
WAIPA HERITAGE COUNCIL

MINUTES 18 AUGUST 2005

Minutes of a meeting of the Waipa Heritage Council held the Committee Room, Cambridge Service Centre, 23 Wilson Street, Cambridge on Thursday 18 August 2005 commencing at 10.00am.

1 MEMBERS

Waipa District Councillor, Barbara Taranaki (Chairperson)

Toni Fortune – Te Awamutu Museum
Mary Hurst – Te Awamutu Historical Society
Eris Parker – Cambridge Museum/Cambridge Historical Society
Bev Dean – Cambridge Museum/Cambridge Historical Society
Heather Garrett – NZ Historic Places Trust
Gail Henry – NZ Historic Places Trust
Neville Ritchie – Department of Conservation
Sabina Owen – Pirongia Historic Visitor Centre
Alan Hall – Pirongia Historic Visitor Centre
Max Quirk – Kihikihi District
Annie Fullerton – Ohaupo 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 Mayor Livingston and Roger Swarbrick

Neville Ritchie/Heather Garrett

3 LATE ITEMS

Nil.

4 CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF MEETING

File: 65-11-02

RESOLVED

That the order of the meeting be confirmed

Annie Fullerton/Alan Hall

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5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

File: 65-11-02

Minutes of Meeting held on 21 July 2005 were included in the agenda.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Waipa Heritage Council held on 21 July 2005, having been circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record.

Mary Hurst/Eris Parker

Matters Arising

5.1 Selwyn Park/Morgan Park

A copy of Sonia Frimmel's proposed concept design for interpretive panels was circulated. Andrew said the work required for research, design and production of the panels would cost approximately \$1,800. He said Council was keen to progress the work on the pavers and panels as soon as possible and he asked Heritage Council members if they had any views or comments on the proposed concept.

There was discussion concerning the style of signage to be used. Several WHC members said they were unhappy with the style of signage used at the Alexandra East Redoubt and that they did not want to see that style at Selwyn Park. Gail Henry said she would provide some examples of lower level signage used by the NZHPT and Sabina Owen said she felt the sign should follow the same style as those used around the Information Centre. Toni Fortune said the placement of the sign, in terms of its orientation, was also an important factor.

Mary Hurst said the Te Awamutu Historical Society initiated the project and although it is currently in recess it still has an interest in the issue. She asked if they could be given the opportunity to comment on the concept design.

Gail said she understood Council's archaeological authority application has been sent back to Council due to insufficient evidence of consultation with Iwi. There was uncertainty as to whether this application was for the new public toilets on Selwyn Park or for the pavers to outline the Mission House. Andrew said he would send a copy of the proposed concept for the pavers to NZHPT Regional Archaeologist, Dr Rachel Darmondy.

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Gail said it would be sensible if Council included all the proposed works on Selwyn/Morgan Park in the one archaeological authority application, which would cover the pavers, plaques, signage and the public toilets. However, following discussion concerning the requirement for Iwi consultation on the proposed work, it was felt it might hold up the paving/signage project if it was included in the same application as the public toilets. Toni asked if a letter could be sent to Nga Iwi Toopu o Waipa advising them about the pavers and proposed signage and inviting their comments.

RESOLVED

That the Waipa Heritage Council recommends that Council progress the signage/pavers project at Selwyn Park as proposed, that it notify the Te Awamutu Historical Society of its intention and that it follow the normal consultation protocols that apply to any Council project.

Sabina Owen/Bev Dean

5.2 Matakītaki Pa

Heritage Council members were advised that their recommendation concerning the formation of a Management Committee to address the Matakītaki Pa Management Plan will be considered by Council at its meeting on 30 August. A copy of the minutes of a "Matakītaki Consultative Hui" held at Purekireki Marae in November 1999 was included in the agenda and it was agreed that once the Management Committee has been formed it could consider the goals outlined in that document.

Gail said the Management Committee would benefit from some advice from an NZHPT technical specialist on the management of the site. Sabina said Purekireki Marae have voiced concern on several occasions about the inappropriateness of picnic tables at Matakītaki Pa and they would like them removed. She also asked if Matakītaki Pa should be a Historic Reserve as opposed to its present classification. Andrew said the Management Committee would address those sorts of issues.

5.3 Cambridge RSA

No further progress to report.

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5.4 Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust (MEIT)

Andrew said MEIT is continuing to fund raise in order to have the ring fence complete by next year so the pest eradication programme can start on time. He said Kiwi were released into the northern enclosure in July and are progressing well.

Andrew said the final draft of the Maungatautari Reserve Management Plan is being presented to the Iwi Consultative Committee on 7 September and Council on 27 September and will then be forwarded to the Minister of Conservation for approval. He said the draft Memorandum of Understanding between Council and MEIT would receive consideration by Council at its meeting on 30 August.

5.5 Waipa District Plan Proposed Plan Change 48 – Archaeological Sites

Sabina said she had informed Council Planner, David Bayley, about two significant paper roads adjacent to the Alexandra Redoubt which she believes would contain very valuable archaeological information. She said there would be many other paper roads in Waipa of equal value that should be listed as Archaeological Sites in the District Plan. Andrew said David Bayley would consider that suggestion as part of the review of archaeological sites.

5.6 Heritage Awards

Andrew said that when the idea of providing recognition through heritage awards was suggested it had initially been in relation to buildings but it is now felt there are a number of categories that the award might recognise. He said it would be helpful if the WHC could identify some categories, as this would give staff a steer on the type of assessment criteria that might be appropriate. Examples of categories used by other organisations to recognise heritage are -

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- Adaptive re-use
- Restoration (exterior/interior)
- Residential conservation
- Commercial conservation
- Small scale improvement
- Heritage project achievement
- Heritage awareness achievement
- New design – sensitive infill
- New design – sensitive addition
- Heritage open space
- Heritage education
- Heritage volunteers
- Heritage tourism
- Interpretation/Presentation
- Landscape conservation
- Conservation management plans

Gail said the term “Residential Conservation” might make it too difficult to award anything and Andrew suggested replacing it with “Residential Restoration/Preservation” although he said there should be a category for “Residential Conservation to recognise good maintenance work on a property.” Gail said she agreed that there should be categories for both “Residential Conservation” and “Residential Restoration” but having a “Commercial Conservation” category might become too confusing. She said it might be useful to have a category for “Industrial Conservation/Restoration”. It was also felt that “Commercial Restoration” and “Adaptive Re-use” were good categories. Gail said it would be essential to provide a definition for each category.

Eris said the “Small Scale Improvement” category could be used to recognise work on projects such as the RSA gun and the Climax steam engine. Neville said it might be more appropriate to call it “Small Scale Conservation Projects”.

Toni said the LEOTC programme run at the Te Awamutu Museum would qualify for either the heritage tourism or heritage education category. Annie said the Pirongia Clydesdales would also suit that classification.

Gail said she supported a “Traditional Tradesperson” category because it was very difficult to find builders with the right skills to carry out work on Category I buildings.

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Andrew asked how cultural heritage could be recognised. It was suggested this could be awarded to someone who has retained a significant area in a subdivision or to the likes of the Waipa Arts Society.

It was questioned whether the definition “contribution to archaeological site recording”, to recognise the late Owen Wilkes, would fit under the “Heritage Volunteers” category or whether there should be a “Site Recording” or “Historical Research” category.

It was agreed that the list of criteria should not be too constrained and Andrew said he would draft up a broad list of criteria for the WHC’s consideration at a future meeting. At that stage the list can be further refined and the WHC can decide how the awards should be judged, what sort of consultation process should be involved and what form the award should take.

5.7 Alexandra East Redoubt

Sabina said she was concerned that soil on the banks of the Redoubt is being disturbed, either by children or dogs, and she asked how it could be protected. It was explained that there is no specific funding available for this type of work in the Reserve Development Programme. Andrew said he would speak to Asset Manager Recreation, Max Ward, about the availability of funds in the Heritage Protection account. Sabina said the Alexandra East Redoubt Management Plan recommends that the banks are planted with shrubs and if Council is able to purchase the shrubs she said she was sure the community would assist with the planting.

RESOLVED

That the Waipa Heritage Council recommends that Council consider preventative measures and/or planting to discourage bank erosion at the Alexandra East Redoubt in line with Management Plan recommendations.

Sabina Owen/Alan Hall

6 MEMBERS REPORTS

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

No report.

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6.2 Te Awamutu Museum (Debra Kane/Toni Fortune)

Toni said Museum staff have been busy with children's exhibitions and the forthcoming No 8 Wire art awards. They have been working with Council staff on change over plans for the Museum's management/administration.

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

It was noted that Mike Williams has not attended a WHC meeting in some time. The secretary will write to Mike asking whether he wishes to remain on the WHC.

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

Eris said she was concerned to learn that Council's Major Projects Feasibility Study has identified the Cambridge Museum as in need of "re-housing". She said Museum staff require more storage space but have no desire to be re-housed. She said she hoped the Military Museum, which has also been identified in the Study, would not be progressed at the expense of the Cambridge Museum's additional storage requirements.

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

Heather updated the WHC on the very successful NZHPT event held in Cambridge over the previous weekend. She said Waipa District Council had been presented with a Certificate of Merit for heritage preservation work at the lecture on Saturday night which had been attended by over 100 people.

6.6 Department of Conservation (Neville Ritchie)

No report.

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

Sabina said a community meeting had been held to look at tourism opportunities in the Pirongia area and, as a result, a working party has been formed. She said the Visitor Centre had received a grant of \$4,000 from Trust Waikato which would assist with its concept plan. She said the train trip (not steam train as previously recorded) from Auckland has been deferred until 1 October because of the General Election.

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6.8 Kihikihi District (Max Quirk)

Max said he had been trying for some time to get Council to replace the Heritage Trail sign by the 10 acre block without success. He said the Kihikihi Heritage Trail Committee had installed the signage several years ago and Council had agreed to maintain them.

RESOLVED

That the interpretation and heritage trail sign by the 10 acre block on the corner of Rolleston and Grey Streets be replaced.

Max Quirk/Toni Fortune

Max said the new owner of Major Jackson's property had cleared the site of trees and was planning to relocate three villas along the front of the property.

Andrew said Council has written to the new owner and asked him to stop work immediately pending the outcome of his Resource Consent application to relocate at least one building. The new owner has been told that it is a protected building and an archaeological site and has been advised of what he can and cannot do to the property. Gail said the NZHPT archaeologist has been giving the new owner some technical advice. She said she was really impressed with the way Council staff have addressed this issue.

Andrew said he has spoken with Dr Rachel Darmondy about the Kihikihi sewerage scheme. Council has applied for archaeological authority in relation to mainly the Pioneer Walk area but it will include the whole project. He said Council has the appropriate protocols in place for staff to follow should they come across archaeological remains. NZHPT has confirmed their satisfaction with the protocols Council had in place.

6.9 Ohaupo District (Annie Fullerton)

Annie suggested that the WHC's resolution to appropriately acknowledge the former Ohaupo Presbyterian Church should go on hold until the restoration work has been completed.

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7 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Inwards Correspondence

Nil.

7.2 Outwards Correspondence

Nil.

8 PIRONGIA SCHOOL BUILDING

Heritage Council members were advised that the old 'Library Building' in the Pirongia School grounds is no longer required and will be replaced. Negotiations have gone on for a long time now as to how this could be used by the community. The Pirongia Restoration Society is showing some interest in having it relocated onto Section 550 (Recreation Reserve) behind the Historic Visitor Centre and for it to be used as an Environmental Education Centre.

Sabina said the Pirongia Restoration Society is meeting this evening to discuss the issue. Heather said she had given them information on what happened with Goodwood School and what she has received from Trevor Mallard. She said that as it was built in 1916 it does not meet the criteria for a Category Listed Building. Andrew said that whilst it does not qualify as a heritage building it no doubt had the potential to be of value to the community. However, regardless of where it is ultimately relocated, it is probable that at some stage, Council would be approached for assistance and / or funding. People should be mindful that Council budgets are tight and increasingly competitive. This project would likely be competing against other worthwhile community initiatives such as the Pirongia Historic Visitors Centre.

9 ADDITION TO WAIPA HERITAGE COUNCIL – HERITAGE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Andrew said Louise Beaumont, a heritage landscape architect, has asked to be involved with the Waipa Heritage Council. Following discussion it was agreed that it could be useful to involve Louise on certain projects, in the same way as Sonia Frimmel, but that it would not be appropriate to have a commercial consultant as a member of the WHC.

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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, 15 September 2005 in Committee Room 1, Waipa District Council Offices, 101 Bank Street, Te Awamutu.

Sabina Owen has provided apologies for absence from the next two Waipa Heritage Council meetings.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 12.10pm.