
WAIPA HERITAGE COUNCIL

MINUTES 16 NOVEMBER 2006

Minutes of a meeting of the Waipa Heritage Council held in Committee Room 2, Waipa District Council Offices, 101 Bank Street, Te Awamutu on 16 November 2006 commencing at 10.00am.

1 ATTENDANCE

Waipa District Councillor, Barbara Taranaki (Chairperson)
Eris Parker – Cambridge Museum/Cambridge Historical Society
Bev Dean – Cambridge Museum/Cambridge Historical Society
Jennie Gainsford – NZ Historic Places Trust/Cambridge Historical Society
Neville Ritchie – Department of Conservation
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
Stephanie Lambert – Te Awamutu Museum – from 10.18am

In Attendance

Strategic Planning & Development Manager (A McFarlane), 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, Heather Garret, Gail Henry and Roger Swarbrick.

E Parker/S Owen

3 LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

4 CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF MEETING

File: 65-11-02

RESOLVED

That the order of the meeting be confirmed.

A Fullerton/E Parker

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5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

File: 65-11-02

Minutes of Meeting held on 19 October 2006 were included in the agenda.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Waipa Heritage Council held on 19 October 2006, having been circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record.

A Hall/E Parker

Matters Arising –

5.1 Biodiversity Council

Heritage Council members were advised that Council has resolved to establish a Biodiversity Council to meet every two months and to provide the same administration service as that provided to the Waipa Heritage Council. Councillors Hazel Barnes and Diane Sharpe have been appointed as the two Councillor representatives on the Biodiversity Council.

Project Manager - Heritage Development and Reserves Planning, Tony Roxburgh, tabled some information on the background to the establishment of a Biodiversity Council. He said it would be helpful for the Heritage Council and Biodiversity Council to occasionally meet on the same day and share ideas. A map of natural heritage features in Waipa District was tabled for viewing at the meeting and Mr Roxburgh said it is hoped to develop a Natural Heritage Landscape Plan in the longer term. He said the Biodiversity Council would play an active role in developing that Plan.

Mr Roxburgh said it is hoped that the inaugural meeting of the Biodiversity Council will be held in February 2007.

5.2 Proposed Plan Change – D Firth

Eris Parker said Mr Firth had contacted her, as writer of the Heritage Council's submission, to ask if she would change the submission in support of his proposal because he says there isn't an archaeological site on the land in the Plan Change area. Eris said she had advised Mr Firth that if the Heritage Council receives a copy of an archaeological assessment and the Hingakaka Iwi Management Plan it would reassess its submission.

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Mr McFarlane said he was unsure whether the Hingakaka Management Plan is at a finalised stage yet. He said this issue has highlighted the need for accurate archaeological information to be held on a database, otherwise ambiguity and differences of opinion arise. He said it is hoped the joint Council/DOC GPS archaeological plotting exercise will narrow down some of these issues.

The Chairperson asked Heritage Council members if they wished to change their submission in line with Mr Firth's request. Mr McFarlane said the only course of action open to the Heritage Council at this stage would be to withdraw its submission, prior to the hearing, or make a further submission at the appropriate time.

A call for further submissions on the proposed Plan Change was tabled at the meeting together with a summary of submissions received so far. Further submissions must be received by 14 December 2006.

The Chairperson said that unless the Heritage Council receives the additional information requested it is in the same position as when it made its submission and therefore it should not be withdrawn. Mr McFarlane said individual Heritage Council members can make a further submission (in support of, or in opposition to the original submission) if they wish.

6 MEMBERS REPORTS

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

6.1 Waipa District Council (Councillor Barbara Taranaki)

Mr McFarlane said the Heritage Master Class Seminar is being held this evening in the Council Chambers and a good turn-out is expected. He said it has been suggested that Council hosts a Master Class Seminar annually, with the focus alternating between heritage and biodiversity.

6.2 Te Awamutu Museum (Stephanie Lambert/Andrew McFarlane)

Stephanie Lambert said Museum staff are preparing for Phil Brown's exhibition which starts on 8 December. A new Registrar started at the Museum on 20 November and a new Education Facilitator is being recruited. She said the Waipa Heritage Trail map is in great demand and being made good use of. Mr McFarlane reminded WHC members that the Museum is always looking for volunteers, even if they only work every few months.

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6.3 Te Awamutu Historical Society (Mary Hurst)

Mary Hurst said the Footprints of History publication has been handed over to the Te Kuiti and Otorohanga members of the Footprints Committee. She said it is hoped a small trust will be formed to administer the assets from the Te Awamutu share of the publication and arrange for reprints of earlier Footprints. She said this is now in the hands of Keith Storey who has agreed to be convener of the committee.

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

Eris Parker said she has retired from the Cambridge Historical Society and Bev Dean has become interim President. Bev said it is planned to lift the Society's profile in the new year and to find new people to serve on it. The Cambridge Historical Society celebrated its 50th anniversary on 27 October.

6.5 NZ Historic Places Trust (Jennie Gainsford)

Jennie Gainsford said the Waikato Branch of NZHPT will be working on a strategic plan to provide some direction for the future. She tabled the final draft of the brochure "Historic Hamilton East and West of the River".

6.6 Department of Conservation (Neville Ritchie)

Neville Ritchie spoke about DOC's plans to upgrade the walking track to the top of Kakepuku Mountain which is estimated to cost \$250,000 in order to meet the required standard. He said, because of the cost, DOC are exploring other options including the possible use of an old track on Council land. He said DOC's Waikato Area Manager, Rachael Kelleher, would be approaching Council about a cost sharing exercise in this regard.

Neville said he would be providing a letter of support to accompany Council's application to the Lotteries Board for funding of the Matakita Pa Conservation Plan.

Neville said some artefacts had been found under the soil during the outlining of the Mission House on Selwyn Park. He said the archaeological database update project is still ongoing.

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

Sabina Owen asked if staff had lodged an application with the Lotteries Board for the Matakītaki Pa Conservation Plan. It was agreed that, because of accountability issues, the application would be made online and registered by the Waipa Heritage Council, care of Waipa District Council.

Sabina said a telephone is being installed at the Visitor Centre (07 871 9018) together with broadband internet and email access. Alan Hall said the archaeological tour on 11 November was very successful and another tour is being planned for February 2007.

6.8 Kihikihi District (Max Quirk)

Mr McFarlane said Council's monitoring enforcement and planning staff have been in touch with the new owner's of Major Jackson's house suggesting a completion date for the work he has authority for.

6.9 Ohaupo District (Annie Fullerton)

Annie Fullerton said she understands the road in the new Ohaupo subdivision is to be called Bohemian Place. She said choosing the "bohemian" theme represents a very narrow viewpoint as the early settlement of Ohaupo was made up of several different strains of immigrants. She spoke about the influence of protestant Prussians in this area and that they also deserve recognition in future subdivisions or roads.

Annie commented on the view from Lake Road, Ohaupo, recently seen on a bus tour which deserves to be preserved and protected.

Annie asked how residents could be warned about the danger of Hemlock as there is a big bunch of it in the middle of Ohaupo. It was explained that noxious weed control is Environment Waikato's responsibility but Mr McFarlane said he would advise Council's Asset Manager Recreation.

7 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Inwards Correspondence

Notice of Application for a Resource Consent – Major Investments 2005 Limited, 25 Angus Road, RD1, Ohaupo (application to convert a dwelling into a restaurant) was included in the agenda.

7.2 Outwards Correspondence – Nil.

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8 SUBURBAN PLANNING FOR CAMBRIDGE

Jennie Gainsford said she is concerned about the loss of heritage from the suburban streetscapes of Cambridge. She said there is now a tendency to cram in houses and little units in these areas and the larger sized sections, and character of Cambridge East, is being lost. She said Cambridge has some protection for its CBD but not in its surrounding area and she asked if heritage issues are considered by Council when planning applications are received.

The Chairperson said it was timely to bring up this issue with the District Plan review commencing in 2007. Mr McFarlane said the District Plan is the only way of managing these types of issues and if it isn't strong enough then its rules need to be tightened up. He said the Waipa Heritage Council would play a big role in the District Plan review process. He said the process would commence in December 2007 and could take up to three years to complete.

9 SCHEDULE OF MEETING DATES 2007

The Waipa Heritage Council's practise has been to meet at 10.00am on the third Thursday of each month, except for December, with meetings alternating between Cambridge and Te Awamutu. However, with the recent establishment of the Biodiversity Council, it has been agreed that the Waipa Heritage Council will now meet every other month.

RESOLVED

That the Waipa Heritage Council adopts the following schedule of meeting dates (generally being the third Thursday of every other month) except for December –

*18 January 2007 (Te Awamutu)
15 March 2007 (Cambridge)
17 May 2007 (Te Awamutu)
19 July 2007 (Cambridge)
20 September 2007 (Te Awamutu)
15 November 2007 (Cambridge)*

A Hall/M Quirk

Alan Hall asked how Heritage Council members would receive information between meetings, now they are meeting every month, to ensure momentum is not lost on certain projects. The Chairperson said Mr McFarlane and Mr Roxburgh would ensure Heritage Council members are provided with the information they need in between meetings.

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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 at 10.00 am on Thursday, 18 January 2007 in Committee Room 2, Waipa District Council Offices, 101 Bank Street, Te Awamutu commencing at 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 12.09pm.