

# WAIPA HERITAGE COUNCIL

65-11-02

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WAIPA HERITAGE COUNCIL HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOM , WAIPA DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES, 23 WILSON STREET, CAMBRIDGE ON THURSDAY 21 APRIL 2005 COMMENCING AT 10.00AM.

### PRESENT

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#### **Waipa Heritage Committee Members –**

Waipa District Councillor, Barbara Taranaki (Chair)  
His Worship the Mayor, Alan Livingston  
Roger Swarbrick – Te Awamutu Museum  
Toni Fortune – Te Awamutu Museum  
Max Quirk – Kihikihi District  
Heather Garrett – NZ Historic Places Trust  
Bev Dean – Cambridge Museum/Cambridge Historical Society  
Sabina Owen – Pirongia Historic Visitor Centre  
Mary Hurst – Pirongia Historic Visitor Centre

#### **Waipa District Council Staff -**

Noelene Barr - Committee Secretary

### 1 APOLOGIES

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#### **RESOLVED**

*That apologies for absence from Neville Ritchie, Eris Parker and Gail Henry be received.*

Toni Fortune/Roger Swarbrick

### 2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES/MATTERS ARISING

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#### **RESOLVED**

*That the minutes of the Waipa Heritage Council meeting held on 17 March 2005 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject to the word “bought” being replaced by “**commissioned**” in the paragraph concerning the correction of the previous minutes.*

Max Quirk/Bev Dean

#### **MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MINUTES**

- **Major Jackson’s House**

Mary Hurst said that the person who had expressed interest in purchasing the property is no longer interested and suggested that Council should purchase it to prevent the house falling into disrepair. There is always the possibility of resiting the house and selling the section, however she said that she had received advice from a structural engineer that the house is salvageable on the site but not if it is shifted.

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An application could be made to Lottery Grants, however the house would need to be Council owned as private residences don't qualify. There was general discussion regarding the need to change the legislation, as there are a lot of privately owned residences that need help.

Council could buy the house as a last resort and lease it to an organisation that would be interested in managing and maintaining it on an on going basis. The families who have had associations with the house should be given the opportunity of owning it. If the house were to be Council owned and repair was inappropriate the section was valuable real estate. Heather Garrett said that she would make enquiries in Kihikihi.

- **Orakau Battle Site Plaque**

Sabina Owen said that Sonia Frimmell has paid \$360 for costs relating to the commission of the Orakau concept plan with the understanding that funds would be available from Council. However, she has since been advised that funds are not available. Mayor Livingston said that he would follow this through. There was general discussion regarding applying to Trust Waikato for a grant, which closes on 13 May.

Toni Fortune said, referring to previous minutes of 17 July 2003 that the Chairman would obtain confirmation of funding assistance from Council, this confirmation had never been obtained, however Heritage Manager requested that an invoice be submitted. Confirmation from Council was received in 2004 that Council would not provide the funds to pay the invoice. She said that the committee should be made aware of the process undertaken so that it is less confusing in the future.

A Historic Places Trust conference will be held in Cambridge on 13 and 14 August and it would be good to have the concept plan in place.

Sabina said that only the wording needs to be finalised and she will bring it along to the next meeting.

- **Selwyn Park/Morgan Park**

As plans have not been received there was nothing further to discuss.

- **Locomotive at Memorial Park, Te Awamutu**

Heather Garrett said that she visited the three sites and said that any site near the main highway would not be safe for children.

Sabina Owen queried whether the purpose of the train was to play on or to view. Mayor Livingston said that it hasn't been determined whether the train will be repaired or restored to working condition. It will be available either for children to interact with or for viewing only and will be dependant on what funds are available as to the level of repairs carried out. This in turn would determine the site. If it is used for display purposes it would be a good opportunity to place a plaque outlining historical information regarding it.

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Mary Hurst said that if it is located back in Memorial Park and set back off Mutu Street on the lawn, it would be safe enough for children and could be developed into a good picnic area. It is also close to the children's playground area. Sabina said she had the same thoughts.

Roger Swarbrick said that the train was originally given by the Smyth Brothers as a children's play piece however the concept of it has now changed and once restored as a historical relic, it could be placed anywhere in public view. He suggested outside Smyth Brothers in Arawata Street.

Albert Park Drive would have the same traffic problems associated with the highway as it is an alternative route. It is valuable as a play piece but would have to comply with OSH standards and if restored for viewing purposes, the costs of restoration would be considerably cheaper. It was suggested that the Council wait until costs had been received before making the decision as to where the train should be sited. The Lions are currently working on it each weekend and they should be advised as to what level of repair is required. Mayor Livingston suggested that the members agree to three sites to assist Asset Manager Recreation and the Lions.

## RESOLVED

*That the Waipa Heritage Council requests involvement in the final determination of the siting of the restored locomotive and stress the importance of the train as an historical relic and recommend to Council four sites as follows –*

- (a) Arawata Street (vicinity of Benchmark) because of the Smyth Connection;*
- (b) Selwyn Park in the vicinity of the Events Centre;*
- (c) Sculpture Garden in Albert Park Drive;*
- (d) Memorial Park, Mutu Street (first grass verge and placed back from the road so it is not dangerous for children and reasonably close to the play area).*

Mary/Hurst/Max Quirk

- **Heritage Walking Trails**

Chairperson Taranaki read out the submission that WHC had made to Council's Draft Annual Plan 2005/06. There is a budget in the Annual Plan for heritage requirements which will be associated with the Heritage Manager in future.

- **Alexandra East Redoubt**

Sabina Owen displayed the concept plan that Sonia Frimmell compiled of the display panels that will eventually be attached to the fence. The Second Waikato Regiment militia badge will be used as an emblem indicating places of interest. Members of the Council were pleased with the concept plan and Sabina said that she would pass on their comments to Sonia.

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- **Matakitaki Pa**

Gail Henry said that she gave mowing specifications used by Historic Places Trust to staff however the area is still not looking its best. Cattle are grazing the land when the management plan specifies sheep, however staff advised that cattle, up to a certain age, are allowed to graze the area. Blackberry is evident and there are weeds in ditches. Public access is difficult when cattle are present and a separate public entrance would overcome this. It is a project that the Heritage Manager could become involved with and draw all parties together to find a solution.

- **Cambridge RSA**

The former RSA premises have been bought by the Lee Trust and will be used until the government election by the Electoral Officer and then as an educational centre.

The gun which was formerly located in the grounds of the RSA premises has been restored by the Ross brothers and has been placed near the cenotaph.

## **RESOLVED**

*That the Waipa Heritage Council writes a letter to the Ross Family Trust in appreciation of the efforts involved with the restoration and resiting of the anti tank gun which was previously located on the former grounds of the RSA premises.*

Mayor Livingston/Roger Swarbrick

- **Pirongia Historic Visitor Centre**

Sabina Owen said that Owen Orsmy from AUT suggested that the Centre joins the Auckland Museum Council and that Kawhia Museum has become a member. The Auckland Museum Council has items that are available for permanent loan. There is a proposal afoot to bring tourist groups from Auckland, along with steam train enthusiasts, to the King Country area. The Centre could be a focus because of the history in the area; Pirongia and Kawhia could also become involved. There would also be a tourist opportunity when the steam train goes through to Whangamomona. The recently published book of the history of Kawhia is very good.

- **Maungatautari**

Bev Dean said that things are going well with the earthworks being completed for the fence which will be erected during winter. An area of grasslands which included a pond, that was recently gifted to the Trust, is being fenced at the moment and because of this land the Trust is able to become involved with the takahe recovery programme. Waipa District Council has upgraded the track up the top of the mountain. The Trust is gathering historical data which will be displayed in the tourist centre when it is established.

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It was suggested that a public shelter be included with the centre as the site has a southerly aspect. However, a more appropriate site is being investigated which would require road access and acquirement of Council land. Temporary toilets may be provided soon to meet the needs of visitors.

- **Motorised Heritage Trail**  
No further discussion.

## 3 CORRESPONDENCE

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- **Inwards**

- Letter dated 12 April 2005 from Council's Executive Assistance acknowledging receipt of submission for the Draft Annual Plan 2005/05
- Resource Consent application from Taotaoroa Quarries Limited to store indoor and outdoor stockpiles of bulk materials; reprocess, recycle and sell bulk materials; import, deposit and/or recontour cleanfill materials; and establish and operate a bitumen plant, at the Rural zoned Taotaoroa Quarry. The consent application is to be forward to Eric Parker for her information and comment.
- Resource Consent application from Rukuhia Community Hall Society (Incorporated) to construct and use for school and community purposes a 415m<sup>2</sup> hall and associated facilities. Community uses include hireage of the hall by clubs such as Rock 'n Roll and private functions such as weddings, reunions and birthdays.

The hall is to be located on school grounds as the previous hall, which was located on a main road, was too dangerous for the school to use. The memorial has also been relocated to the school.

- **Outwards**

- Letter dated 31 March 2005 to Council's Group Manager – Policy and Strategy submitting to the Annual Plan 2005/05 (Heritage Walking Trails).
- Letter dated 21 March 2005 to Transpower House, copies of which were provided for members.

The Minister of Energy has stated that an Electricity Commission will carry out a full investigation of alternative means of power generation and power transmission. In the meantime Transpower will notify their preferred route in early May. Gary Dyett, Waipa District Council's Deputy Chief Executive has hand delivered a submission from Council stating the environmental effects and how the proposal is contrary to Council's District Plan and highlighting issues that would be confronted when applying for consent.

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## RESOLVED

*That the correspondence be received.*

Mayor Livingston/Heather Garrett

## GENERAL

- Mary Hurst distributed a survey plan compiled by Allan Hall, a retired member of the Waikato University, which illustrated archaeological sites that have been identified by Department of Conservation. The sites were colour coded to identify the different type of site. Allan is willing to compile similar maps for the remainder of the Waipa District. In conjunction with Owen Wilks this information has been included in an archaeological data base which Waipa District Council would have access to. A copy of the plan is held by Council's employee, David Bayley who is handling the review of Appendix 11.

- **Mangakawhare Peat Lake (access off Meadway Road)**

Sabina Owen said during a recent tour of archaeological sites, the Mangakawhare Pa site on Anderson Road was viewed from the bus. The artificial islands were built as pa sites and were excavated by Auckland University. A scale model of the pa suggests advocating this area as a reserve again which would require the relinquishment of the leases. She suggested including it on the agenda to determine what is happening with it.

Waipa District Council has acknowledged the significance of the site and is scheduled for development after Lake Ngaroto has been completed. Accessibility to the area is undetermined as the surrounding land is currently leased. The McFarlane graves are in the locality and are now no longer looked after. The members requested that this heading is included in future for further discussion next meeting.

- **Alexander Cemetery**

Sabina Owen said that pigs are kept alongside the fence line and near the car park by the Oak Lane entrance to Alexander Cemetery off Pirongia Road. Part of the cemetery reserve has been fenced off and made available to a local farmer to graze but is now being used by the adjoining land owner inappropriately. It is possible that there are burials in this vicinity even though there are no headstones visible. She said that she had sent photos to Council's Asset Manager Recreation but hasn't as yet received a reply.

It was suggested that the area should be checked to ascertain whether or not it is designated a cemetery reserve. There is an element of goodwill involved and people should be mindful of keeping the area tidy near the entrance of the cemetery. If the fence line were moved to incorporate more parking area, this would take the pressure off the entrance.

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- **ANZAC Green**

Toni Fortune asked the members if they wished to make a submission to the proposed change of status of ANZAC Green, the closing date of which is 29 April. There are plans to realign the street following the revocation of the reserve status. Submissions are being called for the change of status of the reserve. Heather Garrett said that it had been suggested that the New Zealand Historic Places Trust put in a submission as the green was being reduced by 20%. However something had to be done to create more parking spaces. Toni said that she has made a submission as she was more concerned with the reduction of the reserve than the realignment of the street. She also said that the smaller trees were to be relocated.

Waipa District Council is mindful of minimising the reduction of ANZAC Green. From a traffic and engineering perspective the realignment of Teasdale Street is an improvement. Mayor Livingston said that it should be acknowledged the Council did grass some of the area and now wants to claim it back.

- **Cleaning Headstones**

Max Quirk said that a local paper was advertising a service for cleaning headstones and said that he hoped they were qualified to do it, otherwise the headstones would be in worse condition. Barbara Taranaki said that she had spoken with a local person involved with the service who had advised her that his work complies with regulations. Members said that quite often six months after being cleaned, the headstone looks terrible. Chemical cleaning doesn't work and a brush and sunlight soap is sometimes used. Heather Garrett said that the HPT is using a new cleaner and will advise the members at the next meeting.

- Heather Garrett thanked members for attending the function at Kihikihi and said that there would be an article in the next HPT magazine about it. She reminded members of the conference scheduled to be held in Cambridge on 13 and 14 August. She said that one of the speakers, Paul Martin from Rivertone, recently compiled a very impressive montage of photographs of the archives of "Woodlands". He will be presenting a workshop at the conference on how to preserve archives.
- Bev Dean said that Bruce has been collecting local bottles for 20 years, and displayed to the members a crockery jar which had recently come into his possession. The jar was engraved with "Waipuna Cordial Factory" which related to an old Cambridge business and was made in Sydney in 1912. This will be included in Bruce's collection and eventually bequeathed to the museum.

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**Meeting Closed at 12.26pm.**

**NEXT MEETING: 10.00AM  
19 MAY 2005  
COMMITTEE ROOM, TE AWAMUTU**