

Egmont Plains Community Board

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Egmont Plains Community Board held at the Sandfords Event Centre, Tasman Street, Opunake on Wednesday 11 February 2009, commencing at 9.30 am.

PRESENT: Mrs Arlidge (Chairperson), Councillor Smith, Mr Brewer, Mr Vincent (9.50 pm) and Mrs Gibson.

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Hickey, Support Services Manager (Miss Cox), Community Development Team Leader (Mrs Symes), Utilities Operations and Maintenance Manager (Mr Goel), Community Development Advisor (Mrs McDonald), Hawera Customer Service Librarian (Mrs Lally), Opunake Customer Service Librarian (Mr Karena), Support Services Officer (Miss Malin) and five members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Armstrong and Mr Vincent (for lateness).

RESOLUTION

(Mrs Gibson/Mr Vincent)

01/09 EP **THAT the apologies from Councillor Armstrong and Mr Vincent (for lateness) be received.**

CARRIED

1 **OPENING PRAYER**

(a) Reverend Geoff Williams

2 **OPEN FORUM**

(a) **Ms Sue McMaster and Mr John Williams**

(i) Surf Life Saving Taranaki

Ms McMaster spoke to the partnership between Surf Life Saving Taranaki and the Council. She acknowledged the Council's financial assistance towards funding the Regional Guard programme for the six-week summer holiday period.

Ms McMaster tabled a report of the Opunake Beach statistics for the six-week summer holiday period which included patrol hours, rescues, preventatives, first aids, head counts and weather and surf conditions.

She noted that education was an important part of beach safety and that the Regional Guards provided an important service that would be difficult to continue without the assistance of the Council.

Mr Williams highlighted that the statistics tabled by Ms McMaster showed the importance of the Regional Guard and that Surf Life Saving Taranaki rely on the partnership with the Council to provide the service.

Mrs Arlidge questioned whether the Council funding had influenced the retention of senior life guards. Mr Williams noted that the partnership was innovative and professional and had helped retain mature life guards.

(b) **Mr John Williams**

(i) Sand dunes

Mr Williams expressed concern about the sand dunes at Opunake Beach and noted that they had risen to a level which was impairing vision of the sea from the lifeguard tower.

Mrs Symes advised that the Council was aware of the sand dune problem and two options had been identified – removal or stabilisation. These options would be publicly consulted and the Taranaki Regional Council was involved in this process.

(c) **Mr Craig Russell**

(i) Opunake Holiday Park

Mr Russell spoke to his concerns about youth behaviour at Opunake Beach and the safety of guests of the Opunake Holiday Park.

He recounted a recent incident involving a group of youths who he had asked to move on from the Holiday Park area. Mr Russell had been assaulted by the youths and had bottles and rocks thrown at him, and threats made towards his person and property. He noted that these incidents were frequent, especially over holiday periods and the repercussions for his business were ongoing as guests had felt threatened.

Mr Russell asked if a permanent liquor ban throughout the beach area could be implemented which may help to control the issue. He also suggested a gate with a control mechanism be installed to monitor access to the area during night hours.

Mrs Arlidge stated that the Community Board would work with Council Officers in an attempt to find a solution to the problem.

(d) **Ms Diane Ratahi**

(i) Tutunui's Garden

Ms Ratahi spoke to her concerns about the proposed installation of the whale bone sculpture, Tutunui's Garden, at Opunake.

Ms Ratahi noted that the story of Tutunui referred to names and people that did not whakapapa back to Taranaki. She expressed concern that installing the sculpture at Opunake would lower the taonga of Tutunui.

Ms Ratahi was also concerned about the inclusion of a swing in the sculpture that was formed from a scapula bone. She stated that the swing did not dignify the mana of the whale.

Ms Ratahi suggested broadening the Council's consultation process and meetings with key local iwi would assist with future decisions.

Councillor Hickey acknowledged Ms Ratahi's concerns and suggested she present them at the February Iwi Liaison Committee meeting.

Mr Karena noted that oral history and stories are an important part of Māori culture and the whakapapa of Tutunui should be acknowledged.

Mrs Arlidge stated that the Council had agreed to consider the sculpture, otherwise it would have been lost to the region. There was a public consultation process currently underway where any comments could be made via this submission process.

Councillor Hickey expressed concern that the consultation documents had not adequately informed the public that the sculpture would have a soundtrack. She suggested the soundtrack could be made available at the Opunake LibraryPlus.

(e) **Team Leader Community Development, Mrs Claire Symes**

- (i) Community Development Advisor, Mrs Michele McDonald

Mrs Symes introduced Mrs Michele McDonald as the new Community Development Advisor as part of the Community Development Team.

(f) **Hawera Customer Services Librarian, Mrs Kaye Lally**

- (i) Opunake Customer Services Librarian, Mr Tonga Karena

Mrs Lally introduced Mr Tonga Karena as the new Opunake Customer Services Librarian.

(g) **Mr Brian Vincent**

- (i) Tractor and large vehicle speed through the Opunake township

Mr Vincent raised concerns about the speed of large vehicles and tractors travelling through the Opunake township. Several members of the public had spoken to Mr Vincent about the issue and were concerned about public safety.

Mrs Arlidge suggested that this was a police issue rather than a Council issue.

3 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

- (a) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 5 November 2008

RESOLUTION

(Cr Smith/Mr Brewer)

02/09 EP

THAT the minutes of the Egmont Plains Community Board meeting held on 5 November 2008 be received and confirmed as a correct record of proceedings.

CARRIED

4 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

RESOLUTION

(Mrs Gibson/Mr Vincent)

03/09 EP **THAT the agenda for the Egmont Plains Community Board meeting of 11 February 2009 be adopted as the business for the meeting.**

CARRIED

5 FUNDING REQUEST REPORTS

(a) Community Funding Advisor, Miss Maryse Death

(i) Warea Tennis Club – Resurface Tennis Courts

An application was received from the Warea Tennis Club for funding assistance towards resurfacing the tennis courts with Astroturf. It was noted that the amount requested was slightly more than had been previously indicated.

The Board members noted that the tennis club was the only social and sporting facility left within the community.

Councillor Hickey suggested the Board members request to be invited to the opening ceremony of the resurfaced courts.

RESOLUTION

(Mrs Gibson/Cr Smith)

04/09 EP **THAT the Egmont Plains Community Board approves the application from the Warea Tennis Club for \$3,391 towards resurfacing the tennis courts with Astroturf.**

CARRIED

6 REPORT

(a) Support Services Manager, Miss Shannon Cox

(i) Remuneration Increase for 2009/2010

Each year the Remuneration Authority advises the Council of an increase to the Mayor's salary and the total remuneration pool available for all other elected members and requests that the Council and Community Boards consider how the pool's increase be allocated across the elected member categories.

Miss Cox noted that the Hawera and Eltham Community Boards had endorsed the recommendations within the report.

It was advised that any increase would be allocated to the elected members, if they chose to donate the increase in would be their responsibility to follow that through.

05/09 EP

RESOLUTION

(Mr Brewer/Mrs Gibson)

THAT the increase made available by the Remuneration Authority for elected members' remuneration be accepted and applied in equal proportion across all the elected members remuneration categories; and

THAT the salaries for Community Board members paid outside the pool, the salary for the Eltham Drainage Board Chairperson and the meeting allowances and fees for Council committees be increased by the same amount of .8984%.

CARRIED

The meeting concluded at 11.05 am.

Dated this day of 2009.

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CHAIRPERSON