



HAHEI RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Hahei Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc. Annual General Meeting

Meeting Date & Time: 21st October 2023 at 3pm

Title of Meeting: HRRA AGM 2023

Meeting Location: Hahei Community Hall

Attendees:

HRRA: Chair Penne Clayton, Brett Harries, John Jonassen, Paul Revell, Anna Bartlett, Maggie Beattie.

Guests: Hon Scott Simpson, His Worship the Mayor Len Salt, Councillor Deli Connell, Heather Bruce TCDC Area Manager, Robyn Dalzell, Library Chair.

Residents and Ratepayers: Annette Jonassen, Andrew Watson, Stephen Titter, Lyn Titter, Rae Mitchell, Quentin Mitchell, Ray Van Beynen, Lorne DePape, Ray Lloyd, Terry Gould, Andrew Grant, Lorna Wilkins-Grant, Mike Ritchie, Barb Ritchie, Carl Drummond, Mark Fowler, Christine Flower, Bruce Taylor, Gavin White, Brian Donald, Kate Van Der Hulst, Francine Corbett, Ian Carter, Julyan Lawry, Pamela Harries, Paul Leighton, Michael Thorburn, Graham Chapman.

Distribution: Uploaded to Website for community access.

Minutes

1. Welcome: The Chair welcomed residents, ratepayers, the Member for the Coromandel, The Mayor, Councillor and TCDC representative guests.

2. Apologies: Dianne Simson, Bill Stead, Maarten Bangma, Jennifer Goldsworthy, Councillor John Grant, Councillor Rekha Giri-Percival, John North, Reihana Robinson, Kim Morrissey, Paul Hopkins.

3. Minutes of the 2022 AGM: The minutes being circulated were taken as read and moved by Penne Clayton and seconded by Anna Bartlett. Approved as a true and accurate record by a show of hands. Passed.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes: There were no Matters Arising.

- 5. Chairs Annual Report:** The Chairs Annual Report (copy attached) was presented by Penne Clayton.
Moved Penne Clayton, Seconded John Jonassen that the report be accepted.
Passed.
- 6. Matters Arising from the Chairs Report:** There were no Matters Arising from the Chairs Report.
- 7. Treasurers Report:** The Treasurers Report and presentation of reviewed accounts was presented by Paul Revell, (copy attached).
Paul Revell moved by the Report be accepted, seconded by Penne Clayton.
- 8. Matters Arising from Treasurers Report:** There were no Matters Arising from the Treasurer's Report.
- 9. Honorary Financial Reviewer:** Geoff Dalzell was given a vote of thanks and asked if he would be the Financial Reviewer for 2024.
- 10. Subscription Fees:** It was proposed by the Chair that the subscription fees remain at \$20 per person. Seconded by Anna Bartlett, agreed by all.
- 11. Election of Officers:** Anna Bartlett has stepped down from the committee and Ray Van Beynen was voted onto the committee. The HRRR Election of Officers were proposed by Penne Clayton and Seconded by Quentin Mitchell as follows:
- Chair: John Jonassen
Vice Chair: Brett Harries
Treasurer: Paul Revell
Secretary: Dianne Simson
Committee: Bill Stead, Penne Clayton, Jennifer Goldsworthy, Maarten Bangma, Maggie Beattie, Ray Van Beynen

12. The Hon Scott Simpson
Address:

Scott Simpson acknowledged the Mayor, Deli Connell, John Grant and the Committee. He thanked the community for their resilience of the last year.

He provided an overview to all attending of how the government will operate once they are in Office. He stated that once the conservation minister had been appointed, he intended to work the mayor and relevant community members to take a delegation to Wellington to meet with the new Minister and lobby to have traction around opening Cathedral Cove.

Scott reminded the audience that the Hauraki Gulf/Tikapa Moana Marine Protection Bill and the Trawl Corridors in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park submissions were due early November, and he encouraged residents to make submissions to ensure that they had a say.

Repairs to State Highway 25A are going well, with crews working 24 hours and ahead of schedule. The opening date for the road is still being advised by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency as March. However, Scott said he is hopeful that it could be earlier – no other date was available.

Penne thanked Scott for the update.

13. His Worship the Mayor

Len Salt Address:

Len thanked Penne for all her work and also the Committee. Len said that he is committed to the district, 25A and the opening of Cathedral Cove. He stated that the impact on the Coromandel has been immense, and he will be heading to Wellington with a delegation of stakeholders and council to meet with the Ministers of Conservation, Tourism, Local Government and Small Business. Len stated that the council would also consult with Ngati Hei.

Cathedral Cove

Len stated that the Department of Conservation (DOC) do not have a mandate under the legislation around maintaining tourism landscapes and that DOC are conscious of risk and their priority is to keep people safe. Council believes that there are ways around sourcing appropriate funding to keep people safe and open the Cove to the Public.

Roading

In relation to State Highway 25A Len would like Waka Kotahi's focus to move away from Tier 1 contractors and keeping jobs more local. He said that the Council have made a long-term commitment to continue road resilience over the next -0-15 years.

3 Waters

The mayor advised that the National Government would be repealing the 3 Waters legislation. The intent is for Councils around the Regions to work together and come up with a format to present to Government. Len advised that water funding was going to be tight.

Future of Local Government

Len advised about the future of local government and that it was essential that the Minister for Local Government sits inside the Cabinet where they can be central in the decision-making process.

Currently GST on rates does not go back to Councils and is kept by Central Government. Additionally, government properties do not pay rates. These are two areas that council will be lobbying for:

1. GST on rates goes back to Council.
2. Government properties pay rates.

Penne thanked Len for his update.

14. General Business:

Acknowledgements

John Jonassen acknowledged the outgoing Chair Penne Clayton and Committee Member Anna Bartlett for their commitment and hard work on behalf of HRRRA. John thanked Penne for remaining on the Committee as a Member.

Generator

John provided an overview of the generator and that to date \$10,000 had been donated towards an emergency generator for the Community. The

committee had looked at all options in relation to what would be required to keep the lights on, water pumps going etc. The committee's recommendation was to go with a generator that would provide the basics in time of an emergency. Other options of bigger generators would be costly and require additional housing and ongoing maintenance.

Councillor Deli Connell suggested that HRRA meet with other Coromandel ratepayers' associations as they were also looking at purchasing generators. This may pave the way was a better deal on the purchased or even sponsorship from Companies.

Fireworks in Hahei

Andrew Watson a Hahei Ratepayer discussed his concerns around the fire risks in Hahei over the coming summer and around Christmas and New Years Eve. He suggested more signage around the village over the period reminding people of the fire restrictions.

Ian Carter, Hahei Chief Fire Officer, addressed the meeting and advised that 95% of fires are caused by people. Ian advised that Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) is responsible for fire control and declaring the fire season and bans on fires, which include fireworks. He advised that historically the Thames Coromandel area has a total fire ban over the holiday season, however he advised that FENZ are not policeman and he encouraged anyone who saw illegal activity over the period to contact the police.

Options were discussed around having signage in the village. Andrews concerns were acknowledged, and it was agreed that he would meet with the Committee after the meeting to discuss further.

Marine Reserve

There was discussion around the Te Whanganui a Hei Marine Reserve boundary adjustment. Of particular concern was that the map supplied by WRC in their advertisement for submissions on the Waikato Coastal Regional Plan showed the boundaries encroaching along Hahei Beach/Mahurangi Island.

HRRA has written to WRC requesting clarity on the map used in advertising for submissions.

After the AGM we were advised, by a WRC representative, that the map was an old one and the map detailed in the Hauraki Gulf/Tikapa Moana Marine Protection Bill itself is correct. This map shows no encroachment along the beach for the marine reserve but a change of boundary on Mahurangi Island. Based on this, HRRA have made a submission to the Bill following last year's AGM mandate from the community.

Cathedral Cove

Ray Van Beynen acknowledged guests and the Hahei Residents. In his capacity representing the Mercury Bay Business Association, Ray provided an overview of the history of Cathedral Cove:

1. In 1950 the waste land was owned by the Harsant Family.

2. In 1960 Vaughan and Dawn Harsant gifted the land to Hahei, providing access to all.
3. 1979 DOC took over care and management of the land to take responsibility for pest and weed control and provide volunteer rescue services.
4. Ngati Hei settlement does not include Cathedral Cove.
5. It has taken 8 months for the Business Association to get a meeting with DOC.
6. DOC have now provided concessions for boats to land on the beach at the Cove.
7. Tonkin and Taylor report provided an overview and history of the Cove.

Steps to the Beach

Terry Gould and Lorne De Pape raised concerns about the stairs to Hahei beach being repaired. Heather Bruce from TCDC advised that the contract had been signed to have the stairs repaired, however she was unable to give an update due to the Contract Manager being unavailable due to a tangi.

After the meeting it was established that work would commence on 26th October.

Harsant Boat Ramp

Bruce Taylor asked what the health and safety concerns were for amphibious boats using the Harsant Boat Ramp. He said that there had been numerous comments and rumours in the Village and was concerned that boat owners down that end of the beach were going to be stopped from using the beach access.

Penne provided an overview of what HRRRA had done in relation to the bollard proposal. A survey went out to ratepayers, with the following responses:

1. Overwhelming response was that residents didn't see a problem with amphibious boats accessing the beach from the ramp.
2. 70% supported no bollard, or a signage solution.
3. 10% had no opinion.
4. 20% wanted a bollard, 10% permanently and 10% on a seasonal basis.

HRRRA wrote to the TCDC questioning the arbitrary decision as no consultation had occurred and requested information under the Local Government Official Information Act on the Health and Safety complaints made to council. The LGOIMA response collation ran well over the prescribed 20 working days, was heavily redacted and was minimal on information. Discussion continues around the Bollard and Heather Bruce advised that there was likely to be signage put up around the ramp advising people to keep the area clear. This signage will be shared with the HRRRA before erection.

Surf Life Saving

Councillor Deli Connell advised that due to increase in surf's minimum wage and lack of increase in funding from Waikato Regional Council there will be no funded surf lifesavers on Hahei and Cathedral Cove Beaches over the summer months.

Deli is in consultation with Avan Polo from the National Council to lobby the Waikato Regional Council for additional funding. Deli will advise the outcome.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 4.30pm.