
WAIPA HERITAGE COUNCIL

MINUTES 15 MARCH 2007

Minutes of a meeting of the Waipa Heritage Council held in the Committee Room, Cambridge Service Centre, 23 Wilson Street, Cambridge on 15 March 2007 commencing at 10.00am.

1 ATTENDANCE

Waipa District Councillor, Barbara Taranaki (Chairperson)

His Worship the Mayor, Alan Livingston – until item 6.6
Eris Parker – Cambridge Museum/Cambridge Historical Society
Bev Dean – Cambridge Museum/Cambridge Historical Society
Gail Henry – NZ Historic Places Trust
Heather Garrett – Te Pahu District
Jennie Gainsford – NZ Historic Places Trust/Cambridge Historical Society
Sabina Owen – Pirongia Historic Visitor Centre
Alan Hall – Pirongia Historic Visitor Centre
Mary Hurst – Te Awamutu Historical Society
Max Quirk – Kihikihi District
Annie Fullerton – Ohaupo District – until item 6.2

In Attendance

Strategic Planning & Development Manager (A McFarlane), Secretary (C Plowright)

Public – Nil

2 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

That an apology for absence be received from Stephanie Lambert.

S Owen/H Garrett

3 LATE ITEMS

Late items were requested on cemeteries and trees.

4 CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF MEETING

File: 65-11-02

RESOLVED

That the order of the meeting be confirmed.

J Gainsford/G Henry

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5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

File: 65-11-02

Minutes of Meeting held on 18 January 2007 were included in the agenda.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Waipa Heritage Council held on 18 January 2007, having been circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record subject to the amendment of the word "Marten" to "Marton" on page five.

A Fullerton/S Owen

Matters Arising –

5.1 Biodiversity Council

WHC members were advised that the Biodiversity Council met informally for the first time on 1 March 2007 and its first scheduled meeting is on 19 April 2007.

Mayor Livingston said there is excellent representation on the Biodiversity Council, both in terms of geographical location and knowledge. He said he could see an overlap between the Biodiversity and Heritage Councils in a number of areas and having a Heritage Council representative on the Biodiversity Council would be of real benefit.

5.2 Heritage Website

Andrew McFarlane said Council's Webmaster, Rod Thornburn, has been asked to create a heritage pull down page on Waipa's website. He said a heritage newsletter, combining issues of interest arising from the Heritage and Biodiversity Councils, is being drafted and would be included on the webpage when finalised. The intention is to publish 2-3 heritage newsletters each year. The heritage webpage will also include the heritage database for Waipa District. He said the webpage is expected to be operational within 4-6 weeks.

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6 MEMBERS REPORTS

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

Mayor Livingston asked WHC members to give some thought to how to appropriately acknowledge the centenary of the Victoria Street Bridge in Cambridge in December 2007. He said a Resource Consent would probably be required to add something to the bridge and Council needs some direction in the near future to ensure it is in place by December.

Mr McFarlane said the working party looking at the list of heritage projects for inclusion in the 2007/08 Annual Plan would be meeting after lunch and would add the Victoria Street Bridge to the list. Another "one-off" project put forward for consideration was the development of a brochure on the District's museums. Mr McFarlane asked WHC members if they have any ideas for a small heritage project that could be furthered using funds left over from the 2006/07 heritage budget.

Mr McFarlane said a Maungatautari Scenic Reserve Bylaw has been drafted and is soon to be referred to the Policy Committee for discussion and public notification. He said the Bylaw would maintain the integrity of the ecological island and would control issues such as the restriction of animals from the reserve, restricting access other than through secure access gates and the appointment of rangers. He said it also signals the ability to limit the hours of access to the reserve.

6.2 **Te Awamutu Museum** (Andrew McFarlane)

The permanent exhibition for the New Zealand wars has opened. A new Educator has been engaged but Council has to re-advertise for the Archivist's position.

Mr McFarlane said it is suggested in the draft Annual Plan that the Cambridge Museum should be brought under Council's management, employing the same model used for the Te Awamutu Museum. He said there would be some one-off costs associated with bringing the Cambridge Museum up to a good workplace standard before it can come under Council's operation. He said the Museum's collection would remain the property of the Cambridge Historical Society.

[Annie Fullerton left the meeting at 10.45am.]

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Eris Parker said bringing the Museum under Council's management would be better for the preservation of Cambridge's heritage.

RESOLVED

That the Waipa Heritage Council make a submission to the draft Waipa District Council Annual Plan for 2007/08 stating its support, in principle, for the proposal that Waipa District Council should establish a relationship with the Cambridge Museum, similar to the one in place with the Te Awamutu Museum.

A Hall/M Hurst

RESOLVED

That the Waipa Heritage Council supports, in principle, the continuation of Waipa District Council's support for the Te Awamutu Museum and acknowledges the work Council is doing in bringing it under its own umbrella and the ongoing support it also gives to the Pirongia Historic Visitor Centre.

G Henry/H Garrett

6.3 Te Awamutu Historical Society (Mary Hurst)

Mary Hurst said she has spoken to several people who have an association with the Historical Society about the possibility of Council taking over the historical essay competition and the suggestion has met with their support. She said Frances Kenny, who originated the competition in memory of her father who was a founding member of the Historical Society, would still like to be involved with the competition. She said Alistair Kerr, who has been involved with running the competition, is keen to talk to Council about the suggestion. She said Jill Shaw (Te Awamutu Intermediate) and Mrs Millington (Ohaupo School) are also keen to have an involvement with it. It was suggested that Mary provide that information to Stephanie Lambert as this could be a project for the new Educator at the Museum.

Mary tabled a list of historic and notable trees that she has recently found. Mr McFarlane said information on historic trees is contained in the District Plan appendices and would be considered as part of the review process starting later in the year. He said he would refer the list to Council's Asset Manager Recreation.

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

Eris Parker reported a very busy time at the Museum during the holiday period. She has attended a workshop on managing volunteers, run by Te Papa, and a staff member has attended a Vernon's database workshop. She said the Museum was promoted at the recent Lion's Market Day.

Eris said the Celebration 2007 Committee has contacted the office of the Governor General and asked him to re-open the bridge as part of the centenary celebrations. However, his diary cannot be confirmed until July. She said the actual date of the centenary is 21 December 2007 but the celebrations may be run in conjunction with the Christmas Parade earlier in the month so the road isn't closed twice.

Eris said the Celebration 2007 Committee is awaiting approval from Council's property department to marking out "1907-2007" in daffodils to celebrate the Daffodil Society's centenary.

6.5 NZ Historic Places Trust (Gail Henry, Jennie Gainsford)

Gail Henry said NZHPT has been involved in discussions with Transit New Zealand (TNZ) and Environment Waikato about making adjustments to the Narrows Bridge to prevent people from jumping off of it. Mayor Livingston said he understood from TNZ that it is not intended to physically change the bridge in any way.

Gail said the Raynes House in Rukuhia is receiving NZHPT registration as a Category 2 building but Council has advised it will not be incorporated into the District Plan until after the review process. She asked how the building would be protected in the interim. It was explained that, unless a building is listed in the District Plan, Council cannot require the owners to apply for a Resource Consent if they wish to modify it.

Mr McFarlane said a note would be included on the property file advising that the building has been registered. He said it would be suggested, during the District Plan review process, that the Rules be amended to allow for registered buildings to be treated as such until they are added to the District Plan.

Gail said NZHPT made a submission to Council on proposed Plan Change No 47 (Picquet Hill Residential) in addition to the one from the Heritage Council.

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Gail said the Resource Consent for redevelopment of the National Hotel in Cambridge has now been split into two; the first covering the proposed new structures and sampling room and the second Resource Consent, which is being sought at a later stage, to cover the Category 2 building.

Gail said she has been liaising with members of the St John's and St Paul's Church Committees about fire protection systems as it appears volunteers can be trained to undertake the necessary checks on the sprinkler systems which will be cheaper than paying the Fire Brigade to do it.

Gail talked about the potential to lift Council's heritage profile by identifying heritage sites or objects at Karapiro that would receive international attention when the World Rowing Championships are held there in 2010.

Jennie Gainsford said the Waikato Branch of NZHPT has moved into its new offices in Caro Street and will open next week. She said the Waikato Branch had also sent a submission in support of the Heritage Council's one on the Picquet Hill Plan Change.

[Mayor Livingston left the meeting at 11.32am.]

6.6 Department of Conservation (Neville Ritchie)

Bev Dean said she understood Neville Ritchie was busy organising an open day at the Queens Redoubt, Pokeno on Saturday 17 March.

6.7 Pirongia Historic Visitor Centre (Sabina Owen, Alan Hall)

Alan Hall has been busy organising two tours; the first an archaeological tour around Pirongia and the second a "path of war" tour which went up to Pokeno, called into the Alexandra Redoubt at Tuakau and then onto Ngaruawahia.

Sabina Owen said the Pirongia Fire Force building is being repainted in heritage colours and the old DOC office is being retained. She mentioned a number of workshops currently being run by Te Papa that PHVC volunteers have attended recently.

Alan Hall said an evening on family history is being planned and would link up with genealogists from Te Awamutu.

A copy of the latest newsletter was tabled.

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6.8 Kihikihi District (Max Quirk)

Max Quirk said a public meeting has been organised to try and form a committee that will look after the proposed redevelopment of the old Police House in Kihikihi. He said some brass plaques marking the graves of old pioneers (the Temple family) have recently been laid. There is still no progress to report on the renovation of Major Jackson's House.

6.9 Ohaupo District (Annie Fullerton)

No Report.

7 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Inwards Correspondence

Nil.

7.2 Outwards Correspondence

Submission made on behalf of the Waipa Heritage Council about proposed Plan Change No 47 – Picquet Hill Residential Growth Cell – was included in the agenda. It was agreed that the process used for gathering comments for a submission (i.e. directly to the Secretary via email) had worked well and should be used on other occasions.

Letter to NZHPT dated 24 January 2007 regarding the condition of signs was included in the agenda. Gail Henry said a formal response would be provided after she has obtained clarification from NZHPT about the treatment of old heritage signs. Following discussion about Council's heritage signs it was agreed to add them to the list of potential projects requiring Annual Plan funding.

8 ORAKAU

Mr McFarlane circulated a first draft of a concept plan for site development and interpretive signage at Orakau. He said the property owner is keen to give some land to Council to allow this to happen and it would provide improved sight lines, for parking and access to the site, and better site interpretation. He said there would be consultation with Iwi on the whole project. It was noted that Iwi should be asked about the appropriateness of providing picnic tables at a battle site (as picnic tables were relocated at Matakītaki Pa for that reason) and it was also suggested that a public toilet might be required.

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9 SELWYN PARK/MISSION HOUSE SIGNAGE

Mr McFarlane circulated a draft interpretive sign for use at the Mission House site. Mary Hurst said, in addition to what has been provided on the sign, there is an extensive historical background about the site available from the Te Awamutu Museum. WHC members made a number of editorial corrections and suggestions about the proposed sign.

10 LATE ITEM – CEMETERIES AND TREES

Sabina Owen said a huge oak tree has come down at the Alexandra Cemetery in Pirongia in the recent high winds and Council's Asset Manager Recreation has been advised.

Sabina suggested that Council should undertake an inventory of headstones and monuments in Waipa District as it would add heritage value to the community. She said they could be of interest as part of a heritage trail. Mr McFarlane said that could be another layer of information that could be contained on the new heritage webpage.

10 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

11 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Waipa Heritage Council will be held on Thursday 17 May 2007 in Committee Room 1, Waipa District Council Offices, 101 Bank Street, Te Awamutu commencing at 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 12.25pm.