

Port Underwood Association
28th Annual General Meeting
Sunday, 3 January 2021: 3:00pm
11-13 Hakahaka Bay Road

Welcome

15:06 The President, Ken Roush, opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.

Attendees and Introductions

Sara & Ken Roush	Sheenagh Freeth	Maxine & Trevor Roushan
Phyllis Heard	Alison Wise	Berni & Trevor Veale
Wayne & Ange Boustridge	David Whyte	Nadine Taylor (MDC)
Kevin & Vicky Maitland	Wade & Anne Thompson	Jill Schwass
John Davison	Martin Loach	Bryon Gleeson
Rose Rutherford	Susan Rutherford	Paul Blaschke
Bruce & Jill Hearn	Lawry Hinton	Anne & Pete Gregory-Hunt
Jenny Kennedy	Tim, Sally & Ben Johnston	Jeremy & Annie Ward
Greg & Annabel Phillipson	George Platts	Deane & Gill Caughey
Lyn White	David Clough	Helen Parr
Lynda Scott		

Attendees introduced themselves

Apologies

John and Gill Saunders	Lawrie & Pam Saunders	John & Brigid Forest
Gerard Malcolm	Carole McArthur	Joan Wyatt
Ken Prain	Kit Wyatt	Ray & Maureen Joyce
Tim & Victoria Freer	Ron & Robyn Van Gelder	Dan & Rebecca Fleming
Mary & Arch Still	The Gane Family	Domenic & Deborah Romano
Doug & Rhonda Levien	Warren Tocker	Karen Mcleay
Mike Rutherford	Michael Blaschke	Terry Schwass
Greg & Chris Wensley	Roger & Marrienne Fenwick	

Minutes from the last meeting

Minutes from 2020 meeting circulated with the Feb 2020 newsletter. No comments were raised following distribution nor at the AGM.

President's Report

Thank you for taking the time to attend this AGM. This has undoubtedly been an unusual year. Port Underwood, along with most of New Zealand, has come through Covid-19 very well and the community has responded admirably. Despite the virus there have still been a number of happenings this year.

The notification of the Marlborough Environment Plan has been a big step forward, although it has been a long time coming. This document sets the course for the Marlborough District into the future. Unfortunately it is not an easy document to come to grips with. The Association has had input on sections of this document over a number of years to ensure that the outcomes are beneficial to Port Underwood. There are still a few sections of it to finalise and the Association will continue to work with Council on these. This year has also seen a number of Resource Consent Applications, many have not needed any input from the Association however there are still a few unfinished applications, such as those at Robin Hood Bay and Pipi Bay, which will require further attention.

And finally, as I mentioned in the last newsletter, it is now time for me to step away from the role of President. There are a number of you that would be very capable of fulfilling this role so I have a very positive outlook on the future of the Association and the Port Underwood area.

Financial Report

Many properties have been sold in the past few years so we are down to 96 paid up members. We need your help in spreading the word about the Association to the new owners. We also have one honorary member and 1 free membership in lieu of taking care of the recycle bin and any extra costs for tip fees. Thank you to Anne and Wade Thompson for taking care of the Bin.

The accounts were read through to the members. Pete Gregory-Hunt moved to adopt the accounts and were seconded by Lynda Scott. They were approved unanimously. The accounts are enclosed at the end of these minutes.

The Treasurer proposed that membership fee stays at \$20, this was seconded and unanimously accepted.

Neighbourhood Support

Probably partly due to Covid-19 it has been a relatively quiet year. There are more Neighbourhood Support signs at the door if anyone would like to take one.

I don't do social media myself, but I have heard from many that the Port Underwood Facebook site works really well. A big thank you goes out to Lynda Scott for her time and effort that she has put into the page. Lynda has also had help from Anne Thompson.

Marlborough Environmental Plan

After many years of consultations and input from the community and experts, the new Marlborough Environment Plan has been released to the public. The plan is the guideline for what can and cannot be done in Marlborough. There have been a number of revisions that affect the Port Underwood area although many aspects remain similar to the previous rules. Locally, we have been able to get a much more detailed evaluation of the landscape and natural character of Port Underwood for the new plan. This is important in that the status of those characteristics regulate what activities can take place.

After a significant delay, the Aquaculture provisions have also been released. These in essence state that the marine farmers need some assurance in retaining their farming space and the community needs some assurance that the usage of public space for private commercialization does not exceed what is reasonable. To this end, for the farmers, the new plan assigns a controlled status to existing marine farms. This means that the permit to use the space for marine farming must be renewed when the current permit expires and the community will not have an opportunity to submit on the renewal. For the community it states that all water space not currently being used for marine farming becomes prohibited for marine farming use and it will require a plan change to apply for new marine farming areas. This reflects the desires expressed by the membership in the recent membership survey. This highlighted a strong resistance to new areas being farmed but acceptance of current areas that are farmed.

There are also several freshwater usage policies, the supply of freshwater and the disposal of wastewater, which may, in the future, affect Port Underwood properties.

As in all documents which try to cover such a large expanse of activities and caters to a large diversity of people there are pluses and minuses depending on your point of view.

Resource Consent Applications Update

There have been a number of applications for the renewal of marine farms and as these have mainly retained the existing farmed area the Association has not commented on them. There is an application for an extension of significant size to a mussel farm in Pipi Bay. The hearing is scheduled for May. The Association has taken the view that the community has for many years wished Pipi Bay to be unencumbered with commercial activities and has submitted against the application.

An unresolved application for water extraction from Stace Creek in Robin Hood Bay has been opposed by the Association. This is a significant waterway with endangered species.

The initial extraction of water resulted in the surface water flow of the creek to disappear during the two years that water was extracted during the summer. The Association is working with the applicants to develop an alternative water catchment scheme which will stockpile water during the winter season.

U201018 is an application to log trees from isolated patches in the Hakahaka and Oyster Bay areas. Area property owners should be notified by Council. The Association is not taking a position on this application but encourages property owners to review the application for any potential effects.

Freedom Camping Bylaws

The new Responsible Camping bylaw has been passed by Council. The main effect on Port Underwood is that Port Underwood Road remains prohibited for Freedom Camping and Tumbledown Bay Road becomes prohibited for camping as well. At the moment, the associated mapping for the new bylaw does not clearly indicate this prohibition. The Association has been in touch with Council regarding this fact.

At this point Nadine Taylor (Sounds Councillor and Deputy Mayor) was asked to comment regarding council business/freedom camping/resource consents etc.

Freedom Camping is now called Responsible Camping and the name change is to reflect the change in attitude to such camping. The Council received numerous submissions to constrain freedom camping. Consequently, only 5 sites are now allowed in Marlborough, everywhere else is prohibited. There are now no Freedom Camping sites in Port Underwood. Whites Bay and Robin Hood Bay are DOC camps and camping is permitted there. Unauthorised freedom camping can be reported and campers moved on to camp sites by Rangers. If people are camping in non-permitted areas or causing problems, please contact the Marlborough District Council on 03 520 7400.

The Council is responsible for foreshore camping even if the land is not owned by the Council. For camping on DOC land, it is necessary to contact DOC and not the Council. The meeting suggested that the signage needs to be improved in Oyster Bay regarding freedom camping, and perhaps larger and better signs in Waikawa and Rarangi.

The Three Waters Water Reform for the whole of NZ was also raised by Nadine. This will impact Port Underwood. Effectively water will be nationalised into five bodies. Marlborough may join with Wellington or Canterbury, to ease the cost of funding the small population in Marlborough. This will not impact own water supplies through rainwater tanks or bores. But there will be new testing required, in time, for water quality for own water supplies. If only one household is using own water supplies there will be minimum testing requirements. If more than one household is using the supply there will be more testing. Nadine will send details of new standards for septic tanks attached.

East Coast bylaw review is now open for submission. One issue is to stop vehicle access to beaches.

Roads, there is new roading contract in place; this seems to be working better in respect of keeping culverts clear. The washout on the road to Picton was mentioned as were the two abandoned cars. A further issue is that many roads are low lying and there was a concern expressed these may be flooded due to climate change. There is a climate change body in the Council, and the roads at risk have been identified, but no action has yet been determined.

Further matters raised were:

- Waste Management plan up for review;
- Navigation bylaws will probably be reviewed this year; and
- Ferry terminal redevelopment will be a large cost to the Council, about \$150 million in borrowings. This may impact rate payers.

Election of Officers

Wayne Boustridge nominated and voted as President

Sara Roush nominated and voted as Secretary and Treasurer

Committee members nominated and voted for:

Kirsty Vercoe

Ken Roush

Toby Martin

Anne Thompson

Martin Loach

John Davison

Bruce Hearn

Phyllis Heard

David Whyte stood down as a committee member and was thanked for all his efforts over the years.

Ken was thanked for all his years of service as both a committee member and President over many years, putting in a lot of effort and acting as a fantastic leader and keeping his finger on the pulse, being humble and gathering support so everybody pulls in the same direction. Ken has gained a lot of respect and appreciation from Council and other Associations. Sara was also thanked for her continuing service as Secretary and Treasurer.

General Business

A question was raised regarding any policy on trapping of stoats and possums. There is no Association policy. Trapping is prohibited on roads and public space, and it is up to

individuals to trap on their own land. Nadine Taylor mentioned that there was Council funding for traps but the application has to come through the Association. Martin Loach will take up the pest portfolio.

Ski lanes and jet skis were discussed and it was suggested that if specific lanes are required the Association needs to suggest this to the Port Authority. It was suggested to the meeting that submissions on this need to be made to the committee to then be taken to the Port Authority.

Fast broadband was discussed. One option would be for a tower to be placed on the tongue.

End of meeting Ken Roush closed the meeting at 4:18. Laurie and Jenny were thanked for hosting the meeting.

Social get together