

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF OMAHA BEACH COMMUNITY INC.
("OBC")**

Held at the

OMAHA BEACH COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 4.00PM SUNDAY 20th JANUARY 2019

PRESENT: Chris Allan (President); Murray Beatson (Vice President); Rob Zubielevitch (Acting Treasurer; and Committee Members Debbie Lee, Paul King, Alan Wham, Tony Marks, and Simon Martin. Also in attendance were Councillor Greg Sayers (Auckland Council), and Beth Houlbrooke (Chair Rodney Local Board).

WELCOME: Chris welcomed Councillor Greg Sayers and Beth Houlbrooke to the meeting; and introduced the OBC Committee Members present.

APOLOGIES: 4 apologies were noted.

PROXIES: It was noted that a total of 18 proxies had been submitted – 16 in favour of member Mark Bower; and 2 in favour of the OBC Chairman.

QUORUM: Chris confirmed that there were sufficient members present to form a Quorum (there were in excess of 120 people estimated as being present).

PREVIOUS MINUTES: It was agreed by the members present that the minutes of the previous AGM held 4th January 2018 be taken as read. No matters were raised in relation to the minutes. Motion: That these minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record. Agreed. Moved by Graham Painter and seconded by Trish Young.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2018: Chris spoke to the report as contained in the recent Newsletter, commenting on it having been a big year for the Committee, and also acknowledging the very good relationship between the Committee and Council – in particular Beth Houlbrooke as Chair Rodney Local Board. Motion: That the President's Report be accepted. Agreed. Moved by Erin Sullivan and seconded by Simon Martin.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS: Rob presented the OBC's Annual Accounts ending 31 October 2018, and Financial Position as at the same date, commenting on key items. Motion: That the Annual Accounts as presented by accepted. Agreed. Moved by Rob Zubielevitch and seconded by Chris Allan.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEE: Motion: That the Annual Subscription Fee and the Security Levy remain to \$70 for this year. Agreed. Moved by Rob Zubielevitch and seconded by Chris Allan.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Chris commented on the existing committee – all of whom had agreed to stand again. Much had been achieved, with them being project driven. No new nominations had been received. The existing committee will therefore continue as is.

CLUB REPORTS: Unfortunately no one from the Surf Club was able to be present, so Chris spoke to a report received from that Club. The same was the case for the Golf Club, but where there was a good relationship and cooperation. There was no report presented from the Tennis Club. Warwick Spicer presented the Bowls Club report, where it was commented that they had tripled membership in the last 3 years, but had a financial issue in relation to replacement of the playing surface where, although they have the bulk of the funding in place, they would be looking to the Council / Local Board for some funding to meet the shortfall.

A question was asked from the floor regarding the public toilets at the Surf Club, and around Omaha in general. Murray spoke to the question, explaining that the OBC had presented a submission regarding the need for improved toilet facilities, and that this had been requested of the Local Board for a few years now. Beth also spoke, explaining that a Rodney-wide review of public toilet facilities had been undertaken, and Omaha was in the top 3 as far as improvements being required. Murray commented that considerable work had been undertaken by a previous committee, and this had recently been re-submitted to Beth, and the Local Board for consideration.

GENERAL BUSINESS

OMAHA SHOREBIRDS PROTECTION TRUST: Denis O'Callaghan spoke regarding the Trust, and its ongoing work.

MATAKANA LINK ROAD ("MLR"): Beth initially spoke, commenting that the Local Board had been asked to have a say on the MLR. Their view is that what's currently proposed doesn't meet the community designs in mind, with it having been scaled down to 2 lanes, with a walk and cycle way – which went nowhere! The Local Board's suggestion is for a simple shared walk and cycle way to connect with the Showgrounds, which would then loop around schools and the town. The Local Board has made its own submission to NZTA – for 4 lanes, but with money saved by doing away with some of the 'gold plating'. Beth recommended all parties make their own submissions. Councillor Sayers then spoke, commenting that the MLR was a vital piece of infrastructure, and his job was to get the funding for it. He commented that the Auckland Council CEO had acknowledged that the current designs could still be changed, if done quickly. Martin Dancy then spoke, commenting that having made a submission, along with the OBC, gave the ability to attend the hearings. One concern was that the ongoing delays by NZTA had contributed to the cost escalation. One Warkworth and the Local Board appear to be in agreement about what's required. A concern is that NZTA have not taken account of the planned growth in the area (both Commercial and Residential) and the resulting increases and movements in traffic, in their designs. They are being requested to revisit their modelling, plus add a flexible tendering option to enable them to better costs. Sandspit Rd and the link to MLR is still an outstanding issue. Roger Williams, a Traffic Engineer who had been retained, will make a presentation along with Martin at the meeting on 1 February 2018. Chris endorsed Martin's continued involvement in respect to the MLR, and moved a Motion, that was supported, that we want the MLR, be it 2, or 4, lanes.

SECURITY: Chris Martin of Insite Security spoke. Insite Security is paid by the OBC to undertake patrols in Omaha during the peak holiday periods. Chris commented that they undertake daily patrols from 6am to 12 midnight over the summer. There have been patches when they have been very busy. Issues have been, and are, the use of golf carts and other similar vehicles on roads (and the walkways!) by children (it is illegal to drive a golf cart on the road) – where they prefer to take a low key approach and talk with offenders and owners, rather than involve the Police); Dogs on the beach outside of permitted hours; Boy racers on the roads (one group of youths is believed to be responsible); and Rubbish on the beach. It is pleasing there have been no reports of set nets so far this season. Crab pots continue to be a problem, but are not illegal. There have been noisy parties, but all have been satisfactorily dealt with. They have also had to deal with fires on the beach (and in the Dunes!), but it has been a lesser issue than in previous years. Chris Allan thanked Chris for his ongoing work and support for Omaha.

FREEDOM CAMPING: Fiona Hyland and Mark Bower were each given the opportunity to speak regarding Auckland Council's proposed Freedom Camping in Vehicles Bylaw, as provided under the Freedom Camping Act, which the OBC had advised members of in the recent Newsletter, and on the

website. They both spoke at length of the potential impact on Omaha if the bylaw was passed in its present form, and in relation to each of the proposed sites – including that at 198 Mangatawhiri Rd (adjacent to Mark’s house) originally suggested by the OBC as a possible option – and the many issues. Both speakers were totally against Freedom Camping in Omaha.

Mark commented that he was unable to put forward any Motion, as he was out of time to do so. However he did say that he had intended to move a Motion that the OBC revoke any suggestions that the proposed sites, and that at 198 Mangatawhiri Rd, be permitted for freedom camping, even with restrictions on them; and that the current protections should continue.

In relation to comments by Mark, and from the floor, Murray commented that 198 Mangatawhiri Rd was originally suggested as a possible alternative restricted site as it had been omitted by Council in the draft bylaw and schedule, and the default position under the Act is that if not mentioned, freedom camping is permitted. Murray went on to say that much had been learnt of the Act and proposed bylaw since then the article in the Newsletter was prepared in November last year. Chris also confirmed the OBC’s position, which had been made clear to Mark prior to the AGM, that this site would not be supported by the OBC in view of the neighbouring residents concerns.

Murray also commented on the Survey that had been emailed to members – encouraging all to complete it. Murray also provided an indication of the results to date, to give attendees an indication of the feelings amongst the community. All were also encouraged to have their say as part of the Auckland Council’s consultation process.

Richard Brabant had been asked to speak by Chris, from a statutory background. Richard gave a summary of the position as he saw it, in relation to the Freedom Camping Act, Bylaw provisions, and the Local Government Act guidelines. Richard confirmed the default position that, if a site is not specifically mentioned in the bylaw (Prohibited or Restricted), then freedom camping is permitted; and that the Reserves Act is not a block in relation to the proposed Freedom Camping in Vehicles Bylaw. Richard also made the point that it was important that all understood the proposed restrictions on sites, before making their submissions.

Graham Painter spoke, initially about the Omaha Park Development case taken by the OBC, and won. He commented that, in relation to the Freedom Camping case, a clear mandate had to be given to the OBC Committee. He recommended that legal counsel needed to be retained; And if we wanted to win (ie. prohibit freedom camping in Omaha) we all must be prepared to go all the way to challenge the existing proposals by Auckland Council. Motion: That this meeting approve a mandate to do whatever can be done to prohibit freedom camping in Omaha. Moved by Graham Painter and seconded by Erin Sullivan. Mark Douglas spoke against the Motion. The motion was carried.

Chris invited Fiona and Mark to join a sub-committee of the OBC Committee to formulate the OBC’s submission to Auckland Council on freedom camping and the proposed bylaw (Tim Williams was invited to join later, also).

Councillor Sayers commented that he will support the community mood.

Beth clarified the Local Board’s role – which is to listen to the community views and sum up. It is the role of the Council Regulatory Committee to make the final recommendation.

Tim Williams asked, if Councillor Sayers and the Local Board aren’t responsible, who is? Councillor Sayers responded – the Chair, Councillor Linda Cooper.

MAHURANGI RIVER RESTORATION TRUST: Dave Parker spoke regarding this Trust which had been formed, and he provided an update on the Mahurangi River situation, and the build-up of silt –which now needed to be dredged. He also commented on the Auckland Council’s Environmental Department’s plans to remove the weir, which had not been the subject of prior consultation. Councillor Sayers is to meet with them to discuss.

CLOSE: Chris thanked all present for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 6pm.