

Pāuatahanui Residents Association

Minutes of Committee Meeting



Date of meeting:	15 April 2026
Time:	7.30pm
Venue:	470 Paremata Road (Steph's Home)
Present:	Stephanie Manning [Acting Chairperson] Diane Strugnell [Secretary] Jo Cross [Treasurer] Richard Bourne Mary Jones Lisa Dymond
In Attendance:	Sam Dearsly Cr Ross Leggett
Apologies	Ken McAdam Pim Engels

Item	Minutes
1. Welcome	Steph welcomed attendees to the meeting.
2. Apologies	The apologies were noted.
3. Approval of Previous Minutes	Motion: That the minutes from the previous Committee meeting held on 3 March 2026 are a true and correct record. Moved: Lisa Seconded: Mary Carried
4. Matters Arising	It was agreed that all matters and action items arising would be addressed within the agenda.
5. Treasurer's Report	Jo presented the Treasurer's report for March 2026 PRA General a/c \$7580.94 includes:- PRA \$6346.31 Pest Free Pāuatahanui \$484.78 Freshwater Catchment \$799.85 History a/c \$9489.95 History term deposit \$13,203.30 Transactions PRA a/c Income Interest \$0.66

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6. Topical Issues	<p>Expenses Bank fees \$10.00</p> <p>History a/c Income Interest income \$0.83</p> <p>It was noted that 1 April is the commencement of PRA's financial year with 2026-27 membership fees now due. It was agreed that these would remain at \$20 per household. A reminder will be sent out with the minutes.</p> <p>Esplanade Reserves & Strips</p> <p>PRA Committee members have had a further meeting with PCC on 1 April - summary notes attached. Good progress continues to be made as we work with Derek Kerite (Manager, Resource Consents & Monitoring), Stuart Smith (Team Leader, Resource Consents) and Matt Hoffman (Principle Resource Planner Parks) around meeting the requirements under the RMA for the establishment of an Esplanade Reserve or an Esplanade Strip when residents are wishing to undertake a subdivision resulting in lot sizes less than 4ha. Meanwhile Council has also held an internal meeting on the issue with officers from the Policy and Parks teams, affirming the need for a guideline document and potential Council strategy. Further meetings between PRA and PCC are scheduled, the next meeting to be held on 21 April.</p> <p>Meanwhile PRA has been working with a local family and PCC over the past two months regarding PCC riparian planting requirements that resulted from their subdivision application. From the outset the rationale for planting was not made clear either verbally or in print, especially as the stream on the property, being less than 3 metres in width, did not trigger the Esplanade Reserve/Strip requirement. Eventually it was understood that the riparian requirements for the subdivision consent were being applied as this subdivision was a Discretionary Activity. This meant that Council had full discretion to impose offsetting conditions - conditions set to manage potential adverse environmental effects "in accordance with the relevant policies."</p> <p>A summary report of this very successful exercise between residents and PCC officers is attached. Given the good example of collaboration from this engagement, PRA will suggest to the Council that negotiation skill training for officers engaging with residents would be useful.</p> <p>Lanes Flat Work & Transmission Gully Impacts</p> <p>Progress on the work on Lanes Flat was noted including on the new NZTA Operations Centre and the pedestrian pathway and bridge. Questions remain regarding the impacts of these works on the flood plain for the Pāuatahanui Stream.</p> <p>State Highway 58 Safety Upgrade</p> <p>The ongoing progress on the SH58 Safety Upgrade, particularly at the two roundabout intersections, was noted.</p> <p>Quotable Value NZ</p> <p>As agreed at the March meeting, PRA wrote to the Auditor-General asking for a clear explanation of the valuation approach used for our area and the data relied upon in determining those valuations. The Auditor-General responded that this was not something that their office could assist with, noting that QV is responsible for determining its approach to valuations, and the Auditor-General does not have any power to change what a public entity is doing. Instead PRA received a response from David Nagel, Chief Commercial Officer, QV. This prompted PRA to write a further letter to QV asking exactly what additional datasets have</p>

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	<p>been used in the valuation process and what weighting factors have been applied to the different data sets and for which areas.</p> <p>A response from QV has now been received to the latest information request. This noted that the proposed revaluation file is currently at audit with the Office of the Valuer General and should be completed over the next few weeks. This will result in the certification of the Porirua City 2025 revaluation process, followed closely by the public release of the new valuations.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the offer from QV of a workshop for the Committee with the Council and the likely time frame for valuations being sent to residents. It was agreed that it would be helpful to have the workshop in order to provide residents with relevant information so that, on the receipt of their property valuations, residents will be able to choose whether or not they wish to object to the valuation and on what basis the objections can be made. PRA will write to Graeme Grieve, Principal Analyst (Financial), PCC, asking about timing of the valuation releases and a date for the workshop.</p> <p>7. Reports</p> <p>Pest Free Pāuatahanui Jo reported that she is continuing to receive enquiries for traps. PFP has a number of traps for sale or for loan including Possum master \$50 - traps possums, mustelids, rats and feral cats. BT200 \$91.50 - traps mustelids, rats, hedgehogs Long Rat Tunnel (LRT) - catches rats and mice \$15pa Doc or BT200- catches rats, mustelids, hedgehogs \$25pa Trapinator - catches possums \$25pa Live Cat cage returnable deposit \$100=, \$10 per week</p> <p>Freshwater Catchment Community Diane reported that the annual dung beetle monitoring has just been completed. There are signs of beetles at most of the release sites as well as an increasing number of reports of beetles being found at other properties, most noticeably those with horses. The eDNA results from the sampling undertaken on the Horokiri Stream in November are still being analysed and will be shared once the analysis is complete. Meanwhile, Greater Wellington's Te Awarua o Porirua Catchment team has approached the group about what support from the Regional Council might be most helpful to the group.</p> <p>Willowbank Quarry Community Liaison Group The quarry held an open day on 28 March. This gave residents an opportunity to view the site and see some of the machinery. Feedback received was positive.</p>
<p>8. General Business</p>	<p>Micky's Resignation The Committee has, with regret, accepted Micky Reilly's resignation from the PRA Committee. Micky has been a member of the Committee since March 2019 and has made a valuable contribution especially through her representation for PRA to the Friends of Pāuatahanui Burial Ground and her keen interest in local history.</p> <p>Note: Subsequent communication with Micky has indicated that she is happy to continue to represent PRA and provide a report to PRA Committee meetings on matters associated with the Burial ground. She will also ensure that PRA gets a copy of the minutes from Daniel Chrisp, PCC Manager Cemeteries, so that if PRA needs to be present at a meeting or to have communications regarding Burial Ground matters we can do so.</p>

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	<p>Communications with Council</p> <p>PRA has written to the Council on two matters to which responses have not been received. These were</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 27 February to ask why the large green rubbish bin in the Village, near the path to the underpass, was removed and - 12 March enquiring about the possibility of installing a sign and/or a camera at “Chicken Corner” on Paekākāriki Hill Road to deter illegal dumping. <p>PRA will follow up on both queries.</p> <p>Annual General Meeting</p> <p>The 2026 PRA Annual General Meeting has been set for Tuesday 28 July 7.00pm. The school will be approached as a possible venue for this year given the roadworks on SH58 making the entrance to Judgeford Golf Club more challenging. Wellington Electricity has agreed to be the key speaker, providing an update on the Pāuatahanui Network improvements. Short presentations are also planned from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greater Wellington Park Rangers providing an update on Battle Hill and Belmont Regional Parks and - Electrify Porirua, a volunteer-run community group whose mission is to help Porirua residents to save money, cut emissions, and build a more resilient community by making the switch to efficient electric appliances, vehicles, and adding solar and battery. <p>Pāuatahanui History Trail app</p> <p>In 2021 Porirua City Council launched the Discover Porirua app which included the Pāuatahanui History Trail. A recent update to the app accidentally removed much of the information associated with Pāuatahanui History Trail. This has now been corrected and this part of the app is available. In discussing the app with Reuben Friend, General Manager, Community & Partnerships, PCC, there is the possibility of extending the app to include historic sites in the wider Pāuatahanui area such as the old tennis courts opposite Battle Hill, the US army camps at Judgeford and Motukaraka Point, the associated 'tank trap' on Moonshine Road, the tea rooms at the top of Paekākāriki Hill Road. PRA will do more research into what sites might exist and how these might be included in the app.</p> <p>9. Still “on the radar”</p> <p>The following are still being considered by PRA but with nothing active to report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engine braking within the Village - Village culverts - Replacement of the defibrillator at the Light House Cinema - In person time with Council officers including addressing Council processes - Community resilience and emergency communications <p>10. Correspondence</p> <p>The following correspondence was noted</p> <p>Micky Reilly - Resignation from PRA Committee Denise Landow, NZTA - SH58 Safety Upgrade works Belinda McKenzie-Dodds - Roadworks notices Patric Lane, NZTA Communications, - Village pathways & bridge Donna Ford-Tuveve, Office of Barbara Edmonds, MP - LIM inaccuracies David Nagel, Chief Commercial Officer, QV - Property valuations Shane Hagai, Quarry Manager, Willowbank Quarry - Quarry open day Te Wāhi Tiaki Tātou, Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira - Newsletter Dave Hadfield - Pāuatahanui bridge & shared pathway</p>

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	<p>Chris Darnell, Whitby Residents Association - Street name changes Gavin Bird, Customer Experience Specialist, Wellington Electricity - Network upgrade Gerry Dysart - Paekākāriki Hill Animal Pest Control Group Claire Johnstone, GW Councillor - WCC Rates document, Village culverts Kate Scott - Electrify Porirua Mel Branch, GW Senior Catchment Advisor - Harbour clean up event</p> <p>Residents - Village culvert, SH58 Safety upgrade, Tiaki Wai Metro Water</p> <p>PCC - Nic Ethridge - General Manager, Policy, Planning & Regulatory Services - Council processes, Esplanade Reserves & strips Derek Kerite - Esplanade Reserves & strips Reuben Friend - General Manager, Community & Partnerships - History trail app Leonie McPhail, Manager Building Assurance Culverts project team - Fortnightly updates Removal of Village Rubbish bin Security camera</p> <p>PCC Democratic Services – Council meeting documents</p> <p>To Community March Minutes Road notifications SH58 Updates Quarry open day invitation</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Total emails inwards 116 Total emails outwards 78</p>

11. Meeting Close 9.35 pm

12. Next Committee Meeting Tuesday 19 May 7.30pm at Jo's

Approved by: Ken McAdam Chairperson, Pāuatahanui Residents Association Committee

Notes from PCC - PRA Meeting 1 April 2026

The following is a summary from the meeting held on 1 April with representatives from PCC and PRA on Esplanade Reserves & Esplanade Strips

Stream width measuring

PCC are still waiting for a response from Stantec re the stream measuring. The request is for a process that

- is easy and provides a rapid decision
- the criteria will be shared with Council staff and landowners
- the assessment will be able to be carried out by a resident and/or by a Council officer and ideally agreed on without the need for engaging costly third party assessments

It was noted that over time the need for stream width assessment should lessen as more assessments are done e.g. if a property is downstream from one that meets the 3m threshold then any assessment is unlikely to have a different outcome.

From PCC

- Nic Etheridge and Mike Mendonca are working for consistency across the Council departments i.e. the Consents team and the Parks team
- The meetings with PRA are viewed as positive and should continue with the aim of establishing a clear pathway for residents and Council officers when considering a subdivision consent application
- Council is working to develop a strategy around waterways. This will align with the Harbour Accord to which Council is a signatory.
- For activities that are Discretionary, the Council has the discretion to consider any of the factors outlined within the relevant District Plan Policy statements and to accept or decline a consent based on these. For offsetting requirements, where there is a waterway that is not going to be the subject of an esplanade reserve or strip, the key policies are SUB-P1.3 and SUB-P9.5 There are no rules associated with these policies.
- It is noted that the NPS Indigenous Biodiversity has come in since the operational DP was developed.

PRA is looking for

- Consistency of practise i.e. regardless of individuals, that is either Council officers or residents, the outcome for a consent application should be clear, reasoned and consistent
- The work currently being undertaken by Council and PRA will provide a background and precedent for potential future changes to the District Plan / Plan Changes, acknowledging that the ability to subdivide below 4ha has brought circumstances and challenges that were not foreseen

- The “wider picture” needs to be considered — particularly if the overarching objective is to improve stream and harbour health, noting:-
 - whilst the RMA trigger for Reserves or Strips might be subdivision at 4ha, this, in itself, does not necessarily lead to the most effective outcomes for waterway protection. Is there an alignment of stream health outcomes with section size e.g. at 1ha, 4ha, or >4ha?
 - “perverse outcomes” need to be avoided e.g. where the imposition of reserve requirements may discourage subdivision altogether, resulting in no stream protection being achieved.

There is acknowledgement that we are all working towards achievable, agreed outcomes that enable subdivision and protect/improve stream and harbour health.

We have forwarded a copy of the process steps that we, PRA, have put together as our understanding to date. Council will review these and work with PCC communications team to develop this further.

2026 15 April PRA - Report to Committee meeting

Riparian Planting Requirement – The outcome of a recent process

Over the past two months PRA committee members have been working with a local family regarding PCC riparian planting requirements that resulted from their subdivision application.

The family was at an impasse with PCC regarding specific requirements for riparian planting including the extent and scope of this. From the outset the rationale for planting was not made clear either verbally or in print, especially as the stream on the property, being less than 3 metres in width, did not trigger the Esplanade Reserve/Strip requirement.

Eventually it was understood that the riparian requirements for the subdivision consent were being applied as this subdivision was a Discretionary Activity. This meant that Council had full discretion to impose offsetting conditions - conditions set to manage potential adverse environmental effects "in accordance with the relevant policies."

We began by working with the family directly to fully understand their concerns and determine their needs and the "non-negotiables" for their property. We then organised a meeting with the family and a team of PCC officers on site. There was a very frank, open and productive discussion, led by the PCC senior Manager. All parties fully contributed and offered ideas and solutions.

At the conclusion both parties were in agreement about the needs of the family, as well as the scope of Council's requirement for riparian planting.

The two PRA committee members involved then carried out an on-site scoping of the area for planting, and prepared a specific riparian planting proposal on behalf of the family. This included the mutually agreed aspects and linked directly to the RMA requirements, the District plan and an assessment of the environmental effects. This proposal was submitted to PCC and was immediately accepted.

The family have now completed the required fencing, and planting and have met all of their requirements for the consent.

This has been a very successful exercise, and is a very good example of collaboration and negotiation between residents and PCC officers to understand, respond to, and resolve concerns. The quality of the conversation with the family and PCC staff, with PRA providing advocacy and support, enabled a respectful and solution-focussed environment which resulted in an outcome that met the needs of all parties, and has enabled these residents to complete their subdivision.

We recognise and acknowledge the positive relationship between PCC and PRA – this was a key element in the successful outcome. This has developed through all of our interactions and deliberations with the PCC team this year and bodes very well for our future engagements.

Mary Jones/Diane Strugnell