

(Draft) Minutes of the Special General Meeting of the Piha Ratepayers & Residents Association held on the 27th July at Barnett Hall, Piha Community Centre, Piha, at 3pm

Purpose of the Special General Meeting: To discuss and make decisions regarding the future of the Piha postal service and location.

Present: Approx. 50 members

Apologies: Sandra Coney, Peter Hosking, Jane Walters, Yvonne Dufaur, Jane Caley, Geoff Calvert, Sue Dunne, Betty Hanson, Mary Mead, Norma Woodall, Shirley Atkinson.

President Tony Dunn chaired the meeting and outlined the current situation.

- The Piha Post Office is one of only 3 community run post offices in NZ and the only one owned by an R&R Assn.
- Piha R&R has a contract with NZ Post. Mail is sorted daily and put into the 150 postal boxes which are owned by Piha R&R.
- Piha R&R has the support from NZ Post
- Postal service is a non-profit operation. Box rental is \$60 p/year. NZ Post pays for mail handling and discount on stamps. Post mistress is an employee of Piha R&R.
- Short lease has prevented investment in expansion of services.
- Piha postal service currently operating in the building on a 2 weeks notice condition.
- Piha R&R now charged rent for the building it cannot afford.

The chair proposed to discuss the issues in two stages: a) service and b) location

a) POSTAL SERVICE

Discussion was held on the possibility of separating the postal boxes from the counter services. Points raised:

- A person is needed to fill the boxes
- The current rural delivery postman not able to fill the boxes.
- Can boxes be contracted out? If community doesn't want to run eh boxes NZ Post might or might not be interested.
- Social/cultural value of full postal service in one location
- Not appropriate for a political group such as an R&R Assn. to run a business such as a post office.
- Counter service used by bach owners who divert mail in summertime
- NZ boxes run by NZ Post would be more expensive

Financial viability was discussed. The Piha Post Office has been making a profit of approx. \$3000,- to \$4,000,- a year without paying rent. It has accumulated funds of \$13,000,- in its P.O. account. Current profit margin would not cover current rent.

Murdoch (?) pledges a \$3000,- donation to cover shortfall in rent.

Motion: That the Piha R&R Assn. continues to provide a full postal service in Piha
T.Dunn/B.Holt

**42 in favour
9 against
4 abstain
CARRIED**

b) LOCATION

President Tony Dunn informed the meeting there were two options for relocation: either on private land or on public land. Piha R&R had investigated various locations in 'downtown' Piha. WCC has approved the use of a cabin on the campground as a temporary solution for \$55 p/week.

Various location options were discussed. Options noted were:

- 1) Caravan, 2) Cabin, 3) School board land 4) Library 5) Barnett Hall 6) Piha Store offer at \$45 p/week
- 7) Shirley Atkinson offer 8) Stay put and pay rent until Environment Court decision.

Discussion followed on the question of ownership of the building. Piha R&R is in possession of a letter from Telecom that says Piha R&R owns the building. Telecom offered Piha R&R \$5000,- to move the building. But Telecom sold land + building to Preserve Piha Ltd.

Motion: That Piha R&R Assn. seek legal opinion in regard to the ownership of the Post Office building

B.Carroll/G.Cleghorn

CARRIED

Motion: That Piha R&R tries to retain ownership of the Post Office building or failing that, seeks financial compensation

K.Dewar/J.Kingston

CARRIED

Representatives of Preserve Piha Ltd. addressed the meeting and declared that Piha R&R can continue its postal services from the Post Office building until the Environment Court Decision. They further confirmed the building will not be sold until the Environment Court decision.

Motion: That Piha R&R Assn. thank Preserve Piha Ltd. for the rent free use of the site over the past 2 years

J.Woodhouse/G.Cotton

CARRIED

It was suggested a donation box be put in the Post Office to contribute to the rent
Meeting Closed at 5.15pm