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|  | 1st January 2023Cooks Beach Hall **2:00pm Meeting opened by Paul Hopkins**  **1.05 – 2.15pm Guest speaker – Hon. Len Salt, Mayor of TCDC**  **Chairmans Report**  **General Business**  **Minutes 2022**  **Statement of Accounts** | Mercury Bay South Residents and Ratepayers Association  AGM   * Email: gandclomas@xtra.co.nz * Address: 945A Purangi Rd Cooks Beach * Website: <https://mercurybaysouthratepayers.weebly.com/> |
|  | Welcome and introductions.  Summary of discussion:   * Council community board overview * Opportunities to strengthen community board interactions * Mayor’s vision and strategic initiatives * Central Govt. reform and Q&A.   The Council has 9 Councillors from the District for the Coromandel and 5 Community Boards with 4 members in each.  The Future for Local Government reform is underway, and this is a chance to shape a more community and socially focused local government system.  Previously there were limited opportunities to debate issues or opportunities from the community. There are now meetings every 6 weeks where there is the invitation for people from the community to discuss issues of interest.  **Mayor’s vision and Strategic Initiatives**  The mayor outlined his goals for this term including:  solutions to address the impacts of housing affordability, costs for facility maintenance, infrastructure provision, employment opportunities, and efficient waste infrastructure projects that are cost effective.  *Affordable housing access* A key goal for the mayor is to work with stakeholders (including central govt and Iwi) to address the shortfall in housing affordability. The impacts of a lack of affordable housing are being felt right across the peninsular with businesses unable to attract the staff they need to fill roles. Council’s role in this area is not well defined, however, there is a prospect of working with Iwi and wider groups to develop community focused solutions. The Mayor discussed good examples of such collaborations that are emerging from the wider Waikato region, where solutions have been provided through Central Government, local government and iwi partnerships.  *Employment*  TCDC has recently secured funding of $108,000 through the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Rural Community Resilience programme. Funding will be used to engage young people with job opportunities. Promising results are evident in the fact that 9 young people were employed in jobs within the first 2 weeks.  *Refuse*  The Mayor’s aspiration is to make TCDC a world leader regarding the disposal of refuse and recycling. The mayor outlined that almost half of all waste was transported to Paeroa for processing most likely could be either be reused or composted locally. Escalating costs for waste disposal make it a priority to look at options to enable a more efficient and cost-effective service.  The new waste contract will begin in September 2023 and would see some changes to what, and how, waste is collected. A new weekly food waste 25-litre bin would be supplied. A 140-litre wheelie bin will replace the blue bags collection. Continued fortnightly kerbside collection and disposal of glass in a council crate and other recycling in a 240-litre wheelie bin.  The new Transfer Station in Whitianga will be cashless and unmanned kiosks with number plate recognition and a pin pad paying with a debit or credit card. There were questions from members of the public on whether a cashless service was legal noting not all people have access to EFTPOS.  **Long Term Plan**  This is developed on a 3-year cycle and sets out a plan for the next 10 years. The next LTP is due to be adopted in 2024. The annual plans would reflect grass root sentiments and affordability, as well as depreciation of assets.  **Spatial Planning Act – RMA reform**  The mayor touched on the roll out of regional spatial plans under the new Spatial Planning Act. TCDC has completed this for certain areas, and it might be rolled out wider.  **Three Waters Reform**  The mayor explained that council are involved in assessing and balancing the impacts of reform on TCDC water assets and infrastructure. TCDC are working to prepare for the transition to the new water services entity.  The mayor had a lot of questions from AGM attendees focusing on the following:  *Water taxes on rooves*  Taxation on the roof areas of a house has not been decided under 3 Waters. There were concerns from members of the public on how this would work, and that water is a ‘life essential’ and people questioned the legality of taxing water from rainfall.  *Water supply to multiple dwellings*  *Example - from holding ponds at Simpson’s Beach*  Water supplied from holding ponds would need to follow new rules to ensure the safety of the supply. This may impact the way people access water supplies. There were concerns from AGM attendees on if this would extend to impacting tenants of baches or supplying guests in B&B’s.  *Sewage treatment in the local area*  Concerned community members of the public noted that locally sewage treatment is close to capacity due to the expansion of the Longreach development. The mayor explained that there would be a transition from LTP funded infrastructure and three waters. Any plan to expand the facility may fall onto 3 waters Infrastructure works. If this is the case, they would expect council will be compensated for the work.  *Bores*  Bores on private land that have Waikato Regional Consent should be protected under the consent to draw water for private use on that property. Bore’s feeding into a town supply would not be covered.  **Q&A Road Safety**  *Tairua*  Plans for Pepe Bridge incorporate two lanes as well as a walking bridge fall under Waka Kotahi. This is expected to be started in about 4-5 years.  *Road Safety at Cooks Beach*  Discussion between attendees and the mayor - speed limits in the Cooks Beach area. Some people proposed that rules were too draconian. Others considered the need to reduce speeds around schools and shops as necessary. The mayor noted that there were changes to speed limits under Waka Kotahi areas, there is also room for discussion and review of speeds under council controlled areas.  *Other discussion*   * Delays in proactive initiatives by council – in particular on the Cook’s Beach Lake. * The lake weed, spraying and access paths – the need for better coordination of timing and communications with the community. * Working bees and community action – there is the opportunity to leverage community keenness and help to accelerate projects.   The last Year has been a challenging one with plenty of community issues to contend with. Thanks was given to Ratepayers that are members and contribute with ideas, compliments, and criticisms. At the end of the day the committee has been here for you and the betterment of our community. Issues that the Committee have dealt with will be included in the General Business section.  A special thanks to our Committee Kane Jones, Steve Lloyd, Dal Minogue, Chris Harris, Bruce Philphott, and to all those who come along and contribute. A special thanks to Cyndy Lomas and Paulette Tainsh from Harcourts who contribute a huge amount of work for our community.  A big thankyou to those people who stood up to the ill-founded decision by Council Staff to allow freedom Camping at the Purangi and Central Reserve. This decision was overturned by Council and hopefully will be well policed from now on. Also, we extend our appreciation to the Sand Dune Restoration Group. Both Alan Henry and Adele Smaile need to be acknowledged.  *Toilets*  Ferry Landing, Flaxmill Bay, Cooks Beach. We have 5 toilets in total which need upgrading unlike other areas that have had money thrown at them. Also, there is a need for toilets at Longreach playground as this has now become a destination playground.  *Roading*  Speed Limits and Signage are ongoing problems that won’t change quickly. TCDC and NZTA are aware of our stance but the wheels of bureaucracy move slowly.  *The Village Centre*  We have been on Councils case to put no parking yellow lines on Captain Cooks rd. opposite the shops, as it is extremely dangerous to children and pedestrians. We have lobbied for a number of years now to put parking on the grass verge opposite the shops but TCDC roading are dragging their heels.  *Tennis Courts and Basketball Hoop*  At present the courts are Club Courts funded by a group of enthusiastic members. Things have changed over the years and the members would like to see the courts taken over by the council and reconfigured down to 2 courts with a Basketball area and hitting wall. This has been brought up with Council which the Committee is pursuing. Because the courts are a pay to use facility vandals cut access to the courts rather than pay a small fee to maintain the facility.  *Lakes*  Steve Lloyd is pursuing Council to provide clean and healthy water for Lake recreation.ie. canoeing and model yacht racing. TCDC are going from one expert to another but hopefully after 20 years they will get it right. This would mean a clean lake for the community to use for those activities it was intended for and sold as. A set of steps for people is needed to prevent people from walking on private land.  *Purangi Upgrade*  As everyone knows, the Purangi Estuary is a jewel. We on the committee would like to see it enhanced and made more user friendly by reconfiguring parking, so the barbeque area was safer and more family friendly. E.g., Upgraded toilets etc. Council is drawing concept plans for discussion and community input in the new Year.  *Security Cameras*  Kane Jones is pursuing quotes for the procurement and eventual installation of these.  *Riding on the footpath*  People have been riding bikes on the footpath in the Village area. There have been a few accidents so signage will be necessary to deter this from happening.  *Footpaths*  The Association is pursuing with Council the continuation of footpaths from one older subdivision to a new one. Examples are Hick and Hardy Place where it goes from concrete to grass.  The ability for pedestrian access all the way around from Cooks Memorial at the Purangi to the end of Fred Harsant Drive at Longreach. Now it means walking on private land.  *Wins and Roundabouts*  Sometimes it feels like we are fighting an uphill battle with Council staff with making things easier and more user friendly. We have had a few wins. Council was looking to sell the piece of reserve land between The Vessel and Richardsons. Through local lobbying this didn’t happen, and it now serves as a green area with access to the beach.  *Community Working Bees*  Through working with Council, a proactive suggestion was made that as a collective group we could organize working bees. For the Community and by the Community. This suggestion was very well received by both the Mayor and the public.  *Flaxmill Bay*  Groynes are working and the work that has been done needs to be congratulated. However, parking is a major issue parking on the Homestead Lane Corners are blocking the line of sight creating an accident waiting to happen.  Feedback and support from the Community is great and we on the Association need it.  **Minutes**  [**https://mercurybaysouthratepayers.weebly.com/agm-2022-\_agenda--minutes.html**](https://mercurybaysouthratepayers.weebly.com/agm-2022-_agenda--minutes.html)  Read as a true and accurate document  Moved by Sarah Lomas  Seconded by Steve Cameron  **Treasurer’s Report**  Accurate and True Account  Moved By Sarah Lomas  Seconded by Paul Hopkins    Text, letter  Description automatically generated |