**DRAFT**

**Redcliffs Residents Association**

**Minutes of the Committee meeting held at 7.30pm on 5th December 2016 at the Redcliffs Library**

1. Present: Chris Doudney (Chair), Pat McIntosh (Sec), Christine Toner, Fletcher Stanton, Tony Burns, Peter Croft, Dave Bryce

Apologies: Darren Fidler, Chris Bartlett

In attendance: Councillor Sara Templeton; Dr Darryl Latham, Linwood-Central- Heathcote Community Board member; Emma Lumb, Redcliffs School Board of Trustees (BOT); Marie-Claude Hebert, Greg Crichton, & Virginia Pretty residents

2. Declaration of interest. None

3. Minutes. The minutes of the meeting of 7th November were moved by Peter Croft, seconded by Pat McIntosh, and accepted, with matters arising dealt with later under their headings.

4. Bridie Gibbings tendered apologies for being unable to come for her planned presentation, being away. However she is keen to get the support of the RRA and residents for working bees.

5. Notice of motions - none.

6. Correspondence in. Emails complaining about the decision of the Ministry of Education to rebuild the school on Redcliffs Park have been received from the following 11 local residents: Wayne and Faye Ryan, Arthur and Virginia Pretty, Topsy Rule, Allan Boucher, Duncan Currie, Dennis and Sue Morgan, Greg Crichton, and Simi Bartlett . Letters or notes had been received from Paul Hammonds, Helen Stevenson, Ron and Nikki Twine and H G Coombes.. No communications in favour of the decision have been received. A survey was distributed by some residents at the Park at the Summer Starter event and responses forwarded to the RRA. Of these 45 were not from local residents but were against the use of the Park, 26 were from local residents of which 25 were against and one in favour of the use of the Park.

 Emails received from Vicky Hyde and Darren thanking the RRA for the tsunami advice news update. Val Merryweather Team Leader of the Council Graffiti Programme offered to come and talk to the committee and will be invited to the February meeting; John Cook emailed re the Predator-free Port Hills project (see general business)

 Correspondence out. To Sara Templeton regarding disappointment with the style of the new security fence and the misleading consultation process which had led residents to expect a different design. Darryl reported he had similar concerns, which had also been expressed by Sumner residents, and on investigation had discovered that a 1.8m flat top fence could have been used. He had contacted Dave Adamson about this but had received no response as yet. This was discussed and it was agreed to formally express concern to Sara as local Councillor. **Action - Sec**

 Email to Ross Herrett and Downer regarding the poor state of the landscaping in Beachville Road.

7. Finance. The Treasurer reported in absentia that he had been unable to prepare a budget as yet. He and the Secretary will liaise about this and prepare a grant application for 2017. The Secretary reported that she had spoken with the Red Cross about their grant and they had agreed to an extension of two months to the end of February for the activities of the association. She felt it is likely that some of the grant will be returned unspent. **Action – Treas and Sec**

8. Reports of sub-committees:

 *Sea-wall and Coastal Pathway* Pat has been in repeated correspondence with Ros Service at Downer about problems with the berms, planting and grassing and met with the engineer on site. The grassed area at the west end has taken nicely but from around 55-59 eastwards has been very poor and has grown a fine crop of weeds. In many places the ground is bare and there is an area of ponding in a low spot not draining into the prepared sump. We are assured that the work will not be signed off while still unsatisfactory but there is no evidence so far of any remedial work and the damaged grass berms have not been touched. Work has not yet started on the steps.

Neville Tucker, the council staff member responsible for the road reserve aspects is to look into the replacement of picnic tables.

 *Main Road Master Plan* Peter will liaise with the CCC Project Manager Josh Neville on this on behalf of the RRA. They have spoken about the grass berms, the loose gravel and parking issues. **Action - Peter**

 *Community & social events, fundraising, newsletter* Chris reported on the last community event which was well attended and appreciated. Marie-Claude suggested holding more community events of a fun and artistic character and gave as example a possible night market in Beachville Road. There could be a fundraising element as this increases interest and involvement. She also suggested enhancing the use of the Facebook page. The committee was very happy to encourage and support these initiatives and offered practical support and funding if needed.

 *Website, email, communications.* Pat reported that that a new page has been added to the website for Emergency Response information.

  *Environment.*  Dave reported on Drayton Gully and the revegetation work is going well with a big team of volunteers and two more working bees. They have installed 17-18 rat traps and 8 possum traps. In December instead of a working bee there will be a reserve ramble with Colin Meurk on Sat 17th December at 2pm at the waterfall lookout.

9. General business.

 a. Grant application. The Secretary and Treasurer were asked to put in an application for funding for the 2017 running costs to the Community Board once the budget has been done.

 b. Interest will be sought from residents regarding the predator-free Port Hills project, with a view to encouraging residents to support a network of traps in their gardens throughout the district and not just in the reserves and on the fringes of the built area.

c. There was general discussion about the tsunami alert and evacuation and the need to encourage an organised response in Redcliffs, similar to the one in Mt Pleasant that proved so effective in providing welfare support to evacuated residents. Pat, Darren and Tony had attended the Mt Pleasant debrief. It was agreed to canvass interest and to start to gather information about vulnerable residents. Christine, Tony and Pat will attend the Civil Defence meeting at Sumner on 12th December.

d. Emma Lumb from the Redcliffs School BOT spoke about the work they were doing to contact immediately affected residents and try to mitigate the effects on them. She assured the committee that the BOT had tried their best to influence the Ministry to allow the school to return to the Main Road site.

 There was much discussion round what action, if any, the RRA could usefully take at this stage, bearing in mind that the decision of the Minister was final and that her other option if the park were deemed unsuitable might well be to permanently close the school. However the RRA has received a large amount of feedback on the issue from residents, (relative to other concerns in the community), and of the representations received they were almost unanimously opposed to the Ministry taking over Redcliffs Park by a factor of around ten to one. A number of immediate neighbours of the Park are very upset, but so are many others who use the area or value the open space and environmental aspects. Christine pointed out that she knew of a number of residents who were not opposed to the rebuild on the park and that careful planning might mitigate the adverse effects. Peter expressed his opinion that the return of the school was of such importance to the commercial and social survival of the area that this justified not advocating for keeping the park, in case the Ministry responded by closing the school. David felt that the letter was based on unsubstantiated assumptions that the park would be fenced off from public use and cease to be open space and a coastal amenity. Chris responded that schools normally had fences around them. Sara Templeton gave her opinion that any representation the RRA made on behalf of the residents was unlikely to have either a positive or negative effect on the likelihood of the Minister deciding to close the school, and was also very keen to make sure that residents who were impacted by the decision are heard. Pat felt that the RRA should publicly express the feeling of the great majority of those people who had taken the trouble to contact the Association to make their opinions heard, and that the MOE needed to know the impact on the community of their plans, and proposed the following motion which was seconded by Chris Doudney:

“Given the responses received from residents so far, we propose that the following letter be sent to the Ministry of Education:

“The Redcliffs Residents Association acknowledges the work the Ministry has put in with regard to returning Redcliffs Primary School to Redcliffs from its temporary home in Sumner. There is overwhelming local support for the School coming back to Redcliffs.

The RRA has however received responses from residents concerned about the plan for the Ministry to acquire Redcliffs Park and adjacent Council land for purpose of rebuilding the school. The Park is valued by the community as an open space and is well used by local residents and contains a playground, community pavilion, public toilets and playing fields. The Park is adjacent to the estuary and the Coastal Pathway and is an important part of the amenity of the area. It is used for large public events such as annual fairs, community events and the annual Fairfax and ASB Summer Starter run and walk which attracts large crowds.

Residents have pointed out some problems of using this site, including the majority of pupils having to cross a main road for access, and the potential for disruption due to flooding since the lower lying part of the site is flood prone and in a zone at risk of coastal erosion.

The RRA requests that in view of the disadvantages to the community of building on the Park, the Ministry should continue to investigate the option of retaining and extending the school on its Main Road site and consider designing a two storey building to make best use of the site and create the potential for growth in future. Although Redcliffs Park is a larger area than the school site and might thus theoretically have some advantages to the Crown for the school rebuild, it is felt locally that it is more appropriately kept as a public waterfront park. There is very limited flat land in Redcliffs suitable for this use.”

 This was put to the committee for a vote but was defeated by 4 votes to 3.

10. Other Business

 Tony Burns was nominated by Chris Doudney, seconded by Pat, to take over the position of Treasurer whenever Chris Bartlett found it convenient to hand over, and the committee endorsed this.

11.Next Committee Meeting will be held on 13th February 2017 (as 6th February is a public holiday) at 7.30pm at Redcliffs Library.