

HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL

PAEROA WARD COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PAEROA WARD COMMITTEE HELD IN THE PAEROA MEMORIAL HALL, NORMANDBY ROAD, PAEROA ON TUESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2020 COMMENCING AT 11.00AM

PRESENT

Cr P A Milner (Deputy Mayor – in the Chair), Cr J R Tilsley and Cr R L Wilkinson and His Worship the Mayor, D A Adams (11.15am to 12.03pm)

IN ATTENDANCE

Cr R Harris, D Varcoe (Community Services Manager), P Matthews (Parks and Reserves Manager), A Chwesik (Community Facilities Officer) and C Black (Council Secretary)

Karakia timatanga

Cr Wilkinson opened the meeting with a karakia.

Appointment of Chairperson

Due to the absence of Chair Cr Daley, Cr Tilsley nominated Cr Milner as Chairperson for the meeting. Cr Wilkinson supported his nomination.

RESOLVED

THAT Cr Milner is appointed as Chairperson.

PWC20/01

Tilsley/Wilkinson

CARRIED

APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

THAT the apology for absence of Cr Daley and for the lateness of Mayor, D A Adams be received and sustained

PWC20/02

Milner/Tilsley

CARRIED

DECLARATION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations.

Public Forum – 11.00am – 11.30am

Keith Trembath spoke of the burden on ratepayers incurred by the costs to maintain the Hauraki Rail Trail. He suggested that an App be developed allowing rail trail users to make a donation in support of the trail. He emphasised his disappointment that ratepayers are contributing to the operational costs of the trail.

Wharf Street upgrade – Keith Trembath asked if there was going to be any consultation on this project. Cr Milner responded that there would be. Options for access will be considered as well as all other considerations.

Rail Trail - Keith Trembath commended Diane Drummond for her management and commitment in support of the rail trail but emphasised the focus needs to be on utilising Rotary or similar based organisations to assist in funded projects.

Roading – displeased with the quality of seal on Stranges Road where he resides. He stated he does not receive any services from HDC and supplies his own water and manages his own wastewater.

Cr Milner advised Mr Trembath that the roading will be improved to a 'good' roading standard due to drought damage.

Mr Handley raised his concern about the amount of mows Centennial Park and other sports fields receive. He had observed that the fields are mowed twice a week and asked why this frequency.

Staff explained that the expectation of sport codes sets the standard of the sport fields. Some sports codes require a very short length of grass requiring more frequent mowing than others do. At times of high growth, additional mowing is required.

The Mayor attended the meeting at 11.15am

Diane Drummond in response to Keith Trembath's concerns regarding maintenance funding stated that the Rail Trail receives assistance from volunteers in maintaining the trail to relieve costs to ratepayers.

Budgeted figure upgrade of wastewater. HDC have received funding towards the start of a conversation to use money to collaboratively work with other councils as regards to infrastructure across NZ.

Te Moananui flats – insufficient land drainage. Colleen Renata requested to have the land drainage issues addressed by Council at the Marae village on Te Moananui Flats. Considered this is a health and safety issue for child safety in regards to the threat of drowning.

Alex Te Moananui raised a health and safety issue caused by wastewater leaching into the soil at the Marae village that may cause an outbreak of hepatitis.

Paeroa Ward Matters - Staff Report

Community Services

Staff member David Varcoe provided an overview of the areas of responsibility of community services and provided an update of current community projects for the benefit of attendees.

- LTP – general renewal work in cemetery
- Native planting in passive reserves - ecology
- Passive walking trails
- Renewal sound system in hall and upgrade of floor
- Sports fields – renovations, under-sowing. Paeroa No. 1 and 2 fields and Centennial Park No. 2 field.
- Two joint projects – adult fitness equipment, play equipment for young children and parents
- Heat pumps need renewing in pools.
- Playing field mows – due to the spring flush at present fields need mowing more regularly. Reiterated earlier response that sports codes require very short grass that is the reasoning for frequency of mows. Leaches Field was donated to Council. Hay is produced from this field and funds are utilised by rugby club.

RAIL TRAIL UPDATE – DIANE DRUMMOND, CEO OF HAURAKI RAIL TRAIL

Diane Drummond spoke in support of funding towards the maintenance of the rail trail.

As regards to receiving funding, Lions have established donation boxes. Also, 'Give a Little' donations boxes are available.

There is an App established on the Hauraki Rail Trail website that has the ability for trail users to donate funds.

Diane emphasised that Central Government does not allow Councils to charge people to ride the trail. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment does fund towards maintenance costs and concurred that maintenance is costly.

\$224,000 is available between the three councils (MPDC, TCDC and HDC) for maintenance of the trail network caused by severe weather events.

The HRT Charitable Trust are looking at ways of raising funds. Trust Waikato and other funding providers are also available as funding sources.

The Rotary Club are installing seating throughout the rail trail network.

The Mayor advised that people could now access the town centre by using the rail trail.

The tourist spend in the towns is clearly linked to the trail.

The Ministry are considering a 50% contribution to upgrade seal (resurfacing) of rail trail as more people are wishing to access it using mobility scooters, push chairs etc.

It was advised that the latest figure of usage show an increase of 20%.

Domestic spend was \$171 for every person who uses the trail pre COVID and post COVID it is now \$241.

Car parking – a member of the public raised their concern that there is not enough car parks in the CBD. The Mayor advised that Council are looking at 'time limit' parking and evaluating how it will work. The suggestion has been a 1.5 to 2 hour parking limit.

Council are investigating making available better access for mobility scooters, such as wider pavement widths.

Diane Drummond advised that there are 'QR' codes already set up to accept donations from users.

Positive Paeroa Update – Committee Member – Barbara Berry

Barbara presented a summary on the activities of Positive Paeroa.

- New members were added to Committee from the AGM held - Grant Bowen, Toni Ross, Kieran Casey, Judith Jameson, Sjaan Welsh and Rachel Kennedy. Michelle Bowen may be co-opted to fill the remaining vacancy.
- Feedback received from visitors is that the buildings in the main street look drab and tired and it was considered that there are too many second hand shops. In response, it was pointed out to people that these shops attract many visitors to the town and some are charitable shops in support of the community.
- Positive Paeroa are setting up a brainstorming evening to be held on the 19th of November at the 131 Bar and Café to get ideas together on how to improve the look of the retail area.
- Santa Parade is coming up on 4th December

- Business bites – encourages people to come in and speak by attending a business breakfast.
- Love Hauraki – promotion of the district – has a website also.
- Twilight market at the Paeroa Race Course site has received good patronage. It is held on the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month. Fundraising from the proceeds of the market stalls is going to the Highland Games and Tattoo event.
- Positive Paeroa has good relationship with Council and retailers.
- Facebook page is working well.
- General promotion of the town and surrounds is going well.
- Positive Paeroa also offers assistance with citizen's advice.
- Positive Paeroa always welcomes input from the community.

The Mayor left the meeting at 12.03pm.

Info Hub Update – Mike Tansey, Manager

Mr Tansey presented an update on the activities of the Paeroa Information Hub.

- Number of different services out of the Post Office building.
- Support Positive Paeroa, Rail Trail and NZTA. The Information Hub will also be an AA site now and will be able to do driver licence renewals and produce Real ME photographs for passports etc.
- E-bike hire going well.
- There is 85% occupancy in town's motels but there is a need for more accommodation in the town.
- More people wanting to live in Paeroa and are seeking sections on which to build.
- There is an important need to improve a bus service. Intercity Buses have reduced their service. There is a need for buses to link to Hamilton.
- Expectation this summer – pressure of numbers of people coming due to Covid-19. More New Zealanders are coming on holiday to the area.
- Issue that there is increasing number of street people identified in Paeroa. Mike has spoken with the Police about this matter. The elderly are becoming uncomfortable with their presence in the town centre.
- Elderly population are also experiencing issues accessing banking services due to the banks reduced hours.
- Lions Association are getting ready for summer season.
- The community feedback is supportive of the Info Hub.

Other Community Updates

Cr Milner advised attendees that the Paeroa Ward Committee holds Ward workshops every month at 11.30am (first Tuesday of the month) in the Paeroa Library meeting room.

Cr Milner thanked members of the public for their attendance.

Karakia Whakamutunga

Cr Wilkinson closed the meeting with a Karakia at 12.15pm and

CONFIRMED

P A Milner
Chairperson