

Ashford Park Quarry Community Liaison Group

Minutes of meeting held in Otaki War Memorial supper room on 13 February 2020 at 6pm

Present:

Residents: Janet Macdonald (JM), Max Lutz (FOTOR and CWB), Jo Andrews (JA), Shelly Warwick (SW), Campbell Andrews (C A), Denis Harnett (DH), Carolyn Jolley (CJ), Tiana Morgan (TM), Chris Papps (CP) Mahinarangi Hakaraia – Nga Hapu o Otaki (MH), Andreas Paxie (AP),

Winstone Aggregates: Matt George, Regional Manager (MG), Wayne Read, Quarry Manager (WR)

KCDC: Paul Busing (PB),

GWRC: Colin Munn (CM)

In present to the group: Peter Housiaux, Water Polo Club (PH)

Chair and minute scribe: Di Buchan (DB)

Apologies: Bev Norris (resident), Ian Wallace and Wiremu Adams (Winstones), Andreas Paxie for lateness

Memo from AP for the meeting: AP had prepared a report for the meeting setting out 3 matters of concern – the demolition of the old house on Ashford Park, maintenance of the land around the house, maintenance of the noise bund. AP had notified DB that he would be late to the meeting.

Minutes of meeting held on 15 August 2019

The minutes were confirmed (ML/JM).

New quarry manager

DB welcomed Wayne Read (recently appointed Quarry Manager replacing Josua Grobler) to the meeting.

KCDC Compliance Report

PB presented his brief report. He had not had time to inspect the quarry operations since the Christmas break.

The report noted that Council had been approached about allowing horses access along the walkway off Te Roto Road. The report also noted that in response to concerns expressed about obstructions on the paper road, Council's roading team was in the process of seeking advice. These two items led to an extensive discussion among participants. In summary:

- Council does not have jurisdiction over the walkway which is on Winstone's land and was installed as a condition of consent to mitigate for the loss of the paper road and general amenity in the area.
- At the resource consent hearing, Winstones committed to providing a walkway/cycleway. No mention was made of opening it for horses.
- Horses are not compatible with the other uses as dogs that are not on a leash can cause horses to behave in a way that puts pedestrians and cyclists in danger
- Those group members who wanted to have horse access to the walkway pointed out that this has not been a problem with other walkway/cycleway/bridleways in the District. However it was noted that the Te Roto walkway was more narrow than standard Council WCBs and was fenced

on either side which would make it difficult for pedestrians to get out of the way should a horse become excited.

- As discussed at previous meetings, the Te Roto walkway will become part of the walkway network once the new bridge is completed. At present, horses can use the walkway alongside the river down to Chrystalls Bend and in the future, the Te Roto walkway may be upgraded to that standard.
- The issue could be addressed if the paper road was useable because then horse-riders could use that route instead.

Finally the following motion was put (CA/ SW) and agreed. (MH abstained because there had not been an opportunity to discuss this matter with the Hapu prior to the meeting):

“All artificial obstructions on the paper road should be removed to enable the free movement of walkers, cyclists and horses along the paper road as an interim measure until the Te Roto road lake access is determined.”

MG expressed a caveat that Winstones would need to clarify its obligations in regard to public access along the paper road including health and safety measures. He assured the Group that Winstones will fulfill its legal obligations.

ML also expressed concern that requiring Winstones to provide public access along the paper road could have a negative effect on the negotiations with Winstones regarding integrating the Te Roto walkway with the lake development and wider walkway network.

At this point AP arrived. He raised a concern that opening up the paper road could have a negative effect on his property if it was accessible by motor vehicles including quad bikes. SW responded that the Equestrian Group was promoting the use of horse styles which stopped motor vehicles using the tracks. AP was satisfied that provided this measure was included, the opening of the paper road to public use was acceptable to him.

Use of Ashford Park Lake by Otaki Water Polo Club

DB apologized to PH for having taken so long to get to his item. PH assured the group that he had found the discussion interesting and didn't mind waiting. However it was agreed to take PH's presentation at this point rather than after discussing Winstones' Progress Report.

ML introduced PH and then handed over to PH. The Polo Club in Otaki is of world class standard and has a growing membership. The club currently uses the Winstone's lake for its practices but needs more room to accommodate the expansion of activity and spectators (which can be 400 or more). PH wanted the group to consider giving its approval for the Club to use the Ashford Park Lake which is larger. Using this lake would enable national competitions to be held at the site.

The CLG agreed that the Club is something Otaki can be very proud of and should support however there was concern about the effects of granting access to this lake at this early stage of its development.

It was noted that this lake and its surrounds are the focus of an Environmental Rehabilitation Plan which has not yet been finalised although some riparian planting has already been done. The Plan includes a proposal for ecological islands within the lake. There was some concern that the club's activities, especially the numbers of spectators to be accommodated on the site may not be compatible with the Plan and long-term environmental vision for the lake, the islands and the surrounds.

AP, as the resident neighbouring the site had no objection to a large number of spectators at the site provided they were kept at the southern end of the lake to reduce the risk that some will try to access his property through the fence.

In principle, the CLG supported the Club's activities but needed more information on how its activities would fit with the objectives of the Environmental Restoration Plan.

PB agreed to investigate the implications in relation to the consenting framework.

PH, MG and WR agreed to meet to work through how the site could be developed and managed for use by the Club to avoid any problems and how the Club's activities can be integrated with the Rehabilitation Plan and ensure compliance with Condition 9 of the Resource Consent. This condition requires that land and water uses are compatible with the long-term sustainability of the shoreline and planting.

DB thanked PH for his presentation and invited him to stay in the meeting should he wish which PH accepted.

Winstone's Progress Report

This reported noted that:

- topsoil from area 2B and the haul road had been donated to FOTOR (ML expressed gratitude for this);
- a silty water discharge to the river had been dealt with promptly;
- extraction of area 2A had been largely completed and extraction of 2B was underway;
- topsoil from 2B will be set aside for site rehabilitation;
- planting of Ashford Park has been completed for the current season and the plants are growing well;
- a planned maintenance programme for the spraying of weeds at 3 monthly intervals is now in place
- Wayne is now the contact person for enquiries and complaints. His phone number is 0274 545556. His email address is Wayne.Read@Winstone-aggregates.co.nz

Discussion followed on the walkway, the maintenance of the bunds and the demolition of the old house on the Ashford Park site.

Eastern Walkway (Te Roto Road) Parking Area

At the meeting in April 2019 it was agreed that a simple off-road parking area was the best solution to fix the congestion created by walkers parking their cars at the end of Te Roto Road, and to stop the berm being torn up by vehicles when the ground is soft. Josua Grobler (Winstones) undertook to get a parking area installed before he took up his new appointment. A parking area was created but it was not done in accordance with KCDC standards. At the following CLG meeting (August) MG undertook to meet with CA to agree on the location of an off-road parking area and then put together a plan which would be sent to DB for circulation to the CLG members. The carpark was to be redone in accordance with the plan. It was noted that this work has not been done.

MG undertook to deal with this matter as soon as possible given his workload.

Maintenance of bunds

Consent condition 22 (g) requires Winstones to mow the grass on the bunds regularly or have them grazed so as to give a tidy appearance. AP had submitted a memo to the CLG which noted that the bunds needed maintenance and that the only time anything was done about weed and grass control was after he had made a complaint. He said that the weeds needed to be managed more effectively and that Winstone's needed to own the issue and be proactive about it, not just respond to complaints.

MG and WR agreed to look at what could be done but noted that mowing the bunds would be difficult at the least.

Demolition of the house and maintenance of surrounds

At the previous meeting in August MG noted the concerns expressed about the deterioration of the house and the fact that it contained asbestos which some CLG members were concerned could pose a danger to the public. MG undertook to discuss the situation with Fletchers who were in charge of the removal. AP in his memo to the CLG asked for a timeframe and commitment from Winstones/Fletchers for the safe demolition and removal of the house. He asked that KCDC monitor and manage this situation.

MG responded that the house would be difficult to move. The asbestos is not a problem as long as it is left undisturbed. He could see no reason for the removal to be given priority. The job needed to be done properly and to do so was going to be expensive.

There was concern that the trees growing through the building and the large macracarpas nearby which could fall on the house would damage the construction. MG agreed to get an arborist to look at the need to trim or remove the macracarpas.

There was concern about the grass growing around the property which could pose a fire danger. MG agreed to get this mown more regularly.

The Group agreed that CJ was doing a great job maintaining the Ashford Park site.

Next meeting

It was agreed that the group should meet again at an earlier date than in 6 months so that a timely response could be given to the Otaki Polo Club and that the matter of the paper road could be followed up.

Date agreed: 18 June 2020, Memorial Hall, 6pm

The meeting closed at 8pm

Tasks agreed:

- MG to clarify Winstones' obligations regarding the provision of public access along the paper road including health and safety measures.
- PB to investigate the implications of the Water Polo Club's proposal for the consenting framework
- MG, WR and PH to investigate how the Ashford Park lake site could be developed and managed for use by the Polo Club to avoid any problems and how the Club's activities can be integrated with the Rehabilitation Plan and ensure compliance with Condition 9 of the Resource Consent.
- MG to prepare a plan for the Eastern Walkway carpark in consultation with CA and circulate it to

the CLG

- MG and WR to look into how the weeds on the bunds can be managed more effectively
- MG and WL to get the grass around the unoccupied house on Ashford Park mown
- MG to engage an arborist to investigate the need to fell trees near the house

11 June deadline for Compliance report from KCDC and a Progress Report from GBC Winstone to be provided to Di for circulation to members.