

Pāuatahanui Residents Association

Minutes of Committee Meeting



Date of meeting: 10 October 2023

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: 480 Paremata Road (Steph's Home)

Present

Ken McAdam [Chairperson]
Diane Strugnell [Secretary]
Jo Cross [Treasurer]
Anna Dellow
Micky Reilly
Stephanie Manning

In Attendance

Cr Tracy Johnson

Apologies:

Laurie Watkins
Richard Bourne
Cr Josh Trlin

Item	Minutes
1. Welcome	Ken welcomed Cr Tracy Johnson, attending her first PRA Committee meeting
2. Apologies	The apologies were accepted.
3. Approval of Previous Minutes	Motion: That the minutes from the previous Committee meeting held on 5 September 2023 are a true and correct record. Moved: Jo Seconded: Anna Carried
4. Matters Arising	It was agreed that all matters and action items arising would be addressed within the agenda.
5. Treasurer's Report	Jo presented the Treasurer's report PRA General a/c \$4563.87 includes- PRA \$2,905.37 Pest Free \$858.65, Freshwater Catchment \$799.85, History a/c \$10,462.49 History term deposit \$12,026.67

Transactions September

PRA a/c
Income
Pest Free trap \$40
Interest \$8.85

Expenses
Bank fees \$10

History a/c
Interest income \$20.33
Term Deposit Interest \$159.95

6. Rates

As agreed at the meeting of 1 August, the Committee set aside 30 minutes for discussion on rates.

Since the September meeting the Committee has received an update from Jackie Edkins regarding property valuations. She noted that although people may not have objected to valuations in the belief that these would not be successful, to her knowledge those in Flightys Road who had objected to their valuations had been successful. The Committee has also received an offer from Jeremy Collyns to attend a Committee meeting to provide the Committee with more information from the perspective of being an owner of some covenanted land and as well as being a forestry owner. Jeremy will be approached to attend the November meeting.

The Committee wrote to the Council requesting a meeting with Councillors and Council officers. The Committee is acutely aware of feelings of disillusionment and hopelessness within the rural community when considering rates issues, especially following the changes to the rural differential. The Committee feels that previously a lot of effort has been put into submissions and hearings to little effect. The Committee was therefore keen to establish how much flexibility there is within Council when considering rates, how much willingness there is to consider the different ways in which rates affect the rural community and "what is on the table that can be changed?". The Committee wrote to Council requesting a meeting with Councillors and Council officers to discuss these questions. Council has responded in the negative with officers seeing "the meeting request as described as being effectively a 'consultation', which council only does when there is an active proposal to be discussed." The Chief Executive has said "she is happy for staff to support elected members in consultation when there are specific options being considered, but that it would not be workable to do so beforehand. This is in order to maintain a fair approach across the community and ensure elected members are able to first consider options." The Committee feels strongly that by the time there are specific options or active proposals to be discussed, the focus is already narrowed to a point where the community has limited choices and the outcomes are almost pre-determined. The Committee will respond to the Chief Executive and Mayor challenging the Council to be honest and open so that the community has a clear understanding of where time and effort is best invested if there is to be any change in how the rural community rates are determined.

Ken and Micky will continue to explore the constraints placed on the Council by central government, again acknowledging that this might be a much longer term task but does need to be considered.

With the Long term Plan process starting at the end of the year, the Committee is still keen to hear the views of residents on what might be a more tenable rates policy for the rural sector.

7. Village Planning

With Village Planning on hold there is nothing to report.

8. Topical Issues

Village culvert 818

The Council has recently received a report from the structural (bridge) inspection experts following their investigation into the state of the culvert in the Village at 6 Paekakariki Hill Road. The Council has accepted the expert advice and will be looking to replace the culvert within the next three years. The process to secure the funding has begun as has the design process so that construction can begin as soon as the funding is available. In the meantime the culvert will continue to be monitored and the speed restrictions will remain in place.

The Committee noted that the report stated that "a theoretical assessment would conclude that the culvert would fail General Access and High Productivity Motor Vehicles (HPMV) loads" but that "HPMVs are not currently allowed to use Paekākāriki Hill Road." This raised the question as to whether the logging trucks observed travelling through the Village are HPMVs.

Note: The Committee sought clarification on this and has been informed that as loaded logging trucks cannot legally exceed 44,000 kgs they are under the weight that would classify them as HPMVs and are therefore permitted to travel through the Village.

Plans for Lanes Flat

Following the latest sharing of the Concept Diagram for Lanes Flat by Transmission Gully Project and Waka Kotahi, PRA has noted the presence of a weigh facility. To the Committee's knowledge this is not a new feature but it has not been raised in any of the community discussions on Lanes Flat so it will be noted.

Roundabout Mowing

Laurie provided a report noting that the mowing of the Village roundabout will be done the week ending 23 October. Ongoing maintenance of this roundabout will be the responsibility of Transmission Gully maintenance, rather than Waka Kotahi, and will be undertaken by Ventia on an ongoing basis.

Rural Fire Risk

Nothing to report. Ken is still following up with Greater Wellington regarding the risk of uncontrolled rural fires, especially associated with the lack of firebreaks within existing forestry blocks or the requirement to allow for them within new plantings.

Natural Resources Plan - Plan Change 1

Nothing to report. It is still expected that this will be notified towards the end of October.

Local Road Maintenance

PCC has informed PRA of planned works on some of our local roads including:-

- Roads on this year's resurfacing programme include Flightys Road, Grays Road, Harris Road, Jones Deviation, Murphys Road and Paekākāriki Hill Road
- Work will begin this month to repair the slip below a section of Mulhern Road using a brush willow retaining wall
- Preparation is underway for the next stage of drainage improvements on Murphys Road
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PCC Roadside Weed Programme

PRA has been aware that in the 2021-51 Long Term Plan "Council agreed to allocate an additional \$143,000 in the first three years of the LTP to help manage pest plant species across the city." P28 of LTP. Following the August workshop on pest plants some questions

arose regarding how this allocation was being used so Diane met with Dave Stone, PCC Manager Horticulture to seek clarification. Dave provided the following information:-

“In the 2021-51 Long Term Plan, 143k/per year for 3 years was allocated for pest plant management in Open Spaces and on Council-owned land. We have commenced the final year of that 3 year allocation. The funding is managed by Parks & City Services and its application includes managing pest plant species and restoration efforts on Council owned open spaces and reserves. It has included pest plant control within road reserves both in urban and rural areas as well e.g. Moonshine Road.

This is separate to vegetation control along the roadside specifically around signs, road markers, culverts. Currently responses to control of pest plants within road corridors are managed as ad hoc requests and dealt with on that basis, however, PCC is working on the implementation of a vegetation contract that will address pest plant management in the road corridor in the near future.

Previously the funds were used to employ contractors to address specific pest plant issues but this often resulted in a narrow focus. Funding is now being brought ‘in house’ with two dedicated Biosecurity Rangers appointed in Aug/Sept 2023 to be more strategic, targeted and focused with the approach to pest plant management and restoration efforts across Porirua City.

Requests from residents to address pest plants should be made by contacting the PCC Service Centre and requests will then responded to - assessed, prioritised, addressed.

Council also has Lydia Mihaka, Arboriculture Manager, dealing with trees across the city.”

9. Reports

Pāuatahanui Burial Ground

Micky provided a report for the Committee. The last two working bees have been rained off but the mowing and gardening is on schedule. As part of Heritage Week Micky will be conducting a tour of the Burial ground on Saturday 28 October at 10am.

Pest Free Pāuatahanui

Jo presented her report on Pest Free Pāuatahanui, as appended. The recent workshop on Pest Animals with Steve Thompson, Greater Wellington, was well attended. The next event is a presentation by Emma Rowell, Project Leader for Predator Free Wellington, on Tuesday 17 October. PFP is also having a site at Lamb & Calf Day on 4 November with an opportunity for young people to build a long rat tunnel to take home with a free trap included.

Water Catchment Community

Diane reported that the eDNA sampling on the Pāuatahanui Stream will be undertaken in November. There will be some free single sample kits, courtesy of Greater Wellington Regional Council and Mountains to Sea Wellington, for any residents interested in assisting with the project.

Willowbank Quarry Community Liaison Group

Nothing to report

10. General Business

WREMO (Wellington Region Emergency Management Office)

It was agreed that the review of the Emergency Hub Guide is still very important and should also address some of the concerns raised at the AGM. PRA will wait to be contacted by WREMO regarding the review. It was noted that the review will provide the opportunity for WREMO to do a presentation similar to that planned for the last AGM.

PCC Riparian Planting Programme

PCC has a riparian streamside planting programme. There has been some uptake within the rural zone but the programme is looking to establish more areas of planting on private land within the rural areas of the city. Some concerns regarding how the programme is being adapted to the rural zone have been raised by Guardians of Pāuatahanui Inlet (GOPI), Porirua Harbour Trust (PHT) and Pāuatahanui Freshwater Catchment Community. Diane will be attending a meeting on 31 October with the Mayor and Chief Executive to discuss the future of the programme within the rural zone.

11. Communications

Website

The ongoing development of the website is continuing with the aim of encouraging its greater use as a community resource. The Committee is keen to know if there is data on visits to the website and whether these have increased. Diane will check with Flightdec who host the website.

Newsletter vs Minutes

It has been some time since PRA circulated a newsletter on a regular basis. Diane noted that the current format for the minutes often resembles a newsletter, providing more background information and explanations within the minutes and its accompanying email. The Committee is happy for this format to continue.

12. Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted

Correspondence - Inwards

8/09 Jeremy Collyns - Rates & Forestry
8/09 Wellington Water - Network Consents, Reducing pollution from network discharges
8/09 Barbara Becker, Downer - SH58 Nightworks
9/09 Wellington Heritage - Heritage festival
10/09 John Renshaw, GW Parks Ranger - Battle Hill Puketiro Loop
12/09 Ann Luxton - Historical painting
14/09 Northern Growth Area - Specific Development Project submissions
14/09 John Spence, Chair, Willowbank Quarry Community Liaison Group - Quarry website
14/09 Porirua Locality Programme
18/09 Jackie Edkins - Valuations
10/09 Steve Thompson, GW Biosecurity - Pest Animal Workshop
23/09 Jackie Edkins - SH58 road widths
28/09 David Stone, PCC Manager Horticulture - Roadside weed programme
28/09 Deanne Smylie, Ngahere Korowai Coordinator - Collective Hui

PCC Democratic Services – Council meeting documents
Claire Giblin, PCC Customer Liaison, Transport – Road

Total emails inwards 55

Correspondence - Outwards

6/09 Steve Thompson, GW Biosecurity - Pest Animal Workshop
8/09 Jeremy Collyns - Rates & Forestry
9/09 Barbara Becker, Downer - SH58 Nightworks
12/09 Paul Fryer, Fulton Hogan, Wellington Transport Alliance - Village roundabout area
12/09 Ann Luxton - Historical painting
12/09 Cr Josh Trlin - Rates discussion
12/08 Jeremy Collyns - Rates & Forestry
12/09 Chris Kirk-Burnnand, GW Councillor – GW Long Term Plan
15/09 John Spence, Chair, Willowbank Quarry Community Liaison Group - Quarry website
22/09 David Stone, PCC Manager Horticulture - Roadside weed programme

September Minutes

Downers - SH58 Roading notices

Pest Animal & Pest Plant Workshop

Total emails outwards: 55

13. Meeting Close 9.10 pm

14. Next Meeting Tuesday 4 November 7.30pm
Venue: 21 Paekakariki Hill Road (Anna's home)

Approved by: Ken McAdam
Chairperson,
Pāuatahanui Residents Association Management Committee