

Minutes of a meeting of the Maungatautari Reserve Committee held in the Committee Room, Cambridge Service Centre, 23 Wilson Street, Cambridge on Wednesday 13 June 2007 commencing at 9.00am.

1 PRESENT

Councillor RJ Cooper - Chairperson

Members

Councillor GC Flay (Waipa District Council) – from item 7, S Mackinder (Landowner representative), JB Mylchreest (Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust), R Smith (Parawera Marae), P Tairi (Maungatautari Marae) – from item 7, B Townend (Landowner representative)

Staff

Project Manager – Heritage Development & Reserves Planning (T Roxburgh), Secretary (C Plowright)

Committee Member Smith opened the meeting with a Karakia.

2 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

10/07/18

That apologies for absence be received from Mayor Livingston.

J Mylchreest/S Mackinder

3 LATE ITEMS

Nil.

4 CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF MEETING

File: 01-85-26

RESOLVED

10/0719

That the order of the meeting be confirmed.

J Mylchreest/S Mackinder

5 VISITORS

Nil.

6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

File: 01-85-26

Minutes of meeting held on 11 April 2007 were included in the agenda.

RESOLVED

10/07/20

That the minutes of the meeting of the Maungatautari Reserve Committee held on 11 April 2007 be received.

J Mylchreest/S Mackinder

Committee Member Mylchreest said Council has approved the funding for construction of the toilets on the southern side of Maungatautari and they are expected onsite any day.

7 MAUNGATAUTARI RESERVE COMMITTEE – OFFICER’S REPORT

File: 01-85-26

Report of Project Manager – Heritage Development and Reserves Planning dated 8 June 2007 was included in the agenda.

RESOLVED

10/07/21

That the report of Project Manager – Heritage Development and Reserves Planning dated 8 June 2007 be received.

R Smith/B Townend

[Councillor Flay joined the meeting at 9.07am.]

Project Manager – Heritage Development and Reserves Planning, Tony Roxburgh, said Council’s Policy Committee approved the draft Maungatautari Scenic Reserve Bylaw at its meeting on 11 June 2007 and it will shortly be released for public consultation. Some work will be required to identify the public access points and address security (prevent introduction of pests) issues, plus the appointment of rangers to enforce the Bylaw.

Mr Roxburgh said the Policy Committee felt the penalties for contravening the Bylaw are not very high and do not acknowledge the value of the fencing project or would act as much of a deterrent. He said the Committee resolved that Council approach the Ministries concerned, asking for a review of the penalties contained with the Reserves Act 1977, and that they be upgraded to reflect the seriousness of potential crimes.

Committee Member Mylchreest asked if training courses are available for rangers and Mr Roxburgh advised it would be up to MEIT to organise training as this is no longer available from DOC. He said there are also members of Council staff who are able to enforce Bylaws.

[Committee Member Tairi joined the meeting at 9.15am.]

In answer to a question from Committee Member Tairi, Mr Roxburgh said it will be necessary to inspect the viewing tower every six – twelve months for the first two years and more frequently from that point on. Committee Member Mylchreest said advice received is that thorough inspections involving core sampling of the timber would be required after the first two years to guarantee the safety of the structure. He said MEIT has been inspecting the tower on a monthly basis to ensure the bolts have not worked loose.

There was lengthy discussion concerning the poison spills that occurred during the second poison drop resulting from incorrect procedures being used. Mr Roxburgh said affected landowners have asked Council for support to ensure this doesn't happen again and have raised issues relating to access for maintenance of the fence. He said it is hoped some of those issues will be addressed when Council looks at the use of covenants and Environmental Protection Lots (EPLs) in these areas. Committee Member Mylchreest updated those present about the incident. He said the Food Safety Authority has assured MEIT that it acted properly and nothing has shown up in the affected stock to indicate poisoning.

Mr Roxburgh said Council has employed consultants to progress the Plan Change that will allow the use of EPLs to acknowledge the contribution landowners have made towards the fencing project. He said a letter is being sent to affected landowners in the next few weeks explaining the purpose of the proposed Plan Change and providing them with draft criteria for the allocation of EPLs. It was explained that, in order to qualify for an EPL, the land enclosed by and under the fence must be covenanted. Mr Roxburgh said the consultant will meet with the affected landowners to talk through the detail, and hopefully obtain positive feedback, before progressing with the Plan Change. It is expected this process will take several weeks. Committee Member Mylchreest said the landowners he has spoken to are supportive of the Plan Change and keen to see it implemented.

In answer to a question from Committee Member Smith, Mr Roxburgh said some of the largest blocks of land affected by the fencing project are in Maori ownership, and would qualify for both a QEII Trust Covenant and potentially a Kawenata Agreement. The latter offers the opportunity for compensation through the Ngā Whenua Rahui fund.

Committee Member Tairi said he would be meeting with Greg Martin later in the day concerning some of the Maori owned blocks within the reserve.

There was discussion about whether the current Memorandum of Understanding between Council and MEIT should be reviewed, now that a number of its key outcomes have been met, or whether another mechanism, such as a contract agreement, should replace it. Mr Roxburgh said he would present the Committee with a number of scenarios for consideration at its next meeting resulting in a possible recommendation to Council.

8 PROGRESS REPORT FROM MAUNGATAUTARI ECOLOGICAL ISLAND TRUST

File: 01-85-26

Progress Report from the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust dated 6 June 2007 was included in the agenda.

RESOLVED

10/07/22

That the progress report from the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust dated 6 June 2007 be received.

B Townend/S Mackinder

Committee Member Mylchreest said MEIT is now waiting for the next spell of fine weather for the third poison drop. If this cannot be achieved before 20 July it may need to be delayed until after the lambing season. The Committee was updated on MEIT's pest monitoring activities and the recent release of Kaka into the new aviary.

There was discussion about the use of tags on trees to mark out the tracks required for monitoring work and the concern raised recently that this is culturally inappropriate. Committee Member Mylchreest said the matter had been brought to his attention and MEIT are investigating other options. Mr Roxburgh said MEIT has followed the same practice used by DOC throughout New Zealand and Committee Member Mackinder said that method of marking has always been used on the main track across the mountain without any complaint. Committee Member Smith explained why that type of marking is culturally insensitive to Maori. Mr Roxburgh said he would contact DOC Head Office to see if other marking systems have been considered.

Responding to a question from Councillor Flay, Committee Member Mylchreest spoke about the visitor centre facilities envisaged for Maungatautari. He said it will need to cater for 60,000 – 70,000 visitors per year and would have people on site to talk about the project and provide guided walks through the enclosures. He said MEIT's offices would eventually be relocated there and it is possible upgraded public toilet facilities would be included.

9 PROTECTING OUR PLACES – INFORMATION ABOUT THE STATEMENT OF NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR PROTECTING RARE AND THREATENED BIODIVERSITY ON PRIVATE LAND

File: 01-85-26

Documents published by the Ministry of the Environment in April 2007 were provided for the Committee's information.

RESOLVED

10/07/23

That the information be received.

J Mylchreest/Cr Flay

There being no further business the meeting closed with a karakia at 11.07am.

CHAIRPERSON _____

DATE _____

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Next meeting: 9.00am on Wednesday 1 August 2007 in the Committee Room, Cambridge