

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF OMAHA BEACH COMMUNITY INC. (“OBC”)

Held at the

**OMAHA BEACH COMMUNITY CENTRE
AT 11 AM SUNDAY 12th JANUARY 2020**

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

It was estimated that there were in excess of 120 members present.

1. WELCOME: Chris introduced the OBC Committee Members present; he also introduced Greg Sayers and Beth Houlbrooke, thanking them for their support for OBC, especially in regard to the Freedom Camping issue. He thanked Fiona Hyland and Mark Bower for their work on Freedom Camping too, as well as Sally Blyth for editing of the newsletter.

Chris also noted the possibility of the “Omaha Park” development re-emerging (and our need to monitor the situation accordingly), as well as the park management plan being worked on by the Local Board.

2. APOLOGIES: Rob presented the following apologies:

Gareth & Marie Lewis, 10 Inanga Lane
John & Fiona O'Dwyer, 8 Inanga Lane
Craig Mercer, 3 Inanga Lane
James & Jacqui Holdgate, 58 Mangatawhiri Rd
James & Jacqui Holdgate, 16 Inanga Lane
Alistair & Shane Dryden
Terry & Geraldine Brailsford
Celia & Michael Mannion
Noel & Betty Holyoake
Martin Dancy

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES: It was agreed by the members present that the minutes of the previous AGM held 20th January 2019 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 Erin Sullivan and seconded by Graham Painter.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2019: Chris spoke to the report as contained in the recent Newsletter, noting that Freedom Camping had been the major issue last year. There were no matters arising.

5. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS: Rob presented the OBC's Annual Accounts ending 31 October 2019 and Financial Position as at the same date, commenting on the major cost items (which were the budgeted newsletter and security, along with the unbudgeted Freedom

Camping expenses - it being noted that the OBRS contributed 50% of the legal costs incurred in relation to the latter), the contracting of Macnicol and Co to handle the day-to-day accounting work, the \$10k provision for possible legal fees in relation to the Community Centre Lease, the role of the Community Centre Maintenance Fund and the \$30,309 held in trust to defray the cost of dealing with any future "Omaha Park" subdivision. Rob also noted the ongoing difficulties with the membership database and encouraged residents to update OBC on any change of address.

Motion: That the Annual Accounts as presented be accepted. Agreed. Moved by Rob Zubielevitch, seconded by Chris Allan and supported by a show of hands.

6. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEE

Motion: That the Annual Subscription Fee and the Security Levy remain at \$70 for this year. Agreed. Moved by Rob Zubielevitch, seconded by Mark Douglas and supported unanimously by a show of hands.

7. COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Chris reported that there were no new nominations and that, as all the current committee members had agreed to continue, they were therefore re-elected.

8. OMAHA SHOREBIRD PROTECTION TRUST: Denis O'Callaghan spoke about the Trust and its ongoing work. He received widespread support for his suggestions about a closure of the reserve from October-February (the breeding season), the trapping of feral cats and the extension of the pest-proof fence down to the low-tide mark, while only very modest support for a ban on ownership of cats in Omaha. Denis also called for any volunteers interested in supporting the Trust's work to make contact.

9. SECURITY: Chris Martin from Insite Security noted that general behaviour over this festive season had generally been good, though there had been more noise complaints. There is major concern about golf carts, etc being driven by youngsters and he confirmed that driving of carts is actually prohibited on roads for all drivers. He commented on the improvement in behaviour by concert-goers on their return to Omaha from Matakana Country Park, largely due to the very visible presence of security in the area, and he also acknowledged that there is still some "boy racer" activity. Chris also recapped the tracking down of a habitual burglar last year and encouraged holiday homeowners not to inadvertently advertise their absence (by closing curtains, leaving bins on the street, etc). Lastly, Chris encouraged members to report incidents to him so that he can then make reports as necessary to the Police (noting that the Police work on statistics / reports).

10. RODNEY LOCAL BOARD: Beth confirmed her re-election to the Board for the Warkworth subdivision. She expressed her thanks to Debbie and Sally for the newsletter which included her annual report, with notable points being the plans for new toilets and changing rooms at William Fraser Reserve (2020-21), repairs to the Community Centre roof (2020-21), the Omaha drive walkway (with 3 design options being considered for which funding has now been allocated by the Local Board), the changes in the hours for dogs on the beaches, pest management and the parks/reserves management plan. She also encouraged residents to support the Mahurangi Bushfire Aid appeal through the Give-a-little page and she gave particular thanks to Chris Martin for his assistance with the Omaha Beach Community Facebook page.

11. AUCKLAND COUNCIL: Councillor Greg Sayers acknowledged Beth's hard work, noting that all those involved with Omaha worked well together. As well as his report in the newsletter, Greg commented on Phil Goff's re-election and the hope of improved working relations, in particular noting his own non-negotiable positions on the need to address the Hill St intersection and the sealing of rural roads in the area. He also noted good progress on the motorway extension, as well as the likely awarding of a contract for the Matakana Link Road in the next few weeks, work now underway on costing the design for Hill St and a recent suggestion about the possibility of a Sandspit link road.

Greg also noted that a key to the successful outcome to the Freedom Camping issue was OBC's coordinated approach and funding of the legal challenge against Council's proposed bylaw but he also reminded residents that the issue would come up again this year.

12. GENERAL BUSINESS

OMAHA BEACH SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB - Rob passed on a request from Linda Crisford, the club CEO, for more community support and involvement as they need to provide more services (eg manning the southern tower).

RABBITS - in response to a northern resident's concern about the proliferation of rabbits, particularly near Walkway 3, Rob outlined the planned work by Council in October 2019 which had been rescheduled to (hopefully) April to allow time to deal with health & safety issues. Denis noted the Omaha Shorebird Protection Trust's concern about the growing rabbit numbers too.

FREEDOM CAMPING - Fiona Hyland recapped the situation, again expressing our gratitude to Beth and particularly Greg for their work and noting the need for vigilance on the forthcoming proposal by Council. Graham Painter later noted what tremendous value OBC had received from our legal advisers, much of the work having been done pro-bono.

COCKLE BEDS - in response to a query about the re-opening of the cockle beds in the harbour, Beth indicated that the ban was indefinite.

GABION WALLS - in response to a concern raised about the number of loose rocks and stones left in the tidal area of the estuary after the construction of the walls (just north of the Community Centre), it was noted that there is work apparently being planned for that area which OBC will ensure deals with that issue

ALTERNATIVE LINK ROAD - in response to a resident's comment that a local farmer had mentioned the possibility of a road that linked directly from the northern end of Warkworth to Matakana Valley Road, Greg invited her to send him the details so he could follow up, though noting that it may well be a little late at this point.

MANGROVES - in response to a query from Bill Abraham about the mangroves, it was confirmed that there is another cleanup planned for May for which volunteers will be welcome!

FOOTPATH TO NORTHERN END - in response to a query about extending/finishing the footpath right through to the northern end, Chris Allan noted that there is a plan for that, though the current focus is on the section on Omaha Drive alongside the golf course to the Community Centre.

SPATINA GRASS - in response to a resident's concern about the appearance of spatina grass on the north-east of the causeway, Chris Allan indicated that this would be raised with Council for follow-up.

BOAT RAMP - Richard Carbine raised a number of concerns about the state and capacity of the boat ramp, as well as the associated parking areas. Beth confirmed that this is a Local Board matter which is already being looked into and she invited Richard to send his information, suggestions, etc to her for further discussion. Beth also noted that the parking area is classified as a Reserve and not under the control of AT, therefore making enforcement of any parking restrictions difficult. Chris Allan noted that this was best approached by a working group being formed and Richard was invited to be part of that group.

CLOSE: Chris Allan thanked all present for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 12.30 PM.