

MINUTES OF THE AGM (Subject to confirmation) FOR THE NORTHERN ACTION GROUP (NAG) held at Totara Park Hall, 5 Melwood Drive, Warkworth on Sunday 17th June, 2018 at 10.00 am.

WELCOME: Eighteen people were welcomed by the Chairman including guest speakers – Tracey Martin and Greg Sayers. (See attached attendance sheet.)

GUEST SPEAKER: Tracey Martin MP “Why North Rodney cannot get a Binding Referendum.”

APOLOGIES: Barbara Maltby, John Maltby, John Clements, Maury Purdy, Terry Nuthall, Graham Poole, Ralph Cooney, Lance Taylor, Shirley Taylor, Deanna Yarnley

MINUTES: Minutes of the previous AGM meeting on the 26th JUNE, 2017 to be read by the secretary. To be moved that they be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Seconded: Peter Buckton

Carried:

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

CORRESPONDENCE: INWARDS

A letter from Deanna Yarnley was sent to the Committee and requested that it be read out to the AGM meeting. This was done and it was suggested that this letter be sent to Winston Peters so that he gains a better understanding of the feeling of people in regards to staying in Auckland City. Deanna will be contacted and asked if she would like to do this action.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:

Bill Townson read the Chairman’s report. (See attached report)

Move that the report be approved.

Seconded: Trisha Pieterse

Carried

BILL FOSTER COMMENT:

Bill explained how we got the status quo decision from the Local Government Commission. NAG feels that the Commission mis-applied the law and mis-interpreted the law and that is why we have an appeal to the High Court at this moment. The LGC used the process to get a politically biased predetermined outcome. It costs between \$65,000 - \$125,000 to pay for Counsel to represent NAG and as we do not have these funds two lay people (Bill Foster and Bill Townson) are working hard with some advice from a lawyer in Wellington to do the work necessary to take the LGC to Court.

The two Bills will attend the interim appeal on the 27th June, 2018, to determine what can and cannot be allowed with documents and evidence for the main hearing in August. At

this time the judge will make the decision as to whether the ‘two Bills as lay people’ are able to continue working on the case or whether they will be told they need to get a Counsel to represent NAG. There is concern that as this case will be a precedent for future case law which needs to be established for the Local Government Act 2012, that experts who know all the processes and procedure should be used.

It must be noted that even if NAG wins the case, the LGC can just come to the same decision of ‘status quo’. If there is a ‘win’ for NAG the LG Minister and /or the Cabinet can still refuse to agree to the decision. At the moment there is no political will for change to our situation to take place.

TREASURERS’ REPORT:

Trisha Pieterse read the Treasurer’s report and then open it up for discussion.

After discussion has taken place then move that the report be accepted.

Seconded: Peter Hewson

Carried

ELECTION OF OFFICIERS AND COMMITTEE:

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

Move that the committee be accepted as Proposed:

Seconded: Elizabeth Foster

Carried.

GUEST SPEAKER: TRACEY MARTIN (speaking as a list MP)

Tracey explained the process that took place between the political parties before a coalition government was agreed to. NZ First decided that they would only discuss policies as they wanted to work with the party/parties that had the most common views in order to have a positive working relationship. It was at this stage that the ‘Binding referendum for North Rodney’ was discussed and it was not accepted by any of the parties. This means that NZ First cannot honour its commitment for a binding referendum. With NZ First having 7% of the vote and Labour 40% there was no point in ‘holding the country to ransom’ over this issue.

Lance Taylor discussed the idea of using the Regional fuel tax as a lever for getting a binding referendum for North Rodney and Tracey was given permission by the NZ First caucus to speak to Phil Twyford about this idea. He refused to consider it.

Tracey has come to the conclusion that none of the major parties will let North Rodney leave Auckland City as they want the area for development!

(Trisha Pieterse asked Simon Bridges (National Party) if they would allow us to leave and he also said that they needed North Rodney to be part of the development and growth plan for Auckland City. A straw poll was held at that meeting and 80% of the attendees (there were 160 people at the meeting) wanted to leave Auckland City!)

There is no political will to change the status quo but Tracey has suggested that the group work towards developing ideas such as the empowerment policy of Thames Coromandel District to propose a change in the law to be able to get a better deal for North Rodney and other smaller communities.

Phil Twyford has given a commitment to come and talk to Nag and others in North Rodney to explain his position.

GUEST SPEAKER: GREG SAYER (Rodney representative for Auckland Council)

The following points were made by Greg about his work with Auckland Council.

- NAG has had impact on Auckland Council and the voices of discontent has caused more funds to be allocated. For example the \$3 million for seal Extension has increased to \$12 million and more money has gone into the investigation of Hill Street problems. Also working on getting a higher subsidy rate for the roads.
- Greg voted against the Regional fuel tax as there is no transparency about what projects will benefit.
- The Rodney Board Targeted rate lets the Mayor off the hook as Rodney will be funding the roading themselves. However the Local Board can take the target rate out some future date.
- Rodney rates are \$26 million for general rates, \$130 million estimate for development contributions , \$20 million Water Care rate etc. We pay \$227 million in rates but need to know where this money is going. There is an increase in support for openness.
- The boundaries of the Local sub-Board may have to be changed because of increase in population.
- Greg resigned from the committees he was on because of lack of transparency. Big financial decisions involving more than \$20 million were made in committee. Now he can be a 'whistle blower' in order to bring transparency to Council operations and decisions.
- Now working in Civil Defence and Community & Development Committees.
- He was one of the nine Counsellors who wrote letter requesting equal rights as far as making decisions and being given information regarding the spending of huge amounts of money (Stadium report cost one million dollars). There is a management style from the mayor of using the technique of bullying.
- Greg asked to look into why resource consents are not notified.

- NAG needs to continue to exert pressure on the Auckland Council in order for improvement in attitude and resources.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Where to from here?

After some discussion the need to change the political view point on North Rodney leaving Auckland City, could only be achieved by using legal and political paths. There is a need for a group that is trying to do this and represents the whole of the North Rodney Community.

A real need of younger members to become part of the group and to use their social media skills to get the message to the whole community. Need to consider paying for the service but do not have the funds. Have to find someone who is prepared to do this for us!!!!

A good idea for a group with NAG involved, to see how we can make the Auckland Council work for smaller communities.

There was unanimous support that NAG should continue to work as a pressure group to get a fair result from being forced to be part of Auckland Council.

Meeting concluded at 12.15pm.