

1. Attendees (registered)

Bruce McCabe, Kathleen McCabe, John Palmer, Wayne Wright, John Robertson, Chris Dever, Tracey Coxhead, Margaret Murray-Benge, Don Brash, Ray Cobb, Dave Cummins, Ken Shirley, Alexis MacVicar, John MacVicar, Noel Silver, Dianne Renner, Sonia Diacono, Evelyn Haddinott, Murray Littleton, Steve Ling, plus 8 others names not able to be read.

Corum present.

2. Apologies

Kathy Crowle, Mike Powers, Josephine Richards, Paul Uttinger, Stephen Carey, Rachelle Morrison, Bill Morrison, John Marsh, Paul Casey, Dianne Casey, David Partington, Sandra Partington, Judy Sampson, Bob Sampson.

Moved: Apologies to be received. Bruce McCabe, Seconded John Robertson, Carried.

3. Call for items of general business

No items of general business raised for discussion at the meeting.

4. Minutes of AGM held July 2023

Minutes posted on ORRA website, taken as read.

Moved: Minutes to be received. B McCabe, seconded W Wright, carried.

No matters arising from minutes.

5. Chairman's Report

5.1. Mayor's submission on 'Government Climate Change Inquiry into Community-led Retreat and adaptation funding':

5.1.1. sent without Council approval,

5.1.2. land that might be at risk of a climate change hazard over the next 100 years to be mandatorily taken without compensation by council, and

5.1.3. previous freehold land owners to become leasehold owners, and

5.1.4. Maori land owners are able to develop their own approach and be compensated by the Govt.

5.2. Council Elder Housing

5.2.1. Now operating as a ring-fenced operation of Council,

5.2.2. Land and buildings valued at \$11.8M in 2021

5.2.3. Accumulated debt to ratepayers \$3.9M in June 2023,

5.2.4. Rates-funded construction of new units in Beach Road Katikati (construction cost \$1.8M, current valuation \$1.14M, land value of \$450,000 not included),

- 5.2.5. \$11.6M of grant money used to demolish and then construct new units in Katikati that could have been used to fund essential services and reduce the requirement for an increase in rates.

5.3. Council Representation Review

- 5.3.1. Council furthering its co-governance objective by establishing a Maori ward represented by one councillor,
- 5.3.2. This action will reduce the number of general ward councillors by two.
- 5.3.3. Questionable whether the Omokoroa Community Board annual cost of about \$100,000 is good value for money. Chris Dever provided comments on the improved performance of the Omokoroa Community Board (see meeting video on ORRA website for detail)

5.4. Dog Parks

- 5.4.1. Council policy is that dog services are funded 80% from dog registration fees and 20% from rates.
- 5.4.2. Council policy is not being met and 46% of costs are met by rates
- 5.4.3. Ratepayers are fully funding the cost of the construction of dog parks because the dog services account is in deficit.
- 5.4.4. ORRA survey shows 70% support for dog services to user pays and that dog parks are not to be funded by rates.
- 5.4.5. Links View Drive Reserve is not a suitable location for a dog park.

5.5. Annual Plan/Long Term Plan 2024-34

- 5.5.1. Plan is not readily available to the public (contained in the 9 May Annual Plan committee meeting agenda)
 - 5.5.1.1. In order to fund projects, Council has: (a) increased the debt ceiling from 180% to 200% of income, (b) increased projected debt to \$400M and (c) increased rates so that the \$400M of debt is within the debt ceiling of 200% of income.
 - 5.5.1.2. This is resulting in an unprecedented increase in rates: (a) residential rates will double within 8 years and (b) commercial rates will treble within 10 years.

5.6. Māori Wards Bill

- 5.6.1. ORRA submitted to the select committee in support of the Bill to reinstate citizen's-initiated referenda.
- 5.6.2. We suggested the following amends to the Bill so that the referendum results become effective for the 2025 local body elections: (a) A referendum be held in 2024, (b) the referendum results become effective for the 2025 elections, and the $\pm 10\%$ representation rule be restated in the Bill for clarity.

Matters discussed in the chairman's report can be viewed in a video of the AGM on the ORRA website.

6. Society Administration

6.1. Management Committee Membership

Current members are Bruce McCabe (Chair), John Palmer (Deputy Chair), Kathleen McCabe (Secretary and Treasurer), Wayne Wright, David Partington and Judy Sampson.

6.2. ORRA Website

The website is now operational. It is hosted by Gary Benner (Semantic Ltd). He is also videoing our public and AGM meetings and posting these on the website. We will be uploading historical information to the website.

6.3. Meetings with the CEO

Have an agreed programme of quarterly meeting with the CEO, the first meeting was held in April 2024.

6.4. Membership

Current financial membership of 120 with unpaid membership of about 120. Sufficient subscription income to operate and maintain the website. Not able to fund official information requests should council decide to charge at \$75/half hour.

6.5. Annual Financial Accounts

Statement of income & expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2024

| Income | 2024 | 2023 |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Subscriptions | \$ 745.00 | \$ 730.00 |
| Donations | 260.00 | 42.90 |
| Total income | \$ 1,005.00 | \$ 772.90 |
| Expenses | 2024 | 2023 |
| Meeting costs | \$ 272.00 | \$ 43.77 |
| Printing, Photocopying, Stationery, postage | 15.48 | 64.43 |
| Google Suite/Domain | 296.54 | 93.51 |
| Web site | 690.00 | 0.00 |
| Misc. (refund of unspent grant to Centre Trust) | 300.59 | |
| Total expenses | 1,574.61 | 201.71 |
| Net surplus/(loss) | <u>\$ (296.02)</u> | <u>\$ 571.19</u> |

Statement of financial position as at 31 March 2024

| Assets | 2024 \$ | 2023 \$ |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Cash on hand | - | - |
| Bank account | 2,503.90 | 3,075.09 |
| Total assets | \$ 2,503.90 | \$ 3,075.09 |
| | | |
| Liabilities | 2024 \$ | 2023 \$ |
| Accrued expenses | \$ 45.70 | \$ 92.70 |
| Creditors | - | - |
| Total liabilities | 45.70 | 92.70 |
| Net assets (liabilities) | \$ 2,458.20 | \$ 2,982.39 |

6.6. Amendment to Constitution

That Clause 5.6(a) be amended to allow quarterly committee meetings to be adopted. Moved Bruce McCabe, seconded Wayne Wright, passed.

6.7. Annual Subscription

Annual subscription to remain the same for the 2024-25 financial year. Moved Bruce McCabe, seconded Wayne Wright, passed.

6.8. Election of Management Committee

The six existing members of the Management Committee have not indicated that they do not want to seek re-election and are so nominated and elected.

One nomination was received for membership of the Management Committee – John Marsh. John was duly elected as there were four committee vacancies.

No nominations were received from the floor for the three vacant positions on the Management Committee. These positions remain vacant.

7. General Business

7.1. Omokoroa Town Centre Update

Stage 2 earthworks started September/October 2023

Environmental and weather conditions limited fill importation to 50,000 cubic metres. Twice this amount is required to achieve the final levels for the development.

Expect to achieve final levels in the earthworks season starting September 2024.

Had to deal with changes to Omokoroa Road:

- road height increased to get the additional width required for four-laned road and roundabout at the entrance to the Town Centre.
- retaining wall to be built along road boundary to support road that encroaches onto the Town Centre land.

Site redesign necessary to allow for changed road level and encroachment.

Re-negotiation of consent conditions necessary to allow for time delay and site layout redesign.

Working with Ministry of Education engineers to get ground levels matching between the two sites. The Ministry wants a road into the school site from the town centre necessitating further re-design.

Working through their agents to secure a commercial tenant for the first part of the development.

7.2. Candidates for Community Board By-election

7.2.1. Steven Ling

Steve has lived in Omokoroa since 2015, owner of Omokoroa Fresh Choice supermarket through which he supports local community organisations, he is easily accessible through the supermarket and would endeavour to make the community board more accessible to people, could the community board be the community voice to council.

7.2.2. Chris Dever

Has lived in Omokoroa for last 5 years, IT specialist, responsible for clinical health IT for south island DHB, Omokoroa is growing from small village to the largest town in Western Bay, need to ensure that community views are conveyed to Council, currently a JP, marriage celebrant, member of Rotary, co-administrator of Omokoroa Facebook page, has attended all the community board for the last 3 years.

7.2.3. Murray Marshall

Unable to attend meeting as he has covid

8. Guest Speaker – Mike Butler

“What’s going on with Maori wards – Democracy in the Western Bay of Plenty”

Introduction provided by Don Brash. – Previous assistant editor of Hawkes Bay Herald Tribune, has written several books and contributed to a number of other books, 2016 founding member of Hobsons Pledge, wrote monthly articles for this organisation, has been active in garnering support throughout the country for

citizen's-initiated referenda to oppose the formation of Maori wards, indefatigable worker in the race space, opposing Maori wards.

- o Maori Wards Amendment Bill currently before sub-committee would:
 - reinstate polls
 - require binding polls at elections 2025 for councils that established Maori wards since 2020 without a poll
 - the outcome of such polls would take effect at the 2028 local elections
 - adjust election time frames to give more time for the postal delivery of voting papers
 - remove the requirement for councils to consider Maori wards every 6 years
- o What your situation is now:
 - WBOPDC has decided to establish a Maori ward but has not yet established such a ward
 - Council may rescind this decision in August
 - If it does rescind, the Maori ward will not proceed and the council does not have to hold a poll
 - If Council does not rescind, the Maori ward proceeds and the council must hold a binding poll at next year's local election
 - The results of the poll will take effect as the 2028 local election
 - If there is a yes vote, the Maori ward will proceed for two terms (6 years)
 - If there is a not vote, the Maori ward will proceed for one term (3 years)
- o What Maori wards are:
 - a voting arrangement not an appointee arrangement
 - for Maori roll voters only
 - of which there are 4095 in WBOP
 - which make up 10% of voters in WBOP
 - a Gerrymander inflates the seat number
 - fewer votes needed for a Maori ward councillor to get in (1,200 votes) compared with a general ward councillor (6,000 to 12,000 votes)
 - candidates do not need to be Maori
 - limited choice for Maori roll voters
- o How did Maori wards come about:
 - Started with the Maori committee on the BOP Regional Council proposing them in 1996
 - Bay of Plenty Regional Council (Maori Constituency Empowering) Act 2001
 - Maori wards incorporated in the Local Governance Act 2002, with a provision for polls
 - Auckland Council and Independent Maori Statutory Board (2010)
 - Human Rights Commissioner asked council to consider them (2011)

- In response, 12 councils considered Maori wards; there were 11 no votes (2011: Nelson 79%, Waikato 79%, Wairoa 52%), (2013: Hauraki 80%), (2015: Far North 68%, New Plymouth 83%), (2018: Kaikoura 80%, WBOP 78%, Manawatu 77%, Palmerston North 69%, Whakatane 56%)
- 9 council petitions
- Petitions outlawed in 2021
- New government restores petitions
- o Arguments used to introduce Maori wards:
 - Te Pati Maori – Te Tiriti o Waitanga demands that tangata whenua secures 50% of the resources and the decision-making power
 - Previous mayor and deputy mayor incorrectly said that we have to do it because it is in the legislation (Local Government Act 2002) and in the treaty
- o WBOP's "for Maori" arrangements:
 - Iwi/hapu management plans
 - Marae sustainability initiatives fund
 - Kaupapa Maori team
 - Rates remission for Maori freehold land
 - Tei hu o Te Waka o Te Arawa engagement pathway
 - Te kahui whenua o Tauranga Moana engagement pathway
 - The Maori housing toolkit
- o What you could do about it:
 - Lobby Council to rescind the decision to establish a Maori ward in August
 - Raise awareness for the next election and poll
 - Find other council candidates that do not support Maori wards