

Pāuatahanui Residents Association

Minutes of Committee Meeting



Date of meeting: 5 September 2023

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Paekakariki Hill Road (Jo's Home)

Present

Ken McAdam [Chairperson]
Diane Strugnell [Secretary]
Jo Cross [Treasurer]
Anna Dellow
Laurie Watkins
Richard Bourne
Stephanie Manning

Apologies:

Micky Reilly
Cr Josh Trlin

Item	Minutes
1. Welcome	Ken welcomed attendees.
2. Apologies	The apologies were accepted.
3. Approval of Previous Minutes	<p>Motion: That the minutes from the previous Committee meeting held on 6 June 2023 are a true and correct record.</p> <p>Moved: Ken Seconded: Richard Carried</p>
4. Matters Arising	It was agreed that all matters and action items arising would be addressed within the agenda.
5. Treasurer's Report	<p>Jo presented the Treasurer's report</p> <p>PRA General a/c \$4,525.02 includes- PRA \$2,906.51 Pest Free \$818.65 - Note that Pest Free balance now includes the \$1000 promised from PRA Freshwater Catchment \$799.85</p> <p>History a/c \$10,442.16</p>

History term deposit \$11,866.72

Transactions August

PRA a/c

Income

Membership \$40

Interest \$9.57

Expenses

Bank fees \$10

Trap doc200 box makings \$508.70

History a/c

Interest income \$21.42

Book sales \$185.25

6. Rates

Porirua City Council

At the meeting of 1 August the Committee agreed that 30 minutes at each meeting would be allowed for discussion on rates including being open to members of the community wishing to present constructive ideas on how a more tenable rural rates policy might be arrived at. The Committee considered the 3 emails that had been received from residents specific to rates issues. The Committee also looked at posts made to Facebook on the topic of rates. It was apparent that, whilst there were some useful comments made, there is a need for more information to be available to residents on how rates are derived at.

The Committee agreed that addressing the issue of rates may need a different approach and, in the first instance, is keen to establish how much flexibility there is within Council when considering rates, how much willingness there is to consider this and “what is on the table that can be changed?” PRA will therefore liaise with Councillors and Council officers to set up a meeting to answer this question.

The Committee also acknowledged that there are some constraints placed on the Council by central government and that PRA should look at these. It was noted that this might be a much longer term task but does need to be considered. Ken will liaise with Micky on this aspect.

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.

Greater Wellington Regional Council

The latest rates increase by Greater Wellington, implemented at the same time as the PCC rates increase, was 17%. The Committee noted that this increase, being a smaller portion of landowners rates, largely passed unnoticed. Chris Kirk-Burnnand, GW Councillor, approached the Committee for an opinion on GW rates. He noted that GW is considering the level of rates increase for each of the next 10 years and that the tension is between public affordability and visionary needs for both transport (65% of budget) and the environment (20% of budget). Chris asked the Committee to choose between, 5%pa, 10%pa, 15%pa, and 20%pa and if given a choice between building budgets for Environment or Transport which option would be chosen. The Committee responses were for ideally 0% increase but no more than 10% and for environment (5 members) rather than transport (2 members).

7. Village Planning

Village Parking

It was noted that the 10 minute parking outside the public toilets appears to be working well, making it easier for users of the toilets. The issues associated with a lack of disability parking in the Village were discussed. There is disability parking available at the Lighthouse

8. Topical Issues

Cinema for patrons but otherwise there is no disability parking provision for the general public. Following some discussion as there are no immediate or obvious solutions and the Committee has not been made aware of any significant concerns, it was agreed to not take any action but to review in the future as required.

SH58 Upgrade & Transmission Gully Road Closures

The ongoing disruptions and inconvenience caused by the SH58 roadworks and the road closures at Lanes Flat were noted, including the increase in night and weekend closures.

Lanes Flat

PRA is aware of the comments and concerns being expressed over a number of issues associated with the Lanes Flat area, between the TG roundabouts and the Village roundabout.

Plans for Lanes Flat - Waka Kotahi and CPB HEB/Transmission Gully Project have shared the concept diagram for this area. This will be put on the PRA website to enable residents to see what is planned.

The area to the south of the road is being restored and will be planted to effectively become an extension of the wildlife reserve. There will be a 3m wide path, following the stream, along the south side of the area. Waka Kotahi has confirmed that “they have agreed (with PCC) to construct a pedestrian/cycle bridge adjacent to the existing bridge over the Pauatahanui stream, which will connect to the footpath between the bridge and Joseph Banks Drive in Whitby, and also to the footpath that goes under the western end of the SH58 bridge and connects to the Lighthouse carpark. Once that pedestrian/cycle bridge is completed, there will be multiple paths and crossing points available for people to choose the route that best suits them (depending on where they are walking to and from), which will include an off-road path that people can take all the way from the Pauatahanui village to Bradey Road without needing to cross SH58 or any of the TG on/off-ramps if they prefer not to. For people walking between the village and St Joseph’s Church, they could use that off-road route to Bradey Road and then either cross SH58 at the crossing point just east of the eastern roundabout (where there will be a median refuge, so people only need to cross one direction of traffic at a time) or at Bradey Road (where there will be a raised median island that they can use as a refuge if they choose to). Once all the work is finished, Waka Kotahi believe the walking and cycling routes/facilities to and from Bradey Road and St Joseph’s Church will be substantially better and safer than existed before TG began (when people would have needed to walk along the shoulder of SH58 to get to or from Bradey Road or St Joseph’s Church).”

Pedestrian safety - PRA expressed concerns regarding the safety of pedestrians and cyclists when needing to make crossings of SH58 and the highway off ramps, for example when walking from the Village to St Joseph's Church. In response, CPB HEB/Transmission Gully Project noted that the path connections “have been assessed against relevant standards and peer reviewed for functionality and safety from a crime prevention perspective. The designs for the SH58 interchange have also had an independent safety review, in terms of safe public use by all modes (vehicles and walking/cycling). While works are ongoing, it can feel less safe with confusing temporary signage and cones everywhere. When works are complete, including traffic island refuges, etc, the area will be visually simpler and I’m sure it will be a much better environment for pedestrians.” More specific information on how the safety was assessed was provided to PRA.

Transmission Gully Highway Weed Control

Following the concerns expressed at the AGM over the proliferation of weeds, especially gorse, along the Transmission Gully road corridor PRA questioned CPB HEB/Transmission Gully Project and Waka Kotahi. CPB HEB/Transmission Gully Project have responded “We do actively maintain gorse and weeds in some specific areas where active planting is required for landscaping, stormwater treatment or ecological mitigation purposes. However, under our consents for sediment and habitat effects, many areas beside TG have been retired from previous farming uses and are being allowed to naturally regenerate. As part of these ecological outcomes for the Crown-owned land around TG, gorse is considered to be a useful ‘coloniser’ species in terms of being nitrogen fixing and to shelter young natives, either planted or naturally regenerating, that will (very eventually) take over from gorse. So as it is not a regional pest species, there is unfortunately little we can do to eradicate gorse.

FENZ Base at Lanes Flat

Laurie has made contact with Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) to ask if there are plans to establish a base at Lanes Flat on the land between the Ventia TG Maintenance site and the Pāuatahanui roundabout. At this time there has been no indication or commitment from FENZ regarding a base at Lanes Flat. Laurie will continue to follow up on this matter.

Rural Fire Risk

Ken has a meeting arranged 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

At the previous meeting Diane reported that Greater Wellington Regional Council are getting closer to notifying the policies and regulations that will affect rural landowners in Pāuatahanui. Greater Wellington held a meeting on 24 July with some of the landowners of properties greater than 20 hectares to look at the proposed regulations. At this meeting some preliminary information for landowners of between 4-20 hectares was available. The proposed policy will mean that there will be more compliance requirements placed on 4-20 hectare properties if that property is carrying more than 12 stock units per hectare. For reference, 1 stock unit (su) is based on the annual feed needed for a 55kg ewe rearing a single lamb. A horse is provisionally set at 6.5 su and a mixed-age cow at 5.5 su. The plan change will be notified and open for submissions later this year. PRA will continue to keep residents updated.

Village culverts

PRA continues to be made aware of the concerns from residents regarding the state of the culvert in the Village at 6 Paekakariki Hill Road. No further information is available at this time.

8. Reports

Pāuatahanui Burial Ground

Micky provided a report for the Committee. The Burial Ground is in good shape with the grass recently, and PCC waterblasting and painting the garden shed! The next working bee will be 30 September. The St Albans Eco group has cleared the weedy area next to the garden shed and plans to plant it out with natives in two weeks' time. This area is part of the Matai-taua pā trenches. As part of Heritage Week Micky will be conducting a tour of the Burial ground on Saturday 28 October at 10am.

9. General Business

Pest Free Pāuatahanui

Jo reported on the recent trap building with Karyn and Ruth completing Doc200 traps and a combined working bee with Pest Free Porirua, held at Jo's, making 70 long rat tunnels to be shared between the local Pest Free groups. The pest animal workshop is scheduled for 6 September and the next Pest Free Pāuatahanui meeting will be on 26 September. At that meeting Peter Stirling will be presenting information on digital trap scan cards.

Water Catchment Community

Diane reported that the workshop on pest plants held at Battle Hill Education Centre on Wednesday 9 August was well attended especially given the cold evening. Notes from the workshop have been put on the PRA website.

Willowbank Quarry Community Liaison Group

Laurie reported on the Community Liaison Group (CLG) meeting held on 7 August. An update was provided on the work being undertaken at the site. At present the work is all site preparation works. Further management plans are being prepared and the website specific to Willowbank quarry is still in development. There was some discussion on future communications re the quarry, for example, blasting notifications. It was noted that the CLG is not a forum for complaints regarding the quarry as these must be made either to the quarry operators or to the council/s as consenting authority.

WREMO

As the Pāuatahanui Emergency Hub guide is due to be reviewed later this year, a presentation by WREMO is still very relevant. PRA has been in contact with WREMO and will arrange a public meeting for WREMO to do a presentation for residents in conjunction with the Emergency hub review.

Waste Minimisation Engagement

PRA was approached by PCC's Waste Minimisation Advisor, requesting an opportunity to attend a community meeting to provide information. Instead PRA requested some information that could be circulated to residents. This information was tabled.

Porirua Northern Growth Area

PRA was invited by Kāinga Ora, along with other local community organisations and residents associations, to attend a meeting on the Specified Development Project proposed for the Porirua Northern Growth Area. Unfortunately none of the Committee was available to attend but PRA continues to receive the information and will attend future meetings where possible.

Historic Painting

Following the sale of a history book through Trademe, the purchaser of the book is a descendant of William Henry Carter whose painting is on p53 of the history book. PRA has been asked whether, if there is no family interest in retaining the painting, PRA would be interested in the painting. The Committee agreed that, if the painting is available, it would be appropriate for PRA to become custodians of the painting and would find a suitable home for it.

10. Communications

Website

A new "News" facility on the website allows items of relevance to be posted more easily and quickly to the homepage on the website. It will be used in conjunction with emails and facebook posts and it is hoped that this will also encourage more people to use the website. Further development of the website by Flightdec is continuing.

11. Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted

Correspondence - Inwards

1/08 Josh Clark, Kainga Ora - Northern Growth Area
2/08 John Spence, Chair, Willowbank Quarry Community Liaison Group - Meeting agenda
2/08 Deanne Smylie, Ngahere Korowai Coordinator - Collective Hui
3/08 Emily Chau, PCC Waste Management & Minimisation - Submissions on plan
7/08 John Spence, Chair, Willowbank Quarry Community Liaison Group - Meeting minutes
7/08 Darren Utting, Manager Stakeholder Approvals, Transmission Gully Project – TG Planting, Lanes Flat safety
8/08 Craig Nicholson, Waka Kotahi – TG Planting, Lanes Flat safety
8/08 Plimmerton Residents Assn - AGM notice
8/08 Nickola Loordin, WREMO - Community hub
9/08 Deepa Goswami, PCC Waste Minimisation advisor - Community engagement
10/08 Chris Kirk-Burnnand, GW Councillor – GW Long Term Plan items
10/08 Jeremy Collyns - Rates & Forestry
10/08 Grant Fairbairn - Rates
11/08 Paul Fryer, Fulton Hogan, Wellington Transport Alliance - Village roundabout area
13/08 Claire Giblin, PCC Customer Liaison, Transport – Roadside weed management
14/08 Andrew Frazer - Culvert on Paekakariki Hill Road
14/08 David Stone, PCC Manager Horticulture - Roadside weed programme
17/08 Judy Preston - Rates
21/08 GOPI newsletter
21/08 PCC - Proposed District Plan Variation 1 & Plan Change 19
22/08 Andre Dumas, Project Manager, Northpower - Power outages
24/08 Wellington Heritage week
31/08 George Cook, Metlink - Public transport fares
1/09 Paul Fryer, Fulton Hogan, Wellington Transport Alliance - Village roundabout area
1/09 Darren Utting, Manager Stakeholder Approvals, Transmission Gully Project – TG off ramp road closures

Claire Giblin, PCC Customer Liaison, Transport – Road
PCC Democratic Services – Council meeting document
Wellington Electricity - Outages notices

Total emails inwards 113

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7/08 Craig Nicholson, Waka Kotahi – TG Planting, Lanes Flat safety
7/08 Deepa Goswami, PCC Waste Minimisation advisor - Community engagement
10/08 Chris Kirk-Burnnand, GW Councillor – GW Long Term Plan items
10/08 Nickola Loordin, WREMO - Community hub
21/08 David Stone, PCC Manager Horticulture - Roadside weed programme
29/08 Karyn Herbert - Committee contribution thanks
29/08 Ian Kearney - Committee contribution thanks

August Minutes
PCC - Roding notices
PCB HEB & Waka Kotahi - Roding notices
Wellington Electricity - Outages notices
Willowbank Quarry Community Liaison Group
Pest Animal & Pest Plant Workshop

Total emails outwards: 80

11. Meeting Close 9.20 pm

12. Next Meeting Tuesday 10 October 7.30pm
Venue: 470 Paremata Road (Steph's home)

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