**Mercury Bay South Residents and Ratepayers AGM**

2nd of January 2021

Venue: Cooks Beach Hall

**Greetings**

Thanks to the Mayor, Jeremy Lomas, Councillors, Ratepayers and sponsors Richardsons Real Estate. A warm Welcome

**Jeremy Lomas – Community Board Representative**

Jeremy has a passion for members and families of our community. It looks as if it is a different summer due to Covid, and there is a need for us to support local businesses.

Council takes a lot of criticism, but they meet the challenges and strive to get issues resolved. The saving of the beach in Flaxmill Bay can be heralded as an example of Community and Council working together.

***Priorities***

* Tidy up Waste and conserve Coastal areas from pollution
* Green Waste – There is a need for a Transfer Station but we need a landowner to provide land and monitor resources

**Sandra Goudie – The Mayor**

Acknowledgement of Council Members and MBRRA Ratepayers. The impact of Covid has been felt in our community.

***Freedom Camping***

Freedom Camping bylaws are up for review. With regard to the Long Term Plan we need to identify a local landowner who is willing to have Freedom Campers on their land.

***Boat Ramp***

User pays for the upkeep of the ramp as all the monies raised goes back to the community and the maintenance of the facility.

***Speed Limits***

Government is working at changing the speed limits and has a strong interest in road safety. Once this has been adopted, ongoing issues will be explored.

**Question and Answer**

***One-way Bridges***

Council is aware of the problem with One-way bridges and there is a need to upgrade them. The Council is working with NZTA to rectify these issues.

***Freedom Camping***

Freedom Camping cannot be banned. It needs to be policed. At the moment the government has funded ambassadors cautioning people on compliance issues It needs to be put into the Long Term Plan supporting the wants of Ratepayers. A Survey needs to be completed to reflect community wishes.

***Transit Rd.***

The Council has been very conciliatory with regards to access. One pathway for pedestrians and a separate one for Boats. The Ratepayers Association and Council thought this was a better option than close it.

***Cooks Beach Erosion***

The wall that has been covered in sand. There could be a need for Groynes but this has to be addressed in the Long Term Plan. It needs to be driven by the community through to the Ratepayers and submissions.

**Chairman’s Report – Graeme Lomas**

Ladies and Gentlemen

I would now like to read my brief report for the 2020 year.

Before starting, could I please acknowledge the following

* The death of 2 local dignitaries, Tony Morcom and Phil Dawson.
* The Mayor – Mrs. Sandra Goudie
* Community Board Representative – Jeremy Lomas
* Other Councillors who have been very supportive throughout the year, namely, Rika Percival, Tony Fox, Murray McClean, Bill McClean
* CEO of the Whitianga office, Alan Tiplady
* Heather Bruce and Sue Costello
* Members of the MBRRA. Committee
* Those who have hosted our meetings or sponsored us, in particular, Richardsons and The Vessel.

I don’t need to tell you what a strange year 2020 has been. Nevertheless, while some positives came out of Lockdown such as people bonding together and creatures being more visible ( perhapd I took more notice) , work and projects did carry on, but perhaps with a little less urgency.

These included:

* Erosion Work at both Cooks Beach and Flaxmill Bay
* Resealing the Boat Ramp area
* Works and repainting of the CBD T Thanks to Paul Hopkins)
* Meeting with TCDC re- Speed zones
* Relatively regular meetings with Alan Tiplady and Councillors
* Exceleent representation by Cooks Beach Care and MBRRA at Parks and Reserves Consultation Meetings.
* Submission to proposed rate rise by TCDC. Unfortunately, our recommendations of no essential work (eg. Skateramp) and expenditure only on essential infrastructure and services was not accepted.

On the negative side, I am almost embarrassed to note the following.

* Green waste Transfer Station – after a great deal of lobbying, agitation, and inclusion of the Long Term Plan, nothing has happened. In the end, it comes down to equity and fairness. Mercury Bay South is the only area in the whole of the peninsular without a Green Waste Tranfer Station. On my behalf a failure here.
* Security Cameras – still a work in progress
* Speed on Purangi Rd – we have been told that it is not a problem. Some of us would disagree. It is anticipated that we meet with the roading engineer again within the next few weeks.
* Speed around the childrens’ playground in Longreach is potentially a problem. Your thoughts would be welcome.

In conclusion thanks for your support over the past 12 months. May you all have a prosperous New Year.

**General Business**

***CBD and Parking***

The CBD needs extra parking space. The Loading Zone will be remarked for Public Parking.as entry can be gained at the back of the CBD. Public consultation is needed and an allowance for monetary considerations be put aside in a separate budget. The Parking spaces will be looked at again as some Ratepayers felt it was worse than before.

***Council News***

A reminder that the Council sends out a newsletter wit latest news as well as having a highly informative website.

***Slam Dunk Court***

The issue of building a Slam Dunk Court was raised. The tennis courts are open for public use and have provision for a Hoop to accommodate for this. The tennis courts are privately owned and it is hoped that in future this can be managed by Council.

***Online Invoice Systems***

To complete an online subscription, fees need to be raised to cover costs. It was approved to go up to $20 per family.

***Scallops at Opito Bay***

Support for Rahuia scallops to be left to replenish depleted stocks.

***Ratepayers Meetings***

Ratepayers are most welcome to attend meetings and this will be notified to our members through Mail Chimp and our Website.

**Where did monies from Longreach go?**

Each developer has to pay the Council a fee on the onset of development. The question asked where did those monies go?

It was noted there was a lack of consultation from the Ratepayers association. This claim was addressed by the fact that there is a current website available with all the plans and information available as well as a newsletter sent out prior to each meeting.

The Minutes were moved by Graeme Lomas and seconded by Chris Harris.

The Financial Report was moved by Paulette Tainsh and seconded by

All members of the Committee agreed to continue and will meet to elect officers.

Meeting closed at 3:45