

## Ashford Park Quarry Community Liaison Group

**Minutes of meeting held in Otaki War Memorial supper room on 30 March 2021 at 6pm**

### **Present:**

Residents: Max Lutz, FOTOR and CWB (ML), Campbell Andrews (C A), Denis Harnett (DH), Rob MacIndoe (RM), Andreas Paxie (AP), Barbara Francis (BF), Carolyn Jolley (CF), Marya Hakaraia (MH)

Winstone Aggregates: Gary Edwards, Quarry Manager (GE), Mike Finch (MF)

Special Interest groups: Shelly Warwick - Equestrians, (SW), Angela Ford – walkers and cyclists (AF)

GWRC: Colin Munn (CM)

KCDC: Simon Amos, Compliance Officer (SA)

Otaki Community Board: Marilyn Stevens – replacement for Chris Papps, (MS)

Chair and minute scribe: Di Buchan (DB)

**Apologies:** Janet Macdonald (resident), Derek Kelly (resident), Michael Faherty (resident), Chris Papps (Community Board Chair), Wiremu Adams (Winstones), Ben Jamieson (Maori Racing Club).  
Apologies accepted - ML/AP

### **Welcome to the new KCDC Compliance Officer**

Simon Amos was welcomed to the Ashford Park CLG. He replaces Justine Gurr. He was previously employed at Horizons Regional Council

### **Minutes of meeting held on 19 November 2020**

*That the minutes be confirmed – RM/ML, carried*

### **Matters Arising from the minutes**

There were no matters arising from the minutes that were not covered by agenda items.

### **Winstone's Progress report**

The report was pre-circulated and the following topics were raised in discussion.

#### **Planting on area next to Morgans' property**

GE advised that planting would start soon, once the dry spell has ended.

#### **Noise from extraction operations**

AP enquired when the extraction from the current site (coloured yellow on illustration 4.1 in the progress report) would be completed as he was finding it quite noisy. GE advised it would be finished within 6 months and after that, extraction would move to the area between the areas shaded yellow and blue. No time limit could be put on the extraction from this area as it would depend on demand.

#### **Access for horses to the walkway**

RM noted that the existing gate between the racecourse and Winstones land shown in 7.1 could

be moved if the horses were diverted to the new walkway.

#### **Eastern Walkway Carpark**

AP noted that recently a horse float was parked across the car parking area preventing other vehicles from using the space. It was agreed this was not appropriate and GE agreed that a sign should be erected making it clear the carpark was for walkway users.

#### **Water quality testing**

PH reported that he had tried to access the test results on Winstone's website but the link in the progress report didn't work.

*GE agreed to check the link and resend it to Di for distribution to members.*

*It was then moved that Winstone's progress report be accepted CA/ML, carried*

### **KCDC's Compliance report**

#### **Complaints**

DH noted the report said there were no complaints (referred to as "service requests" in KCDC's report) over the period from this last meeting but this was not true. He had complained to the Council's call centre on 2 December about the contractors who were building the new track having left a wire slung across the track about 15cm above the ground. The Council's call centre didn't know who to refer the complaint to so in the end DH asked to talk to Paul Busing (ex Compliance Officer) who got the contractors to return to the site and remove the wire. It was of concern to the group that no record had been made of this complaint. AP noted that during the consent hearing, KCDC stated that they would address their complaint reporting processes and assured the hearing that it would be a robust and thorough process going forward.

*SA agreed to look into this and ensure the call centre staff knew who to refer complaints about the quarry operations to and that all complaints were recorded.*

#### **Access to the paper road**

Council's report stated that the Council's Infrastructure Team would make a decision on the paper road once the expressway is completed. Members queried why the decision should be delayed as the paper road had no relationship to the expressway. SA was unsure of the reason for the delay. CA wanted this matter to be addressed as soon as possible. AP expressed concern about a perceived lack of consultation by KCDC with affected landowners. He expressed opposition to the opening of the paper road for horses only and thought that if opened, it should be opened for everyone including vehicles.

*Moved: That the Council provide a justification for delaying a decision on the paper road until the expressway was complete.*

*That the Council ensures that any decision on the paper road is made in consultation with adjacent landowners and the wider community.*

*RM/DH carried*

### **Te Roto Walkway Configuration**

In early December, in response to requests from equestrians to be able to use the walkway, Winstones commissioned the construction of an additional trail running parallel to the existing walkway. The gates

to each were configured so that the new trail was open to walkers and cyclists and horses were to use the existing walkway. This has proved to be a highly controversial decision with many complaints lodged by walkers and cyclists who for various reasons felt the new track was less suitable for their activities than the existing track had been. Equestrians on the other hand have been very happy with the new arrangement and many have expressed their appreciation to Winstones. A meeting was held onsite in March where various users expressed their views. At the end of that meeting Josua Grobler (Winstone's Regional Manager) suggested that the CLG consider the range of views and issues raised and make a recommendation to Winstones at the next CLG meeting, Winstones would then take this recommendation into consideration before making a final decision on which activity would be consigned to which track.

To assist the CLG in reaching a decision, DB provided a summary of the points raised in the emails received and CJ prepared a video of horses walking on the new track to test whether it was wide enough to manage horses safely including passing and turning.

Prior to the discussion, 3 emails were read out from people who could not attend the meeting but wanted their votes to be counted. All were in favour of returning walkers and cyclists to the original track. It was agreed that two of these (Tiana and Andrew Morgans and Michael Faherty) were, as neighbours of Winstone's property, entitled to be included in the vote. The other, from Andy Fraser, principal of Otaki College, was excluded because he no longer lived in Te Roto Road. He should in fact be deleted from the mailing list.

#### **Points raised in discussion**

RM said that as a dog walker he thought the current arrangement should remain because, with a fence either side of the new track he was able to let his dog run free whereas on the original walkway, dogs not on a leash could run into the racecourse because of gaps in the fence between the walkway and the racecourse.

AP responded that anyone walking a dog on a public track should have their dog under their control at all times.

GE confirmed that Winstones is currently liaising with Ben Jamieson (racecourse manager) about getting this fence repaired. *(Ben has since advised Josua Grobler that he is happy for the walkers to be on the old track adjoining the racecourse.)*

AF said that as a vet several of her clients had commented that they were not happy walking their dogs on the new track because if they met an unleashed dog coming the other way it was difficult to prevent an incident.

SW said that the decision should be made on the basis of caring for the user at most risk and she considered these to be horses. Horses encountering other horses in a confined space created a danger.

AF responded that walkers and cyclists encountering each other were also at risk and there were a lot more walkers and cyclists than horse riders on the track.

DH said the whole idea of putting horses on the new track was because CJ had said she did not want horses walking past her paddocks because they would upset her horses.

CJ acknowledged that she had been concerned about that but had since changed her mind and had made that clear.

GE then read out a prepared statement from the company which stated that in the event of a stalemate at the meeting, Winstones would hire a mediator to bring the matter to a conclusion. There was some discussion about who should be included in a mediation session should this eventuate. GE said that had not yet been decided. DB pointed out that this discussion was premature as the need for a mediator

would only be clear after a vote on the options was taken.

There was then a discussion about who should be able to vote on this matter. After advice from SA it was decided that only those listed in the Terms of Reference should vote. This excluded the community council rep and the special interest reps. SA chose to abstain.

*Moved: That the new track be allocated to horse riders and the old track be returned to walkers and cyclists.*

6 in favour, 3 against, 1 abstention.

**The recommendation from the CLG to Winstones is therefore that the gates be switched to allow the original track to be used for walking and cycling and the new track used for horse riding.**

AP thanked Winstones for their generosity in providing the tracks and expressed regret that their generosity had resulted in such a hassle for the company. He acknowledged that he is usually the CLG member most critical of the quarry operators but that made his praise even more significant. The other members confirmed their appreciation for the efforts the company had made trying to meet the community's aspirations for this accessway and asked that that be conveyed to the company managers.

#### **Access to paper road**

CA saw the vote as an anti-horse position. He asked that it be recorded that any extension to Te Roto Road through his property to the river and lakes must include access for horses or he would withdraw his offer to donate land for this purpose.

He also moved that the obstacles to the use of the paper road be removed as soon as possible. This was seconded by DH. AP repeated that he was not in favour of the paper road being opened for horses only. This was followed by some disjointed discussion at the end of which SA agreed to look into what would be required and to send a report to DB to be distributed prior to the next meeting.

There being no further business, DB closed the meeting at 7.30pm

#### **Next meeting**

**Tuesday 21 September 2021, 6pm, Memorial Hall supper room**

**Wednesday 15 September is the deadline for Compliance report from KCDC and a Progress Report from Winstone to be provided to Di for circulation to members.**

#### **Allocated tasks**

- GE to check the link and resend it to Di for distribution to members
- GE to arrange for a sign to be erected at the carpark advising the carpark is for walkway users only
- SA to look into KCDC's complaints process
- SA to seek Council's reasons for delaying a decision on the paper road until the expressway was complete
- SA to investigate what would be required to open the paper road and send a report to DB for circulation to members prior to the next meeting.