

WAIPA HERITAGE COUNCIL

MINUTES 16 APRIL 2009

Minutes of a meeting of the Waipa Heritage Council held in the Council Chambers, Waipa District Council, 101 Bank Street, Te Awamutu on Thursday 16 April 2009 commencing at 10.09am.

1 PRESENT

Barbara Taranaki	Waipa District Councillor(Chairperson)
Alan Livingston	His Worship the Mayor [from 10.17am]
Bev Dean	Cambridge Historical Society
Sabina Owen	Pirongia Historic Visitor Centre
Alan Hall	Pirongia Historic Visitor Centre
Heather Garrett	Te Pahu District
Max Quirk	Kihikihi District
Annie Fullerton	Ohaupo District

In Attendance

Project Manager – Heritage Development & Reserves Planning, T Roxburgh; Museum & Heritage Manager, J White; Committee Secretary, S King.

2 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

That the apologies for non attendance from Mike Vincent, Neville Ritchie & Jennie Gainsford and for lateness from Mayor Livingston be received.

Sabina Owen / Heather Garrett

3 LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

4 CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF MEETING

File: 65-11-02

RESOLVED

That the order of the meeting be confirmed.

Alan Hall / Bev Dean

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

File: 65-11-02

Minutes of Meeting held on 19 February 2009 were included in the agenda.

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RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Waipa Heritage Council held on 19 February 2009, having been circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record.

Alan Hall / Annie Fullerton

Matters Arising

Alan Hall said that Robin Astridge is still planning to call a local meeting to ascertain the community's interest in reviving the Te Awamutu Historical Society. Museum & Heritage Manager said that during a meeting with Robin recently they discussed the opportunity for a revived Society to reconnect with the Museum through projects such as public programmes. She also said that there were no Friends of the Museum.

Councillor Taranaki said that Robin would be valuable on the Waipa Heritage Council, however that if the Te Awamutu Historical Society was revived then he would be an appropriate representative of that Society on the committee. She said that a letter was received from Mary Hurst acknowledging the value that Robin would bring to the committee and that it would be appropriate to send a letter in reply to advise of the discussion above.

ACTION POINT

Letter to be sent to Mary Hurst – Councillor Taranaki to arrange.

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 (Mayor Alan Livingston, Councillor Barbara Taranaki)

Mayor Livingston reiterated the importance of the committee making a submission to Council's 10-year Plan. He also said that the Heritage Awards were to be held again this year and urged members to promote the event.

Councillor Taranaki said that the Waikato Times have run an article on the National Hotel, including the owner's intentions to continue with the renovations. Bev Dean said that the reference made in the article of the sample room being next the main structure was incorrect.

6.2 Te Awamutu Historical Society (Vacant)

This absence of a representative of this Society was discussed under Matters Arising.

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6.3 Cambridge Historical Society (Bev Dean)

Bev Dean said that the Cambridge Museum is involving the Society with the progress being made and events that are happening which is an important step in maintaining communication. She said that one event that was not communicated was the heritage walk being promoted as part of the Autumn Festival and that the Society felt that they should have been involved.

ACTION POINT

Museum & Heritage Manager to follow this up with staff.

6.4 NZ Historic Places Trust

Councillor Taranaki said that representatives from the Trust were unable to be here for the meeting and the following workshop on the District Plan review. She said that a separate meeting had been arranged and advised members that they were welcome to attend.

MEETING DETAILS

Committee Room, 23 Wilson Street, Cambridge on Friday 29 May 2009 commencing at 10.30am.

6.5 Department of Conservation

Councillor Taranaki said that Neville Ritchie was unable to attend today as he is riding the Otago Central Rail Trail and that he had been invited to the meeting detailed above.

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

Alan Hall provided members with a copy of the February newsletter and said that visitor numbers had flattened out over the last two months. He updated members on the tours held since the last meeting and commented on Otorohanga Council's registration of historic sites. He also updated members on the maintenance of the building, including the installation of bird netting on the spouting for which funding has become available. He said that research by Sabina Owen for a new display has gathered accounts of the development of Christianity in the Pirongia district which are currently being collated by the Centre. He said that the Centre are awaiting a decision on extended funding to complete the development of a catalogue of the collection items and said that photographs of a piece of early settler farm equipment were received recently.

Members discussed the plaque on the old library building commemorating the founding of Pirongia in 1864 and the peace that came to the district after a laying down of arms by King Tawhiao in 1881. The plaque was erected in 1994 and is not under Council control. Acknowledgement of the site and interpretive signage will be included in the submission to Council's 10-year Plan.

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ACTION POINT

Interpretive signage to be include in submission to Council's 10-year Plan.

6.7 Te Pahu District (Heather Garrett)

Heather Garrett commented on the Waikato Times interview with 102-year old Olive Tapper (and others) about her days as the first teacher at Kaniwhaniwha School from its opening in 1932. She referred members to Te Pahu's web page (www.tepahu.co.nz) which shows how little districts can promote themselves. She commented on the Te Pahu Land Care Group's vision and current projects.

She briefly said that the McGillicuddies have been performing at the Hamilton Garden's Festival and that Whatawhata celebrated 100 years of tennis on the original site recently. She also said that a German visitor who had come for the V8 races had contacted her trying to find out where Ernest Dieffenback went prospecting for gold in Te Rore and Te Pahu Streams back in 1841. Mr Garrett was giving the visitor a tour of those streams at the time of the meeting. She noted that Pukeatua opened its first Post Office on 30 March 1909 (100 years ago) when Mr J Jemmett was appointed Postmaster.

She questioned the consultation process by Council when changing the names of roads within the District and Councillor Taranaki & Mayor Livingston outlined Council's Policy.

6.8 Kihikihi District (Max Quirk)

Max Quirk said that the house relocated onto Major Jackson's property was removed recently. He said that the property is an eyesore in Kihikihi and queried what could be done to protect this historic site. Councillor Taranaki commented briefly on the use of heritage protection orders and said that there is no provision for such a mechanism in the District Plan and that this could be discussed in the workshop. Max Quirk said that groups are working together to form the 'Kihikihi Heritage District' and that it is possible that a long term goal might be sourcing funding to purchase the Major Jackson property.

6.9 Ohaupo District (Annie Fullerton)

Annie Fullerton said that the renovations to the old Ohaupo Presbyterian Church have progressed to a stage that the unresolved recommendation from 18 March 2004 could now be progressed.

RESOLVED

That the Waipa Heritage Council recommends that Council ensure the former Waipa County Chambers, in its role as a local government building, be appropriately interpreted.

Annie Fullerton / Heather Garrett

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Annie Fullerton provided an article about fruit trees planted by Reverend Ashwell and members discussed preserving heritage through the establishment using cuttings of old trees to create a garden within the District.

Project Manager – Heritage Development & Reserves Planning said that the local tree group are keen to work towards such a project and suggested that either the committee or a member of the committee may wish to progress this project.

ACTION POINT

Alan Hall & Jan White to gauge community group interest towards progressing a garden from cuttings of heritage trees.

7 STAFF REPORTS

7.1 Heritage Development & Reserves Planning (Tony Roxburgh)

Heritage Trail

Project Manager – Heritage Development & Reserves Planning said that stocks of the current brochure were running low and that this was an opportunity to updating the content. He said that a reprint would occur in approximately three weeks and if any members were interested in viewing the new brochure then to contact him within one week.

He said that some heritage sites were difficult to locate and that marker pegs were to be installed on the side of the road in the coming weeks to resolve this problem.

Heritage Awards

Tony Roxburgh proposed that the awards ceremony is held between June and August and that money was available for the evening. He said that a format similar to the biodiversity awards held last year would be used using the original criteria and categories.

ACTION POINT

Tony Roxburgh and Jan White to send information on the categories and criteria to members.

Members suggested that Neville Ritchie be approached as the guest speaker for the awards evening.

ACTION POINT

Tony Roxburgh and Jan White to approach Neville Ritchie.

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Hingakaka Battle Site

Tony Roxburgh said that the interpretative signage of Yarndley's Bush and the Hingakaka Battle Site could be combined into one location and that there is an opportunity to use an area near the one-way bridge. He said that this railway's land would be an ideal place to promote both sites. Alan Hall said that people need to stand on the ridge to fully understand the battle site and that a viewing platform would be ideal.

Mayor Livingston said that although the site near the railway is not the most ideal situations, he believes that what is being proposed offers the opportunity to include interpretation of the battle site, Yarndley's Bush and the railway itself. He reminded members of the centennial of the opening of the main trunk line and the significance of that event.

Tony Roxburgh said that an upgrade of the walking track down to Yarndley's Bush would require consent from the landowners or acquisition of that land. Annie Fullerton said that a lot of elderly people love visiting bush areas but that it is impossible for them to get down to the bush site. She wondered if the access could be opened on Sunday's over summer to allow vehicles to park close by. Tony Roxburgh said that this was a valid point and that this issue could be revisited although work would be required at the end to make the area useable for vehicles.

ACTION POINT

Tony Roxburgh to make initial investigations into parking and signage.

Lake Mangakaware

Tony Roxburgh said that the lake had been sprayed to help improve the ecological margins of the lake. He said that a new weir had been installed and that by an increase in water levels it is hoped to preserve the swamp pa sites and the artefacts associated with the pa.

Lake Ngaroto

Tony Roxburgh said that initiatives have been undertaken including an approach to Nga Iwi Toopu o Waipa on the matter of interpretation. He said that it was a matter of getting a work programme formalised and that it was an opportunity for the Waipa Heritage Council (WHC) to be involved in the interpretation. Mayor Livingston said that the WHC would be the most appropriate way to provide the best management of these areas to protect the environment of peat lakes.

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Tony Roxburgh said that the key issue is to get a better access way which is open to the general public. Mayor Livingston said that a system was required to ensure progress on these projects. He said that he was keen to receive feedback as to what would be appropriate at the site.

Environmental Protection Lot (EPL) Provisions

Tony Roxburgh said that during workshop discussions the need to develop a similar mechanism for built heritage as currently exists for natural heritage was raised. He said that this would be progressed.

7.2 Museum & Heritage (Jan White)

General

Jan White said that a comprehensive collection policy was developed by staff for both museums. She said that this policy was presented to the Cambridge Historical Society as the owners of the Cambridge Museum collection. She said that the policy was to be presented to the Te Awamutu Museum's Trust Board. She further said that it was an important document which talks about the care of items and provides guidelines on what would be collected in the future.

Te Awamutu Museum

Jan White said that the 'Inheritance' exhibition would be followed by an ANZAC exhibition which would be opened on ANZAC day. She said that the following day, Sunday, a public programme would provide the opportunity for people to read their favourite poem / prose. Following the ANZAC exhibition, in May the archaeological exhibit would open.

She said that she had received a proposal from TVNZ to film in the Te Awamutu Museum, particularly the Finn Brothers exhibition.

Cambridge Museum

Jan White said that a revamp of the exhibitions was being conducted and that Eris Parker had written to the owners of the pa exhibition which is scheduled to be removed as part of the revamp.

She said that staff had been working with graphic designers to ensure that all printed material relating to the museums was professionally presented to enhance the image of both the museums and Council.

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8 CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Inwards Correspondence

8.1.1 Shaping Waipa Open Days

A flyer was received inviting members to attend Waipa District Council's Shaping Waipa Open Days.

Bev Dean commented that she was disappointed with the Cambridge Museum display at the Open Day. Jan White said that the original plan was to have a display for the Te Awamutu Museum and one for the Cambridge Museum. She then said that these had to be combined into one display.

RESOLVED

That the inwards correspondence be received.

Heather Garrett / Alan Hall

9 KIHIKIHI POLICE HOUSE RESTORATION GROUP

File: 4552/100.00

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

10 WAIPA HERITAGE COUNCIL UNRESOLVED RECOMMENDATIONS

The unresolved recommendation regarding the old Waipa County Council offices in Ohaupo was discussed earlier in the meeting.

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 or emailing her on sharyn.king@waipadc.govt.nz

ACTION POINT

Staff to arrange for Waipa Heritage Council letterhead to be made available for members use on behalf of the Council.

12 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Waipa Heritage Council will be held on Thursday 18 June 2009, Committee Room, Cambridge Service Centre, 23 Wilson Street, Cambridge commencing at 10.00am.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.23pm.