

Minutes of a meeting of Woodville Districts' Vision held in the Woodville Sports Stadium Supper Room on Tuesday 4 July 2017 commencing at 7.00pm.

The meeting was used for Tararua District Council to meet with Woodville businesses and discuss matters relating to the Manawatu Gorge closure.

PRESENT

John Gooding, Judy Thomson, G Parkes, Angela Rule (TDC), Derek Rose, Seona Ashton, Sue McLeod, Kevin McIntyre, Joan McIntyre, Geoff Haglund, Deb Speer, Doug Coutts, Michael Mabey, Alec Devonshire, David Pretty, Bruce Hutton, Gerard Murray, Rhys Punler, Shirley Hull, Jude Challies, David Challies, Rosalie Wainwright, Neil Brumby, Rowena Fry, Holly Martin, Rebecca Algie, Alison Franklin, Steve Nesbit, Fiona Nesbit, John Couchman, Chris Archer, Paul and Viv Rockach, Barbara Swensson, Ashleigh Franssen, Susan Barber, Dave Murdoch, Denise Henman, Catherine Hunt, Peter Johns, Carole Wilton, Richie (New Central Hotel), Ernie Christison, Mark Taylor, Mark Maxwell (TDC), Robin Winter (Chair) and Maggie Oulaghan (Secretary)

APOLOGIES

Turia Brackenbury, Malcolm Stuart, Colin and Margaret Gainey and Paula McCool

As the majority of attendees were at the meeting to discuss the Manawatu Gorge closure this discussion took precedence over the agenda.

MANAWATU GORGE CLOSURE IMPACT

Mark Maxwell, the Council's Economic Development and Communications Manager led the discussion. A summary follows.

- There are no further updates about the Manawatu Gorge at this time. Still waiting on the geotechnical reports to come through. There are two new slips.
- The conversation is about what can be done to help businesses and the community of Woodville. Mark has some suggestions, but is mainly here to listen. What will make a difference?
- An email list has been developed so that as information comes to hand it will be emailed out.
- New Zealand Transport Agency has added a Manawatu Gorge page on their website.
- Offer of Angela Rule working out of the i-SITE building to have someone on the ground. Attendees agreed that this would be a useful resource. Perhaps on a Monday as many businesses are closed on this day so owners could access the resource.
- Challenging times; maintain contact with your bank, think about how to increase revenue. A panel discussion is to be arranged in the not too distant future regarding cash flow, and this is tentatively scheduled for 17 July. Look at bringing in a bank manager and other similar experts to provide practical tips.
- A request for Council to consider a rates rebate for businesses was made. Businesses are struggling, e.g. New Central Hotel usually has one to two trucks stop at the motel each evening. There has been no one there for three weeks.
- Detour signs must be removed immediately.
- Google is stating that the road is closed from Old Gorge Road. This stops people from going to Ferry Reserve, Bush Café etc. It is stopping tourists.
- Nowhere does it say what Woodville has to offer, e.g. antique shops, food, coffee etc.
- New Zealand Transport Agency has advised they are looking at putting up an electronic sign, however more than one sign is needed. Signs are required that tell a story to entice people to stop in Woodville. Signs could be set at regular intervals as the traveller comes off the Saddle Road and encouraging people to go through town.

- Who is maintaining the Saddle Road as it is dangerous and people are not travelling on it because of the condition of the surface.
- Is the Government offering any help to small businesses similar to Kaikoura? Where is Alastair Scott and what is he doing?
- Buses are not stopping anymore. Tourist buses will not come over the Saddle Road because it is substandard.
- New Zealand Transport Agency has not been transparent in this process at all, and seemingly don't care as there is a lack of communication.
- Support local, buy local.
- Advertise Hawke's Bay, Manawatu, Wellington.
- Word out to the i-SITEs is to promote Woodville.
- Shopping promotion.
- Look at organising a steam train to come to Woodville.
- Must make this a political stance, Government support.
- Local roads are also being affected; who will pay for this repair? Not the ratepayers.
- Residents on local rural roads have a lifestyle change as they are now on state highways with significantly increased traffic, especially heavy trucks. Houses shaking, noisy engine braking throughout the night, dangerous driving with rural roads not suitable for large trucks, cars travelling at 100kms which is not safe with narrow roads and increased traffic. Must be redirected through town.
- Council need to encourage traffic through Woodville. Put speed limits up on Oxford and Pinfold Roads. Possibly put barriers up to make the road single lane to reduce speed.
- Signage required, must keep the signs simple. Accommodation, food, coffee etc.
- Radar of all the events in the area/country.
- #Woodville navman directing to Woodville.
- The Woodville Business Association is to be resurrected. A group is to meet and further discuss signs etc. comprising John Gooding, Judy Thomson, Catherine Hunt, Denise and Richie.
- Signage point of design and more than seven words will not work. Use characters, not words.

Discussion came to a close. Most people left the meeting with predominantly only Woodville Districts' Vision members remaining at the meeting.

PREVIOUS MEETING

That the minutes of the Woodville Districts' Vision meeting held on 6 June 2017 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

R Winter/G Murray

Carried

MATTERS ARISING

- The Chair is going to Pahiatua On Track and will raise the topic of the skate park. Research on the bullying issues of skate parks needs to be considered.
- Signage welcoming people to Woodville. Ernie Christison offered to donate timber for the six signs (two at each of the three entrances to town). The offer is greatly appreciated and received.

CORRESPONDENCE

Inwards

- Council minutes of June meeting
- Festival for the Future

That \$250 be approved to send a young person to attend the Festival for the Future event as long as it is used for a Woodville youth.

B Hutton/C Wilton

Carried

Note: With the school closed for school holidays the timeframes did not allow for this to be progressed.

- Pahiatua Community Vehicle Trust

The vehicle is not utilised fully so it is being offered for use by Woodville people, but volunteer drivers will be required. Charges are \$3 per trip or \$5 around the district. Need to ascertain the associated costs. Need to talk to Woodville community to gauge the need. The Chair is to liaise with John Arends for further details. Notice is to go into the Woodvillean community newsletter.

Outwards

Nil

That the correspondence be accepted.

M M Oulaghan/P Johns

Carried

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

A full report will be tabled in July.

Council Report

Cr P Johns

- The 2017/18 Annual Plan was approved at the June meeting.

Events and Promotions

Walkway

Peter Wimsett has organised a meeting for this Thursday (6 July). Woodlands Road to the old cemetery is to be surveyed to produce a plan to make formal application to KiwiRail for use of their land. P Johns, K McIntyre and G Murray are to attend the meeting.

Lindauer Studio

- No resource to open the studio so it is effectively closed.
- Artist in residence is progressing well.
- Grand reopening of the Lindauer Studio.
- Advertise for volunteers through the Woodvillean community newsletter.

APPLICATIONS

Nil

GENERAL BUSINESS

R Winter tabled the summary of the Woodville and district's community conversations held on 22 May 2017.

As there is no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 1 August 2017