

WAIPA HERITAGE COUNCIL

65-11-02

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WAIPA HERITAGE COUNCIL HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2, WAIPA DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES, 101 BANK STREET, TE AWAMUTU ON THURSDAY 17 MARCH 2005 COMMENCING AT 10.00AM.

PRESENT

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
Eris Parker – Cambridge Museum/Cambridge Historical Society
Heather Garrett – NZ Historic Places Trust
Gail Henry – NZ Historic Places Trust
Annie Fullerton – Ohaupo District
Bev Dean – Cambridge Museum/Cambridge Historical Society

Waipa District Council Staff -

Andrew McFarlane – Heritage Manager
Wayne Green – Communications Advisor
Cathy Plowright – Committee Secretary

1 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

That apologies for absence be received from Mary Hurst, Neville Ritchie and Sabina Owen.

Max Quirk/Annie Fullerton

Neville has also given apologies for the April meeting.

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES/MATTERS ARISING

RESOLVED

*That the minutes of the Waipa Heritage Council meeting held on 17 February 2005 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject to the last paragraph under the Pirongia Historic Visitor Centre on page three being amended to read **“Heather said the Visitor Centre had bought a beautiful carving from local Maori and it would be displayed outside.”***

Barbara Taranaki/Heather Garrett

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MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MINUTES

- **Major Jackson's House**

Gail said Historic Places Trust was not opposed to some re-use of part of the property subject to the house retaining its setting in a suitable way. She said the person interested in purchasing the property has been advised of this.

- **Orakau Battle Site Plaque**

Neville will be unable to make any progress on this issue for a few months.

- **Selwyn Park/Morgan Park**

Mayor Livingston said Council feel the highest priority is to see whether a toilet block could be accommodated within Selwyn Park without it impacting on future development there. He said it has been suggested that the most logical place for it would be along Arawata Street because of its high visibility. Staff are investigating the matter.

Roger said that although the area had always been known as Selwyn Park there had been a move some years ago for it to be renamed Morgan Park because it had a much greater historical association with John Morgan than with Bishop Selwyn. Heritage Manager, Andrew McFarlane, said it was possible the issue could be clarified when Council reviews the Reserve Management Plan for the area. There was general agreement that it would be unwise to rename the park but that there should be some acknowledgement of John Morgan in the vicinity of Selwyn Park. Mayor Livingston suggested that Roger provide some background information on the matter.

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

Mayor Livingston said the final location for the repaired locomotive still had to be determined and it would be helpful if the Heritage Council could recommend a preferred site. Roger reminded the WHC that he had suggested a site in front of Benchmark in Arawata Street because of the historical connection with Smyth Brothers and Boyer who were the original proprietors of the timber yard. Heather said that whilst the site was appropriate for an historical perspective it might not be safe for children with its close proximity to a busy road and the amount of vehicles that visit Benchmark.

Other potential sites suggested were Selwyn Park, in the vicinity of the Events Centre and the sculpture gardens on Albert Park Drive. Andrew suggested that WHC members each come up with three potential sites before the next meeting, together with the rationale for locating the locomotive at each of them.

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- **Heritage Walking Trails**

Andrew said that Heritage Walking Trails was one of a number of projects that had been prioritised following adoption of the Heritage Policy and Implementation Strategy. He said he had been asked to produce a project timeframe for reviewing the walking trails and getting a work programme in place over the next 12-18 months. This will involve an audit of existing walking trails, signage and brochures available and the establishment of a budget for maintenance and upgrade of signs.

Mayor Livingston said a sub-committee of the WHC had updated the walking trail information and this had been provided to Asset Manager Recreation, Max Ward. He said more brochures for Cambridge and Te Awamutu were urgently needed. It was suggested that the WHC ask for some funding to be put aside for the walking and motorised heritage trails in the 2005/06 Annual Plan.

RESOLVED

That the Waipa Heritage Council make a submission to Council requesting funding for brochures and signage for heritage trail walkways and the motorised heritage trail.

Barbara Taranaki/Bev Dean

- **Alexandra East Redoubt**

Andrew tabled a design that Sonia Frimmel has produced for the backdrop to the signage at the Alexandra East Redoubt and asked WHC members for their views. Gail said she thought the backdrop was unnecessarily bulky and that the Historic Places Trust (HPT) would not permit that kind of design at the Armed Constabulary Redoubt. She said it had been hoped that there would be consistency in the design of signage for the two redoubts and that she would provide the WHC and Sonia with examples of some signage currently being prepared for the HPT.

- **Matakitaki Pa**

Toni said the site was not looking its best at present. Gail offered to provide Council with the mowing specifications used by the HPT on the Armed Constabulary Redoubt which have been working very well.

- **Cambridge RSA**

Nothing further to report.

- **Pirongia Historic Visitor Centre**

Heather said the carving at the Visitor Centre had been purchased, rather than donated, as stated in the minutes. The minutes will be corrected accordingly.

- **Maungatautari**

Bev said the Prime Minister would be visiting Maungatautari when she is able to rather than in the next few weeks, as stated in the minutes.

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Mayor Livingston said the \$2.1 million grant from Environment Waikato would allow half of the fencing programme to be completed by winter, with the other half programmed for the next fencing season. He said Government support was the next goal. He also updated WHC members on the pest monitoring programme and the sourcing of Kiwi.

- **Motorised Heritage Trail**

This was discussed earlier in the meeting along with Heritage Walking Trails.

3 CORRESPONDENCE

- **Inwards**

- Resource Consent application from Andelyne Trust to establish and operate a horse training operation at 438 Peake Road, Cambridge. It was felt there was no historical reason for the WHC to make a submission on this application.
- Letter dated 21 February 2005 from NZHPT to Heather Garrett concerning registrations under investigation. Gail explained the legal process being undertaken by the NZHPT to re-register the historic places that are not formally registered. She said that re-registering the properties would ensure there is a more robust standard of information on each of them but there was some concern that developers might take advantage of the situation while the properties are temporarily off the register. She said the properties would receive more protection from being listed in Council's District Plan, provided it has good heritage policies and rules in place. She said the properties most at risk were the ones that have been temporarily removed from the register and are not listed in the District Plan, this applies to just one property in Waipa. The NZHPT will be contacting all affected property owners in the next few months.
- Letter dated 11 March 2005 from Council's Planning Officer concerning Archaeological Sites Update (Plan Change 22) – the former Te Awamutu Post Office. Toni has already provided information on the archaeological significance of this site to Council staff but will send it again. Andrew said the issue highlighted the need for an archaeological database so the information could be integrated with Council's building consent processes. He said information on databases used by other Councils was going to be provided by NZHPT to see if Waipa could also use it. Gail said she would speak to Dr Rachel Darmody about the matter.
- Letter dated 9 March 2005 from Council's Chief Executive concerning the review of the District Plan's Archaeological Appendices. Mayor Livingston said the letter omitted to mention the contribution that Eris Parker has also made to the Plan Change.

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- **Outwards**

- Letter dated 2 March 2005 to New Zealand Historic Places Trust concerning temporary removal of Category II listings from the NZHPT Register.
- Letter dated 2 March 2005 to Andrew McFarlane congratulating him on his new role as Heritage Manager. Andrew said he would continue his work on Reserve Management Plans, the Maungatautari Reserve Committee and the Community Boards in addition to the new heritage role.
- Letter dated 2 March 2005 to Council's Chief Executive thanking him for appointing a manager to look after Waipa's heritage.
- Letter dated 2 March 2005 to Gail Henry concerning the wedding to be held at the Alexandra Redoubt, Pirongia. Gail said the concerns raised in the letter had been covered by NZHPT. She said any future requests would be considered on a case by case basis, although it was not possible to prohibit people from using the Redoubt for wedding ceremonies as it is a public reserve. However, if any damage is caused or the Redoubt is not used in an appropriate way then a prosecution could be made under the Historic Places Act.

RESOLVED

That the correspondence be received.

Roger Swarbrick/Toni Fortune

GENERAL

- Mayor Livingston asked if the WHC felt it should make a submission to Transpower concerning the proposal to install a new 400kV power transmission line from Whakamaru to its Otahuhu substation. He said one of the proposed routes for the transmission line would go between the Maungatautari landscape character area and Lake Karapiro and across the State Highway to Horahora which would have a detrimental effect on the aesthetic quality of Waipa's natural heritage and landscape character areas. He said that in a number of areas the proposed route would be contrary to the intent of Council's District Plan and that Council was making a submission to Transpower on that basis.

RESOLVED

That the Waipa Heritage Council makes a submission to Transpower endorsing the stance taken by Waipa District Council regarding the proposed power lines through Waipa District.

Roger Swarbrick/Heather Garrett

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Andrew said he would draft a submission on behalf of the WHC. Gail suggested that the submission should explain the range of organisations represented by the WHC.

- Eris said she was concerned that the sign for Rumours, a new shop in Cambridge, covers the name of the building and she asked whether that was compatible with the Central Cambridge Character Design Guidelines. Andrew explained that they are only guidelines but that it could be possible to change them to rules as a part of the review of the District Plan in 2007.
- Annie asked if anything could be done about the block of land just south of Ohaupo where pigs are kept along the fence line. She said she had concerns about hygiene and Mayor Livingston said it had an adverse effect on the visual character of the area. He asked Andrew to check if there was anything Council could do about it.
- Eris referred to the information she tabled at the last meeting concerning conservation of cemeteries and said she would be making a submission to Council asking for a Management Plan for Waipa cemeteries.
- Council's Communications Advisor, Wayne Green, spoke about the possible refurbishment of the Prince William Theatre at the Cambridge Town Hall. He said if Council allowed the proposal to proceed a community group would be fundraising for a scoping study on the project. He said that refurbishing the Town Hall's dress circle would add 100+ seats to the facility and, with modern technology, it could become a theatre again.
- Toni said she has recently visited a number of Waipa's heritage sites and was pleased to see how well they are being kept.
- Gail explained that, as the result of a recent NZHPT restructuring exercise, properties in the Lower North area will now be the responsibility of the Property Manager in the Auckland office. She said the Area Co-ordinator's position in Tauranga will be disestablished and replaced with an Area Manager. It is unlikely the changes will happen until June/July 2005.
- Referring to the subdivision of the Valmai Resthome property, mentioned in the last minutes, Heather said the Trust had not suggested that the cottages be relocated to Karapiro Domain and that this was her own idea.

Mayor Livingston said he felt the WHC should acknowledge individuals that make an effort to maintain and enhance Waipa's built and natural environment. He said it was hoped there would be a suitable acknowledgement for the work done on the Teacher's House in Te Awamutu and, similarly, for the work done in the Cambridge CBD to preserve the Victorian theme verandahs and balustrades. He said he felt a letter of acknowledgement for the work in Cambridge would be appropriate.

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Meeting Closed at 12.20 pm

**NEXT MEETING: 10.00AM
21 APRIL 2005
COMMITTEE ROOM, CAMBRIDGE**