

WAIPA HERITAGE COUNCIL

65-11-02

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WAIPA HERITAGE COUNCIL HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, CAMBRIDGE SERVICE CENTRE, 23 WILSON STREET, CAMBRIDGE ON THURSDAY 17 FEBRUARY 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 – until 11.00am
Eris Parker – Cambridge Museum/Cambridge Historical Society
Heather Garrett – NZ Historic Places Trust
Neville Ritchie – Department of Conservation
Bev Dean – Cambridge Museum/Cambridge Historical Society

Waipa District Council Staff -

Cathy Plowright – Committee Secretary

1 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

That apologies for absence be received from Gail Henry and Andrew McFarlane.

Roger Swarbrick/Alan Livingston

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES/MATTERS ARISING

RESOLVED

*That the minutes of the Waipa Heritage Council meeting held on 18 November 2004 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject to the last paragraph under the Alexandra East Redoubt on page three being amended to read “**Heather said Sonia and Gail were also working on ...**”.*

Barbara Taranaki/Bev Dean

MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MINUTES

• Major Jackson’s House

Mayor Livingston said he understood the individual who had originally expressed an interest in the property was still keen to purchase it but had not been able to obtain a response from the property owners or their representatives. He said the owner has been advised that the criteria set down in Council’s Heritage Policy and Implementation Strategy shows Council interest as a last resort. As there is an interested purchaser, Council does not have an interest in being involved.

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Heather said the NZHPT have told the interested party they are prepared to work with him on the restoration of the property and he has submitted plans to them.

- **Orakau Battle Site Plaque**

Neville said he had been unable to make any progress on the proposed wording for the plaque and was unsure if he would have time to do so over the next few months.

- **Heritage Policy and Implementation Strategy**

Barbara said Council appreciated the input from the Heritage Council on this policy and adopted it in December 2004.

- **Selwyn Park/Morgan Park**

Mayor Livingston said Chow Hill has completed its report on a town centre plan for Te Awamutu and it will be released for public comment. He said a lot of the projects in the plan were centred on Selwyn Park from a future development perspective. He said that whilst Morgan Park was a part of that, options for its future development are limited because of its historic classification. He said he hoped the Mission House would have an interpretive outline, similar to the recent work done at the Alexandra East Redoubt, and that Council's new Heritage Manager would be working on this.

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

Mayor Livingston advised that the locomotive has been relocated to the building in Churchill Street where it will be repaired as part of a Lions project. He said the final site for the repaired locomotive was yet to be determined.

- **Heritage Walking Trails**

Eris said updated information on Heritage Walking Trails has been given to Council staff but the brochure has not been done yet.

Heather circulated an example of a heritage walking trail map from Australia. She explained that they are left in motels to inform tourists about local heritage walks, and the distances involved, without having to obtain them from Information Centres.

- **Alexandra East Redoubt**

The pavers have been laid and a cutting from the Te Awamutu Courier about the project was circulated. Neville circulated a draft of the interpretive sign for the Redoubt which Sonia Frimmel has been working on. Mayor Livingston said the Working Party (Max Ward, Sabina Owen, Neville Ritchie and Gail Henry) was making good progress with the work.

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- **Matakitaki Pa**

Mayor Livingston said Council's new Heritage Manager would be working on progressing the implementation of the Matakitaki Pa Management Plan, involving input from Purekireki Marae.

- **Cambridge RSA**

Eris said she understood the building has been sold to a Trust. She said the gun has been removed and would be restored on a voluntary basis. Mayor Livingston suggested that a note reminding the WHC to send a letter of thanks to the person restoring the gun should be added to the list of unresolved actions. The letter will be sent once the gun has been fully restored. Barbara said the gun would be placed just behind the town clock, facing towards the town and not the cenotaph.

On the subject of registered historic buildings, Heather said that in the process of upgrading its register of historic places, areas and wahi tapu, the NZHPT has temporarily removed all of the category II buildings from the register. She said she was very concerned that those buildings were unprotected whilst they were off the list and she has written expressing her concern to the NZHPT Registrar. She tabled a list of the buildings in the Waipa District that have been removed from the list and suggested that the Heritage Council also write to the NZHPT expressing its concern.

Neville said he was concerned that this could create a loophole for developers and that they could do what they like to buildings that have been removed from the Register. Toni suggested that the list of buildings removed from the Register should be flagged on Council's own list (in the District Plan).

Mayor Livingston said he was grateful to Heather for bringing this matter to Council's attention because it is extremely concerning.

RESOLVED

That the Waipa Heritage Council write to the New Zealand Historic Places Trust seeking urgent clarification why they have removed the Category II listings from the Register and how long it will be for they are reinstated.

Neville Ritchie/Alan Livingston

RESOLVED

That the Waipa Heritage Council recommends that Council identify, on its own list of historic places, the properties that have been temporarily removed from the New Zealand Historic Places Trust Register until clarification has been received that they have been reinstated.

Toni Fortune/Eris Parker

- **Pirongia Historic Visitor Centre**

Heather said local Maori had donated a beautiful carving to the Visitor Centre which would be displayed outside.

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- **Maungatautari**

Bev said the grant from Environment Waikato would allow the Trust to complete 20kms of fence during the current construction season, which would take it to just over half way. She said the release of Kiwi has been put on hold awaiting a new supply of chicks. She said membership of the Trust had risen to just over 1,000 and several prominent people, including the Prime Minister, would be visiting the project in the next few weeks.

- **Motorised Heritage Trail**

Eris and Mary have verified the text for each side of the district and this information has been given to Council's Communications Advisor, Wayne Green.

Heather said the NZHPT have been using an independent editor for their brochures and this has worked extremely well. Mayor Livingston said he would discuss this suggestion with Wayne Green.

3 CORRESPONDENCE

- **Inwards**

- Agenda for Te Awamutu Museum Trust Board meeting on 20 January 2005.

Mayor Livingston asked that the Museum send their reports and agendas to all Councillors and Te Awamutu Community Board members as they contain useful information.

- **Outwards**

Nil.

RESOLVED

That the correspondence be received.

Heather Garrett/Neville Ritchie

GENERAL

- Heather said that at the next WHC meeting in Te Awamutu (17 March) the Historic Places Trust would be presenting Kihikihi Hall representatives with a plaque to commemorate it's centenary. Heritage Council members were invited to attend the presentation which will held after lunch.
- Heather said Valmai Resthome has been sold and the new owners have applied to the Historic Places Trust in order to subdivide off the cottages into individual titles so they can be sold. She said the Trust was unhappy with the request, although it has been suggested that the cottages could be relocated at Karapiro Domain.

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- Heather said she had been contacted by someone seeking permission from Historic Places Trust to hold a wedding ceremony at the Alexandra Redoubt. She said although the Tauranga branch of NZHPT had given its permission, she felt there could be implications for the management of the reserve such as whether structures will be erected, the number of people attending, means of transport, whether confetti is permitted and who should clean it up. She said she felt both the NZHPT and Council should establish some guidelines and a policy.

Roger said he felt that weddings should not be permitted because it is up to NZHPT and Council to ensure historic sites are protected and the amount of public access limited. Mayor Livingston said allowing the wedding to take place could create a dangerous precedent. He said it was up to NZHPT to say whether it was permissible or not because the site is owned by them.

RESOLVED

That the Waipa Heritage Council write to the New Zealand Historic Places Trust Tauranga Branch asking them to be more aware when giving people permission to use the Alexandra Redoubt because it is an historical site that is of national significance.

Eris Parker/Alan Livingston

- Eris said Cambridge Museum staff were annoyed that the latest Cambridge brochure had been printed without being referred to them first to verify that the information on the Heritage Trail was correct. She said some things in brochure concerning the Heritage Trail were incorrect and it had a number of spelling mistakes.
- Mayor Livingston said Andrew McFarlane has recently been appointed as Council's new Heritage Manager. He said Waipa has a very strong heritage, both built and environmental, and Council is very fortunate to have a person with Andrew's ability and interest in this area. He said Andrew would be working closely with the Te Awamutu Museum and its administrative requirements in the immediate future.

RESOLVED

That the Waipa Heritage Council write to Andrew McFarlane, congratulating him on his new appointment, and to Council thanking it for appointing a dedicated heritage officer.

Neville Ritchie/Toni Fortune

- Mayor Livingston said that at the last Policy Committee meeting on 14 February, 26 new archaeological sites had been added to Appendix 11 of the District Plan. He said Council had resolved to write to the Heritage Council thanking it for the work done in reviewing those sites, especially Mary Hurst, Eris Parker and the late Jim Mandeno for the huge amount of work they put into the project.

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- Mayor Livingston said Audit New Zealand had raised an issue concerning the possible audit implications of a business relationship between Council and the Te Awamutu Museum. He said Council staff were investigating the matter. Toni said the Museum appreciated the amount of support it has received from Council staff.
- Roger said it had been suggested to him that the repaired locomotive be resited at the front of the Benchmark yard because it has an historical connection. Mayor Livingston suggested that the person who made this suggestion should write to Asset Manager Recreation, Max Ward, and ask that it be added to the list of options for the final site.
- Neville asked WHC members to note that the Department of Conservation Waikato Conservancy Office is moving to the Monckton Trust Building in Rostrevor Street, Hamilton this week.
- Eris said she was concerned that Waipa's cemeteries are not covered by a management plan. She circulated some brochures from the Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of New Zealand which contain valuable information on the conservation of cemeteries. She said she was concerned to learn that someone had been waterblasting headstones in Waipa cemeteries. She asked that WHC members give the issue some thought so it can be discussed at the next meeting. (Copies of the brochures will be sent to members who did not attend the meeting).

Meeting Closed at 12.00 noon

**NEXT MEETING: 10.00AM
17 MARCH 2005
COMMITTEE ROOM 1, TE AWAMUTU**