

Moutere Hills Residents Association

Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 27/09/2016 - 7 pm
Moutere Hills Community Centre

MINUTES

1. Welcome
 - a. Welcome by Chairperson
2. Visitors
 - a. Mayor Richard Kempthorne, Mayoral Candidates Maxwell Clark, Kit Maling
 - b. TDC: Jamie McPherson, Mike Schruer, Mark Jones, Gill Bullock (Transportation & Utilities)
 - c. Council Candidates: Graeme Stradling, Gary Watson, Richard Osmaston, Anne Turley, Andrew Gould, Dean McNamara
 - d. Association members present: 20 (Quorum: 10), total attendance approx. 60
3. Apologies
 - a. Apologies received: Cr Brian Ensor, Cr Tim King, Members Dorothy & Doug Strong
 - b. Apologies noted and accepted by the meeting
4. Community Feedback
 - a. Introduction of the visiting TDC representatives for Transportation and Utilities
 - b. Gill Bullock and Mike Schruer report on the state and known difficulties of the **Dovedale Water Scheme**: the scheme is considered a 'stock water supply' if more than 70% of the supplied water is used for farming/stock. While on the Moutere side a large share of the water is used domestically, the larger part on the Dovedale side is for farming/stock.
 - c. Various items make up for the high cost of running the scheme, including line maintenance and electricity cost for pumping (especially over the Neudorf Saddle). Chlorination only accounts for a smaller part of the cost.
 - d. While a possible solution for improving water quality with a new bore field (near Woodstock) exists, the cost for this would have to be borne by the community.
 - e. It is noted that smaller residences have the option to reduce their take to 1/2 unit (1,000 l/day) to reduce cost.
5. Moutere Hills Community Pathway
 - a. Report by the Committee / Current Situation
 - The residents association is in the process of building **public support** for the proposed pathway and investigating **possible routes**. We are talking to landowners, Council, local businesses and organisations and collecting feedback from the wider community.
 - It is noted that **no particular route** for the pathway is being advocated at this moment. We are investigating several options - all of which have their **difficulties, advantages and disadvantages** such as land availability, grades, road crossings, stock or flooding issues.
 - Also, all routes require **landowner agreement** and **use of private** to some degree.
 - One question received was whether we "cannot simply fill in the **ditches** along the highway?" - Transportation Manager J McPherson responds that while this can be done, new drains would have to be provided instead (which in turn would require private land). Culverts are an alternative, but very expensive if used for long distances.
 - As previous attempts at establishing a full continuous route in one go were not successful, the MHRA now follows the new strategy to secure **'puzzle pieces'** of available land for possible pathway routes. We expect the final route to be chosen based input from landowners and Council, feedback from the community, and simple feasibility.
 - b. Community Support
 - A collection of signatures for a **petition** supporting the project is currently in progress. At this moment, about 300 people have signed the petition.
 - More than 10 local **businesses and organisations** have already expressed their support for the project in the form of a letter of support.
 - Also starting is a community survey to determine the **priorities** for the proposed pathway to assist in route investigations and gathering of expressions of ability to make **contributions in kind**.
 - An initial survey by **show-of-hands** during the meeting shows that providing safe travel routes for children and families to and from school, the community centre, and the childcare centre are seen as the most important. It is also seen as important that the pathway can in the future connect to other walk or cycle tracks. While providing a more scenic route with picnic stops appears less of a priority.
 - c. Next Steps
 - Continue with signature collection and extend the priorities survey online and by mail-out.
 - A members meeting in November to evaluate all feedback gathered and decide on a proposal to Tasman District Council based on all investigations so far.

6. Local Elections

a. Meet the Candidates

- Each council candidate is allocated 3 minutes to introduce themselves and present their key issues, followed by a question and answer segment and general discussion.
- Only a very concise summary of issues touched upon can be given here.

b. Mayoral Candidates

- Richard Kempthorne (Mayor): outlines current projects and strategies, with focus on reducing rates increases and debt.
- Kit Maling: criticises council over-staffing and utilities projects being deferred, council involvement in projects such as the Mapua Wharf, proposes sustainable growth, supports the Waimea Dam.
- Maxwell Clark: opposes the Waimea Dam and expensive projects such as the Queen St upgrade, criticises high debt, wants more focus on rural as opposed to urban areas.

c. Council Candidates

- Graeme Stradling: focus on sustainability as an action & review subject, more council involvement in the communities, sustainable water management
- Gary Watson: reduction of red tape and bureaucracy, proposes 'wise money management' approach, revamp of the Dovedale Water Scheme
- Richard Osmaston: wants a more serious look at sustainability and emergent issues such as inequality, climate change, technological unemployment which will require new solutions
- Anne Turley: hold rates and repay debts, achieve cost efficiency in core services, water a key issue with water rates being too high
- Andrew Gould: wants to provide a calm, reasonable voice to council, believes council is on the right track with fiscal policy being a primary measure
- Dean McNamara: concerns about increasing debt with rural population not seeing the benefits according to their share of rates, prevent further reduction of services

d. Discussion

- Issues raised by the meeting include
 - Reduction of consultancy costs
 - Level of council involvement/investment in assets such as the port company, forestry
 - Reduction of bureaucratic overhead, especially with regards to simple building consents
 - Council responsibility and services for the elderly population
 - Questions raised about the absence of a 'Citizens Service Charter'

7. Association Matters

a. Minutes of Previous AGM 22/09/2015

- These have been circulated prior by email, and are approved by the meeting.

b. Financial Report

- This has been circulated and confirmed prior by email.

c. Elections

- The current association committee is standing again for re-election
- No other nominations were received.
- The meeting re-elects the current association committee and officers.

d. Special Resolutions

- No resolutions were proposed by the Committee and Officers.
- No resolutions were proposed by Members.

e. Membership Fee

- The members have decided prior by email vote to waive the membership fee for the financial year 2016/17 as for the preceding year.

8. Any Other Business

- ### a. No other business is brought forward.

9. Next Meetings

- ### a. Members meeting focussing on a proposal for the Community Pathway in November (date to be announced).
- ### b. Draft Annual Plan Consultation in April

10. Close