

WAIPA HERITAGE COUNCIL

MINUTES 22 MAY 2008

Minutes of a meeting of the Waipa Heritage Council held in Committee Room 1, Waipa District Council, 101 Bank Street, Te Awamutu on Thursday, 22 May 2008 commencing at 10.00am

1 PRESENT

Members

Barbara Taranaki	Waipa District Council (Chairperson)
Alan Livingston	His Worship the Mayor
Eris Parker	Cambridge Museum/Cambridge Historical Society
Bev Dean	Cambridge Museum/Cambridge Historical Society
Jennie Gainsford	New Zealand Historic Places Trust/Cambridge Historical Society
Sabina Owen	Pirongia Historic Visitor Centre
Alan Hall	Pirongia Historic Visitor Centre
Mike Vincent	New Zealand Historic Places Trust
Max Quirk	Kihikihi District
Annie Fullerton	Ohaupo District
Neville Ritchie	Department of Conservation

In Attendance

Tony Roxburgh, Project Manager Heritage Development and Reserves Planning
Jan White, Museum and Heritage Manager
Noelene Barr, Committee Secretary

Public

Nil

2 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

That the apologies for absence from Heather Garrett be received.

Owen/Quirk

3 LATE ITEMS

Max Quirk requested discussion concerning an article that was in the newspaper in 2002 as it was decided at the time that a follow up article would be inserted in the newspaper every two to three years.

4 CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF MEETING

File: 65-11-02

RESOLVED

That the order of the meeting be confirmed

Fullerton/Gainsford

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5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

File: 65-11-02

Minutes of Meeting held on 20 March 2008 were included in the agenda.

RESOLVED

*That the minutes of the meeting of the Waipa Heritage Council held on 20 March 2008, having been circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record, subject to the following changes – page item 1, delete **Jennie Gainsford** and include [from 10.40am] next to Annie Fullerton; item 5.2, third paragraph include “The NZHPT **makes some distinction** between commercial.....” and delete **has distinguished**; item 6.2, second paragraph amend Historic to **Historical**.*

Parker/Ritchie

Matters Arising

5.1 Annual Plan – Submission

File: 01-91-41

Due to an oversight a submission was not made to Waipa District Council's Annual Plan process. There was general discussion relating to this.

6 MEMBERS REPORTS

This item enables members to discuss issues in relation to the organisation/district they represent on the Heritage Council.

6.1 Waipa District Council (Councillor Barbara Taranaki)

Council has been busy with Annual Plan submissions with many submitters. Mayor Livingston said that from a heritage perspective, submissions included one from Pirongia and a group representing the Cambridge Town Hall seeking to improve and open up the dress circle, to be completed for the centenary in 2009. Te Awamutu Community Board's submission included support for the new museum. Project Manager Heritage Development and Reserves Planning advised that a general submission was made on behalf of the Waipa Heritage Council.

6.2 Cambridge Museum/Cambridge Historical Society (Eris Parker, Bev Dean, Jennie Gainsford)

Eris Parker reported that the museum had been busy with various groups from the local area and a group from Tokoroa High School especially to see the model pa. The website is still very busy with 4,000 people over the previous two months.

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A display to coincide with St John's being 76 years old has been in the museum and finds from an archaeological site, corner Lake and Queen Streets, were also on display.

Eris Parker queried the awards for Heritage and Bio-diversity and Project Manager, Heritage Development and Reserves Planning replied that this year Biodiversity Awards had been advertised which had received a poor response. Heritage Awards would be presented next year.

Eris Parker said that she and Susan had been made redundant by the Cambridge Historical Society as they are to be employed by the Waipa District Council.

Bev Dean reported that it was a momentous occasion when the Historical Society signed a Memorandum of Understanding with staff of Waipa District Council, which transfers the administration of the museum to the Council as of 23 June 2008. The collection will continued to be owned by the Historical Society.

6.3 New Zealand Historic Places Trust (Mike Vincent, Jennie Gainsford)

Jennie Gainsford reported that there are three volunteers working in the Hamilton office, one of whom is building a data base which will be linked to Hamilton City Council and will be on line. Researchers have been coming into the office from different parts of the district; building a relationship with the history department of the Waikato University. The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) has commissioned a history of their buildings.

Mike Vincent reported that they are working through a large number of resource consents which has been made more difficult through being under staffed.

6.4 Department of Conservation (Neville Ritchie)

The booklet is to be reprinted but not revised; both museums have copies. Neville Ritchie will assist a colleague who is compiling a book of the country halls of New Zealand which number approximately 900. There are currently photographs of 500 of the halls.

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

Alan Hall reported that the archaeological tours are continuing to be popular. The data entry is continuing by a qualified archaeologist with funds from a grant.

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There are plans drawn up to convert the garage at the rear of the property into a storage/work area; a grant of \$8,000 has been approved and another \$9,000 will be raised to complete the work. Annual attendance has increased, however there was a reduction when work was carried out on the road.

Sabina Owen reported that a talk of the history of Mangapiko was well received; there is a lot of family history research being undertaken with reference to local families.

6.6 Te Pahu District

Mayor Livingston reported that the Waikato Motor Home Association are using the Te Pahu Hall as a base for the weekend; a presentation on Te Pahu will be made.

6.7 Kihikihi District (Max Quirk)

There has been no progress on the Major Jackson house site which is looking very untidy. Three members of the Police House Restoration Committee have compiled a management and conservation plan. Work is continuing to be carried out.

6.8 Ohaupo District (Annie Fullerton)

The area of road verge (State Highway One) by the public cemeteries is in a very untidy condition; rubbish etc has been dumped on the public car park which is now unable to be used. There is a school reunion next year and people visit the cemeteries when coming back to the area. There is no signage indicating the Ohaupo Public Cemetery. It was suggested that the Ohaupo Ratepayers Association could progress this matter with Transit New Zealand.

6.9 Te Awamutu Museum (Jan White)

A very successful opening of the exhibition, to celebrate the centenary of the North Island Main Trunk Line, was held with 120 people in attendance; Merv Smith was a guest. Visitors to the exhibition have been constant including school groups from the wider Te Awamutu area, Hamilton and Auckland. A Finn Brothers concert will be held soon and visitors continue to visit the Finn exhibition. There has been a lot of discussions with the Cambridge Historical Society and an assessment has been done on the condition of the building and a conservation plan is being compiled before any work proceeds. The museum may be closed for a week to complete an electrical upgrade and install some climate air control in the building and collection store. The redundant staff will have received letters from the Waipa District Council to apply for new positions within Council.

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7 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Inwards Correspondence

7.1.1 Waipa District Council – North Island Main Trunk Line Centenary

File: 65-11-02

A letter from the Chief Executive dated 1 April 2008 suggesting that the Waipa Heritage Council submit a proposal to Council for consideration was included in the agenda.

Mayor Livingston reported that funds are available for a celebration however contact had been made with Toll Rail who advised that the time table only allowed the Parliamentary train to stop in Te Awamutu for five minutes (11.15am to 11.20am) on 8 August 2008. This was constrained by the fact it had to be in Britomart (Auckland) before the commuter trains left. Any significance of the centenary would be made in Te Kuiti.

A plaque to acknowledge the centenary could be installed with the same format and materials used for Victoria Bridge sign in Cambridge; or it could be incorporated with the sign at Kihikihi which gives the history of John Rochfort who surveyed the train line.

A celebration associated with the museum exhibition could coincide with a steam engine carrying railway enthusiasts. When railway lines were opened in England, it was traditional that the train is greeted by a brass band playing a particular piece of music. Bev Dean will research this further and pass on any information and contact names to the Museum and Heritage Manager.

There was general discussion relating to the Heritage Newsletter and the opportunity to include information about the celebration. As the circulation is limited to museums, libraries and information centres, the "Word on Waipa" was deemed as being more appropriate.

It has been suggested that the reserve on the corner of Hall and Bryce Streets in Kihikihi be named after John Rochfort which is being progressed by the Te Awamutu Community Board; he died in the Star Tavern and is buried in the Kihikihi Cemetery.

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RESOLVED

That the Waipa Heritage Council write a letter to Waipa District Council in support of the naming of the reserve, on the corner of Hall and Bryce Streets, Kihikihi, after John Rochfort, in view of the forthcoming centennial of the main trunk line in August 2008.

Quirk/Gainsford

7.1.2 Old Butter Factory Building – Leamington

File: 65-11-02

A letter from Kay Malcolm dated 5 May 2008 querying if Waipa District Council intend to preserve the Old Butter Factory Building as an historic site was included in the agenda.

Waipa District Council staff advised that the building is to be rented and used for storage. It is intended to renew the roof within the next few years; exterior painting and some repairs have been carried out recently which will continue as is necessary. This site is not part of the Cambridge Town Belt and is not recorded as an historic site.

To be discussed at the workshop to be held following the conclusion of the meeting.

7.2 Outwards Correspondence

7.2.1 North Island Main Trunk Line Centenary

File: 65-11-02

Letter to Chief Executive, Waipa District Council dated 20 March 2008 was included in the agenda.

7.2.2 Gordon Valley Trustees Limited

File: 65-11-02

Letter to Pukerimu Preservation Society Inc dated 28 March 2008 was included in the agenda.

Neville Ritchie said that as there are so many borrow pits, it is unrealistic to try and preserve them all and unfortunately they are disappearing from the landscape. Preservation is difficult as most of them are on private land and not easily seen from public roads; an easement would be required. Ideally they should be in public ownership as they are not preserved when on private land and there is no legal requirement for a buffer zone around them.

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They are spectacular from the air so a viewing platform would be ideal and protected under the historic act like other historic sites.

To be discussed further at the workshop following the conclusion of the meeting.

RESOLVED

That the inwards correspondence be received and the outwards approved.

Hall/Quirke

8 NORTH ISLAND MAIN TRUNK CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS – PARLIAMENTARY SPECIAL RE-ENACTMENT, 8 AUGUST 2008

File: 65-11-02

The report of Waipa District Council's Museums and Heritage Manager, Jan White.

The North Island Main Trunk railway line (NIMT) runs from Wellington to Auckland and was completed in November 1908. Prior to this Te Awamutu, and then Otorohanga, was the railhead for those travelling to and from Auckland until Ngati Maniapoto brokered an agreement with the Crown to allow passage through the King Country, thus finally allowing completion of the route.

There are several people associated with Waipa District who have had, or continue to have, involvement in NIMT from the original surveying and engineering design through to current day operation.

The completion of the railway was a significant event in New Zealand's history, particularly for the towns and districts it passed through. It was a catalyst for growth for Waipa District, in particular Te Awamutu and Kihikihi. The centenary is being recognised with four specific events, one of which is the re-enactment of the Parliamentary Special train which travelled from Wellington to Auckland carrying 44 parliamentarians to view the visiting American "Great White Fleet". This train will travel through Te Awamutu on Friday, 8 August 2008. There is a short stop of five minutes planned at Te Awamutu, however, it is hoped that a longer stopover can be arranged. The Mayor has indicated his wish to negotiate this with ONTRACK. Local iwi have also indicated an interest in celebrating the centenary of the completion of the Puniu Bridge crossing.

This item was not discussed due to the information provided by Mayor Livingston in item 7.1.1.

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9 ORAKAU PA RESERVE

File: 65-11-02

This item was included in the agenda at the request of Mike Vincent, New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

Mike Vincent had received an email concerning the inappropriateness of eating and drinking on the Orakau Pa reserve, suggesting that a more suitable location be found for the picnic tables.

Project Manager, Heritage Development and Reserves Planning advised that there is a proposal to secure an area of two acres from an adjoining land owner which will be partly used for car parking and a picnic area. It is a project in progress but it requires the landowner to take the first initiative. The table is currently on the bank close to the monument and will be investigated further by staff.

The Matakaitaki conservation plan is completed with changes from local iwi yet to be made. Staff are awaiting the final plans from the surveyors but it is anticipated that the plan is submitted to the New Zealand Historic Places Trust by the end of the current financial year.

The Heritage Trail booklet is progressing which will be completed by the end of June. Maps will be included as fold out pages and 2,500 will be printed.

Heritage workshops are being held on 7 July and 8 July at Te Awamutu and Cambridge respectively as part of the Long Term Council Community Plan which is Council's ten year planning process.

10 WAIPA HERITAGE COUNCIL UNRESOLVED RECOMMENDATIONS

The schedule of Waipa Heritage Council Unresolved Recommendations as at 20 March 2008 was included in the agenda.

11 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 Sharyn King) or phoning her on 07 872 0030 extension 7511 or emailing her on skin@waipadc.govt.nz

12 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Waipa Heritage Council will be held on Thursday 17 July 2008 in the Committee Room, Waipa District Council, 23 Wilson Street, Cambridge commencing at 10.00am.

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13 NEWSPAPER ARTICLE – HERITAGE ISSUES

An article, highlighting the importance of heritage issues, was inserted in the local newspapers by Waipa District Council staff in 2006 with the intention of this occurring on a regular basis.

Project Manager, Heritage Development and Reserves Planning, said that the Heritage Newsletter was to be the method for conveying information to the community. The newsletter is currently provided by Waipa District Council, however this could be extended and sponsorship sought for it to be published regularly with the inclusion of more information. The distribution could be extended but an independent person would be required to put it together. For the short term, space would be allocated in the "Word on Waipa".

Mayor Livingston said that a book had recently been produced by the Waikato Institute of Technology (WINTERC) on the historic buildings of Hamilton, portraying and providing information from a laymen's perspective; another book had been produced depicting baches in Raglan. WINTERC could be approached to produce a similar book on the historical buildings and places of interest in Waipa.

There was general discussion regarding a possible subject of a book with landmarks and the story connected to them being a suggestion. Variety of content would make the book interesting. A letter to be written to WINTERC.

RESOLVED

That Waipa Heritage Council supports in principle, the production of a booklet in the style of the Waikato Institute of Technology (WINTERC) volumes, with a working title of "Landmarks of Waipa".

Ritchie/Hall

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.04pm.