

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

held at the

OMAHA BEACH COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 11 AM SUNDAY, 9th JANUARY 2022

PRESENT: 103 members were present, and who had signed in (although an unofficial count indicated closer to 120 present). The COVID-19 Vaccine Pass was used to gain access, in line with the Government’s COVID-19 Protection Framework, and the current ‘Orange’ setting. Included in the numbers were OBC Committee members Chris Allan (President), Rob Zubielevitch (Secretary), Rohan Meuli (Treasurer), Murray Beatson (Vice President), Paul King, Debbie Lee, and Simon Martin, as well as other invited guests.

1. WELCOME: Chris Allan welcomed everyone, noting Beth Houlbrooke from Rodney Local Board, and Councillor Greg Sayers from Auckland Council as guests.

2. APOLOGIES: Rob Zubielevitch noted there were 3 apologies registered (Jill and David Stone; Noel and Betty Holyoak; and Tony and Mary Coupe).

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES: It was noted that the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2021 were on the OBC website. The Minutes were confirmed as being a true and correct record of that meeting. Moved by Debbie Lee and seconded Rob Zubielevitch.

4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SALLY BLYTH: Debbie Lee, on behalf of the committee, acknowledged the work by Sally in relation to the preparation of the Newsletter, and also presented her with a gift as a ‘thank you’. There was acknowledgement by all present by way of applause.

5. PRESIDENT’S REPORT 2021: Chris Allan noted that his report was included in the Newsletter, which had been sent to all members, and was taken as read.

6. SECURITY: Scott Donaldson of Insite Security addressed the meeting in relation to security and safety matters in general, but specifically the recent events over the Christmas / New Year period. The numbers of visitors to Omaha had been significantly up on previous years, with the cancellation of events elsewhere having contributed. Whilst the Police had indicated that there was nothing that they were concerned with, Scott noted there were issues of concern to Insite Security, and Omaha residents. Some additional planning will be undertaken in preparation for next year in an effort to prevent the large gatherings on the William Fraser Reserve, and the beach. The golf carts issues previously experienced were less in number, and the education undertaken last year appeared to have helped. Insite Security has no ability to take action in relation to ‘boy racers’ – it being a matter for Police. However, Insite Security does maintain a close working relationship with the Police, and residents were encouraged to continue reporting issues. There were also comments from the floor:

- Ray Vickers commented on research he had undertaken, and suggested we investigate replication of what had been done in East Waikato / Coromandel Peninsula. – where they have 2 resident Police, covering the likes of Whangamata, Cooks Beach, Whitianga, and Whangapoua, and hire a property in the area to use as a base. This achieved a good Police presence and visibility in the area, acting as a deterrent to trouble-makers. Chris Allan thanked Ray, and acknowledged that it had merit, and Ray was asked to be co-opted onto the OBC Committee to further investigate the matter.
- Ray also suggested the use of voluntary ‘Omaha Beach Wardens’ during peak times, to educate visitors.
- Another member asked about a liquor ban. Scott confirmed that there was already a liquor ban on the beach. Insite Security does what they can to enforce the ban, and do what they can to prevent trouble arising, but their powers are limited.
- Comments were also made regarding dogs on the beach, and enforcement of the restrictions. As with the liquor ban, these are Auckland Council Enforcement issues and members were again reminded to make use of Auckland Council’s website to report issues and upload any photos as evidence. Members were also encouraged to report any unresolved issues to the OBC at us@omahabeach.co.nz.

7. POLICE REPORT: Graham Painter (a past President of the OBC, and a Life Member) addressed members regarding the position of the Police, who had been invited to attend the meeting, but were unable to do so, providing comments by way of email instead, which Graham read out.

8. RODNEY LOCAL BOARD: Beth Houlbrooke acknowledged the work of the OBC Committee, and the sad passing of committee member Tony Marks, and Peter Jackson – the latter for his work over many years to have the walkway / cycleway constructed from the Roundabout to the Community Centre. Beth referred to her article in the Newsletter, providing some additional comments / updates.

- Repairs to the Community Centre (roof costing \$695k).
- The proposed new Toilets / Changing Rooms on William Fraser Reserve have been delayed, but it is hoped they will be completed May 2022;
- The need for residents to report issues to Auckland Council was reinforced ;
- Compliance with bylaws etc is a huge issue, with staff cuts at Auckland Council having impacted compliance, and the Compliance Team having been “obliterated”, with no Compliance Officers in North Auckland;
- The Local Board has funded some local Wardens for Rodney, in an education role;
- The Local Parks Management Plan, effectively producing a Reserves Map, had been a significant piece of work, and would be going out for consultation shortly – with members strongly encouraged to give feedback.

9. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS: Rohan Meuli presented the OBC’s Annual Accounts ending 31 October 2021, addressing members with the OBC’s funding position, and the need for the Annual Subscription and Security Levy to be increased. The Accounts were accepted. Moved by Chris Allan and seconded by Murray Beatson.

10. CONFIRMATION OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEE FOR 2022: Following on from the above, Rohan read out the motions which had previously been emailed to members. A comment from the floor to increase the subscription to \$100 with an automatic annual

increase of \$10 was not accepted, due to no previous notice of such a motion having been circulated.

The motion to increase the Annual Subscription by \$20 to \$90 (incl. GST) per member was passed without any dissenting members.

11. COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Chris Allan advised members that, there being no new nominations for committee members, the current committee have all agreed to stand again for a further year – with Chris noting this would be his final year as President. Chris encouraged new people to consider joining the committee, and also commented that the committee would continue to co-opt interested members as appropriate.

12. AUCKLAND COUNCIL: Councillor Greg Sayers addressed members, commenting on 5 points:

- Auckland Council itself, and its finances, staff increases and staff costs, rates, and the lack of confidence by Ratepayers in the Council.
- Rate increases, and the increasing use of Targeted Rates (noting the most recent proposal for a Climate Change Targeted Rate).
- The Council's proposals for changes to Rubbish Collections, and the proposed consultation this year.
- Freedom Camping, and the Council's current proposals for a new Freedom Camping Bylaw.
- 3 Waters, and the Mayor's position, and that of the majority of the Council, in relation to what the Government was proposing.

13. MATAKANA LINK ROAD: In the absence of Martin Dancey, who was unable to attend the meeting, Chris Allan read key excerpts from an email Martin had provided, mainly around the new Motorway opening, with the Matakana Link Road to open at the same time as the new Motorway, but with the Matakana Road Roundabout expected to open earlier.

14. OMAHA SHOREBIRD PROTECTION TRUST (OSPT): Denis O'Callahan spoke about the OSPT and its ongoing work.

15. OMAHA BEACH SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB (OBSLSC): President Linda Crisford thanked the community for its ongoing support for OBSLSC. She noted that the Government provides very little funding (only 15% of operational costs) so more support and significant additional funding is required. The club currently has 444 members, with a significant level of volunteer support – but more is needed. Linda provided an update in relation to its sponsorship programme, and 2 new Platinum members.

16. GENERAL BUSINESS (comments from the floor)

Freedom Camping: Graham Painter provided an update in relation to the OBC's work in relation to its objections to Auckland Council's proposed new Freedom Camping Bylaw, and that a request for additional funding for legal costs is expected to be made to members. Graham also commented that whilst Insite Security historically had a Warrant to enforce certain bylaws, this had been taken away following the formation of the 'Super City'.

Policing: The issues being experienced in Omaha were not unique, and it is an Auckland / NZ-wide issue that needs to be addressed. It was suggested that representations should be made to Mark Mitchell, as an MP.

Speeding: This is becoming more of an issue. Options to address the issue were discussed, with the efforts of committee member Paul King acknowledged, and the funding from the Local Board for a Driver Speed Feedback Sign to be installed in the Causeway.

Parking: Instances of parking over driveways and freedom campers were raised, which lead to comments around the Boat Ramp parking.

Rabbits: A 'thankyou' for the action taken in relation to rabbits raised at the last AGM, with improvements noted. The ongoing efforts to control the rabbits were acknowledged, and also the support of the Local Board.

Boardwalks: The poor state of the boardwalks (mainly in the northern end) were raised and discussed, with Beth Houlbrooke noting the works being undertaken and planned, but which could take 2-3 years to complete.

Watercraft Speeds: The speed of some boaties close to the shore, and ignoring the 5 knot speed limit, was raised as an issue. It was explained that this was, again, an Auckland Council issue, being the responsibility of the Harbour Master. Larger, more visible, 5 knot signs were suggested as part of a solution.

Meeting Close: Chris Allan closed the meeting at approximately 12.35pm.