

**Waituna West Community Meeting Held at the Waituna West Hall**  
**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**Present:**

**Committee** – Mary-anne Shannon, Jeremy Cumming, Marija Hare, Scott Clare, Craig Hogan, Hugh Hare, Greg Shannon, Mike Will

**Council** – Steve Bielski,

Jeff Graham (Civil Defence)  
Tracey Cuff (Neighbourhood Support)  
Mark Dickens (Police)  
Clair Audier (School Principal)

**Apologies** – John Williamson, Catherine Jacobs

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

**Treasurer's Report** – J Cumming (as at 30/9/2020)

	Community - \$2000.50
	Hall - \$3041.45
Income from Hall Hire etc.	- \$1810.40
Expenses (power)	- \$130.91
Outstanding bill (power)	- \$147.78

1<sup>st</sup> Jeremy Cummings  
2<sup>nd</sup> Hugh Hare

Some discussion was had on the purchase of a heater for the Hall from money donated by the School Jubilee Committee. Also whether present insurance is appropriate.

**Council Report** – Steve Bielski

Theft of power lines in the Rangiwahia area, particularly Hopkin's farms is a current issue, and the Rangiwahia Hall was broken into doing damage and equipment stolen, probably for drug use.

The Parks and Reserves department will be upgrading the platforms at Stormy Point, and have suggested that they would like local input into this, with equipment provided by Council.

In Response after some discussion, it was decided that this was a job that the Council needed to do professionally. The general consensus was that after the Cave Creek disaster, erection of structures on difficult and public sites need to be specialist jobs, with liability resting with the Council over installation, which could otherwise be too easily be layered on to the community.

The NZTA have had a big reduction of income over the Covid lockdown period of around \$1.4 billion, and in their view, since Manawatu/Wanganui had fared best during the period, that they would cut our regional repairs funding back to 51%. Rougher roads might keep the riff-raff out!

The Mangaweka Bridge rebuild is slowly creeping ahead with contracts being awarded.

With regards to roading, the committee stated to Councillor Bielski that there was a NEED for at least 1km of seal/year on local roads. He reported that it was being considered and may be soon actioned.

Centralisation of wastewater from the outlying centres has been contracted to Fulton Hogan.

New recycling centre is soon to be set up on a new site, handling waste and recycling.

The new water system is now moving ahead around the Ohakea area, with Government meeting most of the cost, the balance being picked up by MDC.

CEO for MDC has resigned. Advertising for a replacement is underway.

The new signage at Waituna West is to be erected very soon to indicate that Google should not be followed to Taihape via the Tapuae road. Some unsuitable vehicles have recently done this and have been terrified by what they found!

The stock driving bylaw has been delayed, with further consultation required.

Action on the cycle-way from Feilding to Bunnythorpe is progressing with talks between Kiwi Rail and MDC ongoing.

All MDC Halls and sporting facilities etc. are to be investigated/assessed regarding usage, condition, with some to be closed eventually due to lack of use under the 'Community Facilities Strategy' evaluation.

The new Gorge/Saddle Road is now well underway, and will now be 4 lanes all the way.

Earthquake risk buildings in Feilding are still an ongoing issue.

Land use policy has been called into question by rural communities – that development and subdivision of productive land is being subsumed for housing, and that planning is not keeping up with population demands.

### **School Report – Mike Will**

There are currently 60 children on the roll.

Pet day will be held on the 23rd October.

Due to Covid concerns, school camp has been amended to local days out in the Wanganui/Manawatu Regions.

The school pool is all ready to go for the season.

A working B will be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> November.

The play centre is soon to undergo major renovations, and have requested the use of the Hall for the duration – approved by the committee.

The School Pupil Council would like to have a BMX track around the School paddocks. Work is ongoing to source contributions for this.

### **Civil Defense – Jeff Graham**

There was discussion of the 'Community Response Plan', which all communities are required to have – but we don't, so will use Kimbolton's as a template.

- Need two people to be contact points and for Council Liaison
- Need a list of community hazards
- List of safety kits, emergency tools and machinery

- Need a recovery process – roads, power, water, cell phone reception etc.
- Safe community gathering site.
- Know those people who have special needs – elderly, disabled etc.

Once the Community Plan has been completed, CD will print off as many copies as required and distributed to those households who wish to have it.

The committee discussed this about who could start the process and work with Council, Civil Defense, Police, farmers etc.

- Maryanne and John to hold deep and meaningful on this.

Civil Defense will provide a 'Community Response Kit' for use should the area be isolated for any reason, and a storage place for this will need to be found.

### **Neighbourhood Support – Tracey Cuff**

As with Civil Defense a contact person(s) will be required for liaison with Tracey.

A complete list of persons living in the district will need to be sourced, along with their addresses, contact details – maybe their abilities and ailments.

In this day and age of privacy, there will need to be much door-knocking to acquire this, and slick talk to get buy-in!

All information will be kept strictly confidential, and it will not be compulsory to be on the list.

Claire Clare is at present setting up a facebook page.

### **Police – Mark Dickens**

Mark has confronted the following Community concerns:

There is the occasional local problem – best elaborated by Mark if requested.

There are vehicles being driven erratically on the roads and times and rego's , makes and models are needed so he can respond appropriately.

A reminder that cannabis is not yet legal, and it is that time of year again, so if strange vehicles are noted parked up anywhere, to give him a call.

**Meeting finished at 8:40 pm**

**Next meeting set for Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 @ 7:05 pm**