

Minutes of 32nd Russell Protection Society AGM 5pm Thurs 4th January 2018 at Christ Church Hall

1. Present: Bob Drey, Mark de Courcy, Doris Liow, Brad Mercer, Margot Forrest, Maggie Sales, Kiki Nicolson, David Nicolson, Ines Piroth, John Maxwell, Christine Aronson, Heather Lindauer, David McKenzie. Adrian Morrison, John Davies, John Fielding, Sandra Egan

Apologies: PJ Jones, Lindsay Family, K de Courcy, C Smith, H & B Fisher

2. Guest Speaker-Kate Martin: Russell Museum re-development is a complex project that is important to Russell and the Far North generally. Draft plans are available at the Museum for viewing and there is a book to record comments in. Current Museum is run down and the shop, exhibition and conservation spaces are no longer fit for purpose. The new design uses existing footprint and is based around the concept of a boat shed. The exterior cladding and colour are still being determined. The new entrance is closer to The Strand and links to the adjoining Reserve. More space would be provided for conservation work and offices. Elements of the exterior design are still a work in progress and have not been finalised yet.

3. Discussion: Question was asked about why white weatherboards aren't being proposed. Comments were made that proposed design does not fit in or replicate anything existing in Russell. It was claimed that the design is more suitable for Auckland, with its slab sides. York Street side of building is of most concern. Existing buildings in Russell were described as inviting and the proposed Museum as forbidding. Cost of building was queried and figure of about \$8 million given. Concern that 20 years ago a proposed upgrade of the Museum was voted down by the Community and Trustees don't want a repeat. Question of whether the Resource Consent Application will be notified? Consultation will include Russell Lights articles and opportunities to view plans at the Museum and make comments there, but no commitment to notify. Value was seen in consulting as widely as possible rather than stage managing the process. The 2019 Captain Cook commemorations seen as an opportunity for building fund raising.

4. Previous minutes: The minutes of the 2017 AGM were unanimously confirmed (Maggie/Brad)

5. Matters arising: None

6. Treasurer's report: Figures are in good shape. Website upgrade discussed. Resolution – Authorisation to spend up to \$1500 to engage the services of a website designer. (Bob/Brad)

7. Chairperson's report: Refer to separate report. Topics covered include Russell Community Plan, Sewerage Scheme, responses to Resource Consent Applications, future of The Strand, the proposed Russell Museum redevelopment and work of RPS Committee.

8. Subscriptions: Remain the same at \$25 for a single and \$30 for a family (2) (Cris/John)

9. Election of officers: Bob, Mark, Kiki, Maggie, Brad, Cris & Doug (Unanimous). Secretary position to be shared among members. Mark to retain Treasurers role. He was presented with a gift as thanks for years of outstanding service to the Society.

10. General business: Discussion regarding the merits of pedestrianising The Strand. Proposal is for a gradual approach of initially just closing one arm over the summer months and, if successful, then expanding it to the other arm over a longer period. Properties with access from The Strand and the tourist bus would still be allowed access at all times. It was noted that major European countries are rapidly pedestrianising their inner cities. Suggestion of having a survey or petition to

gain traction on this issue. The results of the recent Russell Community Plan survey may assist in this regard.

Meeting closed at 7pm