

Minutes of Papamoa Residents and Ratepayers Meeting:  
7pm Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024, Legacy Gardens, Te Okuroa Drive.

Welcome: Noel Hall welcomed everyone and advised that chairman Philip Brown was away.  
Noel thanked the PRRA sponsors, Rosemarie & Steve @Tremains, NZ First Mortgage Trust, Thomson's Butchery, IFix Computers.  
Apologies: Philip Brown, Max and Caryl Deal, Carole Long  
Chairmans Report: Noel read the chairman's report. See copy online.  
Treasurers Report:  
Currently we have \$6279.32 in the account, with 139 paid up members for 23/24.

Speakers:

**Noel Hall**

Noel spoke about the lack of maintenance in the reserves and waterways. TCC are not interested in weeds on private land, or reserves – they do not appear to care. There are moth plants everywhere. Each plant has hundreds of seed pods which explode with seeds flying everywhere, which then grow. The waterway overflow which runs out to Harrisons cut, is now blocked with weeds again. Slides online.

**Tom Rutherford - National MP**

Tom said it is great to be working with Cameron Luxton (Act) and Sam Uffindell (National MP) who are passionate about our area.

Tom and Sam met with council re fees increase for sports groups use of sports grounds. The increase was \$24,000 annually which is not feasible for nonprofit sports groups. They advised TCC they were out of step and even half of the proposed increase was unacceptable.

Tom met with the commissioners as engagement is key. Anne Tolley, chief commissioner was not happy about them hosting a public meeting while the council and commissioners were still deliberating on the matter. What do we do, wait until the decisions are made, by which time it is too late.

General feeling from ratepayers is that the LTP should not be pushed through by the Commissioners. There has been a huge backlash from the community.

Tom has had 5 meetings with Simeon Brown Minister for Local Government, and relayed concerns to him. Government will not move from the current position; Tom will keep pushing. His Domain Road office has an open door policy for any concerns and discussions.

Other Current Challenges:

- Papamoa Post Shop closed with one days notice. Now have 40,000 people with no post shop! There are always queues of people at the post shop, older folk paying their bills etc
- Papamoa College has huge increase in capacity. Wharenui and Gym were services promised by the last government, but no funding was provided.

Questions and discussion from the floor:

Q. Too many unskilled immigrants being allowed into the country. What will you do about this?

A. When the borders were opened, there were no priorities as to who could come in. Under new Government, now being targeted to skilled workers.

Q. No problems will be solved unless we have good candidates for Mayor & Councillors. Spending is uncontrolled with no oversight. All councils seem to have the same problem.

A. Tom agreed and an example was an email he sent to TCC re safety of Ohauti Road. 47 days later there is still no response. We must all look to find good candidates to stand.

Q. Can the Minister for Local Government delay the LTP until after the election of the new council. What about the stadium which is being pushed. Contracts cannot be unwound. Priority One has too much power and influence over the Commissioners. All candidates should be asked their thoughts on Priority One. Please ask Simeon Brown to meet with PRRA regarding the above.

A. Tom will invite Simeon Brown to meet PRRA. Councillors employ the CEO, and CEO employs staff within budget constraints. The Commissioners have just extended the CEO Marty Grenfell's term by 5 years.

Athol Herbert advised that the Council CEO appoints staff and has control of the establishment. He cannot appoint more staff anything over the budget. This was only permitted if the financial advantage could be shown.

Lots of information is available and we must all be fully informed voters to get the best council we can.

(Facebook pages, Tauranga Elections 2024 and more.)

Full slides of the meeting will be on the website.

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

Raffle was drawn and meeting closed 8.30pm

**PLEASE NOTE: Next meeting April 22nd 2024**

**7pm Legacy Gardens**

**Te Okuroa Drive, Papamoa.**