



Minutes

of the

Whangamata Community Board

Ordinary meeting

Date 19 February 2015
Venue Whangamata Service Centre
620 Port Road
Whangamata

Present

KA Johnston (Chairperson)

HD Bartley
T Walker
JT Wells

PS Kerr
R Thompson

In attendance

Name

Glenn Leach, Garry Towler, David Hammond, Michelle Baker, Jennifer Mahon, Ross Ashby, Emma Wright, Scott Summerfield, Jan McNeil, Michael Dobie

Meeting commenced 13:02

Adjournment
Chairperson

Start
15:23

Finish
15:35

Reason
Afternoon tea

Table of contents

Item Business	Page No.
1 Meeting conduct	3
1.1 Apologies	3
1.2 Public forum	3
1.5 27 November 2014 - Whangamata Community Board Minutes for confirmation	5
2 Governance	5
2.1 Report to Whangamata Community Board on Psychoactive Products, Gambling and Cemeteries consultation	5
2.2 Youth projects - update	6
3 Local activities: Policy/levels of service operational	6
3.1 Application for funding for additional Senior Professional Lifeguard - Whangamata	6
3.2 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2017 - Reserve Concessions - Coromandel Kayaks	7
4 District activities: Local input policy/levels of service	7
4.1 October - December 2014 District Libraries quarterly report - for Whangamata Library	7
6 Reports	8
6.1 Work programme - 2014/2015 - Whangamata Community Board February 2015 update	8
6.2 Members' reports	9
7 Public Excluded	10

1 Meeting conduct

1.1 Apologies

Resolved

That the Whangamata Community Board:

1. Received the apology from Councillor French.

Moved/seconded by: Kerr/Walker

1.2 Public forum

A period of up to 30 minutes was set aside for the public to raise matters falling within the terms of reference of the meeting.

1.2.1 Wentworth Valley Road

Michael Raethel, a resident of Wentworth Valley Road requested an upgrade to the road and noted the following:

- It would benefit the whole town and promote the Wentworth waterfall.
- The road currently hindered tourism particularly for those using bicycles as a means of transportation.
- Commercial premises and accommodation were impacted by the condition of the road.
- In addition to other documented safety concerns with the road, students from the area who cycle to and from school are forced to use it.
- The gravel condition of the road enticed misuse of the road.
- Advised that there was little difference between the costs of maintenance versus sealing the road.
- The current speed was 100 km/hour which he felt should be 50 km/hour and reconsidered once sealed.
- Concerned that the project had been deferred in the past.

Mark Higgins, a resident of Wentworth Valley Road requested an upgrade to the road and noted the following:

- There had been a constant flow of traffic including cars and bikes on the road.
- Safety was a concern because the dust caused vision issues for drivers and accidents were barely avoided.
- An enquiry was made about the possibility of arranging dust seal outside properties. He was directed to speak directly with staff on this matter.
- The Chair confirmed discussions were being had regarding larger projects which included cycle tracks in the Wentworth Valley.

1.2.2 Williamson Park Upgrade

Michelle Gray would like the following items considered in the Williamson Park upgrade:

- Trees offered positive impact to the visual appeal of the park and to the events held there.
- There was still some community concern surrounding the tree culling that had taken place already. Michelle noted that she was personally aware of the safety issues behind those actions.
- Shade provided by trees was essential in retaining the atmosphere of the park. Commercial shades were not the same and could potentially cause security issues.

Michael Chote would like the following items considered in the Williamson Park upgrade:

- Removing trees would create a concrete jungle.
- There is a need for clarity around the plan for tree removal.
- The community should be consulted with in regards to the future of the park. Consultation between the community and the Whangamata Community Board would yield more positive results.
- The Chair noted that a landscape architect was being engaged and that Council would facilitate consultation with the public on the plans. He also said that the Whangamata Community Board was aware of the significance of this project to the community.

1.2.4 Whangamata Wharf

Tony Roper would like the following items considered in the management of the Whangamata Wharf:

- To have commercial providers use the southern end of the wharf which was built for their use because their presence was excluding private users from the rest of the wharf.
- Increasing the policing of the wharf and pontoon to make for safer usage.

Greg Watt raised his concerns regarding the lack of clarity on the signage at the Wharf.

John Quellin would like the following items considered in the management of the Whangamata Wharf:

- Private users should not be excluded from the outside of the wharf.
- Jumping off the wharf could become hazardous if signs are conflicting.
- The need for a clear chain of command so people know who manages what at the wharf.
- The inclusion of the Whangamata Wharf item on the next agenda for the Community Board meeting.

Steve Wise would like the following items considered in the management of the Whangamata Wharf:

- He advised that he was the current Harbourmaster and had been for 9 months and Deputy Harbourmaster for 7 years.
- Despite his years of policing the previously prohibited act of jumping off the wharf, he now reports that the development of the green zones is a successful way to manage the issue.
- The Harbourmaster has the ability to direct boats during an emergency. He can also direct boats that are unable to get to the inside of the wharf to the outside and in those cases he would then notify Council staff.
- Mr Wise provided guidance on rules when he was down at the wharf but he did not have the authority to do anything else. Whangamata Community Board advised they were happy to work with the Harbourmaster to resolve these issues.

Resolved

That the Whangamata Community Board:

1. Received the speakers in public forum.

Moved/seconded by: Thompson/Kerr

1.5 27 November 2014 - Whangamata Community Board Minutes for confirmation

Discussion points

- A Board member queried what the response had been to the Freedom Camping bylaw. Staff confirmed the response had been positive and was an improvement on last year. Staff members were comfortable this bylaw would last for a significant time unless challenged.
- There had been some confusion from the community that people could only park in sign posted areas rather than being able to park anywhere as long as they operated within restrictions or prohibitions and within some sign posted areas.

Resolved

That the Whangamata Community Board:

1. Confirmed the 27 November 2014 - Whangamata Community Board - Minutes.

Moved/seconded by: Walker/Thompson

2 Governance

2.1 Report to Whangamata Community Board on Psychoactive Products, Gambling and Cemeteries consultation

An update was provided on the draft Psychoactive Products Retail Location Policy, the draft Gambling Venue Policy and Board Venue Policy, and a review of the Cemeteries Bylaw.

Discussion points

- The public meeting in Whangamata was held on 19 February 2015, 5:30pm at the Whangamata War Memorial Hall.
- A Community Board member sought clarification of the specific Whangamata zoning and staff provided maps to the Whangamata Community Board to clarify the pedestrian core zone. Staff also confirmed that potential retailers of the products could only apply for licences within the pedestrian core zone rather than just commercial zone premises.
- The consultation period ended before the next Whangamata Community Board meeting therefore staff encouraged the Community Board to make a submission on the policy within the consultation period. The Community Board noted that the community would largely be opposed to having stores here; however, the Community Board were aware they were unable to ban them outright and as such noted their support of the draft policy.
- Staff noted that the only supplying stores in the district prior to the change in legislation were in Thames and those locations were no longer eligible to sell the products under the proposed policy.

Resolved

That the Whangamata Community Board:

1. Received the report 'Consultation: Psychoactive Products and Class 4 Gambling Policies, and Cemeteries Bylaw'.
2. The Community Board delegated authority to the Area Manager to prepare a submission in support of the policy.

Moved/seconded by: Thompson/Walker

2.2 Youth projects - update

The Community Board was made aware of Youth projects being undertaken district wide including:

- Thames-Coromandel Youth Strategy
- Youth Employment
- Value 4 Youth - Volunteering and Achievement Awards

Discussion points

- The Chief Executive highlighted that the Thames Community Board were looking at how to involve youth in the Board's business and whether the candidate would need to be elected if over 18 years of age.
- Youth volunteering awards were happening and the Chief Executive encouraged the Community Board to consider anyone suitable.
- Other Community Boards had a designated youth advocate. The Chair confirmed Ryan Thompson was an undeclared youth representative for the Whangamata Community Board.

Resolved

That the Whangamata Community Board:

1. Received the report 'Youth Projects'.

Moved/seconded by: Kerr/Thompson

3 Local activities: Policy/levels of service operational

3.1 Application for funding for additional Senior Professional Lifeguard - Whangamata

The Community Board considered a retrospective application for funding for an additional senior professional lifeguard in Whangamata.

Discussion points

- Staff clarified that the Harbourmaster was employed by Waikato Regional Council but was still able to provide direction on wharf safety. Staff members were developing a relationship with the Harbourmaster to provide the best service at the wharf.

- Whangamata Community Board members raised concerns following discussion in the public forum that the operation of the wharf was disorganised. Staff confirmed they were working to address the issues that were raised.

Resolved

That the Whangamata Community Board:

1. Received the report 'Application for Funding for Additional Senior Professional Lifeguard - Whangamata'.
2. Approved the payment of \$1,596.00 to the Surf Life Saving New Zealand for an additional Senior Professional Lifeguard to patrol the Whangamata wharf area from the Whangamata community grants pool.

Moved/seconded by: Bartley/Kerr

3.2 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2017 - Reserve Concessions - Coromandel Kayaks

Confirmation was requested for the Coromandel Kayaks (Bubbas Fishing) concession approved for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2017.

Resolved

That the Whangamata Community Board:

1. Received the report on the 'Reserve Concessions - Coromandel Kayaks - 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2017'.
2. Reconfirmed the approval for Coromandel Kayaks (Bubbas Fishing) to hold a concession for both kayak and paddle board hire on the Beach Road Reserve for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2017.

Moved/seconded by: Kerr/Walker

4 District activities: Local input policy/levels of service

4.1 October - December 2014 District Libraries quarterly report - for Whangamata Library

The Community Board was informed on the activities and performance of the District libraries (Thames, Mercury Bay and Tairua) and the Whangamata Community Library for October, November and December 2014.

Resolved

That the Whangamata Community Board:

1. Received the report on the 'October - December 2014 District Libraries Quarterly report'.

Moved/seconded by: Walker/Thompson

6 Reports

6.1 Work programme - 2014/2015 - Whangamata Community Board February 2015 update

The Community Board was provided with an update on the 2014-2015 Work Programme.

Discussion points

- The Tsunami Strategy open day was the most successful held to date. Staff members were now arranging a meeting with regional emergency management team to look at the tsunami modelling done for the eastern seaboard. This meeting will be held on 10 April 2015 at the Whangamata War Memorial Hall.
- The Whangamata Community Board sought an update on dogs on the beach over the peak season. Staff members were to confirm the numbers of infringements for members to take to ratepayer association meetings.
- Later in the year the Whangamata Community Board would be able to direct the bylaw staff as to the required level of services for re-negotiation of the contract.
- Staff members were looking at completing investigations for Wentworth Valley in year three of the Long Term Plan with capital works in year four. The Community Board raised concerns that this project did not fall within this Board's term, it kept being pushed out and was not being acted upon as a priority. Staff advised there would be further conversations looking at options to address the impact on rates following any submissions made by the community to the Long Term Plan.
- The ownership of the land on which the Opoutere Hall is sited did not lend itself well to another dwelling. The site was breaching its status and maintenance costs were rising significantly. Community Board members raised that there was a lot of sentimental connection to it but not a lot of practical use. There were significant costs in maintaining the hall and it now required a new roof. Decisions needed to be made as to its future.
- There has been a lot of letters of support for the Coromandel Great Walks project. Staff members had lodged an application to the Lotteries Significant Fund and were also applying to Trust Waikato for funds that were available.

Resolved

That the Whangamata Community Board:

1. Received the report on the 'Whangamata Community Board 2014-2015 Work Programme'.

Moved/seconded by: Walker/Thompson

6.2 Members' reports

The Chairperson invited members to provide a brief verbal report on activities undertaken and meetings attended in the period since the last meeting.

Board Member Bartley

- Following the recent power outage to commercial businesses, contact was made with Powerco representatives. Scott Simpson MP had spoken to Powerco and had the issue resolved. Powerco was now negotiating a time to meet with the businesses' to discuss better lines.
- After some calculations, member stated that Whangamata rates were less than any other area. He suggested that funding additional costs, such as the sealing of Wentworth Valley Road, would add an additional \$40 to each ratepayer which would still leave Whangamata significantly lower than other areas for rates.

Board Member Thompson

- Was working on the marae initiative at Opoutere. The community was motivated and committed to this project and currently looking at the availability of land in the area.
- Attended a meeting with residents of Wentworth Valley. They were seeking assurance that the project would not continue to be deferred.
- Spoke with concerned community members regarding Williamson Park. He advised that some of the trees required removal due to safety issues. The group's overarching concern was the need to be made aware of the plan going forward.

Board Member Walker

- The wharf area was being used by a large number of families and consideration needed to be given to an access way and future parking issues.
- Requested that as part of the street lighting programme staff members make sure access pathways were fully lit.
- Read the response from Powerco to the power outage in December. Powerco were working towards a resolution with DOC for better availability of power lines to the area.
- Enterprise Whangamata was growing in size and he had been working with staff there to aid in progressing plans forward.
- Queried progress on beach access points that had been washed out. Staff confirmed that disability access was not available. The Board considered it may be best that one area (Island view) be made vehicle accessible to cater for those people with challenges.

Resolved

That the Whangamata Community Board:

1. Received the Members' Reports.

Moved/seconded by: Wells/Kerr

7 Public Excluded

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Resolved

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting for the reasons and grounds stated under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) Under Section 48(1) for the passing of the resolution
New lease - Vodafone - Telecommunication purposes	7(2)(b)(ii) – Protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information. (7)(2)(i) – Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).	(48)(1)(a)(i) – That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist. Where the local authority is named or specified in the First Schedule to this Act, under section 6 or section 7 (except section 7(2)(f)(i) of this Act.

Moved/seconded by: Walker/Kerr

Meeting closed at 16:23

The foregoing minutes were certified as being a true and correct record of the meeting of the Whangamata Community Board held on 19 February 2015.

Chairperson _____ Date _____