
WAIPA HERITAGE COUNCIL

MINUTES 18 JANUARY 2007

AGENDA ITEMS

PAGE NO.

1 MEMBERS

Waipa District Councillor, Barbara Taranaki (Chairperson)

His Worship the Mayor, Alan Livingston

Stephanie Lambert – Te Awamutu Museum

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

In Attendance

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

Public - Nil

2 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

That apologies for absence be received from Bev Dean, Heather Garrett, Gail Henry, Eris Parker and Roger Swarbrick.

J Gainsford/S Lambert

3 LATE ITEMS

Sabina Owen asked for a late item on heritage landscapes.

4 CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF MEETING

File: 65-11-02

RESOLVED

That the order of the meeting be confirmed.

A Fullerton/S Owen

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

File: 65-11-02

Minutes of Meeting held on 16 November 2006 were included in the agenda.

WAIPA HERITAGE COUNCIL MINUTES 18 JANUARY 2007

AGENDA ITEMS

PAGE NO.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Waipa Heritage Council held on 16 November 2006, having been circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record subject to -

- a) *Amendment of the last sentence of item 6.3 to read "She said this is now in the hands of Keith Storey who has agreed to be convener of a committee for the Te Awamutu Historical Society".*
- b) *Amendment of the word "week" to "weed" in the last paragraph of item 6.9.*

J Gainsford/A Fullerton

Matters Arising –

5.1 Biodiversity Council

Council has approved the establishment of the Biodiversity Council and it is hoped to have the structure and representatives notified by late February and an inaugural meeting arranged soon after. At present staff are compiling names of landowners/people with conservation interests/agencies that would be interested in participating in the Biodiversity Council and from that list staff will select the 12-13 members required. It was suggested that there be a representative from the Heritage Council to ensure good communication and interaction between the two Councils.

RESOLVED

That Alan Hall be nominated as the Waipa Heritage Council representative on the Biodiversity Council and, in his absence, an alternative member of the Heritage Council as his proxy, and that this appointment be reviewed annually.

M Hurst/A Fullerton

It was suggested that if members of either Council have issues they wish to raise in the intervening weeks between meetings they should contact the Secretary (C Plowright). If necessary additional meetings can be called to consider urgent issues, or a working group formed, and regular update reports will be emailed to members of both groups.

6 MEMBERS REPORTS

WAIPA HERITAGE COUNCIL

MINUTES 18 JANUARY 2007

AGENDA ITEMS

PAGE NO.

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

Mayor Livingston spoke about improvements to the interpretive signage at the Pukekura Dairy Factory and the Orakau battle site and about commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Victoria Bridge in Cambridge.

He also mentioned the District Plan review, which starts at the end of the year, and suggested WHC members think about what improvements could be made to the Plan from a heritage perspective. Mr McFarlane said the District Plan review would be a major area of focus for both the Heritage and Biodiversity Councils. He said the timetable for the review would be available by the middle of 2007.

With respect to the 2007/08 Annual Plan, WHC members were asked if they felt additional funding should be allocated for one-off projects, such as the 100th anniversary of the Victoria Street, Bridge, to relieve pressure on the heritage budget which is already heavily committed. Other potential "one-off" projects mentioned were the development of a brochure on the District's Museums and markers for the motorised heritage trail. It was suggested that a small working party be formed to look at the list of heritage projects, and others that might be added to it, and put them in priority order. Mr McFarlane said he would arrange a time for the working party to meet.

There was discussion about the amount of information that should be provided at the motorised heritage sites. Some WHC members envisaged interpretive panels, with photographs showing how the site originally looked, whereas others felt just a number referring people to the brochure or additional information on a website was more appropriate. Mr McFarlane said it was hoped a heritage component could be built into the Waipa District Council website as a database for heritage information.

RESOLVED

That Council give consideration to structuring a heritage component to its website.

A Hall/S Owen

Mr McFarlane suggested WHC members have a look at other councils' websites to see how their heritage information has been included and whether they could be used as a model. He said he would speak to Council's Webmaster, Rod Thorburn.

WAIPA HERITAGE COUNCIL

MINUTES 18 JANUARY 2007

On the subject of interpretive signage, it was asked that the Secretary write to NZHPT drawing its attention to the condition of the signs it is responsible for at St Paul's Church (Rangiawhia), the Rewi Maniapoto Reserve (Kihikihi) and the Armed Constabulary Redoubt (Pirongia) and asking that they be attended to.

6.2 Te Awamutu Museum (Stephanie Lambert)

Stephanie Lambert said a positive response has been received to the Phil Brown exhibition. She said Museum staff have been busy developing the NZ Wars exhibition and she acknowledged the number of people outside the Museum who are contributing towards this project. She said the LEOTC contract with the Museum has been renewed and Council is currently advertising for two vacant positions (an Educator and an Archivist).

6.3 Te Awamutu Historical Society (Mary Hurst)

Mary Hurst said the Historical Society is still in recess and, apart from the historical essay competition, there seems little point in it trying to keep it going. She said it is still hoped that a Trust will be formed, when the Footprints Committee finishes, and funds left over would be used to reprint earlier editions of Footprints. She said the Historical Society has decided it will donate the remainder of its stock to the Te Awamutu Museum.

Mr McFarlane said the concept of an historical essay competition fits within Council's Heritage Strategy and it might be possible for Council to take this over from the Historical Society to ensure its legacy carries on. Stephanie Lambert offered to make some time available, after 11 March, to get together with Historical Society members and see what information can be transferred to the Museum before the Historical Society folds up. Mary said she would speak to the Society's Secretary, Joyce Smart, about those suggestions.

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

Jennie Gainsford said the Cambridge Museum has been busy with visitors during the summer and there is a researcher there at present obtaining information on the National Hotel to assist with the development work proposed.

WAIPA HERITAGE COUNCIL

MINUTES 18 JANUARY 2007

AGENDA ITEMS

PAGE NO.

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

Jennie Gainsford said the Waikato Branch of NZHPT is moving to an office in Caro Street, Hamilton in early February and it will be open one day a week to start with.

6.6 Department of Conservation (Neville Ritchie)

No report.

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

Sabina Owen said good visitor numbers have been recorded at the Centre with a significant number visiting from overseas. Another archaeological tour is taking place on 17 February and the Executive Committee is going on a tour from the Queen's Redoubt, Pokeno back to Waipa following the 1863-64 Path of War. She said the Pirongia Rural Fire Force is replacing its shed with a new building that will adjoin the boundary with the Visitor Centre.

6.8 Kihikihi District (Max Quirk)

Mr McFarlane said Council's planning staff have written to the new owners of Major Jackson's house reminding him of his obligation to restore the veranda within a prescribed timeframe. As nothing more has happened he said he would follow it up with Council's planning staff.

Max Quirk said Kihikihi Heritage Trail signs, which are the responsibility of Council, are badly in need of repair or replacement. Council's Asset Manager Recreation will be advised. Max tabled a photograph of a new sign erected to commemorate John Rochfort who was responsible for construction of the main trunk line between Marten and Te Awamutu. He said the Kihikihi Heritage Trail Committee is about to disband and has used its remaining funds to produce the new sign and work on some other projects (scrap book on Temple Cottage and plaques for old pioneers in the Kihikihi Cemetery).

6.9 Ohaupo District (Annie Fullerton)

Annie Fullerton commented on the view from McFall Road/Lake Road across to Lake Ngaroto which provides an uninterrupted view of the Hingakaka Battle site and should be protected.

WAIPA HERITAGE COUNCIL MINUTES 18 JANUARY 2007

AGENDA ITEMS

PAGE NO.

With respect to comments made at the previous meeting about hemlock, Annie said she has spoken to Environment Waikato about the problem but did not receive much interest. It was suggested she approach Waipa's representative on EW, John Fisher, about the issue.

Annie mentioned "World Monument Day" which is celebrated in April each year and she said it would provide an annual opportunity to publicise a monument in Waipa District. She will advise Stephanie Lambert of the date for this event.

7 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Inwards Correspondence

Further submissions on proposed Plan Change 28 (D Firth) from Mary Hurst, Heather Garrett, Annie Fullerton and Alan Hall dated 14 December 2006 were included in the agenda.

Alan Hall said the further submission had been made because they were concerned that the area proposed for subdivision lies outside of the Hingakaka battle site and, consequently, it would be wrong to object to the subdivision on the grounds that the area contains important archaeological evidence associated with the battle. He said Mr Firth has since advised that an archaeological assessment conducted by Alexy Symonds supports that opinion.

Mr McFarlane said he would obtain clarification on the status of the Hingakaka Iwi Management Plan for the next WHC meeting.

7.2 Outwards Correspondence

Nil.

8 ORAKAU

Heritage Council members were advised Sonia Frimmel has been commissioned to explore a concept plan for the improvement/development of the Orakau battle site lay-by. Discussions are underway with Council engineers to determine what, if any, improvements might be made to access and car parking and how this might open up opportunities for site interpretation. It was explained that the concept plan is not a commitment to undertake works in the 2006/2007 financial year, but rather an opportunity to enter into discussions with the potentially affected landowner.

WAIPA HERITAGE COUNCIL MINUTES 18 JANUARY 2007

AGENDA ITEMS

PAGE NO.

9 SELWYN PARK

Heritage Council Members were advised Sonia Frimmel has been commissioned to prepare site interpretation for the Selwyn Park Mission House site. In addition to the historical background, the signage will acknowledge the project as a joint initiative of the Te Awamutu Historical Society and the Waipa Heritage Council. The original archaeological authority for the Mission House project included provision for signage. Implementation of the signage is expected within the 2006/07 financial year.

Mayor Livingston said the Historical Society originally offered to make a financial contribution towards the project. Mr McFarlane said that offer had not been taken up as it was felt it was Council's responsibility.

Following discussion it was agreed that it would be acceptable for the Historical Society to make a contribution to the project, if it still wishes to, but that would need to be conditional on Council managing the project to its completion. Some suggested text for the plaque was tabled and Mary Hurst said she would speak to Roger Swarbrick to ensure he is happy with the proposed wording.

10 MATAKITAKI

Heritage Council members were advised that applications have been lodged with the Lotteries Board, National Parks and Conservation Foundation (Transpower Grants) for \$10,000 each to prepare a Conservation Plan for the site. Staff hope to hear within the next month and anticipate completing the work by June 2007.

11 LATE ITEM – HERITAGE LANDSCAPES

Sabina Owen initiated a discussion on the effect of rural residential subdivision on Waipa's landscape. She said she had written to Council's Chief Executive, expressing her concern, and had been advised that the issue would be considered as part of the District Plan review process.

Mr McFarlane said there would be issues workshops throughout the District Plan review which would see issues such as this referred back to stakeholder groups like the WHC for feedback. He said viewing cones and corridors has already been identified as an issue.

12 ITEMS FOR NEXT WAIPA HERITAGE COUNCIL MEETING

WAIPA HERITAGE COUNCIL MINUTES 18 JANUARY 2007

AGENDA ITEMS

PAGE NO.

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

13 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Waipa Heritage Council will be held at 10.00 am on Thursday 15 March 2007 in the Committee Room, Cambridge Service Centre, 24 Wilson Street, Cambridge commencing at 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 12.30pm.