



Minutes of Papamoa Residents and Ratepayers Meeting:  
7pm Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024, Legacy Gardens, Te Okuroa Drive.

Welcome: Philip Brown, (Chairman of PRRA), welcomed all present including our speakers for the evening:  
Michael O'Neill (chairman of Mount Maunganui Residents, Ratepayers and Retailers Association)  
Glen Crowther (Sustainable Bay of Plenty)  
Keynote speaker: Cameron Luxton (local Act list MP)  
Philip thanked the PRRA sponsors, Rosemarie & Steve @Tremains, NZ First Mortgage Trust, Thomson's Butchery, IFixComputers.

Apologies: No Apologies

Treasurers Report:  
Currently we have \$6,359.32.00 in the account, with 139 paid up members for 23/24.

Speaker:

#### **Michael O'Neill – MMRRRA**

Spoke about years ago, the area was a number of smaller entities but with commonality with the following issues;

- Beach side residents responsible for dune and coast care. Papamoa was a swamp which was drained to develop and build on, while the Mount water table is constantly rising.
- All areas have to face flooding issues, pipes are too small and have to be replaced
- Upgrading roading infrastructure
- Retiring populations, Papamoa a bit better off in this regard with lots of young families
- Population is growing and expanding. Need infrastructure to cope with growth.

#### ***Better things are possible if we all work together.***

Candidates for Council Elections need to be community focussed with the relevant skills.

Michael was invited to speak at the Council Candidates meeting to be held 19<sup>th</sup> February. However, today he received a letter advising that as he was a ratepayers representative, he was no longer invited to speak!!! He would be too political?

#### **Glen Crowther – Sustainable Bay of Plenty**

Sustainable BOP worked together with PRRA and MMRRRA in preparing the **Community Survey 2024**. To have this survey done any other way would have been cost prohibitive. This survey gives all residents the chance to comment on the Commissioners haste to lock Tauranga into big expensive projects. So far there have been over 1500 responses with a very high percentage overwhelmingly against the Commissioners spending spree. Tauranga has the highest debt per capita of any region in New Zealand and this will keep growing. Tauranga presently has the highest residential rates in New Zealand. The fast growth of the area is paid for by current residential ratepayers, developers should be paying their share for the growth from which they are receiving benefits.

The full results of the survey to date will be published on the ratepayers websites and in the media. There is still the opportunity to complete the survey, by going on the website and clicking on the link. Your opinion matters.

<https://papamoaresidents.co.nz/>

#### **Cameron Luxton – Local ACT List MP, based in Bay of Plenty**

Cameron supports the call for the Tauranga Commissioners to act purely in a caretaker role for the rest of their term which ends in July 2024.

He reminded us that he is a newly elected ACT List MP who is based locally and is part of the Coalition Government. He is speaking on behalf of the ACT Party as Local Body Government spokesperson. Our local National MP is Tom

Rutherford. Cameron is determined to stand up for Tauranga and believes the Mahuta appointed Commissioners have increased our rates burden dramatically and continue to add to that burden. Cameron believes we need to change our way of thinking with regards to infrastructure, in that we need to see this as an asset rather than a liability. He suggests that outside interests could for instance build the roads, bridges, a tunnel through the Kaimai Ranges etc. and then we pay for the use of that infrastructure through tolls or congestion charges. We need to think of alternative ways of doing things rather than continuing the way we are.

There were questions and suggestions from the floor, answered by both Cameron Luxton and Glen Crowther. The general consensus was that the Commissioners must be made to listen to the communities they are supposed to be representing. It was suggested that Minister Simeon Brown meet with a representative group of residents to hear the concerns of the residents. This in the hope that the Commissioners can be stopped from pushing forward with their spending spree and delay the decisions of the Long Term Plan.

Full slides of the meeting will be on the website in the next day or so.

<https://papamoaresidents.co.nz/>

Raffle was drawn and meeting closed 8.20pm

**Next meeting March 11<sup>th</sup> 2024**

**7pm Legacy Gardens**

**Te Okuroa Drive, Papamoa.**

**Speaker: Tom Rutherford National MP**