

**Minutes of a meeting of the QLDC Community & Services Committee held in the Council Chambers, 10 Gorge Road on Tuesday 21 February 2023 commencing at 10.00 am.****Present**

Councillor C Ferguson (Chair), Councillor E Whitehead, Councillor B Bruce (online), Councillor L Guy, Councillor M Wong, Councillor C Tucker

**In Attendance**

MS Briana Pringle (Parks & Open Spaces Planner), Mr Ken Bailey (Community & Services General Manager), Ms Sian Swinney (Alcohol Licencing Inspection Team Leader), Ms Carrie Williams (Senior Policy Advisor), Ms Alixandra Villis (Governance Advisor), Mr Jon Winterbottom (Governance Team Leader, online)

**Apologies**

No apologies were received.

One leave of absence was requested for Councillor Ferguson between 3-19 April 2023.

**Declarations of Conflicts of Interest**

No declarations were made.

**Public Forum**

1. Ian Raddenklau spoke on behalf of the Wakatipu Croquet Club regarding the gumtrees in Jardine Park which the club would like removed. Mr Raddenklau mentioned some trees which were approved by a previous Council to be removed, and other trees which blow leaves and debris onto the lawn which can cause injury to the public. When the current tree removal is completed, the Gum trees in question will be unsheltered with a risk of toppling over. He mentioned that recently, Gum trees have been falling at Kingston and this can be expected here also. The big factor in the risk to public safety, is the shallow root area of the trees. Westerly winds cause the biggest risk to these mature trees, the club closes lawns when this happens as it is deemed too dangerous to have people in the wake of the detritus falling. Mr Raddenklau mentioned that the removal should be cost neutral due to the recompense of firewood sales, however the club is willing to fundraise for the removal costs for the trees.

Councillor Wong enquired as to how much will removal be, to which Mr Raddenklau replied that it should cost around \$4,000. Councillor Whitehead then asked how often debris falls on the lawns, to which Mr Raddenklau repeated that Westerly winds are the main reason for the debris and danger so it happens whenever the wind blows from that direction. Councillor Whitehead enquired whether there has been consideration to move the lawn to another part of Jardine Park and Mr Raddenklau replied that it would be a huge project to move the lawn and be about \$300/\$400k. Plus, the process for more land approval from council would be lengthy and costly. Councillor Whitehead then said that the consideration isn't always about the money but she understood the position of the club.

2. Alistair Mcilwrick spoke on the Queenstown Yacht Club's restriction of public access to the area in front of Kelvin Heights. It was reported in Mountain Scene in 2003 that the Yacht Club had cut off access to the public for the use of the slipway and the pier, which was contrary to their lease. However, The Club said they closed access because of the public leaving rubbish. Mr Mcilwrick explained that clause 4 of their lease states that the Yacht Club must remove any rubbish in the area (there is currently a lot of rubbish from their own use which hasn't been cleared). Mr Mcilwrick then mentioned that The Club are not currently using all of their land, the rent which they pay is due to be reviewed every 3 years, and so his recommendation is that Councillors should take the opportunity to review the rent and area of use. It was also mentioned that a significant number of boats and yachts are strewn about the land and have not been in the lake for years. On The Yacht Club website it says The Club has exclusive use of the slip road and the pier, which is contrary to their lease. Mr Mcilwrick beseeched the Councillors to let The Yacht Club know they need to change the signage. It was noted that the barrier to the slipway and pier has been removed and public vehicle access has been reinstated but the posts and chain which constitute the barrier are still there.
  
3. John Glover spoke to Item 4, Kinloch lodge. He took the time to thank Council Officers and express appreciation for the ongoing support that is offered to the owners of heritage buildings as they have no other funding. Mr Glover mentioned that Kinloch Lodge are part-way through a \$100k refurbishment on a 150-year-old building. The recommendation from Mr Glover is that a \$3k grant is approved, he mentioned that it all helps and counts to enhance the historic value of the culture. To which Councillor Whitehead agreed with Mr Glover that it is worth the opportunity to support as the heritage is appropriate.

Councillor Wong voiced his speculation whether every 3 years is sufficient for the review of grants.

### **Matters Lying on the Table**

There were no matters lying on the table.

### **Confirmation of Agenda**

**On the motion of Councillor Tucker and Councillor Whitehead the Community & Services Committee resolved that the agenda be confirmed without addition or alteration.**

### **Confirmation of Minutes**

**As this is the first meeting of the Community & Services Committee of this triennium there are no minutes to be confirmed.**

### **1. Request from The Wakatipu Croquet Club to remove Council trees from Jardine Park**

A report was presented by Briana Pringle on a request from the Wakatipu Croquet Club to remove 8 mature Eucalyptus trees growing on QLDC reserve land at Jardine Park, Kelvin Peninsula as Tim Errington (report writer) was unable to attend.

Councillor Whitehead asked if there has been mitigation by cropping the trees in question to which Ms Pringle replied that under the Tree Policy, Council Officers don't top trees because of the need for ongoing maintenance and the possibility of further damage due to this process.

Councillor Wong expressed his opinion that Option 1 had significantly more advantages even though Option 2 aligned better with the Tree Policy. He asked if Ms Pringle could discuss her opinion on whether there is any disadvantage of removing the trees, apart from looks and carbon dioxide. He enquired whether there will be community backlash against the removal of mature trees. Ms Pringle replied that Council Officers are having to balance the advantages and disadvantages, but the community is being affected by the size of these trees already. Without going out further to the community, Officers are unaware of the opinions of the public. Ms Pringle confirmed that there was a drop-in session before the trees were felled at the Nursery and Golf Course where the community arrived to discuss the gum trees in question.

Councillor Ferguson asked, with relevance to Councillors approving the removal in 2003 and Officers not finishing the job, is there any link between this and the recommendation to reject the trees for removal. He also asked if there is likely going to be a point where the trees risks will be addressed again. Ms Pringle replied that the root issues of the trees which were removed years ago weren't there for the healthy trees in question now. She confirmed that Officers will monitor the trees and annually or biannually they will be reassessed for risk and revaluated. She also confirmed there will be ongoing dialogue with the Croquet Club.

Ms Pringle then confirmed that Council Officers use a standard risk assessment within New Zealand. To which Mr Ken Bailey continued that Council Officers have put a careful lens around the recommendation taking into consideration the health and wellbeing of the trees. Queenstown Lakes is a district which has a high threshold around issues associated with tree failure and Officers are aware of this. The health and safety of the Croquet Club members and the public has been noted, the STEM (standard tree evaluation method) assessment is what New Zealand used countrywide to assess the risk, the Community Services team stand by the report but if there is direction from Councillors to have further dialogue with the Croquet Club then Officers will be open to do so.

Councillor Wong expressed that if the decision to remove can get good support from the community, Councillors would support the removal.

#### **On the motion of Councillor Tucker and Councillor Ferguson it was resolved that the Community & Services Committee:**

1. **Note** the contents of this report and in particular;
2. **Note** that this request has been considered in accordance with the QLDC Tree Policy 2022, including replacing any removed tree with at least two new trees.

3. **Decline** the request by the Wakatipu Croquet Club to remove 8 mature Eucalyptus trees growing on QLDC reserve land at Jardine Park, Kelvin Peninsula

1 Voted in favour

4 Voted against

**Motion declined.**

*Councillors decided to bring the item back to the meeting in April to view other recommended options. The hope is to either approve the request to remove the trees or go back to the community for consultation of the tree report.*

**On the motion of Councillor Wong and Councillor Guy it was resolved that the Community & Services Committee:**

1. **Bring** the Item back to the Committee in the April meeting

**Unanimous support was shown for this decision**

**2. Consultation – Draft Alcohol Restrictions in Public Places Bylaw 2018**

A report was presented by Carrie Williams on proposed changes to the Alcohol Restrictions in Public Places Bylaw 2018, and to seek that the committee recommend that Council endorse the proposed changes for formal consultation in the draft Alcohol Restrictions in Public Places Bylaw 2018, via the special consultative procedure.

Councillor Wong asked if it is expected that Queenstown Winter festival will scale back up to the size pre-COVID? To which Ms Williams replied that due to COVID, Officers don't have the necessary evidence required to put a ban in during Queenstown Winter festival, but the bylaw enables Council to put a ban in when the evidence is available which could be in a few years' time. It was mentioned that it is a very reactive process.

Councillor Guy asked whether the evidence must relate to a specific event or if it is tied to all different events for the period, to which Ms Williams replied that it can be considered under the Queenstown Winter festival as a whole or similar events. More evidence will be presented after next winter when more accurate numbers of guests are seen. Ms Swinney added that the usual ban time is still 8pm so these provisions cover for a few hours outside of this. For example, Luma event organisers have learned from experience across previous years and are now obtaining Alcohol licences for the hours outside of the existing ban.

Councillor Guy asked whether the evidence must relate strictly to alcohol or is drug use considered evidence also. To which Ms Williams replied that for this bylaw, it specifically is to do with alcohol. What stakeholders are observing is the drug use is usually accompanied by alcohol use. Also, drug use is governed by criminal law and so has its own set of procedures.

**On the motion of Councillor Wong and Councillor Whitehead it was resolved that the Community & Services Committee:**

1. **Note** the contents of this report
2. **Recommend** to Council that it endorse the draft Alcohol Restrictions in Public Places Bylaw 2018 (Attachment 1), to be presented to Council for formal consultation via the Special Consultative Procedure
3. **Note** that draft bylaw and associated statement of proposal will be presented to the 23 March 2023 Council meeting

**Unanimous support was shown for this decision**

*Councillor whitehead stepped out of the Chambers at 10:51 and returned at 10:53*

**3. Consultation – Draft Alcohol Restrictions in Public Places Bylaw 2018**

A report was presented by Carrie Williams on proposed changes to the Activities in Public Places Bylaw 2016 and to seek that the committee recommend that Council endorse the proposed changes in the draft Activities in Public Places Bylaw 2023 (the draft bylaw) for formal consultation, via the special consultative procedure. There were no questions or discussion on the topic. However, a summary of the item is that the Activities in Public Places Bylaw 2016 is set to expire if not reviewed prior to September 2023. The purpose of the bylaw is to protect the public from nuisance, and currently contains provisions including a ban on the consumption of mind-altering substances in public places, a ban on the distribution of leaflets in connection with a trading activity in a public place, requiring permission for events in public places, requiring permission for organised licensed premises' tours in public places (commercial pub crawls) and requiring registration for busking in public places. The main change recommended is to add the commercial hire of micromobility devices (e-scooters) in public places to the definition of 'trading activity' that may be regulated via the bylaw. This report seeks the committee's recommendation that Council endorse the proposed changes in the draft bylaw for formal consult.

**On the motion of Councillor Guy and Councillor Tucker it was resolved that the Community & Services Committee:**

1. **Note** the contents of this report;
2. **Recommend** to Council that it endorse the draft Activities in Public Places Bylaw 2023 (Attachment 1), to be presented to Council for formal consultation via the Special Consultative Procedure;
3. **Note** that the draft Activities in Public Places Bylaw 2023 and associated statement of proposal will be presented to the 23 March 2023 Council meeting.

**Unanimous support was shown for this decision****4. Heritage Incentive Grant Application Kinloch Lodge**

A report was presented by Jan Maxwell, on the request for a Heritage Incentive Grant to cover reimbursement costs for professional service fees on a seismic assessment and a maintenance plan for Kinloch Lodge 862 Kinloch Road, Glenorchy. Ms Maxwell explained that Council currently have a heritage strategy that this grant aligns to. She mentioned that Councillors may wonder why the value is low, this is the amount that is set for each grant category. There was no further discussion on the item.

**On the motion of Councillor whitehead and Councillor Wong  
it was resolved that the Community & Services Committee:**

1. **Note** the contents of this report and in particular:
2. **Approve** the Heritage Incentive Grant of \$3,000 for reimbursement of costs for professional fees for the seismic assessment and a maintenance plan for Kinloch Lodge 862 Kinloch Road, Glenorchy

**Unanimous support was shown for this decision**

#### **5. Heritage Incentive Grant Application St Paul's Church**

A report was presented by Jan Maxwell on a request for a Heritage Incentive grant for reimbursement of costs for maintenance work for St Paul's Church, 13 Berkshire Street, Arrowtown. There were no questions or discussion on the topic. However, a summary of the item is that the grant will help meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions. This will be done in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses by supporting owners of heritage protected properties within the Queenstown Lakes District. This is in the hopes that these heritage features are not lost to future generations.

**On the motion of Councillor Guy and Councillor Tucker it was  
resolved that the Community & Services Committee:**

1. **Note** the contents of this report and in particular:
2. **Approve** the Heritage Incentive grant of \$4,000 for reimbursement of maintenance costs for repairs to St Paul's Church 13 Berkshire Street, Arrowtown.

**Unanimous support was shown for this decision**

*The meeting concluded at 10:56.*

**Confirmed as a true and correct record:**

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**CHAIR**

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**DATE**