

Minutes of the Meeting of the Landcare Committee held in the Council Chamber, The Regional Council Centre, 142-146 Wakefield Street, Wellington, on Thursday, 3 February 2000, at 9.30am

Present

Councillors Werry (Chairperson), Bonner, Mr Gilbert, Councillors Laidlaw, Long, Macaskill, McQueen, Shaw, Shields and Thomas

Officers Present

Messrs Andrell, Annakin, Cameron, Dick, Ms Edwards and Messrs Paul and van Dyk

Public Business

Procedural Items

LC125 **Apologies**

Resolved

(Cr Werry/Cr Thomas)

That the apologies of Mr Ross, and of Mr Gilbert for lateness, be confirmed.

LC126 **Public Participation**

John Bailey – Otaki resident

Mr Bailey said that the opening of an unsealed road from Kapiti Lane to a shingle plant near State Highway 1 has encouraged diverse recreational activities, including the use of motor vehicles up to the river mouth. Mr Bailey requested that barriers be put in down the road sides to restrict vehicle access to the area. He also said that game shooting had scared off local birdlife; that the hunters were noisy and presented a risk to recreational walkers; that vehicle use, especially trail bikes, had caused ecological damage and should be banned; that there was a need to enforce dog control measures; and he requested the area be made a bird sanctuary. He said hunting was incompatible at the river mouth and lagoon.

Lenore Winterburn – Otaki resident, member of Kapiti Wildfowl Group and Friends of the Otaki River

Ms Winterburn said there was a need for culling to stimulate the local wildfowl population. She favoured the status quo and supported varied recreational uses for the area, believing they were not incompatible. The area is tidal and a reserve would be expensive to create and maintain. Ms Winterburn was comfortable with the possibility of restricting motor vehicle access, provided that any such restrictions applied to all members of the public and not just hunters. She said hunting was a winter activity with limited impact on other recreation users.

Ian Murray – Member of Kapiti Wildfowl Group and representing by proxy the New Zealand Fish and Game Council

Mr Murray spoke in support of the Wellington Fish and Game Council proposal for gamebird hunter access to the Otaki riverbed, describing it as reasonable and fair. He said he used the area for environmental education and field-craft training. He also said a wildfowl reserve was not practical because of regular flooding which prevents birds from nesting in the area. A hunting ban would not be practical either because people would still be able to hunt on private land. Mr Murray also said that the vehicle access issue was wider than the area concerned.

LC127 **Confirmation of Minutes**

Resolved

(Cr Werry/Cr McQueen)

That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 1999 (Report 00.1), including the public excluded part of the meeting (Report PE00.2), the public excluded part to remain in public excluded, be confirmed.

Matter for Decision

LC128 Game Bird Hunting on the Otaki River

Report 00.03

File: N/6/21/16

Mr Gilbert joined the meeting at 10.15am.

Cr Thomas requested an opportunity to visit the Otaki River mouth. Cr Long suggested that Cr Turver may wish to lead a visit to the area.

Resolved

(Cr Long/Cr Thomas)

That the Committee:

- (1) Receive this report and note its contents.*
- (2) Endorse the Wellington Fish & Game Council's proposal for controlling game bird hunting on the soil conservation reserve, Otaki River in line with the majority of views received during the consultation, with an additional clause giving Wellington Regional Council the right to change its position on hunting on the soil conservation reserve at a year's notice.*
- (3) Approve the Wellington Fish & Game Council's proposal for controlling game bird hunting at Chrystalls Lagoon, Otaki River in line with the majority of views received during the consultation, with an additional clause giving Wellington Regional Council the right to change its position on hunting at Chrystalls Lagoon at a year's notice.*
- (4) Request officers to report back to the Landcare Committee, by the end of June 2000, with proposals for preventing the damage caused to the estuarine and coastal area of the northern section of the Otaki River mouth by all forms of vehicle.*
- (5) Note that officers will advise the Ministry for the Environment of the Committee's decision in this matter.*

Morning Tea: 10.33am

Resumed: 10.50am

Councillor's Proposal

LC129 Future Land Use and Land Management in the Pakuratahi Catchment

Report 00.33

File: R/2/3/1, B/20/1/1

Cr McQueen tabled a letter from Paul Hughes, Wellington resident, regarding claimed breaches to the Interim Management Plan for Forest Land Management. A letter in support of the report from Allan Ross, Department of Conservation, was also tabled.

Cr McQueen presented his report and sought broad discussion. Members discussed the values and objectives for this area, approaches to logging other than clear-felling, and replanting options beyond Pinus Radiata.

Cr Macaskill noted the public consultation prior to logging commencing.

Cr Thomas suggested a site tour leading to a workshop.

Cr McQueen wanted the issues further debated through the Utility Services Committee and then through the Policy and Finance Committee, to give direction to officers.

Cr Macaskill left the meeting at 11.50am.

Resolved

(Cr Laidlaw/Cr Werry)

- (1) That the Landcare Committee receive this report, and note its contents.*
- (2) That, following its consideration by the Utility Services Committee, this report be recommended to the Policy and Finance Committee for consideration.*
- (3) That the Committee note that the principles and criteria set out in the Interim Management Plan for Forest Land Management be taken into account on determining future land use in the Catchment.*

Matter for Recommendation

LC130 Chairperson of Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee

Report 00.13

File: E/6/10/16, N/3/13/25

Resolved

(Cr McQueen/Cr Laidlaw)

That the Landcare Committee recommend to Council that Cr Macaskill continue as Chairperson of the Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee.

Matters for Decision

LC131 **October 1998 Flood Damage Repair : Progress Report**

Report 00.12

File: N/90/6/1

Graeme Campbell, Project Manager, Flood Protection Group, was present for this item.

Resolved

(Cr Long/Cr Shields)

- (1) That the Landcare Committee receive this report and note its contents.*
- (2) That the Committee notes the proposed additional expenditure for repair works at Bridge Road, Upper Hutt and endorses the use of savings and additional income in the operations maintenance budget to offset the over-expenditure in the flood damage repair works, subject to approval through the upcoming six monthly financial review.*
- (3) That the Committee endorses the additional proposed capital expenditure in the Otaki River and agrees with the reallocation of the savings from the Waikanae River to fund this additional work, subject to approval through the upcoming six monthly financial review.*

LC132 **Kilmister Block, Belmont Regional Park**

Report 00.26

File: R/5/7/1

Resolved

(Cr Werry/Cr Shaw)

That the Committee approves the Council Chairman writing to Hutt City Council to convey the key points outlined in this report on the Regional Council's position on the proposed sale of the Kilmister Block and that it would be unable to purchase the land if offered for sale.

Matter for Information

LC133 **Divisional Manager's Report**

Report 00.27

File: E/6/16/3

Cr Thomas commended the work of officers over the New Year period.

Cr Bonner encouraged a strong response to the usual holiday time behavioural problems in the parks.

Resolved

(Cr Werry/Cr McQueen)

That the Divisional and Departmental reports be received and their contents noted.

LC134 **Questions**

There were no questions.

LC135 **General**

There were no items of general business.

The meeting closed at 1.02pm.

Cr R Werry
Chairperson

Date