
WAIPA HERITAGE COUNCIL

MINUTES 15 SEPTEMBER 2005

Minutes of a meeting of the Waipa Heritage Council held in Committee Room 1, Waipa District Council Offices, 101 Bank Street, Te Awamutu on Thursday 15 September 2005 commencing at 10.00am.

1 MEMBERS

Waipa District Councillor, Barbara Taranaki (Chairperson)

His Worship the Mayor, Alan Livingston
Roger Swarbrick – Te Awamutu Museum
Toni Fortune – Te Awamutu Museum
Eris Parker – Cambridge Museum/Cambridge Historical Society
Bev Dean – Cambridge Museum/Cambridge Historical Society
Heather Garrett – NZ Historic Places Trust
Neville Ritchie – Department of Conservation
Alan Hall – Pirongia Historic Visitor Centre
Mary Hurst – Te Awamutu Historical Society
Max Quirk – Kihikihi District

In Attendance

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

Public – Nil

2 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

That apologies for absence be received from Sabina Owen and Gail Henry.

Neville Ritchie/Max Quirk

3 LATE ITEMS

Nil.

4 CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF MEETING

File: 65-11-02

RESOLVED

That the order of the meeting be confirmed.

Alan Hall/Max Quirk

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5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

File: 65-11-02

Minutes of Meeting held on 18 August 2005 were included in the agenda.

RESOLVED

*That the minutes of the meeting of the Waipa Heritage Council held on 18 August 2005, having been circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record subject to the second sentence of the second paragraph of item 5.1 to be amended to read "**Several WHC members said they were unhappy with the orientation of the signage used at the Alexandra East Redoubt and they would expect something slightly different at Selwyn Park**".*

Heather Garrett/Mary Hurst

Matters Arising

5.1 Selwyn Park/Morgan Park

Strategic Planning and Development Manager, Andrew McFarlane, said the Iwi Consultative Committee was consulted on the proposal to outline the mission house and raised no concern. He said he had contacted the secretary of the Te Awamutu Historical Society (TAHS) and was advised to proceed with the project. He said he would be contacting Dr Rachel Darmondy to see if it was absolutely necessary to obtain an archaeological authority to do this work, as only a very small amount of soil would be disturbed. Neville Ritchie said the impact the project might have on any archaeological deposits was negligible and he would discuss the matter with Dr Darmondy.

Mary Hurst reminded WHC members that some time ago TAHS offered to supply the materials for this work. She said they had envisaged the memorial being a plinth with a brass plaque and Roger Swarbrick said the plaque would simply say that this was the site of the mission house and to refer to the Information Centre or Museum for further information. Andrew said that as Council has a budget for conservation work and as the TAHS is in recess it might be preferable for Council to fund the work. He said a smaller sign could be considered if that was what the majority preferred.

Neville said he felt interpretive signage was preferable to a brass plaque, which is why the plaque at Orakau is being redesigned. He suggested that the TAHS could make a contribution towards the cost of the sign. Andrew said he would obtain the budget for the work.

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RESOLVED

That -

- a) *Dr Rachel Darmondy be contacted to ascertain if it is necessary to apply for NZHPT archaeological authority to outline the Mission House with pavers.*
- b) *Provided archaeological authority is not required, the pavers be laid to outline the Mission House as soon as possible and the signage be agreed later.*
- c) *The Te Awamutu Historical Society be thanked for suggesting this project to the Waipa Heritage Council because without them it would not have happened.*

Toni Fortune/Max Quirk

Andrew said there would be project sponsorship recognition to the TAHS and Council on the sign.

5.2 Matakitaki Pa

Heritage Council members were advised that Council has established a Matakitaki Pa Working Party to implement the terms of the Management Plan. The working party should comprise two Waipa Heritage Council members, a Councillor, a representative from Purekireki Marae and a staff representative.

Mary Hurst and Heather Garrett nominated Alan Hall as member of the working party. Alan Hall and Bev Dean nominated Neville Ritchie as the other member. Mayor Livingston said it was suggested that Haupai Puke should be the representative from Purekireki Marae and Andrew said he had contacted her and she is happy to be involved. As recommended by Council, it was agreed that Bruce Thomas should be the Councillor representative on the working party.

Andrew said Council has appointed another heritage staff member who will be responsible for environmental and natural heritage, particularly peat lakes and reserve development, and that it might be appropriate for that person to be the staff representative on the working party.

5.3 Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust

Bev provided an update on Don Brash's recent visit to the fencing project. Andrew said MEIT still awaits confirmation of central government funding towards the project and an acknowledgement for the huge amount of voluntary work that has taken place.

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5.4 Alexandra East Redoubt

Alan Hall tabled a photograph showing the damage to the bank. Andrew asked Neville to provide him with a shortlist of plants that would be appropriate for long term planting on the bank. He said he would discuss the issue with Asset Manager Recreation, Max Ward, and that it might also be a suitable project for the new heritage staff member, Tony Roxburgh.

5.5 Kihikihi Heritage Trail Sign

Heritage Council members were advised that the sign on the corner of Rolleston and Grey Streets has been replaced.

5.6 Heritage Awards

Andrew said he is preparing a report for the Policy Committee on Heritage Awards, which the WHC will have the opportunity to see either before or after the Policy Committee meeting. He said the report would be presented to the 14 November Policy Committee meeting at the latest.

Andrew asked WHC members for guidance on how the awards should be administered. It was questioned whether nominations should come from the WHC, other stakeholder groups or from the public. If nominations are to come from the public then the awards will need to be promoted. Andrew said the Community Boards, Information Centres and groups like Te Awamutu Alive could be asked to raise awareness on heritage recognition. Following discussion it was agreed that nominations should come from the community because they might have knowledge of projects, such as heritage gardens, that the WHC are unaware of.

Mayor Livingston said he imagined that initially there would be a number of heritage awards, which would warrant holding a separate awards evening, but thereafter it might be possible to combine the awards ceremony in conjunction with another civic reception. He said the WHC should be given the opportunity to evaluate each nomination as this would help staff arrive at a decision.

5.7 Major Jackson's House

An article in the previous night's Waikato Times concerning Major Jackson's property was discussed. A resident has expressed concern that Council and the NZHPT have done nothing to protect this historic section of land.

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Andrew said the new property owner has two archaeological authorities; one covering the veranda foundations and work on the outside of the house and the other relating to earthworks necessary for the relocated building. Neville said he understood the owner had obtained permission from NZHPT to remove the large trees next to the house and had taken this further by clearing the site. Andrew said the District Plan does not protect the trees and grounds and this falls under the NZHPT's area of responsibility. He said it would require a District Plan Change to protect the grounds of historic properties and this might be worth considering as part of the District Plan review in 2007.

Discussion followed on what the new owner's development plans are. Andrew said the owner has been made aware that he will need a resource consent to relocate buildings to the site and that the NZHPT would be an affected party. He said the site would have to comply with the District Plan's multi unit development standards and any relocated buildings would be bonded for repair.

Mayor Livingston said Council was unable to find a community organisation willing to restore the property and the fact that a private individual is now prepared to take this on is a positive outcome. Heather said the owner has promised to use a heritage landscaper for the grounds and Neville said he seems genuinely concerned about doing a good job.

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 (Mayor Alan Livingston, Councillor Barbara Taranaki)

Mayor Livingston congratulated NZHPT on the excellent weekend held in early August and said the profile it gave Cambridge and Waipa District was much appreciated. He said Heather had presented the Certificate of Merit to Council at its meeting on 30 August. He said the appointment of Tony Roxburgh emphasised the significance and value that Waipa places on its heritage.

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Barbara Taranaki said the Cambridge Community Board had recently asked whether the Cambridge railway sign should be repainted. Eris Parker said it would cost \$500 to repaint the sign and she suggested that it be taken down and stored in the Cambridge Historical Society's shed.

6.2 Te Awamutu Museum (Debra Kane/Toni Fortune)

Toni said the Museum would be receiving some publicity in the Te Awamutu Courier following the recent grant from Trust Waikato.

6.3 Te Awamutu Historical Society (Roger Swarbrick, Mary Hurst, Mike Williams)

The Te Awamutu Historical Society is still in recess and its future is still being debated.

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

Eris said the Museum has recently received a grant from Trustbank to reproduce a collection of negatives from the 1950's to 1980's.

Eris said the Historical Society is concerned that it is being overshadowed by Council's Heritage Strategy which ignores the fact that both Historical Societies have been undertaking heritage work for over 50 years. Mary said she agreed and that the Te Awamutu Historical Society (TAHS) feels it no longer counts for anything.

Mayor Livingston said it was never intended that the Heritage Strategy would usurp the roles of the Historical Societies and it had not been the catalyst for the TAHS going into recess. He said Council's Heritage Policy and Information Strategy has filled a much-needed gap and would enable heritage preservation to move forward. He said the Heritage Strategy is still dependent on the input of all the groups represented on the Heritage Council. Barbara said the Heritage Strategy was founded on the corner stones of the Historical Societies, and although that should be protected, it is also important to grow.

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Andrew said Council has a statutory obligation to take heritage seriously and the Heritage Strategy was developed to fulfil those obligations. He said the Heritage Council is an independent organisation, with representation from stakeholder groups including Council - they are not governed by Council's Heritage Strategy.

Costings and sample videos have been obtained for the heritage trail video project that Eris is currently investigating.

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

Heather said she had received a lot of compliments about the NZHPT weekend in Cambridge.

6.6 Department of Conservation (Neville Ritchie)

Neville said he felt it would be timely for the Heritage Council to develop a web page that would be linked to the Waipa District Council website. Barbara said it would also be useful to link it to the Information Centre websites. Mayor Livingston said Council's website is currently being upgraded and he would ensure a page is included on the Waipa Heritage Council.

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

Alan said the fence is now up at the Alexandra East Redoubt. He said the Visitor Centre has been busy updating displays in preparation for Pirongia Craft Day (24 September). He said Auckland railway enthusiasts would be visiting the Centre on 1 October and it was hoped this would lead to more visits. The Centre has recently produced a newsletter and a local directory. He said DOC have funded an interpretive panel for the old trig outside the Centre.

6.8 Kihikihi District (Max Quirk)

Max updated Heritage Council members on progress with the commemorative plaque in honour of John Rochford, who surveyed and pioneered the main trunk line between Te Awamutu and Marton. It is suggested that the sign be located by the Cicada sculpture. There was discussion about whether this is the most appropriate location from an access point of view.

6.9 Ohaupo District (Annie Fullerton)

No report.

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7 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Inwards Correspondence

Nil.

7.2 Outwards Correspondence

Letter to Mike Williams dated 6 September 2005 asking if he still wishes to remain a member of the Waipa Heritage Council was included in the agenda. No reply has been received to date.

RESOLVED

That the correspondence be received

Neville Ritchie/Alan Hall

8 NEW ZEALAND HISTORIC PLACES TRUST – AUTHORITY TO UNDERTAKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

There was discussion regarding the ongoing uncertainty about who (if anyone) has delegated authority to act on behalf of the NZHPT on archaeological issues. It was explained that this issue has surfaced on a number of occasions in Waipa District and examples were given of how this is becoming a problem.

Heather Garrett said Council and the Waikato Branch of the NZHPT need to have it confirmed in writing that the individual concerned has the authority to act on behalf of NZHPT. Several members of the Heritage Council emphasised the importance of obtaining clarity on this issue as a matter of urgency.

Neville said he would speak to Dr Darmondy and advise Andrew of the outcome of those discussions.

9 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

10 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Waipa Heritage Council will be held at 10.00 am on Thursday, 20 October 2005 in the Committee Room, Cambridge Service Centre, 23 Wilson Street, Cambridge

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There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 12.20pm.