

Wanaka Community Board Meeting

Minutes, 1 February 2018



Minutes of the Wanaka Community Board meeting held on Thursday 1 February 2018 in the Armstrong Room, Lake Wanaka Centre, Wanaka commencing at 10.00am.

Present: Rachel Brown (Chair), Jude Battson, Ruth Harrison, Councillor Calum MacLeod, Councillor Ross McRobie, Councillor Quentin Smith, and Ed Taylor.

In attendance: Thunes Cloete (General Manager Community Services), Craig Gallagher (Owner/Operator, Summit Events), Blake Hoger (Property Advisor, APL Property Ltd), Diana Manson (Parks and Reserves Officer), Jan Maxwell (Arts and Events Facilitator), Stephen Quin (Parks and Reserves Planning Manager), Jesse Taylor (Governance Advisor), Lee Webster (Regulatory Manager), Sam White (Communications and Marketing Advisor), six members of the public, and three members of the media.

KARAKIA

The Chair opened the meeting with a karakia, and thanked everyone for their attendance.

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS

Leave of absence requests were made by Cr Ross McRobie and Ruth Harrison for the periods detailed in the resolution.

Resolution: Moved Cr Calum MacLeod / Seconded Jude Battson

That the leave of absence requests of Cr Ross McRobie (5 February 2018) and Ruth Harrison (17 July – 22 August 2018) be granted.

Carried

PUBLIC FORUM

Roger North, Kai Whakapai

Kai Whakapai is a café and bar located on Ardmore Street, Wanaka. Recently, Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) advised the company that the live music events they were organising in the adjacent 'Busker's Square' were in breach of their current licence. Roger North, Kai Whakapai owner, expressed disappointment with this decision, noting the following:

- Kai Whakapai has been organising live music events in Busker's Square for the past 15 years. The venue has always maintained a community-first ethos; applying for a busking permit over the past eight years, limiting events to once a week, and ensuring their Duty Manager was responsible for noise control measures. During this time, they have not received any noise complaints from the public.
- Typically, larger live events run by Kai Whakapai are in support of local charities and organisations. The charity provides the entertainment, and receives Kai Whakapai's profits from the turn-over that evening. Kai Whakapai donates around \$20K annually through these events.

- Mr North noted that advice received from QLDC staff to date with respect to this issue has been very helpful, and that he hoped the Wanaka Community Board (“the Board”) would be able to provide support in reaching a workable solution.

The Chair undertook to explore what options were available to Kai Whakapai, and Cr MacLeod advised that he was confident a solution would be reached based on an earlier discussion held with staff on the matter.

Mark Morrison, Lake Wanaka Tourism

Mark Morrison reported his observation of unsustainable tourism activity over the New Year period, which was at times bordering on exploitation. Mr Morrison advised that Lake Wanaka Tourism is working to shift to a more sustainable model of tourism for Wanaka. The organisation is seeking a formal debrief with QLDC in advance of their strategic planning session scheduled for April. Key points covered through discussion and in response to question were as follows:

- A formal debrief organised by QLDC for key stakeholders will occur during February; Lake Wanaka Tourism may wish to consider attending this debrief either in Queenstown or via video-link from Wanaka. The Board noted strong support for a collective discussion with Wanaka-based stakeholders, and suggested that this could be considered for 2019.
- It was also noted that a useful pre-holiday briefing was organised by QLDC to proactively address issues likely to arise, however, there will always be a level of demand that outstrips the community’s facilities (e.g. 2,200 boats were recorded on the lake on 2 January). A key focus moving forward will be developing creative strategies and solutions to manage the influx of people and associated demand.
- The Board commended Lake Wanaka Tourism on the awareness material they produced around responsible camping. Recent public commentary from the Mayor demonstrates commitment to addressing issues associated with freedom-camping; a topic that is now being considered at a national level, with Hon. Kelvin Davis calling all Mayors for a nation-wide discussion on the issue.

Senior Sergeant Alan Grindle, New Zealand Police

Senior Sergeant Grindle provided a brief summary of activity over the New Year period, highlighting the following:

- Between 28 December and 5 January, additional Police staff were rostered to ensure sufficient numbers were in place to support the large influx of people to the area. Thirteen arrests occurred during this period, and were largely attributable to disorder; by comparison there were 12 arrests on New Year’s Eve alone the previous year. Six assaults occurred, and a small number of thefts were reported. Overall, the Police feel Wanaka remains a safe place to visit and hope these statistics do not act as a deterrent.
- Alcohol enforcement remains a key focus for the Police, with 40 infringement notices issued either to minors in possession of alcohol, or liquor-ban breaches. Uptake was high for an alternative approach that was offered to youth, whereby their infringement was waived if they attended the Police station to study information on alcohol-associated harm and author an essay outlining their learnings.
- Police were in attendance throughout the Rhythm and Alps festival, which reached maximum attendance (10,000 people) by New Year’s Eve. The Officer in charge of the event felt things went well overall, however, did note opportunities for improvement which will be discussed with organisers. One significant issue was the influx of concert-goers into downtown Wanaka at the end of the event; Police will work with the bus

operators to look at alternative drop-off points going forward. St John staff remained busy throughout the event due to drug and alcohol overdoses, consistent with trends observed across New Zealand and abroad.

- Large events now being operated by the Lake Hawea Hotel are beginning to strain local Police resources, with two events over the New Year period reaching the venue's maximum patronage. Police will discuss the arising issues with the venue's management to improve future events. A number of people were observed drinking alcohol on the beach prior to the events; Police will review the existing signage in place to ensure it is sufficient.
- The CBD event went well, despite being a difficult location in which to impose restrictions. A debrief between the Police and QLSC staff has occurred, identifying a number of issues to be worked through collectively in advance of the next event. Key focus areas include reducing the amount of alcohol brought into town, ensuring appropriate entertainment for youth to divert them away from bars, possible relocation of the fireworks, and working with business-owners to prevent members of the public climbing onto buildings. Police will also work with local transport operators to identify more effective ways of decanting people from town in the early hours of the morning. The Red Frogs (a volunteer organisation) provided very valuable support as always, and the Police hope to see them return in the future.

Other items covered through discussion and in response to question included:

- Road safety remains a key issue for local Police, with 50 percent of service calls being for road policing (crashes and driving complaints). The Police are focussing on the "fatal factors" - speed, alcohol, restraints, and dangerous or recidivist drivers.
- Notable upcoming events include the Tuki Festival (10 February, Glendhu Station) and Warbids Over Wanaka (Easter weekend, Wanaka Airport).
- Presently, there is no provision for a dedicated cycle-crossing at the planned State Highway 84 roundabout. Senior Sergeant Grindle acknowledged that cyclists are vulnerable road users, that the speed limits near the roundabout will need to be lowered, and that Police would be supportive of alternative crossing mechanisms.

Resolution: Moved Jude Battson / Seconded Ruth Harrison

That Standing Orders be suspended in order to extend the Public Forum beyond 30 minutes.

Carried

Jan Maxwell and Craig Gallagher

In support of commentary in the Chair's Report, Jan Maxwell (QLDC Arts and Events Facilitator) and Craig Gallagher (Summit Events) provided an update on the New Year's Eve event held in Wanaka. It was noted that from mid-year, QLDC staff, event contractors, and the Police work together to develop action plans in preparation for the New Year's Eve event.

A notable reduction in the level of youth engagement for the event was observed when compared to previous years. Engagement efforts will centre around understanding what young people would like to see and hear at the event (anecdotally they would like a separate dedicated stage). Another focus for the next event will be developing entertainment solutions that attract youth away from the downtown area.

Staff will also partner with local groups to ensure messaging around respect for the community and environment, and managing underage alcohol consumption, are

successfully conveyed. A challenge will be extending this messaging to youth located further afield who travel to Wanaka over the New Year period.

Russell Lovelock, Mt Barker Residents Association

Mr Lovelock conveyed the Association's gratitude for the recent Otta-sealing completed on Mt Barker Road. It was noted that two accidents had occurred since the sealing, however, it was felt that both were likely due to excessive speed. The Association now looks forward to Ed Taylor (the Community Board's member appointment to the Association) addressing issues with Ballantyne Road and the one-way bridge.

Alfred Futschek

Mr Futschek queried why a harder line isn't being taken with respect to dog control in public areas around Wanaka, expressing frustration with dog owners who are allowing them to run free and neglecting to clean up their pet's waste. He suggested the situation could be improved by implementing dog bans in popular public places, enhancing signage, and adding waste bins with plastic bag dispensers.

The Chair acknowledged the concerns raised, provided reassurance that such issues are taken seriously by the Board and Council, and noted that relevant bylaws in place are enforced and regularly reviewed

Resolution: Moved Cr Ross McRobie / Seconded Cr Calum MacLeod

That Standing Orders be reinstated.

Carried

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

MATTERS LYING ON THE TABLE

There were no matters lying on the table.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed without addition or alteration.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 30 NOVEMBER 2017

Regular updates on the Mt Aspiring Road Widening Project are to be provided as part of the Chair's Report for all future meetings until otherwise agreed.

Resolution: Moved Cr Ross McRobie / Seconded Cr Calum MacLeod

That the minutes of the Wanaka Community Board meeting held on 30 November 2017 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried

1. RIGHT OF WAY EASEMENT – 17 PLANTATION ROAD, WANAKA

A report considering a Right of Way Easement over Local Purpose Reserve to enable pedestrian access to a building located at 17 Plantation Road was taken as read. Stephen Quin and Blake Hoger joined the table to respond to any questions of the Board. The following matters were highlighted through discussion and in response to question:

- The rationale for bringing the decision to the Wanaka Community Board was discussed, and it was confirmed that the correct process had been followed in line with the Board's delegations.
- Public usage of the reserve was considered, noting that its primary purpose is beautification.

Resolution: Moved Cr Calum MacLeod / Seconded Cr Quentin Smith

That the Wanaka Community Board:

Note the contents of the report.

Approve notification of the intention to grant a Right of Way Easement over Council administered Local purpose (Beautification) Reserve (Lot 18 DP 300804) in favour of the proprietors of 17 Plantation Road, Wanaka (Lot 10 DP 300804).

Appoint Jude Battson, Rachel Brown, and Cr Ross McRobie (any two of which can form a hearing panel) to hear any submissions and make a recommendation to Council.

Carried

2. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair's Report was taken as read.

Representation Review

Every six years the Council conducts a review of its basis for election in accordance with the Local Electoral Act 2001. The Council will consider and adopt a proposal which will then be open for public consultation. The Chair signalled commitment to the process, stating that it is an important part of local democracy.

Member appointments to external groups

The Board's current appointments to external groups was considered, with changes agreed as follows:

- Cr Ross McRobie to be appointed to Albert Town Community Association, Guardians of Albert Town Lagoon, Lake Wanaka Tourism (noting that Cr McRobie is also the Council appointment to this group), and Hidden Hills Residents' Association.
- Cr Quentin Smith to be appointed to Alpine Community Development Trust.
- Ruth Harrison to be appointed to Link Upper Clutha.
- Jude Battson to be appointed to Kahu Youth Trust (noting that Ed Taylor is a Trust member), Makarora Valley Community Inc, Ruby Island Management Committee, and Wanaka Community House Trust.

- The Aspiring Tracks Network no longer exists, and accordingly is to be deleted from the list of appointments.

Actions arising from the discussion were agreed as follows:

- Ed Taylor is to confirm whether the Upper Clutha Vegetation Control group still exists.
- The Chair, with the assistance of Jesse Taylor, is to write to each of the above listed groups confirming the agreed changes.

New Year in Wanaka

Further to discussion held on this matter during the public forum, Board members noted a level of disappointment that New Year's Eve in downtown Wanaka was losing its family-friendly appeal. It was noted that Julie Perry had prepared a summary of a Facebook discussion on the matter, and that this had previously been circulated to Board members by Cr Quentin Smith. Cr Quentin Smith also noted that over 7,000 people have signed petitions relating to community issues which 'came to a head' over the New Year period.

Board members were to continue the discussion in a workshop scheduled immediately following the meeting.

Unsealed roads

The Chair acknowledged ongoing feedback from road-users regarding the condition of local unsealed roads, particularly noting issues of dust and corrugations. A Board workshop with the Property and Infrastructure team will be held on 14 February to inform the development of a long-term plan that ensures road usage is being matched with an appropriate level of maintenance and improvements.

Cr Ross McRobie advised members of a recent email from John O'Neill (QLDC Contract Manager) outlining QLDC's immediate plans to increase grading, implement speed reductions, increase inspections, and undertake spot-metalling as required on both Mt Aspiring Road and West Wanaka Road. Ed Taylor observed that issues with unsealed roads appeared comparatively worse in the Wanaka area to other parts of the district.

Project Updates

The Board noted the status update provided for the Ballantyne Road project, and agreed that this remain a regular item in the Chair's Report until otherwise agreed. The importance of the project for the community was unanimously noted, and the realities of receiving a funding contribution from the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) in the context of national prioritisation were recognised. In the event NZTA does not contribute funding for the project, full funding from the Council will be required to proceed.

Regular project updates appended to the Chair's Report were taken as read. The following points were highlighted:

- Cr Quentin Smith recently visited the Wanaka Community Pool, noting that significant progress had been made since the Board's previous visit.
- Cr Ross McRobie expressed a level of frustration with the lack of progress made on Minor Improvement projects with a value of <\$1K. Members collectively agreed that the delivery of these projects needs to be accelerated.
- Stephen Quin and Diana Manson tabled a more detailed Parks and Reserves Capital Programme and Renewals report for the information of the Board. It was noted that Jesse Taylor would make this report publicly available on the QLDC website as soon as practicably possible after the meeting. The Board was advised that the Wanaka

Lakefront toilet upgrade (Mt Aspiring Rd) and Makarora Toilet projects were both presently on track for their projected completion date, however, were cautioned that this date was subject to change.

- The Chair advised that the consultation period for Eely Point has now closed, with feedback to be discussed at an upcoming workshop of the Board. Next steps include the development of a revised plan, public notification of any changes, and submission of the plan for formal adoption.
- Diana Manson was commended by the Board for the prompt installation of a water fountain at the Wanaka Dinosaur Park.

Liaison positions, community associations, and Council meeting updates

Members were invited to update the Board on any matters of interest arising through their respective representative positions. Key points to note included:

- The Board and Council were commended during the Mt Barker Residents Association Annual General Meeting for the recent Otta-sealing on Mt Barker Road. The Association remains concerned about the condition of Ballantyne Road, and have also expressed frustration with Otago Regional Council regarding rabbit-control in their area.
- The positive work of Kahu Youth Trust remains commendable; a key focus for the group this year will be securing new accommodation with their current lease expiring in November – historically, securing accommodation has proved challenging for them.
- The Hidden Hills Residents' Association is on track to become an incorporated society in the near future; current matters of interest for the Association include lighting, road widening, temporary speed reductions, possible subdivision of Little Mount Iron, and dust suppression.
- The Wanaka Residents Association are progressing well with the wetland project; 300 metres of boardwalk has now been installed ahead of time and under budget. The Association is now seeking permission to connect the boardwalk to the existing pathway.
- The Hawea Community Association remains concerned with the current speed limit at the State Highway 6 turn-off, noting work needs to be done with NZTA to effect speed changes. The Association is also working to improve signage at the recycling depot, is pleased with the new water plant, and commended the recent efforts of local freedom-camping enforcement officers.

Brief updates were also noted for the activity of the Albert Town Community Association (who discussed the Navigation Safety Bylaw at their Annual General Meeting), Alpine Lake Research and Education Centre, Alpine Community Development Trust, Guardians of Lake Wanaka, Ruby Island Management Committee, Upper Clutha A&P Society, Upper Clutha Sports Community, and Wanaka Community House Trust.

Resolution: Moved Rachel Brown / Seconded Ed Taylor

That the Wanaka Community Board:

Note the contents of the report.

Agree amendments to the list of member appointments to external groups.

Carried

The meeting closed at 11.25am.

Signed as a true and correct record of the Wanaka Community Board meeting held on Thursday 1 February 2018:

Chair: _____ Date: _____

Rachel Brown