

MINUTES OF THE AGM FOR THE NORTHERN ACTION GROUP (NAG) held at Totara Park Hall, 5 Melwood Drive, Warkworth on Monday 27th June, 2016 at 7.35pm.

WELCOME: Nineteen people were welcomed by the Chariman. (See attached attendance sheet.)

APOLOGIES: Brian Mason, John Clements, Trisha Pieterse, Mike Newland.

MINUTES: Minutes of the previous AGM meeting on the 22ND June, 2015 were taken as read. Mona Townson moved that they be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Seconded: Peter Buckton

Carried:

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Read by the President.

Bill Townson moved that the report be approved.

Seconded: John Maltby

Carried

TREASURERS' REPORT: (See attached Financial Report)

The Treasurer read the Treasurer's Report and then opened it up for discussion.

Michael Cronin moved that the report be accepted.

Seconded: Chris Thoroughgood

Carried

ELECTION OF OFFICIERS AND COMMITTEE:

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>PERSON</u>	<u>PROPOSER</u>	<u>SECONDED</u>
Chairman	Bill Townson	Bill Foster	Lance Taylor
Secretary	Mona Townson	John Maltby	Lance Taylor
Treasurer	Michael Cronin	Mona Townson	Barbara Maltby
Committee:	Chris Thoroughgood	Lance Taylor	John Maltby
	Bill Foster	Bill Townson	John Maltby
	Barbara Maltby	Mona Townson	Lance Taylor
	John Maltby	Bill Townson	Mona Townson
	Lance Taylor	Chris Thoroughgood	Bill Townson

Mona Townson moved that the committee be accepted as proposed:

Seconded: Elizabeth Foster

Carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Bill Foster presented information on the Thames Coromandel District Council (TCDC) governance model.
 - The traditional model is authority from the top down. The TCDC developed a model which empowered the community which is a bottom up system where authority is given to the community through their

Community Boards to decide what responsibilities they want to hold. They were happy for the TCDC to be responsible for district wide projects such as sewage but determined all other local activity themselves.

- This is a co-governance model where there is one management and planning structure for the whole District. There is success with this method because of the high engagement with the Community through their Board and District Councillor representatives. One member represents 1,000 people. There is a 60 – 70% approval rating (compared with the 20 – 30% in Auckland Council.)
- The debt level is \$1,500 per rate payer (and going down) where as in Auckland the debt level is \$15,000 per rate payer (and increasing.) This community driven TCDC model does not spend money where it is not wanted as the communities decide what they want and need themselves.
- The TCDC model is a practical example for North Rodney but needs to be tailored to each community. Many of the NAG committee members gave positive examples of the results of this type of governance.

2. Bill Townson spoke on the new legislation and its implications.

- The new LG Reform Bill has some implications for the progress of the NAG proposal presented to the Local Government Commission (LGC). If the NAG proposal has not reached the ‘final proposal’ stage it could be forced to start again under the new law.
- There will be a change to the re-organisation process. It will be driven by the LGC and not community driven. It will also allow Auckland Council to start a re-organisation process but it will be checked by the LGC.
- A poll would be mandatory but it would be conducted over all of the Auckland area which would make it unfair for Rodney. NAG will oppose this.
- Council controlled organizations (CCOs) can have more than one council owning these which would mean that small Councils could be overwhelmed by the larger Council. Again this is unfair and NAG will oppose.
- The new Reform Bill has its first reading in June 2016. They are calling for submissions by the 31 July, 2016. People need to lobby the opposition parties’ MPs to try and make a change. The Act is meant to become law by October but the LGC feel that it will happen either late this year or in 2017.

3. Where to from here?

- The LGC informed NAG that there have been 38 proposals and 130 additional pieces of correspondence relating to the alternative proposals. These mainly relate to North Rodney and Waiheke Island. These proposals now have to be judged against the criteria set by the LGC. Then the reasonable viable proposals will be published on their web site.

- The Commission will then take these reasonably viable options in a series of public meetings to explain the pros and cons of each so they can receive informed feedback from the affected community.
- The LGC then need to determine what is their preferred option (which includes the status quo. Once a draft proposal has been decided it will be put forward to stakeholders for submission.
- The final proposal will be written and presented to the community.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Gordon Levet a farmer from Wellsford, spoke of his support for NAG. He has been involved since the original petition and has worked hard to keep the concerns of the rural farming community to the fore. He is very concerned at the eroding of the democratic process where the Government overturned the findings on the select committee.
Gordon feels that the concept that 'bigger is better' is flawed as he sees so much wastage and extra cost involved in being beholden to preferred contractors. It is always easy to spend other people (ratepayers) money.
2. Ray Weaver a highly valued NAG committee member, died a year ago. People acknowledged the good work and the community concerns that Ray supported actively. He is missed because of his unique character and wealth of information and experiences that he had in such a diverse range of interests.

Meeting closed at 8.18pm