

Waituna West Community Meeting held on Wednesday 11th October 2023

Present:

Committee – Maryanne Shannon (just!), Jeremy Cumming, John Williamson, Marija Hare, Julie-Anne McGregor

Council – Negin Nematollahi, Kerry Quigley

Community – Gene Moore, Barbara Quigley

Apologies:

Mark Dickens (Police), Scott Clare, Hugh Hare, Craig Hogan, Greg Shannon, Mike Will, Erin Moar.

Minutes of Last Meeting: - accepted as read

1st John Williamson
2nd Jeremy Cumming

Treasurer's Report: - Jeremy Cumming

Final Balances	Community	\$2026.72
	Hall	\$2325.19

Moved as accepted	1 st Jeremy Cumming
	2 nd Julie-Anne Williamson

Council Report – Kerry Quigley

10 Year Plan – Council is working on this, due to commence on July 1st 2024. The rural section of this will be coming out for discussion in the next few weeks, and request for feedback is asked concerning protection of our valuable soils from subdivision.

Rates – rise has been kept at 6.95 – let's call it 7%, with 5% of this being for overheads. Evidently the rates level is not sustainable with costs escalating and Councils will be discussing ways to alleviate fiscal pressure in discussions with Govt. Maybe getting them to pay them? Or allow the gst collected to be kept?? Light rail between Palmerston and Feilding should also be considered?

Road Funding – from NZTA has been cut 1% pa for the last three years with them saying our roads are at 95% but they only need to be at 86%. Council has decided to keep them at the higher standard rather than dropping it to NZTA's expected rate because this infrastructure is so important in this region. Yay for Us!

Community Honours Awards – were presented to 9 people recently, one of them our old (er) Principal at the Waituna School – Rex Wheeler. Thought should start to take place as to who could be nominated for next year.

Voting system – for the Council at the next election is to remain as FPP, rather than changing to STV (Single Transferable Vote). Who can even remember what that is!

The Civic Centre and Little Theatre are to be kept as venues for the foreseeable future, rather than bowling them and replacing them with a \$50mill events centre. Good move!

Concept indoor Ball sports and courts stadium – using the old horse racing course is being considered at Manfield. This is getting a lot of support from sports clubs and the general community.

Local Government may be in for some changes with Big Government commissioning recommendations for delineating responsibilities.

3 Waters and RMA Reform was a bone stuck in the craw of a dog, but recent events will (hopefully!) see the radicalism taken out of these important issues. A move now set in a direction more in line with Council goals.

Negin Nema

The Hall street light has evidently been fixed, although extra work was being carried out (on the 16th!)

SH54 on the south side of the Waituna bridge has been patched up – again, awaiting the next deluge.

\$3000 community money has been approved by Council

\$9709.22 was paid by Council for the Hall curtains out of Hall money that had been accrued.

From next year Council funds to communities won't be carried over.

School – Gene Moore

-Roll stands at 60, with 12 leaving at year's end. Still able to retain the same staffing level though, and there is some interest from parents outside the area considering sending their children here.

-Signs promoting the school are being made and leaflet drops, newspaper ads and the new website is active.

-Tammy Hodgetts has been approached to do some artwork at the school.

-X country was a success.

-The 10 year property plan has been approved which includes provision for the acquisition of an emergency generator and the upgrade of the septic tank system which is at present just limping along.

-A community and school survey has gone out to obtain information for the Strategic Plan.

-Because of the school's regular Hall use, it was suggested that it could be useful if it was connected to the internet.

-Speeds past the school are still of concern despite the number of signs, and other ways of forcibly gaining speedster's attention may need to be elicited.

-The Tiger Turf on the courts is still waiting to be serviced; it has just been too wet so far to do anything. Hopefully there will be a time in the long hot summer when it can be worked on.

-and on that note, the pool should be up and running – sometime!

General -

The Fat Lamb night at the Hall was as usual a great success.

The Community Xmas party will again be at the Hall on the 17th December at 5:00pm – the Sunday before Xmas weekend.

Meeting closed at 8:10 pm

Next Meeting Wednesday 14th February 2024 @ 7:05 pm