

**Waituna West Community Meeting Held at the Waituna West Hall**  
**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**Present:**

**Committee** – Mary-Anne Shannon, John Williamson, Jeremy Cumming, Marija Hare, Scott Clare, Greg Shannon, Mike Will, Catherine Jacobs, Craig Hogan.

**Council** – Steve Bielski, Janine Hawthorn.

**Police** - Mark Dickins

**Apologies** – Hugh Hare, Helen Worboys, Grant Richardson.

**Minutes of last meeting** – accepted as read

**Treasurers Report** – Community Committee has had an increase in funds by **\$1:00** as at 18/2/2020 to a total of **\$2000.22**

Hall income from 30/8/2019 to 28/2/2020 (Hall hire and interest) **\$851.11**

Expenses for the period were (Mainly power) **\$646.68**

Taking the balance at period's end to - **\$1441.29**

Scott has since provided \$67 as rent for badminton

Treasurer's report was accepted      1<sup>st</sup> M. Shannon, 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Williamson

**Council Report:** Steve Bielski

Steve ran through a number of community projects that the Council was at present involved in, those in consideration, and occasionally, those being thrust on them by Central Government.

\$100,000 is being spent stabilising the Himatangi sand dunes with pingao – the ethically acceptable native marram.

There is a proposal for a cremation wall at the Feilding cemetery to ease up burial space and provide a place of memorial for those whose ashes have been scattered elsewhere.

Kiwitea Hall is to be provided with a new roof.

Central Government's Indigenous Biodiversity strategy for the restoration of bush and wetlands has Council's around the country in a tiz, since this is to be laid on their doorstep, with, no doubt, ratepayers having to fork out for it. Potential costing is around \$3million in the first year, and ongoing of around \$360,000 p.a. thereafter.

District Plan Review – Plan has been put out for consultation, concerning, among other things:

Stock grazing the Long Acre - It is free at present, and the consent lasts for 3 years. Should this continue?

Freedom camping – where these nomads will be able to stop, with appropriate toilet facilities, and whether more will need to be built.

Discussion on stock crossing roads – whether underpasses or concrete pads are more applicable in different situations.

Zoning for land – whether lifestyle blocks should be allowed in certain areas, or if residents should be confined to the villages, so that facilities are more available to households (sewerage, water), encouragement of a more 'Village' atmosphere, and that useful land is not made unproductive. Matt MacKay is the man concerned with subdivision zoning, and it was suggested that we organise an open meeting with him so any concerns could be raised and robust discussion ensue.

The Beaconsfield cell phone tower, which is at Waituna should be coming online at the end of March. It is 4G HD, and will have Telecom, Vodaphone and perhaps other providers able to connect. This will allow even more people to ditch their landlines so that no one will be able to find out how to contact them!

**Police Report:** Mark Dickins

Mark's inaugural report to this Committee, which we hope will become a regular feature.

Things are a bit quiet on the criminal front, with not a lot happening. A few isolated burglaries – someone split with a wood splitter, a pump was humped out of the Beaconsfield and the copper was removed from the Oroua clubrooms (no head for heights)

Traffic speeding past stationary school buses has been looked into after a couple of very close calls with alighting children being placed in extreme danger.

**Correspondence:**

Lis Giesen is organising a water catchment group for this area, with a meeting set for 27<sup>th</sup> March at the Waituna Hall. For those interested in an appreciation of their water quality, this would be a useful vehicle. Lis's contact details are: [lisandgeorge@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lisandgeorge@xtra.co.nz) or 027 5393640

**General Business:**

Roads. Again. Read last meeting's minutes, it's all the same! Although, there is the promise of work to be done on the Rewa Hill at last!

John Cooper has mentioned issues with the Sandon Block Road, much as is the case up the Pakihikura with road corrugations and metal loss. Mary-Anne suggested that metal and regular, good grading was the answer to most of the issues being faced by those living within the dust of a metal road, and Steve said that dust repellent is being trialled in some areas, but that certain small portions of road could be sealed over a period of time, although there is no provision for any tar-sealing in the 10 year plan.

Steve was asked if he could get the Council mower, when doing the cemetery-school stretch, to also do the verge just past the Hall – as a safety issue.

**Meeting finished at 8:30pm**

**Next Meeting (at this dire time) set for 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 7:05pm**