

Report of a meeting of the Mataura Community Board, held in the Mataura Community Centre, McQueen Avenue, Mataura, on Monday 27 July 2020, at 5.30pm.

**Present** Alan Taylor (Chairman), Sue Taylor, Linda Sinclair, Greg Chaffey and Cr Neville Phillips.

**In attendance** Mataura Community Development Officer/Youth Coordinator (Eleanor Ranstead), Corporate Support Officer (Gillian Small), Constable Jacob Garrett, NZ Police and Barbara Cunningham, Mataura community garden

**Apology** Steven Dixon apologised for absence.

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## 1. CONFIRMATION OF REPORT

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Greg Chaffey seconded by Sue Taylor, **THAT** the report of the meeting held on Monday 15 June 2020, as circulated, be accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true and complete record.

## 2. POLICE REPORT

Constable Jacob Garrett was in attendance and provided an update on Police activities in Mataura. Constable Garrett reported that there had only been one major issue since Covid-19 as a result of people from out of the area visiting the town. He mentioned there had been an arson over the past weekend which was being investigated. He had been liaising with Eleanor Ranstead, and police were maintaining a presence around the town. The security cameras were also a useful tool.

*Constable Garrett departed the meeting at 5.45pm and re-entered the meeting at 5.50pm*

L Sinclair thought it was good that the cameras were being used and were fit for purpose. Constable Garrett said the cameras could see people entering town via Old Coach Road, and along Main Street from each direction.

The Chairman asked if NZTA could be made aware of two accidents that had occurred at the Main Street pedestrian crossing. The first involved a resident travelling by wheelchair. Constable Garrett advised that NZTA would receive a copy of the electronic report. The second involved a car which had stopped at a pedestrian crossing and was hit by a van from the rear. The Chairman said this had not been

attended by emergency services and the Board would like to see all incidents reported. Constable Garrett said minor accidents were not always reported as people organised these themselves through their insurance. However, he thought the yellow lines needed repainting as they were not very visible.

The Chairman said Bridge Street was a confusing intersection as many drivers did not know to give way at the left-hand turn from SH1 and thought they had the right of way. The Board had previously suggested to NZTA that improvements be made.

Constable Garrett discussed the issue of meth in the community. The Chairman mentioned the \$20m government spending package to fight meth harm across regions and asked what Mataura could do as a community to assist. Constable Garrett said the Police needed information however people in smaller communities were not always willing to come forward. He thought the funding may be used for a specialist group in the organised crime squad and projects that targeted traffickers. G Chaffey agreed more community education was needed.

Mrs Ranstead mentioned the previous joint ICC/SDC project regarding meth harm. She has not heard what happened with it and thought it would be a good project to channel funds into. She would investigate where the project was at to keep the momentum going. She advised the Board that the Youth Council had been spending time raising awareness of the issue and thought it needed to be an inter-agency, inter-community project.

G Chaffey said he had seen some work done by a community group in Gisborne called "Parents Against P." Mrs Ranstead said she was aware that Cynthia Fairley from NZ Police has been to conferences on the topic and she would follow this up. The Chairman said it was an issue that affected all of the community.

### 3. MATAURA COMMUNITY GARDEN (SC2617)

A report had been received from Mrs Barbara Cunningham regarding the Mataura community garden.

The Chairman said the Board was concerned that the garden may not continue however, he was aware there had to be a need. Mrs Cunningham said the group needed more volunteers and had been assisted in the past by PD workers but they were no longer available. She said the garden would keep going for another season but it was unlikely to be able to continue without additional volunteers and younger people in particular.

On the issue of opening the garden up to the wider district, Mrs Cunningham said people from Gore would be welcome if they wanted to take produce and that garden members were open to ideas to keep the garden viable. G Chaffey said it would be a shame if the garden did not continue. He thought it was more about those less fortunate having the opportunity to access fresh produce.

The Chairman reiterated the Board's view of opening it up to the wider community. L Sinclair asked if the local shops had been approached. Food regulations meant the local shops could not be used to sell produce from the community garden. It had been suggested that the garden open on Saturday afternoons as many people were busy with sport on Saturday mornings.

Cr Phillips wondered if the Mataura Marae could use vegetables. G Chaffey said the koha system was used for any hui at the marae.

The Chairman said he would like the Board to keep in touch and try to encourage other people to become involved with the garden. Mrs Cunningham said volunteers were required as well as buyers of the produce. She said work at the garden would restart the beginning of August and produce should be available at the beginning of November.

Cr Phillips asked if the Men's shed had been approached for assistance with maintenance of the tunnel house. Mrs Cunningham said the plastic may need replaced and the Men's shed had helped in past.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Sue Taylor, seconded by Linda Sinclair THAT the report be received.**

**4. OUVEA PREMIX REMOVAL (SC0494)**

A report had been received from the Chief Executive which provided a summary of the ouvea premix removal contract with Inalco Processing Limited. The contract had been signed in July 2019 with commencement in October 2019, and provided for a minimum of 1500 tonnes of premix to be removed within the first 12 month period. After 12 months, the contract provided for the volume of renewal to increase to 4,100 per annum. The report advised that the contract had been performing to expectations to date, despite the interruption of Covid-19 and the level 4 lockdown, with a total of 1210 tonnes being removed by the end of June 2020.

The Chairman thought there had been a lot of unnecessary anxiety and discord in the community regarding the premix not being removed more quickly. He acknowledged there were no easy answers. Cr Phillips agreed certain members of the community had been scaremongering and causing animosity. There was a need to rely on the contract to keep it going and felt the community should be grateful the product was finally being moved. He noted that MP, Mark Paterson's petition to Parliament had gone very well.

G Chaffey said he thought following the announcement from Tiwai the process may be sped up. The Chairman said the negative view that NZAS would walk away has not been stated by the company. Cr Phillips said there were other companies around the world that dealt with ouvea premix and had made contact.

Cr Phillips thought the FENZ callout the previous weekend to the paper mill buildings may have seemed large in the eyes of the public as FENZ had strict protocols about dealing with substances/chemicals. The scenario seemed escalated but FENZ was only following its protocols. He said it had been blown out of proportion by people taking videos.

The Chairman acknowledged the Chief Executive for the report and his efforts in negotiating the contract with all those involved.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Alan Taylor, seconded by Cr Phillips THAT the information be received.**

**5. GENERAL**

- Mrs Ranstead reported on the welfare group set up going into Covid-19 Level 4 lockdown. The group has been renamed “Caring for Communities” and was still continuing to meet. The Chairman and G Chaffey had attended meetings during lockdown and had been invited to attend Wednesday morning meetings. Visitor Centre Senior Consultant Renatta Hardy has been involved and said they were struggling to get people along to the Gore group, however 15 to 20 were still taking part in Mataura meetings. Mrs Ranstead thought the group had been a great initiative from the Mayor and Council, with feedback stating it was very valued.
- Hokonui Huanui had opened a hub in Gore in Brennan Lane for jobseekers which was open to all ages, not just youth, to assist with CVs and job assistance. It would also meet twice monthly in Mataura.
- Mrs Ranstead advised she was working on flood recovery and had made a couple of late applications to Mayoral Relief Fund before it closed. She had still been recently assisting those who were affected by the flood.
- The Chairman said vouchers for those affected by the flood had been distributed and had been well received by recipients. He noted there were some people still waiting to get back to their homes and he thanked those who had provided vouchers.

**6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 14 September 2020, at 5.30pm**

The meeting concluded at 6.25pm