

## **Ashford Park Quarry Community Liaison Group**

**Minutes of meeting held in Otaki War Memorial supper room on 30 July 2020 at 6pm**

### **Present:**

Residents: Janet Macdonald (JM), Max Lutz (FOTOR and CWB), Shelly Warwick (SW), Campbell Andrews (C A), Denis Harnett (DH), Carolyn Jolley (CJ), Andreas Paxie (AP), Peter Housiaux (PH), Rob MacIndoe (RM)

Winstone Aggregates: Matt George, Regional Manager (MG), Wiremu Adams

KCDC: Paul Busing (PB), Stu Kilmister, CWB Manager (SK)

GWRC: Colin Munn (CM)

Chair and minute scribe: Di Buchan (DB),

**Apologies:** Chris Papps, Derek Kelly, Mike Francis

### **Minutes of meeting held on 13 February 2020**

The minutes were confirmed (ML/JM).

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

Assurance was sought and given that Winstones would adopt a regime to ensure that weeds would be well managed and trees on the quarry site regularly maintained.

### **Winstone's Progress report and KCDC Compliance Report**

The two reports were pre-circulated and from those, a range of topics were raised.

### **New quarry management**

MG advised that he would be leaving the company the following week and will be replaced by the previous manager, Josua Grobler. Wayne Read recently appointed Quarry Manager, will also be leaving. A replacement had not yet been appointed.

### **Water Quality Monitoring**

The monitoring has been done but the reports are not yet available. (These have since been provided and are attached).

RM asked about the impact of quarrying on the quality of water in residents' wells. PB referred him to the link on the Winstones website which contains the Jacobs report on the results of their water testing. DH said he had issues with this report as he thought there were errors in the way testing was carried out. PB recommended that DH contact GWRC regarding any concerns he might have as it was GWRC that commissioned the report. (DH to contact Shaun Andrewartha, the Environment Manager, ph. 021 526 562)

### **Topsoil**

MG noted the large amounts of topsoil which the quarry managers were finding as new areas were being opened up. There was some discussion about how this was being managed and dust issues that could arise in the summer. PB thought that the issue had got to the stage where a more rigorous

assessment was required. He noted that the resource consent included specific conditions on the management of topsoil and there had already been significant contingencies made to cater for the unanticipated volumes. He suggested the matter needed more discussion at the next meeting once Winstones have had an opportunity to quantify the problem and identify possible solutions. MG suggested that Winstones (Josua Grobler) prepare an estimate of the total amount of top soil likely to be encountered, with suggestions of how the surplus could be managed. He suggested that Winstone's Environment Manager, Dan McGregor might be in a position to attend the next meeting to provide input to the solution. It was agreed that this was an acceptable way forward and that DB should contact Winstones (Josua and Dan) to ensure a report is prepared in time for the next meeting and invite Dan to the meeting.

#### **Truck use of Te Roto Road**

DH was concerned that topsoil may be hauled away in trucks via Te Roto Rd. He noted that a condition of consent was that Te Roto Rd was not to be used for haulage. MG assured DH that Te Roto Rd would not be used, all haulage would be through the main site and access road.

#### **Impact of bunds on flood risk**

RM raised concern about the impact of the noise bunds on flood risk in the Te Roto Rd area. CM said that work being undertaken on the PP2O has included modeling of flood management and in response to the findings of this modelling, GWRC has undertaken extensive work to reduce risk by raising stop banks. He acknowledged that the Ashford Park area was not taken into account in the risk assessment, however evidence presented at the resource consent hearing demonstrated that flood impacts from quarry development were controlled to an acceptable level.

The reports on the flood risk undertaken through the PP2O project were on the PP2O website. CM will send this link to RM and will follow up with RM outside of the meeting to provide more technical advice.

#### **Eastern Walkway**

The CLG considered that the proposed changes to the walkway alignment to accommodate concerns raised by Tiana Morgan in relation to proximity to her house, were a good solution. MG advised that these changes would be in place by October.

MW agreed to contact Josua Grobler to form a carparking area in accordance with the decision made last year. He will advise Josua that a meeting is to be called with CA and the KCDC roading team to ensure a workable solution is found that is acceptable to affected residents. SK, CJ SW and Tiana Morgans need to also be invited to that meeting.

#### **Use of lake by Canoe Water Polo Club**

PH reported that the Club had met with the quarry managers and were currently awaiting feedback from the company. The Club has about 2 months before they will be wanting to move their activities over to the lake. KCDC has no objection to the lake being used by the club he noted that consent condition 9 states that the end use of the lake was to be discussed at the end of stage 3 extraction works. While there are some basic requirements under the Council's events policy that would need to be met, there is nothing in the consent or the district plan that would prevent the club using the site or it being utilised for events such as the national tournaments..

DH raised concerns that because the lake would be in use while the ecological developments were still being implemented and the plantings were new, the activities of the Polo Club may cause damage to the

ecology of the site. He asked what monitoring would be carried out to assess if any damage was occurring.

PB responded that the consent conditions require any damage to the plantings around the lake edge to be repaired. MG said that in addition, Winstones will be including conditions in the agreement with the Club to ensure that the ecological developments at the lake are protected. PH assured the Group members that the Club's activities would not pose a threat to the environmental works.

MG said that the agreement with the Club would expire at the start of Stage 3 when future use will be evaluated. This will be in about 5 years time.

With those provisions in place the members confirmed that they supported the use of the lake by the Canoe Water Polo Club. PH thanked the group for its support.

### **Paper Road**

AP advised that he had met with KCDC to discuss the implications for his property if the paper road was opened up. The road would be about 5m from his bedroom and he was concerned that horse-riders would be able to see into his home. However, he accepted that this could be addressed by extra planting and therefore he was basically happy for the road to be opened to horse-riders. However he was still concerned about the difficulty of stopping motorbikes and SUVs using the road. PB confirmed that once it is open, anyone can use it because it would be a public road. This was not the case for the Eastern Walkway – being on private land the owners (Winstones) could control who can use it.

SW clarified that for the horse-riders access to the paper road is not their first choice. Opening up the paper road would involve a lot of expense which could be seen as a waste because the route would become redundant once the shared pathway through CA's land was opened up in about 18 months time. She said the horse-riders would much prefer to be granted access to the Eastern Walkway but if this was denied them, the horse riders would continue to push for the paper road to be opened so that they had access to the river. The Eastern Walkway route would just be an interim solution. SW said she had discussed the use of the Eastern Walkway with the KCDC staff and they were of the view that horses on the eastern walkway would not pose a danger to walkers and cyclists. A gate could be installed with keys issued to horse riders to prevent vehicles gaining access.

MG said that Winstones were concerned that opening up the walkway to horses would create a public liability for them in the event of an accident. SW said that public liability for land owners only applies in the case of organised events. This had recently been stipulated in the legislation. She undertook to send a Fact Sheet on the Health and Safety Act to DB for circulation. DB undertook to send this to Dan McGregor who would be responsible for recommending that horses be allowed to use the Eastern Walkway.

After a prolonged discussion a general consensus was reached that the Eastern Walkway be opened up to horses, subject to controlled access through the issuing of keys to a gate and that the paper road remain closed. CJ was concerned that this would have implications for the safety of her horses at Blackhawk Farms which adjoin the walkway. And said she would consult with her lawyers regarding any obligations she may incur as a result of this change.

It was agreed that horse access to the Eastern Walkway would be a temporary solution until the link through CA's land was formed.

MG agreed to refer this matter to Dan McGregor and Josua Grobler for a decision and that this would be reported back to the CLG by the end of August 2020 with a view to having the situation resolved by the end of September.

SW said that if the Eastern walkway could not be opened to horses then Winstones had agreed to continue with plans to open the Paper road by end of September. One way or the other, access for horses was to be in place by end September.

PB reminded the group that their purpose was to provide input to management plans and strategies. It does not have power to enforce or to demand changes to consent conditions.

### **Departure of Matt George**

In closing it was noted that this would be the last CLG meeting MG would be attending. The members thanked Matt for his efforts on their behalf and for the muffins he had brought to this particular meeting which, given the lateness of the hour, were particularly appreciated by the hungry participants. ML added a thanks to MG for the considerable support he had given to the Friends of the Otaki River and to the wider community during his short stay. This was met with acclaim.

Having finally reached the end of the agenda, DB closed the meeting at 9pm.

### **Next meeting**

**Date agreed: Thursday 19 November 2020, Memorial Hall, 6pm**

**Friday 13 November deadline for Compliance report from KCDC and a Progress Report from GBC Winstone to be provided to Di for circulation to members.**

### **Tasks agreed:**

- DB to contact Josua Grobler and Dan McGregor to ensure a report on the quantity and management of topsoil is prepared in time for next meeting and invite Dan to attend to speak to the report.
- CM to send a link to the reports on the flood risk undertaken through the PP2O project to RM and follow up with RM outside of the meeting to provide more technical advice.
- Josua Grobler to organise an on-site meeting to decide the formation of a carpark for the Eastern Walkway. Parties to be invited to the meeting are CA, the KCDC roading team, SK, CJ SW and Tiana Morgans.
- SW to send DB the Fact Sheet pertaining to public liability under the H&S Act for circulation to CLG members.
- MG to request Josua Grobler and Dan McGregor to investigate the implications and viability of opening the Eastern Walkway up to horses and advise them to report back to the CLG by the end of August.

## **Follow-up to meeting in response to draft minutes**

In accordance with the final task Dan McGregor has responded to the discussion on the walkway as follows:

“To be clear our position on sharing the existing walkway is unchanged – we consider the safety risks to walkers and cyclists to be too high that the walkway is fenced on both sides. I should be clear that our position is not based on our being potentially liable for any injuries – we understand the legislation as regards recreational use of private land. We just want safe passage for all users.

That being said, we are aiming to do our bit to get horses from Te Roto Rd to the river in some way – if not via the paper road then via a new fenced pathway parallel to the existing walkway. We can likely do the works we’re responsible for by end Sept (subject to Covid interruptions) but there are further works which would need to occur for the paper road in particular that we have no control over. For instance the paper road corridor crosses GWRC’s stopbank to the south. The stopbank has recently been raised and incorporates a geotextile fabric some 0.5m below the surface. Horses will damage this fabric which means an engineering solution will need to be designed and built for horses to cross there.

In terms of the new parallel walkway we are currently discussing cost sharing arrangements with KCDC as the new fencing will be quite expensive.”