

## PUHOI COMMUNITY FORUM

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm at THE PUHOI SPORTS CLUB -DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON – Paul Manton

- 1 Apologies:** Dustyn O’Leary, Greg Taylor, Mike Swain, Jenny Neel.
- 2 Confirmation of the Minutes of previous Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> June.**  
Moved: John Seconded: Gavin- carried.
- 3 Matters Arising from those Minutes**  
None.
- 4 Treasurer’s Report for June.**  
Presented by Jenny. No payments made in June. Given receipt to reimburse Ken S for the bolts to do the plaques- \$32.48. Agreed by the meeting to pay.  
Report confirmed -Moved: Judith, Second: Sorrel. Carried.
- 5 Incoming Correspondence.**  
FMG – Public Liability Insurance Renewal letter received by Paul. Meeting discussed the need, primarily as a condition of the lease of the land. \$402.50 to be paid agreed by the meeting.
- 6 Local Board Update.**  
Councillor Greg Sayers and Beth Houlbrooke in attendance.  
**Greg. Update on roading, and budget approval.**  
Capital Works is now known as the unsealed road improvement programme. The scope of work has increased, although due to change of budget structure some funds have been dropped (but may be accessible in future). Budget is \$40mil over 10 years, loaded up front, so around \$10mil will be allocated to resealing/ surfacing. Auckland Transport (AT) committed to the work programme, which will be publicly available online.  
**Beth:** Ahuroa Road sealing will still be the priority and top of the list despite any new budget/planning formulas. Beth stressed that the money may be used for whatever the best solution is for a particular road- sealing, drainage, etc. Covid has reduced fund availability for now, but it is hoped that the funds will become available in future.  
**Greg: Roothing Maintenance.** Budget remains, but not increased. Forestry trucks are damaging roads, which are now the priority for regrading which takes funds from other roads. Greg recommends continuing to report/ request road maintenance. Disappointing that vegetation control is not going well, and there are different contractors involved. Auckland Council (AC) are looking into this with AT. Culverts were contracted for cleaning by another firm, which has now lost its contract and has been taken back by AC.

The meeting discussed some local roading concerns about how Downers are filling potholes but not regrading, with little or no improvement to the road condition. A suggestion was made, and generally supported, that an independent assessor be appointed to check the work being

done, not just the contractor who does the work. There must also be clear specifications for the work being paid for. This request was “taken on board” by Greg.

Beth noted that the funds needed are not enough for AT to repair the work to the best standards.

**Beth:**

**The Restore East Rodney Project** now includes Puhoi thanks to Beth’s advocacy on our behalf. There is a better picture now of all the groups undertaking predator control, and a coordinator will be appointed to assist the groups in the area.

**The wallaby survey:** Beth has met with MPI and provided feedback from the PCF to request better communication with the community.

**Sports Club:** Troy has asked the Local Board to look at the drainage on the sports field, but they may have missed the funding round. Beth has escalated this to community facilities. She was not aware that there had been any drainage issues. Beth has strongly urged that any issues/ maintenance needs should be logged through the system, and not addressed through existing relationships with contractors directly where they are not recorded.

**Warkworth Park and Ride:** Construction underway. AT are currently thinking about running the bus service along the motorway, but are considering another bus service for Puhoi if a safe parking/ stopping place can be agreed. This will depend somewhat on the uptake of public transport.

**Paul** gave an update on the latest intersection plans and map for Puhoi motorway. Possible area available for a park and Ride site. The land is currently NZTA, but will become AT land in future. There is potential for a safe walkway to allow the bus to only have to stop on one side of the road.

**Beth:** Confirmed that this possible site is known by those involved. She also noted that with the new footpath being built, people could walk safely along Puhoi Road to the bus stop. Beth mentioned the options available for when the roading land is returned to local Council ownership.

## 7 General Business

(i) **Tennis courts have been cleaned (Pauline)**

PCF thanks to Auckland Council, and to Pauline for pushing this ahead.

(ii) **Update on petanque court (Paul)**

The meeting was informed that Mike is having trouble sorting the earth works via the contractor due to bad weather. Things may be on the back burner for a while. (*Note: Emma received Mike and Jenny’s apologies and email subsequent to the meeting*).

**(iii) Update on abandoned bus (Judith)**

Judith has meet with the Community Constable twice, who said he would try to see the bus owner who can be hard to track down. Beth says the Council have tried to tow the bus, but the brakes seized. The owner said he would arrange towing but has not. Beth will take this back to the Council.

**(iv) Unleashed dogs in the Memorial Park (Judith)**

Judith reported that a dog had jumped up on her quite roughly, and the owner did not offer any kind of apology. Gavin and Emma confirmed that they seen dog owners letting dogs run loose along the river walkway despite the clear signage. The problem, even with dogs who are well behaved, is the damage they cause to new planting. It may be that new signage is needed, which is clearer and explains why dogs cannot be off the lead.

**ACTION:** Members present to review current signage and report back at next meeting.

**(v) Memorial plaques (Emma)**

Not put in place by Emma yet as the weather has been so bad.

**(vi) Fencing maintenance along Te Araroa Trail (Sorrel)**

The fence is not battened, and is falling apart quickly. Cattle are getting underneath and eating new planting. The fence was built by the farmer, with the intention that sheep could get through to keep the trail tidy.

**(vii) Stock management/ damage to planting (Sorrel)**

Cattle are getting onto the river walkway through poor fencing, and eating/ trampling new planting.

**Action:** Paul will contact the farmer (Kevin) about repairing the fence to stop cattle getting through. It may need electric fencing along the river walkway.

**(viii) Permission to apply for the [Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Grant](#) (Sorrel)**

Paul informed the meeting that there is intent to make an application to this fund to deal with the Arundo grass as discussed at the meeting some months ago. He suggested that PCF uses some funds to continue the river walkway planting, and uses the fund AC funds to contribute the to work if needed. Beth confirmed that the funding round will be coming up again. PCF will need some time to gain the quotes needed, but much work is likely to be done by local volunteers and donations from contractors. The meeting unanimously agreed that Paul and Sorrel explore this further and prepare some costs for the meeting to approve.

(ix) **Quotes needed for application: track, fencing, planting (Sorrel)**

As above.

## 8 Working Group Updates

- **Road Safety Group- Paul**

The final drafts for the motorway / Puhoi Village ramps are available:

<https://nx2group.com/attachments/docs/pages-from-01-07-uldsp-puhoi-for-consultatio-7.pdf>

There is still no decision/ agreement on what the Puhoi sign will look like. Puhoi Intersection Lighting will be installed.

- **Puhoi Heritage Museum- Jenny**

At last, the new lease has been received. It will be for 10 years. Lots of NZ visitors have been coming along, which is great for the Museum.

- **Waiwera Valley Association- Brian**

AGM held, and a new committee appointed.

- **Puhoi Village Market**

Nothing much to report as the next market will be in September. They are seeking a couple of 3m square gazebos – anyone has one please get in touch, as the market is very short on funds.

- **Civil Defense/Neighborhood Support**

Rodney Neighborhood support AGM due on 5<sup>th</sup> August. Judith raised the issue of our lack of local plans / neighborhood support to tackle serious flooding, or fires in summer. Greg suggests we may ask the community constable to convene a community meeting to kick start this off again.

- **Puhoi Landcare**

The pest control and land management plan will describe the relationship of the group to the Forum, and to any other groups and agency involved in the area. They hope to fund and appoint a community coordinator. The aims are different to many other local predator control groups, as PCF Landcare will also look at covenanted land. A rep from PCF Landcare (Paul) attended the Restore Rodney meeting, as mentioned above and will commit to continued attendance. Over 40 groups were represented.

- **Puhoi Sports Club**

Sports field drainage has been reported to Beth- mentioned above.

The Recliner Rockers are playing at the Sports Club on Sat 21<sup>st</sup> August. Tickets available at the Club.

## 8 Miscellaneous Items

- **Judith informed the meeting** that Gillian Seymour has passed away.
- **Fibre Broadband – Greg.** Discussion on how far the new conduits/ fibre extends through Puhoi.
- **Is Rodney likely to have an additional councilor due to our growth?** Greg: not yet!