

**Date:** Monday 14 March 2016  
**Time:** 6.00pm  
**Meeting Room:** Howick Local Board Meeting Room  
**Venue:** Pakuranga Library Complex  
7 Aylesbury Street  
Pakuranga

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## Howick Local Board

# OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

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14/3/16 Public Forum

FIRST—I HAVE A LITTLE DITTY FOR YOU

The time has come Nicolson said

To talk of many things

Of Halls and seniors and being taxed

Of rent increases, council and things

And why I would like to suggest

A low increase ~~may make us all sing~~ <sup>OUR HEART</sup>

But wait a bit Nicolson cried

Before we have our chat

For some of us are out of our depth

And monies can't be pulled from a hat

Last year increase 10% said the Chair

And so it was passed—take that.

A meeting was held late last year of Renters and SOME Councillors. Subject: Concern that there is such a LARGE LOSS of groups (used to be 21 groups) and subsequent loss of income for the Local Board. I asked what rent was lost from these 9 groups leaving, but there was no answer. Concern too that there was inequality in rent between Groups. A suggestion of making all renters pay \$10. an hour was discussed. A small gain for the Local Board if that was done. And equality. But the Local Board stated that renters would lose our legacy agreement. Then the Chairman of the Local Board asked what was an affordable rent increase. 7-8% was answered. But that still leaves the inequality of rents. Some senior groups closed down because unaffordability of rent. WHAT TO DO. Careful consideration must be the answer. Our groups on average are small, but too big to meet in a home. And a majority of renters are SENIORS.

Nixon Hall and our renters were given legal status of the Hall some 20 plus years ago. Why— because the once Ladies Bowling club stood empty. No one wanted it. So a deal was struck. The Lion's Club and the Howick Friendship Force were asked to form a Hall Committee and would be given 'legal status'. The Hall Committee re-designed the Hall and made it suitable for other clubs to use, set rent, find and interview perspective renters and take care of the Hall. THAT TOO WAS IN OUR LEGACY AGREEMENT. The Hall has been successful for years. I will admit being SHOCKED last year to discover the differences of rents. Originally it was supposed to be the same rent across the board. I assumed incorrectly.

The Lions' Club (numbering 30) raises monies for community actives and charities and these very persons that work so hard for the community are paying the highest rent of all the groups \$18

something for the Hall out of THEIR OWN POCKETS. Then there's the Toastmasters that pay the least \$3. something. WHY? I ASK YOU IS THIS FAIR?

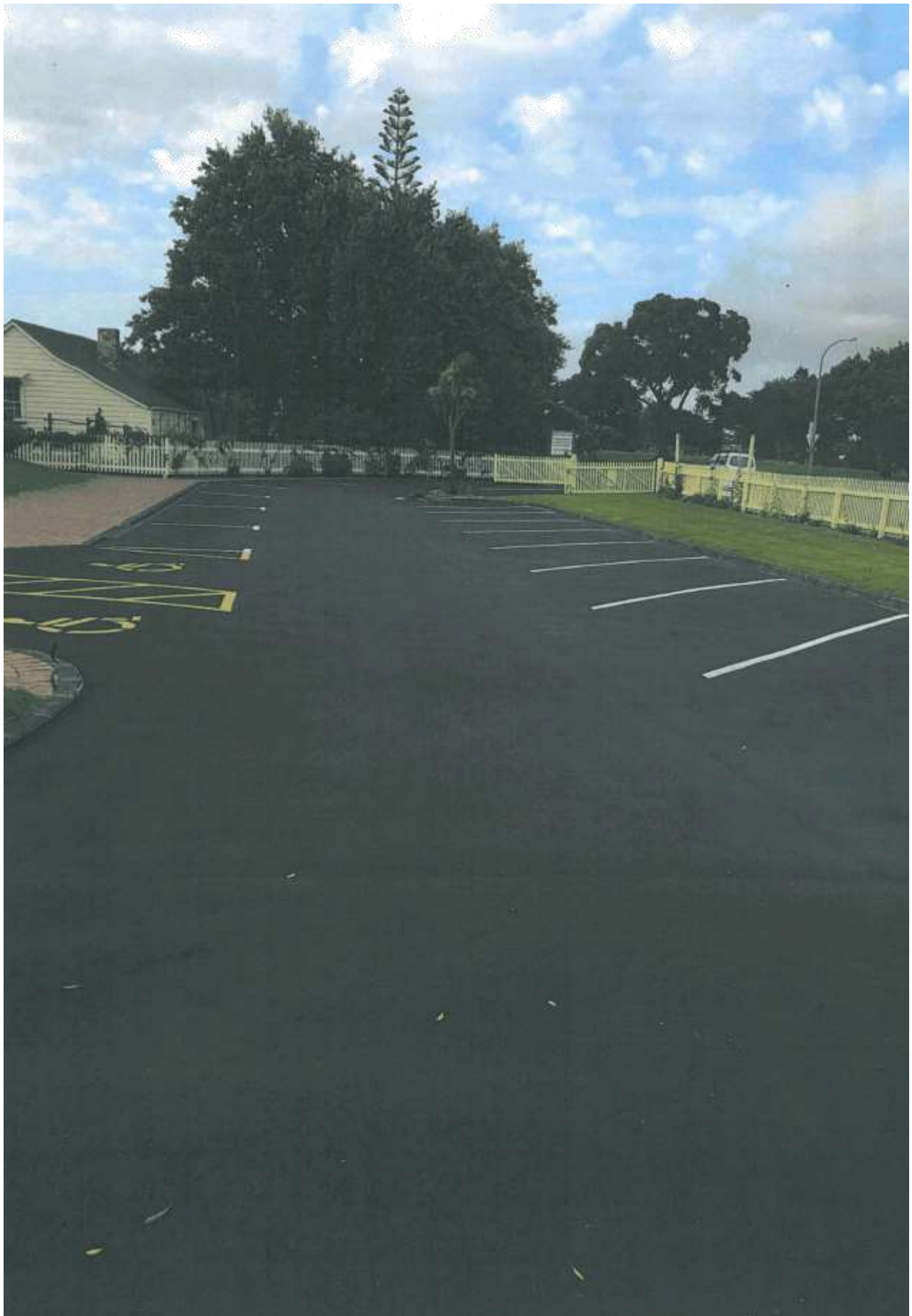
History has a funny way of repeating itself. Nixon Hall no one wanted. At this time I know of one group that will be shutting up by June and two others very worried about the increase of rent and a Church group finding rent a problem—If these groups leave, that will take the number of renters down to 8 and soon we will be back to where this all started. I can't say that I have seen a queue lining up to use the Hall. AN EMPTY HALL DOESN'T MAKE MONEY AND ENCOURAGES VANDALISUM AND GRAFFITI.

The Local Board's aim is to encourage community involvement and the use of community facilities. Consider wisely please.



Item 9.3

Attachment A







Item 9.3

Attachment A

