
WAIPA HERITAGE COUNCIL

MINUTES 19 JULY 2007

Minutes of a meeting of the Waipa Heritage Council held in the Committee Room, Cambridge Service Centre, 23 Wilson Street, Cambridge on 19 July 2007 commencing at 10.00am.

1 MEMBERS

Waipa District Councillor, Barbara Taranaki (Chairperson)

Eris Parker – Cambridge Museum/Cambridge Historical Society

Bev Dean – Cambridge Museum/Cambridge Historical Society

Heather Garrett – Te Pahu District

Jennie Gainsford – NZ Historic Places Trust/Cambridge Historical Society

Neville Ritchie – Department of Conservation

Alan Hall – Pirongia Historic Visitor Centre

Mary Hurst – Te Awamutu Historical Society

Max Quirk – Kihikihi District

Annie Fullerton – Ohaupo District

In Attendance

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

Public - Nil

2 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

That apologies for absence be received from Mayor Livingston, Sabina Owen, Roger Swarbrick and Gail Henry.

M Hurst/J Gainsford

Members were advised that, unfortunately, Roger Swarbrick is no longer in a position to attend Heritage Council meetings. A letter will be sent to Roger on behalf of the Heritage Council thanking him for all his efforts. It was noted that Roger had been instrumental in setting up the Waipa Heritage Council and he will be greatly missed.

3 LATE ITEMS

Jennie Gainsford asked for late items on -

- Whether bi-monthly meetings are sufficient and whether it might be possible to hold an informal meeting in the intervening month.

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- Who will drive the sub-committee formed to look at the protection of heritage buildings, suburbs and streetscapes in the absence of Andrew McFarlane.

Heather Garrett advised she has compiled a list of buildings in Waipa District due to celebrate their centenaries in 2007. She is also working on separate lists to cover buildings constructed between 1908-1911.

4 CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF MEETING

File: 65-11-02

RESOLVED

That the order of the meeting be confirmed.

B Dean/N Ritchie

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

File: 65-11-02

Minutes of Meeting held on 17 May 2007 were included in the agenda.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Waipa Heritage Council held on 17 May 2007, having been circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record.

N Ritchie/A Fullerton

Matters Arising –

5.1 Resited and Historic Dwellings

In response to the recommendation passed at the last Heritage Council meeting, information was provided in the agenda on the processes Council uses to deal with resited and historic dwellings. Jennie Gainsford said she felt the rules need to be tightened up so timeframes are required for work on historic buildings, such as Major Jackson's house.

5.2 Community Leases Policy

In response to the recommendation passed at the last Heritage Council meeting, a copy of Council's community leases policy was included in the agenda.

5.3 Heritage Newsletter and Website

Mr Roxburgh said the Heritage Newsletter is soon to be printed and will be distributed via the rural delivery system.

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Copies will also be deposited at key locations in the urban areas.

Jennie Gainsford suggested that future issues of the Heritage Newsletter should contain more articles on archaeological heritage. She said highlighting areas where good heritage solutions have been found, such as the building next to the Salvation Army Hall, would be worthwhile for inclusion. She said other examples, such as the development next to the National Hotel, were also worthy articles because they would open up dialogue on those issues.

5.4 Annual Works Programme

Ideas suggested for a list of heritage works/projects to cover the next two to four years were -

- Heritage Week
- Interpretative signage at the Hingakaka Battle Site
- Interpretation/development of Orakau Battle Site
- Interpretation/recognition for Tokanui Hospital
- Interpretation/recognition for Dairy Factory
- Interpretation/development of Matakaitaki Pa Site
- Interpretation/development of Ohaupo Redoubt Site
- Further development of Alexandra East Redoubt Site
- Resiting of Climax Steam Engine
- Interpretive signage at Mission House
- Interpretive signage/lookout point on Picquet Hill
- Storage/service buildings
- Development of heritage overlays
- Heritage Trail Signs
- Recognition of National Monument Day (17 April)
- Development of Police Museum, Kihikihi
- Update of D Holman Study of heritage buildings in Waipa
- Building registrations (NZHPT)
- Interpretation for Swamp Pa at Peat Lakes

Mr Roxburgh said it is important to have a prioritised list of projects that the Heritage Council are keen on driving in order to seek funding and resources. He said it would also provide the soon to be appointed Heritage Manager with some direction. It was suggested WHC members come back to the next meeting with the top five projects prioritised and they will then be put out to the public for some feedback.

Alan Hall suggested that, when prioritising the projects, WHC members should look at Waipa District as a whole to ensure there is a good scattering of projects throughout the District.

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5.6 NZHPT Register

There was lengthy discussion following on from the comments made at the last meeting about protected sites and buildings being temporarily removed from the NZHPT register. WHC members were very concerned to learn that all 74 of the registered buildings in Waipa District have been taken off the NZHPT list and that a lengthy process will need to be followed to re-register them. Heather Garrett said in March 2005 Mayor Livingston had written to NZHPT, expressing Council's concern about the situation, and that it was probably appropriate for Council to write again.

Project Manager Heritage Development & Reserves Planning, Tony Roxburgh, said the Heritage Council's role is to advise Council on heritage issues and it would be appropriate to inform Council's Chief Executive about the situation.

RESOLVED

That the Waipa Heritage Council writes to advise Council's Chief Executive that the New Zealand Historic Places Trust's register of protected buildings is incomplete and asks him to take the matter up with the Trust.

N Ritchie/J Gainsford

5.7 Storage of Archaeological Material

Neville Ritchie explained that, following the excavation of the Pirongia Redoubt and other sites, a considerable amount of archaeological material was recovered and is being stored at Te Awamutu Museum's storage area on Rickit Road while it is being catalogued. He said this is probably the most significant archaeological collection of its type in the whole of New Zealand. The Museum has indicated it needs the storage space and would like the cataloguing process accelerated and the amount of material to be retained thinned down.

Neville said he feels Council has an obligation to store all archaeological artefacts taken from historic sites under Council's control and management. It was suggested that the Heritage Council seek clarification on this issue from Council's Chief Executive.

Heather Garrett asked what happens to any income derived from the sale of surplus material, such as bottles, that have been obtained from archaeological investigations.

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Neville said that was covered in the original agreement between the Te Awamutu Museum and the Trust Board but that may not stand now that Council has taken over management of the Museum. This question will also be put to Council's Chief Executive.

Another related issue was raised concerning access to information and material held at the Museum. It was agreed to also bring this up with the Chief Executive.

RESOLVED

That a letter be sent to Council's Chief Executive asking for clarification on –

- *Council's policy on the holding of historic and archaeological material.*
- *Access to Museum data and information.*
- *Disposal of material where any income is derived.*
- *Honouring the Museum Trust Board's obligations.*

B Dean/N Ritchie

6 MEMBERS REPORTS

6.1 Waipa District Council (Councillor Barbara Taranaki)

The Chairperson advised Heritage Council members about Council's recent decision to build a heated, covered pool alongside the existing swimming pool in Williamson Street, Cambridge. Council will also be contributing towards a new gymnasium, in conjunction with Cambridge High School, which will be available for community use.

6.2 Te Awamutu Museum

No report.

6.3 Te Awamutu Historical Society (Mary Hurst)

Mary Hurst said verbal acceptance has been received on the idea of using funds from Footprints to reprint out of stock issues. She said the essay competition is on hold until a new Educator has been recruited at the Te Awamutu Museum.

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

Eris Parker provided an update on museum activities over the past month.

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Bev Dean showed WHC members some china which was uncovered at the National Hotel site in Cambridge that she will be bequeathing to Cambridge Museum.

6.5 NZ Historic Places Trust (Jennie Gainsford)

Jennie Gainsford said the new Waikato Branch office of NZHPT was opened during the previous week. She said NZHPT has invited its Branch Chairpersons to attend a meeting in Wellington to discuss the new draft plan for Branch Committees.

6.6 Department of Conservation (Neville Ritchie)

Neville Ritchie said NZHPT's Maori Sites Manager has been undertaking a lot of work on Wahi Tapu registrations recently and councils should be aware that if they receive a letter asking for feedback on the establishment of a Wahi Tapu site, and no feedback is provided within a two month timeframe, the site will automatically be registered as Wahi Tapu.

Neville said the site upgrade project may not be as thorough as first envisaged. He said the person undertaking the New Zealand Archaeological Association (NZAA) site upgrade has had problems gaining access to sites, in some areas, because landowners have not given permission.

Neville said although it would not be possible to identify the exact site of the picquet, he felt it would be appropriate to set aside an area on Picquet Hill to recognise its historic significance and provide some interpretation.

6.7 Pirongia Historic Visitor Centre (Alan Hall)

Alan Hall said Roy Dench has been appointed as Chairperson of the Biodiversity Council and the officer's report from Tony Roxburgh is providing the group with direction. He said the Biodiversity Council had been advised about some paintings of the bridge crossing the Waikato River at Horahora that are currently being displayed in Europe. He said he felt there was merit in displaying the paintings locally because they depict something of historical significance.

Alan tabled the latest issue of the Pirongia Historic Visitor Centre newsletter. The AGM was held in June and was well attended. He said work is currently being undertaken to control sunlight into the building.

Alan said some promotional material sent out by Waipa District Council on Waipa's heritage contains some factual errors. This will be brought to staff's attention.

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6.8 Te Pahu District (Heather Garrett)

Heather Garrett mentioned a recent meeting of the Women's Institute on the history of Te Pahu which had given her the idea about a "Heritage Week" for Waipa District.

6.9 Kihikihi District (Max Quirk)

Max Quirk said he'd had an article published in the Te Awamutu Courier requesting background information about the grove of trees on the corner of Grey and Oliver Streets but unfortunately nothing has come to light. Kihikihi School records do not go back that far as the school burnt down the year after the trees were planted.

6.10 Ohaupo District (Annie Fullerton)

Annie Fullerton mentioned a number of individual trees and groves of trees (oaks/acacias/rata) in the Ohaupo area that are of historical significance.

Annie said she was concerned about trees being planted along the boundary of the property next to Kaipaki Church as they would obscure the site line of an historic landmark for anyone travelling westwards on Kaipaki Road. She said she has spoken at Heritage Council meetings, on several occasions, about the importance of protecting iconic views but nothing has happened. She said with so much rural development taking place in Waipa it needs to be urgently addressed by Council before it's too late.

7 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Inwards Correspondence

Letter from New Zealand Historic Places Trust dated 21 June 2007 concerning registration of an historic place (Knightstone, 2 Lowe Road, Rukuhia) was included in the agenda.

7.2 Outwards Correspondence

- Letter of thanks to Andrew McFarlane dated 19 June 2007 was included in the agenda.
- Letter to Council's Chief Executive dated 19 June 2007 concerning the loss of a heritage staff member from Council was included in the agenda.

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8 MATAKITAKI RECREATION RESERVE AND PA

Heritage Council members were advised that archaeologist, Alexy Simons, has been in contact regarding the preparation of the Conservation Plan for Matakitaki Pa and work is likely to commence in August. This will delay the completion of the report considering the broader development of the Reserve. It is envisaged both reports will be combined and submitted to the Historic Places Trust for evaluation and eventual approval to develop/interpret the site.

9 ORAKAU BATTLE SITE

Heritage Council members were advised that Council has made a financial contribution towards the costs associated with securing land at the Orakau battle site. This has been possible using the Environmental Protection Lot provisions and will see around 5,200 square meters vested in Council for historic purposes.

Mr Roxburgh explained that, while a concept plan has been prepared, consultation with Iwi is still required to determine what is and what is not culturally acceptable in terms of site development. He said it was also raised at a recent Iwi Consultative Committee meeting that Maniapoto Iwi are keen to explore development options once their Waitangi land claims are addressed. Erecting a marae at the site was raised as a possibility.

10 HERITAGE MANAGER POSITION

Heritage Council members were advised that Council staff are in the process of recruiting a Heritage Manager. The role will have three key responsibilities –

- 1 General Museum management, including the integration of the Cambridge Museum into Council operations.
- 2 Play a key role in heritage policy development/implementation.
- 3 Lead development of Museum facilities as signalled in the 10-year Plan.

Mr Roxburgh said applications have now closed and interviews are scheduled for the following week. Provided a suitable applicant is found an appointment will be made the week after.

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11 LATE ITEM – REGULARITY OF HERITAGE COUNCIL MEETINGS

Jennie Gainsford asked those present if two-monthly meetings are working or whether a group of WHC members should meet informally in the intervening month. Several members said they felt there was the potential to keep issues moving through email contact and circulating material on a regular basis. Alan Hall suggested that a working group could be established to deal with issues that come up in between meetings.

It was suggested that the key contact for circulating material should be the secretary as she can organise for information to be emailed and hard copies sent out to those members who are not on email.

12 LATE ITEM – FORMATION OF SUB-COMMITTEE TO LOOK AT THE PROTECTION OF HERITAGE BUILDINGS, SUBURBS AND STREETSCAPES

Jennie Gainsford said she felt the National Hotel development in Cambridge has not been done very well and will have an impact on heritage buildings in the immediate area.

Jennie asked if it was possible for Council staff to attach a note to the front of a property file to show a building has historical significance so it can be instantly identified by planning staff. She said it is important that the Dinah Holman study of heritage buildings is updated as it will help to enforce Waipa's archaeological heritage and Mary Hurst emphasised the importance of updating appendices 10 – 12 of the District Plan during the upcoming review process.

Mr Roxburgh said he would advise Council's Planning Department about the above issues as they will be co-ordinating the District Plan review. He said there could also be merit in a local branch NZHPT representative making Council's planning staff aware of these issues.

RESOLVED

That a sub-committee be established to consider District Plan review issues (as suggested at the 18 January 2007 Waipa Heritage Council meeting) and that it be activated when the new Heritage Manager has been appointed.

A Hall/M Hurst

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13 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 Cathy Plowright) or phoning her on 07 872 0030 extension 7511 or emailing her on cplo@waipadc.govt.nz.

A review of the list of unresolved recommendations will be included in the next agenda and it was suggested WHC members have a look through the list to decide which ones should be removed.

14 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Waipa Heritage Council will be held on Thursday 20 September 2007 in Committee Room 1, Waipa District Council Offices, 101 Bank Street, Te Awamutu commencing at 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 12.30pm.