

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Omaha Beach Community Inc. Held at the Omaha Beach Community Centre at 10.00am Sunday 12 January 2025**

**Present:** 64 members were present. Included in the numbers were OBC Committee members, Chris Allan (President), Rohan Meuli (Treasurer), Rob Zubielevitch (Secretary), Paul Head, Vicky Heiplik, Paul King, Sally Blyth, Terry Brailsford and Murray Beatson.

**Apologies:** No apologies received

Chris Allan - President

- emphasized how many “Have your Say” exercises we went through. Encouraged participation from all the residents as currently OBC’s submissions (representing 1500 property owners) still only carry 1 voice. Attempting to get OBC’s view status within Council changed
- applauded Greg Sayers for his article in a recent Mahurangi Matters describing how the individual CEOs within Council run all their fiefdoms in terms of rolling how they see fit the decisions that the elected officials have made. Effectively a loss of democracy
- Community Centre Lease – challenging. Council have indicated that they want to the right to charge rates and to increase the peppercorn rent OBC pays as they see fit. Other than the roof refurbishment, Council have spent no money on the property – instead this has fallen to OBC and the Golf Club (an example was given of the trimming of the palm trees)

Rohan Meuli – Treasurer - Annual Accounts

- Discussed the budget for 2025 – majority of cost in Security and new cameras
- Society Rules being reviewed as required by legislation
- Small deficit for this FY but expected and planned for
- Proposed same fees as previous years (Chris seconded). The proposal was also supported by a show of hands by the members.
- Current fund for Community Centre maintenance - \$70k. External cedar renewal with the eastern side to be done this year - ~\$20k on oiling
- Rohan moved that the accounts be accepted and was seconded by Chris Allan

General

- Re-election of current committee. Current committee re-elected

Guest Speaker – John Mew (Omaha Shorebirds Protection Trust)

- Same problems as always – introduced predators, especially Cats
- General discussion about locking down the sanctuary during the breeding period (which is long!). Arguments for (Mary Coupe) and against (Norm Thompson)

Guest Speaker – Linda Crisford, CEO Omaha Beach Surf Life Saving Club

- Lifeguards range in age from 14-73
- Now manage/patrol Omaha, Tawharanui and Whangateau harbour
- Existing facility is under spec'd and not fit for purpose – during the summer period it is required to house 9 lifeguards – loos, dorms and first aid rooms are all unsatisfactory
- Will require community input (& fundraising)
- Currently 700 members (was only 200-300 6 years ago)
- Was awarded the Club of the Year last year for its family focus
- Do patrol the whole beach at Omaha
- Safety first
- Want to have publicly accessible safety equipment under the tower
- Renovation is going to be the focus this year

Guest Speaker – Paul Head (Security)

- Acknowledged that summer of 2023/2024 was unacceptable and as a result there was clear feedback that the community expected a better result this year
- Far more engagement from police ably assisted by Insite
- Paddy Wagon was present on NYE
- Police enforced the alcohol ban – there were several hundred \$200 fines
- Police took kids home
- Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Jan – debrief planned with the Police Regional Commander
- Thanked Police and Insite for their focus and dedication

Guest Speaker – Ivan Wagstaff (Local Board)

- Fairer funding for Rodney has resulted in an increase of \$8m
- Will hopefully fund a compliance manager & support other local initiatives
- Ivan's first & last term – he thanked everyone for their support

Guest Speaker – Greg Sayers

- Thanked Ivan
- Thanked all the volunteers in and around Omaha
- Discussed CCOs and the council's desire to reduce duplication of effort and restore the democratic process. Mayor Wayne Brown is challenging the status quo in an effort to get control back into Council. This has been supported by Cabinet specifically in the case of AT
- Focused on Council fiscal performance – the Fix Auckland campaign means that Auckland is performing better than most other councils. In 2023 reduce expenditure by \$60m
- Rates increase will be ~5.8% - far less than many other councils
- Most fiscal pressure is from growth in population which exceeds other councils
- Focusing on fixing Auckland infrastructure, stop wasting Tax Payer money, removing a layer of bureaucracy and ensure that contractors deliver value for money
- Finished off by saying he is aware of the Jet Ski issues that have been a problem this summer

Guest Speaker – Mayor Wayne Brown

- Complimented OBC on the attendance turnout & engagement with council
- Announced his campaign in Omaha 3 years ago, so very pertinent to be back – will be standing again
- FAIR is the focus for council – in terms of that what they support and what they spend
- Rationalised local board funding which has been good for Rodney
- General commentary on his role as mayor and ensuring that Auckland's voice is heard in Wellington

#### General Business

- Gabion walls – rusty and rocks falling through
- Chris moving on from Presidency, announced appointment of Paul Head. Chris will remain on the committee for at least one more year.

The meeting closed at 11.45am followed by refreshments.