

Go Hororata Minutes

Wednesday 2nd August, 7.30pm @ Hororata Hall



Attendees:

Committee: Craig Blackburn (chair), Phil Freeman, Penny Oliver, Margaret Cross, Susan Thornley, Barty Doak, Lucy Cookson, Jenni Carter, Helene Youngman, Chris Thwaites, Michael Oakley, Annabel Freeman

Members of the public: Scott Lumsden, Kay Norman, Andy Watson, Angie Chaffie, Sheena Broughton, Jenny Studholme, Kim Gray, Jennie Kjellaard, Sarah Moluneux, Pam Holmes, Nicole Ayton, Donna and Dave Moore, Karen Meares, Lydia Gliddon, John Murphy, Michelle Haywood, Fleur and Soraya Earl, Gigi Jones, Megane Graven, Pauline Pearce, Tony Herstell, Denise Wright, Mike Ransolle, Trish McGrirr, David McConchie

Council: Cr Bob Mugford, Cr Jenny Gallagher, Jonathan Crawford (Parks and Reserves Operations Manager), Phil Millar

Minute Secretary: Cindy Driscoll

1. Apologies

Mike Davies, Will Freeman, Olive Webb, Carol Gurney, Marty Gameson, Vanessa Murray, Laurie Squires, John Oakley, Kate Pinckney, Alison Spreag, Mark and Chris Lucus, Andy Thompson, Deb Smith

2. Hororata Equestrian Cross Country Course – started with due to public attendance

- a. Phil Freeman spoke to the Cross-Country Course report and letter from Council. Outlined the concerns Go Hororata has with the inaccuracies in the report and that what was put in front of Council to vote on was not true information. There has been no consultation with community on the report. The result is the course is closed and the jumps need to be moved. This is also coupled with the fact there are trees down from the recent wind and further trees will be removed, the jumps in these areas need to be taken out or they will be damaged by the milling. Phil has permission to move the jumps to one of the centre paddocks where the useable ones will be placed so they can still be jumped.
- b. Bob Mugford spoke: He couldn't speak to the accuracy of the report which was received by Council Wednesday 27th July. The Council voted on closing the course for the time it takes to sort out the health and safety concerns. Council instructed staff to work with the community, same as other sports so needs to be safe. Council wants to see the course reinstated but safe for use. No option but to close course based on the report. Council is keen to see the course be re-opened
- c. David McConchie spoke about the original design and use of the Course. It was walked by Mark Todd and Blyth Tait when it opened who both thought it was a fabulous asset and well designed. It was never intended to be a high level competitive cross county course but a recreational course. The jumps are not high. Dave Sligh and Andy Thompson designed the course, both very experienced. Andy Thompson builds jumps for courses all around the country, why was he not consulted. The course should be used

at riders own risk, gates closed when in use, it is a great recreational course. Also concerned about the fact report was done by someone with no equestrian knowledge.

- d. Jonathan Crawford spoke on behalf of Council: he acknowledged errors in the report. The purpose of the report was to provide advice on the safety of the course. The plan moving forward was the course would remain closed while the health and safety issues were resolved. The Council, working with Phil Freeman, would remove the damaged jumps, salvage and retain the quality jumps and check their safety. Council is not saying no to horses in the Domain. As spoken about by Phil there is a lot of tree clearing to be done which affects the jumps
- e. John Murphy - from Leeston: The strength of this course is the fact the jumps are spread out around the Domain, putting all in one paddock completely changes it. Hororata is a gem and needs to be protected
- f. Question regarding local equine experts being involved in solving the issues. Council have not engaged with local experts. The meeting agreed there were a number of local experts – Andy Thompson and Annabel Freeman would be good.
- g. It was asked if a TD could check the jumps and sign off the ones which are safe and only move the ones deemed unsafe or in way of the tree work. Johnathan confirmed all jumps need to be moved for now.
- h. It was discussed needing a second opinion on the course and jumps, an accurate report done by someone with equestrian knowledge.
- i. Craig Blackburn commented: the decision has been made by Council. Now we need to move forward.
- j. *Motion: It was moved that Go Hororata write a formal letter to the Council stating that the community is disappointed with the process, that the report they have based their decision is inaccurate and that a second opinion is needed that includes the equestrian users. That the community (wider than just Hororata) want to see the Cross-Country course reinstated. Moved Kay Norman, Annabel Freeman – motion passed*
- k. The meeting recommended that Andy Thompson and Annabel Freeman be consulted with by Council going forward. Andy could provide a report which includes a quote to repair jumps and could provide a maintenance programme for the future
- l. The community has the ability to manage users on the Cross-Country Course in the future, this could be done through Go Hororata or a Hororata Social riders group could be formed
- m. In the short term it was agreed that the usable jumps be placed in a centre paddock where they could still be used, gates must be closed when using the jumps.
- n. Riders to be aware of the tree work that will take place in the Domain and to stay clear. Signage is being installed in next two weeks

Most of the public left after this discussion and agenda was continued

3. Minutes from previous meeting(s)

- a. June 1st minutes were taken as read and approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
Moved Michael Oakley, Second Helene Youngman
- b. Matters arising discussed
 - i. Old toilet block – in discussion with Council on this however Council have run into consent issues with the septic system for the new toilets which is holding up this project
 - ii. Invitation to Councillors and Malvern Community Board members has been sent
- c. Minutes from June 15th Meeting with Council – accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting

4. Correspondence

- a. Correspondence was tabled and accepted – Moved Craig Blackburn, Second Penny Oliver

5. Finance

- a. Finance report tabled and accepted
- b. Moved Phil Freeman, Second Penny Oliver

6. Removal of plantations from eastern end of domain and behind hanger, and replanting and fencing plan

- a. Phil outlined the plan for removing trees which had fallen in the wind and the need to remove more trees because they are now unprotected and will come down in the next wind
- b. Lost 35- 40% nor-eastern corner. Trees are now compromised. All the pines and the single line of oregons have to go, these are all the trees from Millennium Garden down the back of Hobbs Street. The area would be de-stumped and cleared. Replanted with fruit trees and forage area. In the far corner the plan is to create a fenced paddock around the back of the track – this can be used for potential float parking, jumps and for major events parking. Possibly bring the race track in and fence so it is enclosed (separating people and horse). Plant small line of trees along track, no big trees planted on the back of Hobbs Street.
- c. 70% of trees fallen behind the hanger. Section behind the Lake, try to save the Oaks. This area would not be de-stumped, it would be planted in tree lucerne and long term native trees. Redesign that area with walking and cross-country course reinstated.
- d. Council has confirmed that the community can keep the macros and oregons which can be used for seats, jumps etc in the Domain
- e. It was discussed with tree planting there needed to be an irrigation system. There would be access to water for the fruit trees from tank in Millennium Gardens. Would need to come up with a plan for trees at North end. Fire brigade can't do this anymore. Another good reason to have a local Caretaker reinstated for the Domain.

- f. Johnathan confirmed that the Council support this approach and the plan Phil has put together with the help of others in the community. This could be enhanced with a nature trail and need to consider providing full linkage of walking tracks
- g. Phil to complete plan and drawings which will be circulated

7. Community Hub Update

- a. MOU – response from Council solicitor received by the HCT solicitor. Craig spoke to this stating the MOU is unworkable in its current form and was not aligned with anything that had been discussed at June 15 meeting. The HCT and Craig will continue to negotiate with the SDC. Bob confirmed the MOU has not gone before Council.
- b. HSA Report
 - i. Hamish update on the report – the full report will be circulated to the committee for comment before going to Council at the end of August
 - ii. Thanks to Gary French who helped with the investigation of the hall structure
- c. HHS to clarify what will happen to existing land and building
 - i. Up to Heritage NZ what will happen to existing land as it is vested with them
 - ii. Heritage NZ own Cotons Cottage which is a replica so does not hold the same value to them as an original
 - iii. HHS own tote building but it is in a state of disrepair. HHS still raising fund to cover the existing floor with villa board to stop bora, floor is not safe, what happens to the building is yet to be decided
 - iv. Could Cotons Cottage be gifted back to the community if the community wanted the liability – it is not moveable
 - v. It is deteriorating at present
 - vi. Could be left as a ruin on current site

8. General Business

- a. Need to push to have local coordinator or caretaker for the Domain appointed by Council
- b. Discussion on flooding and ideas for how to improve this for future events. Agreed Council can do more. CRT are communicating with Council.

Meeting closed 9.30pm