

WAIPA HERITAGE COUNCIL MINUTES 24 JANUARY 2008

*Minutes of a meeting of the Waipa Heritage Council held in
Committee Room One, Waipa District Council, 101 Bank Street, Te Awamutu
on Thursday, 24 January 2008, commencing at 10.00am*

1 PRESENT

Members

Barbara Taranaki	Waipa District Councillor(Chairperson)
Alan Livingston	His Worship the Mayor [from 10.23am]
Eris Parker	Cambridge Museum/Cambridge Historical Society
Bev Dean	Cambridge Museum/Cambridge Historical Society
Jennie Gainsford	New Zealand Historic Places Trust/Cambridge Historical Society
Mary Hurst	Te Awamutu Historical Society
Alan Hall	Pirongia Historic Visitor Centre
Mike Vincent	New Zealand Historic Places Trust [from 10.38am]
Heather Garrett	Te Pahu District
Max Quirk	Kihikihi District

In Attendance

Tony Roxburgh, Project Manager Heritage Development and Reserves
Planning
Stephanie Lambert, Te Awamutu Museum
Noelene Barr, Committee Secretary

Public

Nil

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence have been received from Annie Fullerton, Sabina Owen and Neville Ritchie; and for lateness from Mike Vincent.

3 LATE ITEMS

The following late items were requested -

- Dairy at Whare Ora, Cambridge
- 36 Hall Street - Resource Consent to establish a child care centre
- Representative to the Waipa Biodiversity Committee
- Waipa Heritage Trail Brochures

4 CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF MEETING

File: 65-11-02

RESOLVED

That the order of the meeting be confirmed

Hall/Deans

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5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

File: 65-11-02

Minutes of Meeting held on 15 November 2007 were included in the agenda.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Waipa Heritage Council held on 15 November 2007, having been circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record.

Hurst/Garrett

Matters Arising

5.1 Major Jackson's House

As all requirements have been met from Council's perspective, any heritage issues should be discussed with Mike Vincent of New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

6 MEMBERS REPORTS

This item enables members to discuss issues in relation to the organisation/district they represent on the Heritage Council.

6.1 Waipa District Council (Mayor Alan Livingston, Councillor Barbara Taranaki)

Former Councillor Ron Cooper passed away very suddenly; a card will be sent to his family on behalf of this Council.

The celebration of the centenary of Victoria Bridge was held on 15 December – Eris Parker circulated photographs. A plaque has been erected to acknowledge the bridge as a heritage site.

Councillors are working on the annual plan to which the Waipa Heritage Council could make a submission.

Mary Hurst queried the line of approach to staff from the Te Awamutu Historical Society point of view, when discussing the working of the museum etc regarding the annual plan. General discussion ensued concerning the vacant position of Heritage and Museums Manager and the length of time it is taking Council to find a suitable appointee.

There was also discussion concerning an inventory of heritage sites to alert Council staff to existing and previous sites and to be available to community organisations. Heather Garrett provided to Council staff a list of buildings built in 1907.

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Mike Vincent was welcomed to the Council as a representative of New Zealand Historic Places Trust. Mike previously worked for the Thames Coromandel District Council as a Policy Planner and assisted with heritage strategy.

6.2 Te Awamutu Museum (Stephanie Lambert)

Staff are preparing an exhibition relating to the North Island Main Trunk rail line which will open in April to commemorate the centennial. As there is not a lot of material on hand it is an opportunity to borrow items from other organisations, such as a documentary from Television New Zealand, a radio sound clip and oral history. There will be a commemorative run of the first rail trip and an event will be held at the museum to coincide with this on 8 August 2008. It is an opportunity for Te Awamutu to commemorate this event, similar to what occurred recently for the centennial of Victoria Bridge in Cambridge.

RESOLVED

That a letter is written to the Chief Executive to alert him to what is proposed and the significance of the main trunk line, and that Council initiate a civic function or public promotion of the event.

Livingston/Hurst

6.3 Te Awamutu Historical Society (Mary Hurst)

There has been no response as yet for someone to attend Council's Levels of Service meeting.

Mary was advised that the signage for the Mission House will be erected soon.

6.4 Cambridge Museum/Cambridge Historical Society (Eris Parker, Bev Dean, Jennie Gainsford)

An afternoon was held in December for the volunteers; the celebration of the Victoria Bridge centenary was a big occasion which was very enjoyable and photos are now being displayed in the museum. There have been a lot of out of town visitors along with queries for the public toilet as the sign was pointing in the wrong direction. Eris has been in contact with Sonia Frimmell regarding a historic sign by the bridge.

Council staff have indicated that the Memorandum of Understanding will be initiated in a move forward for the museum to become part of Council.

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6.5 NZ Historic Places Trust (Jennie Gainsford)

There has not been a lot of activity due to holidays; the office will be open on Tuesdays to enable public to do research.

Jennie Gainsford expressed concerns at the lack of activity at the National Hotel and the continued neglect which could result in vandalism and an expectation that the building should be demolished.

There was general discussion concerning the demise of heritage buildings in general and who should buy these buildings when they are threatened with demolition.

The National Hotel forms an essential part of the history of Cambridge along with the town hall and cenotaph.

Local townspeople have considered the hotel to create restaurants and offices but have not progressed the idea because of cost implications.

Mike Vincent will discuss this issue with Gail Henry and provide an update at the next meeting.

6.6 Pirongia Historic Visitor Centre (Alan Hall)

Visitor numbers have recovered since the completion of the streetscape and recorded the best December in three years. There has also been an increase in the number of groups which have been taken for walks around the redoubts.

A very successful barbeque was held for members. Currently maintenance work is being carried out on the windows of the building with a view to installing sun filters to protect display material from the sun. A grant will cover this and enable the employment of a person to create an inventory of material held.

There is work being carried out on the signage in front of the building to bring attention to the information centre; the historic and heritage maps are to be updated along with a contemporary map of Pirongia including tracks.

6.8 Te Pahu District (Heather Garrett)

Mayor Livingston was thanked for his book on the Te Pahu hall which will be used for the centennial in 2011.

6.9 Kihikihi District (Max Quirk)

A successful event was held on 6 December when Historic Places Trust presented a 100 year plaque for the Police House.

It has been rumoured that the Starr Hotel will be demolished.

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Mike Vincent reported that there is a demolition order with Council which is on hold waiting comment from Historic Places Trust which is opposed to the demolition of the hotel.

There was general discussion concerning the demolition of buildings and the unavailability of appropriate funding to buy the building to prevent this from occurring.

Mayor Livingston said a district heritage plan should be established which identifies buildings that have to be preserved which would give Council the first opportunity to buy them, although ideally these buildings should be in private ownership.

There are incentives in the district plan to protect sites of a biodiversity nature and heritage should be treated in the same manner. The first step is to set some clear directions as to what should be included in this plan.

Project Manager Heritage Development and Reserves Planning, said he would look into this.

7 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Inwards Correspondence

7.1.1 Waipa District Council – Policy Planner

A letter dated 8 January 2008 regarding the Review of the Waipa District Plan – Heritage Sites and Features was included in the agenda.

7.2 Outwards Correspondence

Nil

RESOLVED

That the inwards correspondence be received

Gainsford/Quirk

8 RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATIONS

All notified Resource Consent applications are sent to the Waipa Heritage Council as a matter of course, to provide the opportunity for feedback on heritage related issues. The Waipa Heritage Council has also been added to the list of recipients for Plan Change applications.

8.1 Land Use Consent – KG Curtis

Construct Superette in Rural Residential Policy Area – 900 Franklin Street, Pirongia

A letter from Council's Planner enclosing a copy of the Decision of the Commissioners relating the above application is included in the agenda.

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RESOLVED

That the letter dated 13 December 2007 from Council's Planner be received.

Hall/Lambert

Comments were made that this Council and the Historic Places Trust should be consistent with decisions; the objection made by Historic Places Trust could be applied to any residential section in Pirongia.

9 KIHIKIHI POLICE HOUSE RESTORATION GROUP

File: 4552/100.00

Minutes of the meetings held on 22 November and 13 December 2007 were included in the agenda.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Kihikihi Police House Restoration Group meetings held on 22 November and 13 December 2007 be received.

Garrett/Quirk

10 WAIPA HERITAGE COUNCIL UNRESOLVED RECOMMENDATIONS

The schedule of Waipa Heritage Council unresolved recommendations as at 24 January 2008 was included in the agenda.

To be discussed further at the next meeting.

11 ITEMS FOR NEXT WAIPA HERITAGE COUNCIL MEETING

Items for the next meeting to be provided to the secretary 14 days before each meeting. This can be done by writing to Waipa District Council (attention Noelene Barr) or phoning her on 07 823 3800 extension 6506 or emailing her on nbar@waipadc.govt.nz

12 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Waipa Heritage Council will be held on Thursday 20 March 2008 in the Committee Room, Waipa District Council, 23 Wilson Street, Cambridge commencing at 10.00am.

13 DAIRY AT WHARE ORA, CAMBRIDGE

Comments were made regarding the relocation of old buildings, especially if they do not have any relevance to the area to which they are being relocated to. The dairy has no historical value however the previous owners do not want it demolished because of sentimental value as it was used as a child's play house. The house will remain as part of the retirement village. Individuals can progress this issue if desired.

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14 PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF AN APPLICATION FOR A RESOURCE CONSENT – 36 HALL STREET LIMITED

File: 4351/540.00

The letter dated 21 January 2008 from Council's Planner and accompanying information was distributed to members separately to the agenda.

As this area is no longer a special character area or of historical interest, no further action to be taken.

For future Resource Consents, the full information is to be sent to Alan Hall only with a smaller version (application, map and relevant sketches) sent to the remaining members as any extra information could be requested from Council if required.

Due to the frequency of meetings (every two months), resource consents are not always addressed at meetings before the closing date for submissions. Alan Hall will alert members via email if there are issues to be discussed between meetings and informal meetings will be held if required.

15 WAIPA BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL - REPRESENTATIVE

RESOLVED

That Alan Hall be reappointed to the Waipa Biodiversity Council for another year; to be reviewed next year.

Deans/Hurst

16 WAIPA HERITAGE TRAIL BROCHURE

Project Manager Heritage Development and Reserves Planning, Tony Roxburgh displayed examples of brochures from the Department of Conservation and said that costs vary for the different brochures. The brochure could cover all sites or there could be smaller brochures for different areas or themes.

Prices will be sought for one brochure as two brochures for the east and west side of the district could be impractical. A back page with a fold out map of the district would be a useful addition.

Tony also reported that the Heritage Trail marker post has been finalised at a cost of \$10,000 for 20 to 30 sites - \$4,000 was donated by Trust Waikato. One side of the post will be laminated with a number referring to the site and theme; the surface would allow the numbers to be changed. The heritage newsletter is currently in the preparation stage.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.39pm.