**Minutes**

**Twenty Third Annual General Meeting**

**Port Underwood Association Inc**

Held at Hakahaka Bay, Port Underwood

3 January 2016 3pm

**Present**

Wayne Boustridge, Angela Hockenhull, David A Whyte, Steve Beaumont,

Sue Beaumont, Donald Soper, Claire Soper, David McBryde, Ken Prain, Penny Martin, Graeme Martin, Bryon Gleeson, Ruth Simonsen, Diane Cranfield, John Cranfield, Gerard Malcolm, Susan Rutherford, Paul Blaschke,

Michael Blaschke, Lawry Hinton, Jenny Kennedy, Jeremy Ward, Graeme Gane, Raewyn Gane, Laurin Gane, Ken Roush, Sara Roush, John Davison

**Apologies**

Helen Parr, Trevor Parr, Carole McArthur, Arch Still, Mary Still, The Forests, Mike Milligan, The Sheats, Carolyn McIvor, Murray McIvor, Irene Ross, Rosemary Rutherford, Mike Rutherford, Greg Phillipson, Annabel Phillipson

Annie Ward, Doug Levein, Rhonda Levein

**Minutes of the previous meeting**

These were distributed with the newsletter in February 2015 and consequently were not read at the meeting. There were no matters arising.

**Chairman’s report – John Davison**

Lawry Hinton & Jennie Kennedy were thanked for the use of their home for the AGM.

A brief summary of what has happened throughout the year was given. This included:

Marlborough Marine Futures Forum

Ken (Roush) and I have attended the Marlborough Marine Futures Forums. These are developing slowly to ensure they are inclusive, cover the issues that stakeholders want to be covered and are accepted by all stakeholders. The forums to date have tried to identify who should be invited to attend. They are now looking at what scientific knowledge there is, and what information needs to be found.

However, it could be in the context of Port Underwood that there is a potential perfect storm brewing in terms of an ecological disaster; low flow, relatively warm currents in summer, forestry on steep slopes in the catchment area, large volumes of shellfish farms, receiving significant sedimentation loads from the Awatere and Wairau Rivers, a perception of dwindling finfish stocks and it being a low priority area for research.

There have been a number of subdivisions or applications. These are:

Oyster Bay - Environmental Court arbitration proceeded and the outcome was not satisfactory. Despite the planting scheme being volunteered by the applicant the Council did not then object to it being reduced significantly. The arbitrator would not accept anything other than the Association accepting this unless some from of evidence could be produced to say why the alteration was unacceptable rather than requiring the appellant/applicant to produce reasons why the alteration should be accepted. The applicant made an assurance that the development would not be visible from the road under the new planting scheme.

Whataroa Forest - This has been subdivided the property into 30 hectare sections. Gerard Malcolm is a member of the Association and part owner of the property and discussed this development later in the AGM. This subdivision is a permitted activity so was approved with no comments invited from third parties.

Ophi Bay

The application has been returned to the applicant as incomplete to the developers so is not before the council. The application was made (it is believed) as the old consent was expiring. This would not normally be publicly notified as the land is zoned as residential. The council will take the points raised by the Association (to respect the gravesite, issues with effluent and road issues) when considering if it needs to be publicly notified and accepted that the applicant would need to preserve the gravesite from damage. The problems with the roads being closed due to bridges being washed out and land slips and also the increasing levels of traffic caused by new developments was also mentioned as a bar to future development. The Council just referred the Association to make submissions to the Council Development Plan.

**Treasurer’s report – Sara Roush**

The accounts were distributed. These are attached at the end of the minutes.

**Membership secretary report – Sara Roush**

There are currently 112 paid up members; the secretary was available to collect subscriptions. $20 seems like a good subscription amount as it provides a small surplus which is to be retained in case costs are incurred (for example for submissions). Members seem to be enjoying the snippets from the past in the newsletter, but more stories are required.

**Neighbourhood support – Sara Roush**

Craig Jones burgled four houses in Port Underwood last year and pleaded guilty to 24 counts of burglary throughout the Sounds plus three counts of stealing motor vehicles. He has thirty previous convictions for similar offences and was out on bail for another burglary at the time of his offending. He was sentenced to three years and six months in prison. The Judge stated it was not realistic to ask him to pay reparations to any of the victims.

Thanks were given to all who wrote down vehicle registration numbers and were observant of suspicious activities. Because of this, within 48 hours of Craig Jones offending in Port Underwood he had been positively identified as being in the area and a prime suspect.

Members were invited to take Neighbourhood Support signs.

**Sounds Advisory Group – Ken Roush**

A large effort has been put into the draft Marlborough Resource Management Plan reviewing various chapters and making suggestions which I will cover shortly. The group has been made aware of several scientific advances in our knowledge of the Marlborough Sounds. This includes a hydromechanics modelling program to determine the water flow and exchange in different parts of the Sounds. There is also work on drilling the seabed floor to determine historic changes in the Sounds and a study on sedimentation entering the coastal waters from land uses. There was also a presentation of significant marine sites in the Sounds. We also had updates on the Integrated Management Plan for the marine environment and a review of the National Environmental Standard for forestry.

**Draft Marlborough Resource Management Plan – Ken Roush**

This is a very important document, which will govern what can be done and how it can be done in Marlborough. It sets the objectives, the reasons and the rules. The draft is proposed to be released to the public in January with a three-month window for receiving submissions from the public, which will be followed by a hearing of the submissions and final ratification. The PUA committee has made submissions in the formation stages of this document based on feedback from the members. Does the membership want to have some special meetings to discuss this document and any future submissions on behalf of the Association?

**Significant marine areas in Port Underwood – Ken Roush**

There exists at least three areas in Port Underwood that carry a significant marine site designation and two of them are considered susceptible to damage from anchoring, dredging and trawling. They are located off the Knobby’s and Whataroa Bay and contain some of the best massive tubeworm mounds in the Marlborough Sounds.

**Freedom camping – Ken Roush**

Marlborough District Council is trialling new freedom camping bylaws this summer. Freedom camping is possible in most of Port Underwood except in Ocean Bay. If there are problems with freedom camping you need to advise the District Council who can then send an officer out. The Council will not know of any problems and therefore if the bylaws need to be changed unless it is informed of them.

**Tsunami inundation – Ken Roush**

Maps have been created that show the extent of coastal inundation from two levels of tsunami. More information is to be made available. There are public meetings to discuss this information with one being held at Rarangi on 30 January, Picton on 20 February and Blenheim on 27 February.

**Open discussion**

There was an open discussion on a number of topics.

Whataroa Forest - Gerard Malcolm offered to answer questions and give an outline of the Whataroa Forest development. Although the land is for sale in various blocks, an Indian company owns the trees. This company will be logging for the next 5 yrs. Whether the land is replanted or not is up to any new owners, but it was suggested that this may not be economically viable. The land being sold may be impacted by carbon credit issues. The land is being sold in two stages. Six plots have access by road. There is a forestry road and it may be possible to link this to the public road. The majority of the plots will only have water access. This creates the point of major interest for the Association as there will need to be consideration of the parking requirements in Oyster Bay for cars, boats and trailers – Whataroa Forest has paid a contribution to the Council in respect of this.

Roads – one of the main problems with subdivisions in general is the increased use of the roads. Having spoken to Ian Sutherland of the Council they say that the Road Transport Authority does not perceive the roads to be an issue nor a bar to development.

The council is only aware of accidents that are reported to the police, consequently, it is incumbent on us to ensure they hear of all accidents and near accidents. To this end a form has been produced to be returned to the association to record these. This is to highlight to the council the danger of the roads.

Freedom Camping – DOC does not allow camping in Hakahaka and Tom Caines bays. The Freedom camping bylaw is on trial and the Association can submit on this issue. DOC and the Council will act if they are given the rego number of offending vehicles. The Council is not interested if the camping is on DOC land.

**Any other business**

The Ophi subdivision was mentioned. It was agreed that submissions would be made to protect the historic grave sites from water, effluent and tree damage.

Trawling is mentioned in the resource plan – we need to consider if trawling and dredging is appropriate given the sites of special interest in the Port.

Fibre optic cable. There was no progress on this issue and the Government thinks that Vodaphone is covering the rural areas. The issue will be raised in newsletter to see if owners want a node in a bay and whether Chorus should be contacted.

**Election of the committee**

The new PUA committee consist of:

John Davison (Chair)

Sara Roush (Secretary)

Ken Roush

David Whyte

David McBryde

Jeremy Ward

Michael Blaschke

Accounts

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Port Underwood Association Inc** | | | |  |
|  |  | **PO Box 59 Blenheim 7240** | | |  |  |
|  | **Income Statement** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 30-Nov-14 |  |  | 30-Nov-15 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Income |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Subscriptions | 2,260.00 |  |  | 2,245.00 |  |
|  | Interest | 176.96 | 2,436.96 |  | 170.18 | 2,415.18 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total |  |  | 2,436.96 |  |  | 2,415.18 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Expenses | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Flowers (past secretary) |  |  |  | 92.00 |  |
|  | Stationery, post, printing, website | 1,079.38 |  |  | 718.68 |  |
|  | Bank fees | - |  |  | - |  |
|  | AGM Expenses | 338.20 |  |  | 199.50 |  |
|  | Donation - Fire Brigades | 500.00 |  |  | - |  |
|  | Submission expenses | 400.00 | 2,317.58 |  | - | 1,010.18 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Net Surplus | |  | 119.38 |  |  | 1,405.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Balance Sheet** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assets | Cheque Account | 292.12 |  |  | 1,583.73 |  |
|  | Simples Saver | 9,175.68 |  |  | 9,345.86 |  |
|  | Petty Cash | 105.00 | 9,572.80 |  | 48.30 | 10,977.89 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Liabilities |  |  | - |  |  | - |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Capital Account | |  | 9,572.80 |  |  | 10,977.89 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Statement of capital** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Brought forward | |  | 9,453.51 |  |  | 9,572.89 |
| Surplus |  |  | 119.38 |  |  | 1,405.00 |
| Carried forward | |  | 9,572.89 |  |  | 10,977.89 |