

Ashford Park Quarry Community Liaison Group

Minutes of meeting held in Otaki War Memorial supper room on 21 September at 6pm

Present:

Residents: Max Lutz, FOTOR and CWB (ML), Shelly Warwick (SW), Campbell Andrews (C A), Denis Harnett (DH), Rob MacIndoe (RM).

Winstone Aggregates: Gary Edwards, Quarry Manager (GE), Wiremu Adams (WA)

KCDC: Simon Amos

GWRC: no rep

Chair and minute scribe: Di Buchan (DB)

Apologies: Chris Papps (Community Board Chair), Carolyn Jolley, Andreas Paxie, Janet Macdonald, Derek Kelly, Bev Norris.

Apologies accepted - DH/RM

GWRC representation: DB advised that Colin Munn has resigned from GWRC and no replacement has yet been appointed to fill this slot on the CLG.

Minutes of meeting held on 30 March 2021

The minutes were confirmed although RM noted a number of arguable statements and spoke at length about his concerns regarding the transparency and due process of the vote that was taken on the walkway decision. He, CA, DH and SW said the process was not in accordance with how they thought the decision was to be made. RM noted, his understanding from the on-site community meeting at the Te Roto Road entrance of the Ashford Park walkway, that Josua Grobler (regional quarry manager) had verbalised Winstones would review the resource consent documentation and make a decision regarding the walkway access. CA, DH and SW noted at this and other meetings that this was also their understanding.

At the following Winstones / CLG meeting on 30 March 2021, RM asserted that a number of attendees assumed that a vote was to be held to determine a decision regarding the walkway access. CA, DH and SW were not advised that a vote was to take place and there was no formal communication provided, either in the meeting agenda or via email from DB, that a vote was to take place. RM asked DB to provide evidence of any such communication if it exists.

DB responded that the decision to take a vote was made at the meeting once it was clear that there was not going to be a consensus. RM responded that it was clear that the decision to take a vote had been widely disseminated amongst a number of community members based on attendance at the meeting and the presentation of correspondence from Teana and Andrew Morgans, Michael Faherty and Andy Fraser. DB reminded RM that at the meeting it was decided that only those members of the CLG as determined by the Resource Consent condition who were actually present at the meeting could vote and therefore emails sent in to support one view of the other were not included and neither were attendees who were not Te Roto Road residents or submitters at the hearing.

RM expressed his concern that information regarding the vote appeared to have been disseminated to those in the community with a bias toward walkers and cyclists i.e., returning the walkway to its original position. RM has significant concerns that the way the vote was organised and held does not follow due process and was not transparent.

There was also some discussion about the statement GE had read out at the meeting but which no one else on the committee including the chair, has seen. Some members of the CLG took this statement as confirming there would be a mediated decision if there was not a unanimous vote for either option regarding the walkway GE said he still has the statement and would talk to Winstones' GM about sending it out to the members of the CLG so they could read what he actually said.

At the end of this discussion RM was resigned to the fact that the vote had been taken, although still has significant concerns regarding transparency and due process of the group and the potential to undermine the group's credibility and integrity. SW has requested a review by KCDC of the way the CLG meetings are being run. SA reported this had been referred to the Ward Councillor, James Cootes, to investigate but nothing has happened to date.

Matters Arising from the minutes

Paper Road

SA had investigated this matter and reported after the last meeting that according to his investigations, (which highlighted many reasons the paper road should not be opened at least at this stage, if the road is opened at some time in the future, it must be open to all users, not specifically for one group (such as horses).

SW reported that she had consulted with the Walkways Commission and found this was not so – a paper road can be opened for a specific use or uses while excluding the general public.

SA agreed to double check this.

There was some concern that when the quarry closes the company could decide to remove the Eastern Walkway and should the road through Campbell Andrew's property not proceed, there would be no access from Te Roto Rd to the lake and the river and Chrystalls Bend.

For that reason it was unanimously agreed that the option to utilise the public road should remain open until a permanent access to these areas is in place.

SA undertook to look into this further and report back.

Winstone's Progress report

The report was pre-circulated. There were not items of concern raised.

GE reported that now that the demands for the particular rock obtained from the Winstones Otaki quarry was coming to an end, quarry operations were slowing down.

ML reported that during the latest Covid 19 lockdown, 2 large trees had fallen over the Eastern Walkway but he had dealt with them using his chainsaw. The members thanked Max for his generous efforts.

KCDC Compliance Report

This report had been pre-circulated. No issues were raised.

SA had undertaken only one inspection of the site since the last meeting. There were no complaints lodged regarding quarry operations.

DH asked about compliance with condition 58C which requires Winstones to undertake testing of groundwater flows during flood events. KCDC does not have the expertise for this monitoring and has

asked GWRC to do this instead. There have not been a sufficient number of readings to draw any accurate conclusions. GWRC has requested Winstones to undertake more frequent testing. However, with summer coming Winstones may not have many opportunities to test during floods before the next CLG meeting. If there are enough opportunities to test the flows, GWRC will report on this to SA and he will bring this information to the next meeting.

General Business

SW asked what was being done about putting in outriggers along the fence line between Black Hawk Farms and the horse track on the Eastern Walkway. Di confirmed that Carolyn Jolley had originally undertaken to install these to keep her horse back from the fence but when last asked about it, Carolyn had expressed concern at the amount of grazing she would lose as a result. SW said they would only need to be one metre from the fence and the horses would be able to poke their heads underneath the outriggers to graze that strip. DB agreed to raise this with CJ again.

There being no further business, DB closed the meeting at 7.10pm, second all-time record for the Group!

Next meeting: We agreed that the meeting to schedule the next one for Tuesday 15 March 2022 but believe it or not, that date is not available as it coincides with the Maoriland Film Festival.

So I have changed the booking to the following week 22 March Memorial Hall, 6pm. Don't forget to change your diary entry.

Tuesday 15 March is now the deadline for Compliance report from KCDC and a Progress Report from GBC Winstone to be provided to Di for circulation to members.