council from their approved supplier were given last year for resurfacing the court: April 2021 “$38,612 for Tiger Turf [a NZ brand of artificial turf] + 1 x hoop and 2 x nets, and then August 2021 $52,050 for turf only or $58,568 for two hoops and two nets
* progress had been delayed by issues with iwi permission and the failure of Council to enact proper gazetting for the closing of the paper road extension of Davis Road south of the state highway, as requested by the Domain Board to allow the original establishment of the sports complex; however it was recently decided that as the work is a repair to an existing asset, permission does not need to be sought, and the project is underway again. Sue Costello is the Council representative and Dugald the DB’s single point of contact.
* the Domain Board will contribute all of its funds ($27,000) and TCDC (through a community grant) will fund the remainder

Danny has serious concerns with the functionality of the resurfacing material: artificial turf is suitable for tennis, marginal for basketball, but unsuitable for skating/scootering, which is currently the most common use of the recreation court. His impression from the meeting was there was no room for discussion, and that more intervention from us might lose us the whole project.

Points of discussion at this meeting:

* resurfacing the court is a worthwhile project, and the expenditure significant
* it’s better to wait another year to get it right than commit to the wrong thing that may last 20 years
* if the current grant were to expire it might be difficult to get such a big one again in the future
* all monies (DB contribution and community grant = ratepayers’ contribution) are community monies and the community’s needs need to be met
* artificial turf over the whole court is not suitable, especially in the continued absence of anywhere else for young people to skate & scooter in Kuaotunu
* half turf, half asphalt/concrete would be acceptable, giving one tennis court and one multi-use recreation court

Action: Brent to meet with Dave W, Heather Bruce (TCDC), and Rehka (Community Board) to communicate KRRA’s concerns.

Danny see above

Carrie: Barb M reluctant to write **website profile on George Simpson**, suggests asking his daughter Paulette. Kate to approach Paulette.

Kathy: **rockfall newsletter item** ✓

**3.Correspondence:**

Correspondence is in the Dropbox.

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

**Matters arising from the correspondence:** see Items for Discussion below

**4.Financial Report:**

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

Total bank balances $9,242

Membership 188 (there are 3 new members but they will be counted in the 2023 year)

Outgoing: **$75** reimbursed to Erica for hi-viz vests

Expenditure requiring approval:

* The kuaotunu.co.nz domain needs renewing; Kathy recommends renewing for 5 years (instead of yearly, as currently), **$164**. The committee agrees (and will do the same for the other domain name when it comes up in 6 months)
* zoom subscription allowing us to have a >40 minute meeting uninterrupted, **$21.29**

**Matters arising from the financial report:**

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**5.Items for Discussion:**

**5.1 AGM plans**

*From committee meeting 3 Feb 22: The AGM would normally be held on Easter Sunday (17 April 2022). However it is not practical to hold such a meeting under the Red covid setting: the Hall requires 1-metre distancing which would limit numbers to 50, and we need a quorum of 66 members to elect a committee and pass a resolution on membership fees.*

*Instead we will ask the membership’s approval to roll over the current committee, as we did last year\*, with a couple of other nominees to fill possible vacancies.*

\*NB It was 2020, not last year, that we did not hold an AGM due to Covid and the committee was rolled over; 4 April 2021 we held the AGM in the Hall

* The government plans to make an announcement next week regarding possible changes to Covid Protection settings; public meetings may be allowed, however the Hall will still have restricted capacity; we will not know soon enough to organise an Easter AGM.
* public meetings are important for the committee to engage with the community and the community to engage in dialogue with each other around issues of concern
* even when we hold in-person AGMs we ask for on-line votes as we may not get a quorum of financial members turning up
* an AGM must be held within 30 days of the end of the financial year = end of April; we might expect some leeway in these covid times

Action: Kathy will draft an email to financial members, suggesting we hold off on setting a date for the AGM until after the gov’t announcement, at the same time asking for nominations.

**5.2 Mercury Bay North Chairs Meeting,** including **5.3 Bluff Road closure**

Brent reports expressing our ongoing frustration with TCDC/Waka Kotahi re **traffic calming** at the MBN meeting. He has pursued Ed Varley about a previously-discussed Memorandum of Understanding re roadways and markings, and the Council is hiding behind *public consultation process* as a reason for no action - BP pointed out that we’ve given our input, again and again, in writing, in meetings… (See also Correspondence). TCDC and Waka Kotahi are having a meeting 28 March. KRRA will wait to see the outcome.

Brent & Alastair met with Mark Bedford, Kevin Crawford, John Gaukrodger at the **Bluff Road rockfall**; they are optimistic that a point-to-point suspension bridge bypassing the rockfall is achievable. Next steps, Brent recommends a similar meeting including Bruce Hinsen (Group Manager, Operations, TCDC). Alastair strongly recommends against any further action on the rockfall itself or the netting as that will destabilise the rock face and incur unnecessary expense; in particular the western end of the bluff at the site of the proposed bridge supports should not be disturbed by blasting. It seems the TCDC Mayor and the interim Council CEO are uninterested but Brent is quietly hopeful that private funders may step in. All MB North Ratepayers Associations remain 100% in favour of keeping the Bluff Road open to pedestrians and cyclists.

Chris Severne (Otama R&R) reports an increase in **freedom camping** in the area this summer and notes there is a new bylaw on the way. KRRA should make a submission.

**Local body elections** are this year, nominations open 15 July 2022 - 15 August 2022. Absentee ratepayers have one vote per household but need to register. This year MB will get three councillors (population-weighting) and 4 Community Board members. A brief Newsletter item (Kathy to draft) should remind people to get involved.

**5.4 Pump box on Blackjack reserve…**

…is pretty ugly and *not* what we were expecting! The vertical portion is there to house the power box, and is highly visible from the road. BP has approached Isabel Gilbert Palmer for suggestions of local artists who might be able to beautify it (see Correspondence for the reply). Some planting could screen the vertical face, and some painting, carving…? could go round the rest, as long as the box is accessible for maintenance. Brent to ask Roimata if he’d like to contribute (with reimbursement). Everyone, don thinking caps and ask your friends & acquaintances (esp anyone who complains about it…) for other good ideas.

Related: Alastair recommends monitoring the plantings by the Blackjack toilet block, to ensure they do not wear away the mural. Jenny Crawford may be persuaded to do maintenance.

**5.5 Kuaotunu Hill layby**

What a saga! Unbeknownst to anyone, Higgins at the behest of Waka Kotahi (that’s why I do the minutes, so I can use words like that), has cleared and scraped the lay-by, opening it again to vehicle access but making the whole area highly visible, hopefully deterring fly-tippers (the old tyres and whiteware are still there down the bank). Brent has asked Higgins if there’s a planting plan for the clay bank facing the road and is waiting for a reply. Brent to follow up. Otherwise KRRA could organise & fund some planting this winter, perhaps with donated cuttings (low-growing groundcover, *not* trees that might hide the layby again); the food-forest crew could be asked to look at it.

Alastair notes that the empty plinth is still there, that was placed to commemorate the sealing of the road. Perhaps we could do an ad-hoc Easter weekend road-side clean-up, meeting at the layby to discuss plinth & planting then working our way down the hill. Lots of hands went up to participate but I was too busy writing to note who you were.

**5.6 Kauri 2000 archway**

Alastair asked what the consultation process was: Jill Kaepelli and Chris Charteris presented the concept at the committee meeting 23/9/21.

There has been some recent minor vandalism - the tags will be better secured.

**5.7 Artspace on the Domain**

Alastair asked what the consultation process was: Isabel GP presented the concept to KRRA 4/11/21. She is consulting the wider Coromandel artistic community and Ngati Tamatera; AB & CP think Kuaotunu should be consulted more thoroughly; BP reminds us not to conflate the two separate points of 1) the concept yes or no; and 2) once yes to the concept, the design of the space. Courtney will invite IGP to do a short piece for the next NL. Courtney notes that Ian Preece will be using the Hub temporarily for a similar purpose in the near future, which can serve as a test-run/stepping stone to a more permanent Kuaotunu artspace.

**6.Any other business:**

Alastair asks that the KRRA recognise the passing of Dave Simpson and acknowledge his contribution to the community in the Fire Brigade, on the Domain Board, and also as Chair of the KRRA for 25 years, a job which he handled with calmness and fairness through sometimes difficult times. We’d like to do a piece in the newsletter, and possibly a profile on the website? but need to talk to the family first. Carrie will talk to Rebecca S.

Kathy passes on a request from Leanne Haliwell Naturopath that she and other local health practitioners be listed on the website under Health Services as well as Businesses. The committee agrees.

Carrie reports there are no updates to report on the Waitaia Track reopening, despite persistent requests. (Danny says there were DoC folk there recently, so some preparatory work may be underway.)

Kate notes she has made two request-for-service to TCDC re the picnic table on Grays Beach reserve, which is regularly backed into by vehicles and is badly damaged.

**Watching brief:**

* Aquaculture development plan
* annual Labour-weekend road-side clean-up (see 2021 April minutes for details)

**Meeting closed:** 19:41 **Next meeting:** 28 April

ACTION SUMMARY

| who | what | done? |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Erica | * report to John Thorburn on forestry access for bikes * keep following up bike access to forestry |  |
| Brent | * meet with Dave W Heather B Rehka P re court resurfacing concerns * ask Roi re pump-box enhancement * follow up with Higgins re planting plan for layby |  |
| Kate | * ask Paulette S re George profile |  |
| Kathy | * draft email re AGM postponement * write NL item re local body elections |  |
| ? | * make freedom-camping bylaw submission |  |
| everyone | * come up with pump-box beautification ideas |  |
| Courtney | * ask IGP for a NL item re artspace |  |
| Carrie | * talk to Rebecca S re NL item about Dave |  |
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