

Waituna West Community Meeting Held on Wednesday 8th September 2021

Present:

Committee – Mary-Anne Shannon, Hugh Hare, Mike Will, Jeremy Cumming, Marija Hare, Craig Hogan, John Williamson

Council – Steve Bielski

Apologies – Claire Audier, Scott Clare

Minutes of Last Meeting: - Accepted as read 1st John Williamson
2nd Mary-Anne Shannon

Treasurer's Report: - J Cumming (as at 31/8/2021)

Final Balances: Community -\$2001.05
Hall - \$2873.77

Hall Income & Expenses:

Jason Smith – Hall Hire - \$60.00
Waituna West School (Playcentre) - \$100.00
Interest - \$0.75

Power - \$378.01
W/T - \$ 0.34

- Jeremy made known that he had paid the 14-4-21 Genesis power invoice of \$34.66 and asked that this be reimbursed. It was agreed.

1st J Cumming
2nd J Williamson

Correspondence:

The Manawatu District Council has sent a communication out to all ratepayers putting forward their concerns about the proposed Government '3 Waters' reform which will take over all water management in the country, and has asked for submissions from the Public. It appears that this is another knee-jerk, rushed, ill-thought out idea that has cherry picked the poor performers as an excuse to impose their will on all Council water works. This was discussed at length with more detailed input from the Council

Representative Steve Bielski at our meeting, and it was decided that as a committee, we would voice our opposition to the Government mandate through this medium, until such time that they can show that they are being fair, constructive, inclusive, and that there are safeguards against unforeseen agendas. The universal feeling from respondents so far is a resounding 'no' for reform, particularly where Councils have maintained and continuously upgraded their facilities and are only likely to see negative benefits from any takeover. The arbitrary split of boundaries also complicates water and roading agreements with the Rangitikei.

Council: - Steve Bielski

As mentioned there was some discussion on the Government '3 Waters' agenda, noting that MDC with its constant upgrade of facilities would be a major loser by handing over control of its extensive and rate-payer funded water infrastructure.

Sewerage is progressing to Sanson.

The new recycling plant is due to open at the start of October.

Friction is being generated about overseas buyers being able to purchase land for pines for carbon credits only.

Kiwi-Rail has gone cold on continuing the cycle/walkway from Feilding to Palmerston on its land. Discussions are in progress.

There is now a public spat with squatters taking over facilities at Mt Lees Reserve, which has degenerated into Council ire with Police for not doing their job.

Council are short of professional staff and are having difficulty recruiting those with the qualifications required.

Rates are evidently being levied at a higher increase than has been agreed to, some by 5.75%, and some commercial properties by 30%. Council is working on this.

With the introduction of the Maori ward, it was agreed by a narrow margin that there will be 5 Rural, 5 Urban and 1 Maori representatives.

School: - Mike Will

Well, the school was shut for 3 weeks due to covid hitting us in the solar plexus again, but opened again on the 9th Sept.

The bike track has been consolidated.

There is a new Person running the office – Amanda Crondin

With 50 applicants to consider, Kim Robertson was chosen as the new teacher.

A very successful fat lamb competition netted \$25,000.

250 sold out of 254 purchased (@ \$127), killing average - 26.6kg, ave. Lw8 - 57.7kg, \$100 margin.

Some crutching has been carried out.

The Tiger turf has been redone last holidays. The invoice for this to be handed to the Council.

General Business:

Council has evidently placed the Hall on the low-use index despite the fact that it is in regular use by the community, school and playcentre. It was suggested that we may need to instigate a register of users to provide concrete verification of its use.

Heating has long been an issue in the Hall, and Mary-Anne suggested that we should purchase a 'Silent Drive' diesel/kero powered heater she had been recommended for \$850. Basically a jet engine on a stand, but obviously without the noise. This was unanimously agreed as a good idea.

1st Marija Hare

2nd Hugh Hare

Meeting Ended 8:45 pm

**Next Meeting set for Wednesday 24th November at 7:05 pm
At the Hall**

