

**Minutes of Meeting held at 5pm on Sunday 17th April, 2022 at the
Helicopter Shed, 940 Blackjack Road, Opito Bay, Coromandel**

Present: Chris Severne (Chairman), Paul Cook (Treasurer), Cheryle Willoughby (Secretary), Craig & Cassie Roe, Sue Edens, Grant Northcott, Marcus & Brian Cameron, Grant & Qwilton Beale, Tim & Wilma Sinclair, Chris Mygind, Christina Jeffery, Jane Ritchie, Matthew Jeffery, Anna Mowbray, Ali Williams, Chris Kriechbaum, Janet Cornelissen, A. Holmes for Bruce Gillespie, Terry Costello, Graham Lindsay, Grant Hally, Perry Cornish

Apologies: Aaron Power, Kate Elmers, Duncan Watson, Greg Moyle, Annie Severne, Heather Bruce, Fiona Taler

1. Welcome from Chris Severne to all those present or unable to attend, apologies accepted.

1.2. Minutes of previous meeting held on January 2022 confirmed Chris /Sue/agreed

2. Matters arising from the Minutes discussed as Agenda Items below

2.1. Scallop Rahui update Grant Northcott – Opito Bay Rahui has helped support other areas and motivating Govt to put protection in place for Hauraki Gulf and other areas where fishing /scallop numbers have substantially declined over the years. Northland and Bay of Plenty in a dire state of degeneration. With the initiative shown by Ngati Hei, Opito and local communities close to 500,000 Ha of the Hauraki gulf have now been closed to commercial and recreational fishing until the beds recover.

Over harvesting, urban development, sedimentation are long time causes. Opito Bay has a good base of spat on the seabed floor, good population coming up, to leave for a few years helps the population to re-establish.

2.2. Biosphere Initiative

A working Group called the Kuaotunu Peninsular Biosphere Working Group has been set up with members representing Kuaotunu communities, Ngati Hei, DOC and Environmental Groups to ensure the environment both on land and the surrounding ocean can be preserved. The six pillars we have established are as follows:-

1. Marine Protection and regeneration. Have achieved rahui on scallop take.
2. Remove invasive weeds (including wilding pines) and mammalian pest species (possums, stoats, rats etc.)
3. Establish an international Dark Sky Sanctuary.
4. Ensure streams and rivers on the Peninsular are 'Best in Class based on NZ measurements.
5. Retention of the Integrity and cultures of our small coastal communities. Ensure development and TCDC planning are consistent with community views.
6. Central Government recognition of Iwi/community partnership.

Included in this group, Otama, Kuaotuna, Opito and Ngati Hei hapu and voluntary organisations have come together to support the Biosphere Initiative. Recognition by Central government after we had paid for research to check the state of scallop beds in the Bay drove the success of the scallop rahui.

Paul – This is a UNESCO funded activity, there is none set up in NZ. Group set up are from Opito x2, Otama x2, Kuaotunu x1, DOC x1, Ngati Hei x1 that form the working group. Set up and proposal will be put together over the next few months.

Dark Sky Reserve Working with Kahu Environmental Consultants and TCDC to achieve a result.

Scoping phase cost \$5K, to check everything which may need District Plan change. We will raise funds but at this time need Stage 1 started. It was agreed at the meeting to contribute \$5000 to initiate stage 1.

Chris – We need to ensure the Environment Consultants can at least get to Stage 1. We can then go to other contributors to help towards it. Council behind it but they don't want to spend the expected \$50K for the plan change.

Paul - Council should support this with Government backing.

Ed Scorgie – Astronomy is my passion, screwing up biosphere with light pollution. Real benefit towards the whole of what they want to achieve. Keep lights going down.

Motion: OBRA to contribute \$5K towards the Bio-Sphere Initiative for Environment Consultants to begin Stage 1

Edward Scorgie / Chris Mynind – all agreed

2.3. Reserve Management Proposal

Paul – Some rumours have been heard TCDC are looking to sell some Opito Bay Reserves. We have not heard anything further but did oppose them, along with other residents, selling two reserves over the past year,

Council signs are back up for no freedom camping although the bi-laws are going through changes regarding Freedom Camping.

Moore Cres Reserve, OBRA thought a good strategy to say we would purchase the reserve. Some people felt we were acting outside our scope, it was never our intention to actually purchase the reserve but it led to us maintaining a better relationship with Council and other ratepayer groups in the area.

3. Inwards / Outwards Correspondence noted and included as part of Agenda Items

4. Treasurer's Update

Paul – OBRA Budget 2021/22 Tabled. Subscriptions – will be chasing up this year's subscriptions. Disappointing only 90 people out of approximately 300 properties have paid. Your annual subscription of \$50 helps us with our Pest Control programmes, maintenance of the debrillators and children's swim raft, emergency medical equipment, Dark Sky initiatives, liaising with TCDC on issues

that affect our community and gives you a voice on the future of the Bay. If you haven't paid contact our Treasurer Paul Cook on prcook@me.com to arrange payment.

Accepted: Cheryle / Grant – all agreed

5. Wilding Pines Project Update – Aaron Power.

\$50,000 is being used to clear pines around Opito starting from Sandy Bay as part of the \$325K received from the Wilding Pine Trust for controlling wilding pines on the Kuaotunu Peninsular. Control being managed by a team from Waikato Regional council. Action includes hand pulling small trees, hand sawing larger trees and poisoning old large trees. Poisoning stops the cone seeds from germinating.

6. Pest Free Opito – Craig Roe - 124 traps under our system, through sand dunes and properties owners have given permission for traps to be laid.. 29 new traps have been laid into the native bush area along Stewart Stream. Fundraising push helped us fundraise and thankyou to those families who contributed. 800 kills since we started, 71 rats Margie and Rachel thanks for your hard work who do most of the work continually. Other people also involved who help them out. If you see a trap with an animal in it please let us know through our App. More volunteers to help always appreciated even just checking a trap, it all helps. Contact Craig On 027 494 4092 craig@rys.co.nz if you are able to help or contribute to a trap.

Walking tracks –Long-time residents Stu, Joe and Keith have for the last 50 years, done the groundwork for clearing tracks. Craig and his dedicated team are continuing their good work and could do with volunteers to assist as well.

New tracks have been marked with paua shells behind the old Molock area, scallop to Sandy Bay, ring shells to Waterfall. Lots of volunteer helpers, building bridges, clearing scrub there are also other adventurous walks.

The Opito Bay Community thanks you for your great effort. \$150 voucher to Rachel & Richard, Marge and Peter for their contribution from OBRA.

7. Traffic road speed

Chris - Speed reduce along Opito Bay roads from 50km to 40km – especially Grieves tight corner, we approached Council they are slow to respond. Signs suggested 'children slow down' etc. Working on your behalf to bring the speed down in Opito.

Cheryle - This is for those Christmas and holiday periods when a lot of visitors and residents come in to the Bay. Children and elderly crossing the roads to/from the beach don't feel safe at times.

Sue - Against reduced speed, due to permanent residents in off peak times.

Chris M – Skippers new road seems to encourage a lot of fast traffic along it especially from tradies.

Motion: *Reduce the speed limit to 40km at Opito Bay* Cheryle /Paul agreed all against 2

8. Committee Membership – Invitations to join the OBRA Committee received from Ed Scorgie and Perry Cornish

9. Other Business

Power Poles

Power Poles – We have requested the Council to remove the unused power poles as they serve no purpose and are more dangerous than necessary. They may require electrical cables underneath to be rewired and TCDC aren't keen on doing this or the expense involved.

Power outages - with Vodafone, Spark – in future if there is a power outage you can call emergency services on **Channel 16 VHF radio** on your boat.

Helicopter Landing

Sign and painted area for emergency landing where the Westpac Helicopter lands in Moore Crescent. During busy times the helicopter was unable to land due to cars on the landing area.

Graham - Incident over Christmas where the helicopter had to park on the roadway.

Suggestions from emergency responders of how to achieve this.

Minutes will be put on our website <https://www.Opitobay.org> Meeting closed at 6pm.

Next Meeting to be held Sunday 23 October @ 5pm Labour Weekend

Minutes of the AGM held on Sunday 17th April, 2022 at 6.05pm at Helicopter Shed, 940 Blackjack Road, Opito Bay, Coromandel

Present: Chris Severne (Chairman), Paul Cook (Treasurer), Cheryle Willoughby (Secretary), Craig & Cassie Roe, Sue Edens, Grant Northcott, Marcus & Brian Cameron, Grant & Gwilton Beale, Tim & Wilma Sinclair, Chris Mygind, Christina Jeffery, Jane Ritchie, Matthew Jeffery, Anna Mowbray, Ali Williams, Chris Kriechbaum, Janet Cornelissen, A. Holmes for Bruce Gillespie, Terry Costello, Graham Lindsay, Grant Hally, Perry Cornish

Apologies: [list ?](#)

- 1. Minutes of the last meeting** held on 4th April 2021 accepted Chris / Craig
accepted all
- 2. Matters arising from Minutes** discussed in General Meeting
- 3. Chairman's Report** – read out and tabled at meeting Terry / Paul accepted all
- 4. Annual Financial Accounts** – due to COVID-19, report not available this year, will circulate when we receive them and they are formally approved.
- 5. Election of Committee and Officers**

Committee Members have all agreed to stay on for another term, two new Committee Members Edward Scorgie and Perry Cornish. Welcome to the team.

Any other nominations accepted.

All agreed

6. **Subscriptions** to be \$50 per household.

Chris / Quilton all agreed

7. **Meeting dates** approved for Labour Weekend, Anniversary Weekend and Easter Weekend for the coming year
agreed

Terry/Quilton all

AGM Meeting closed at 6.20pm