



Committee Meeting MINUTES

Wednesday, 11 October 2023 St Hilda's
7- 8:30 pm

Committee Only 7-7.45 PM

Welcome and apologies

Chair: Sheila Hart

Minute taker: Catherine Inder

Apologies: Riki Anderson

Not in attendance: Chris Wratt

In attendance in person: Andrew Lourantos, Kirsty Smith, Jeff McDonald, Sonya Cameron (apologies for lateness), Mark Henderwood

In attendance on Zoom: Ben Everist, Sally Page

The Chair opened the meeting with a karakia and thanked everyone for attending.

Minutes and Action Points from previous meeting (2023)

Minutes

Approved.

Actions

- **Halloween** - costume making event was planned but unfortunately, Alex has had to withdraw. More help needed to make this a success. Will take off-line.
- **Library/community hub** - Sheila meeting David Ensol, WCC, to discuss the opportunity.
- **Fix-it request - new bin for Shoreland Park** – Ben logged a Fixit request, but in order to have a bin at the volley ball area would mean removing one from the main park area. This proposal to shift the bin is not ideal as more bins are needed. Ben still working on this request.

Financial/accounts update

IBRA needs to make a request to the Council for a 2024 grant by 26th October this year as this fund may not be available in 2024. Sheila will submit this.

AGM Planning

- 15 October is date for notification to members
- 25 October is date for nominations to be in

Dwindling committee members. Riki has resigned. One new person is interested.



There is a balance to strike - need enough people, but not so big it becomes unwieldy.

Sally advised that she probably won't stand again - if successful she will join the School Board.

Notices of Motion - we need to seek agreement to register under the Incorporated Societies Act and this should be approved at AGM. This will enable us to consult on the constitution next year before we submit an updated and regularised constitution. Sheila to prepare the notice of motion.

Catherine/Mark will email the churches to invite members of the congregation.

Open Meeting 7:45 – 8:30

Welcomes:

Wellington City Council (WCC): Nureddin Abdurahman (zoom), Laurie Foon, Paul Andrews, Manager of Parks, Sports and Recreation WCC with responsibility for dogs and dog exercise areas

Attendance in person: David Bolt, Tina Hakaraia

Attendance on zoom: Mary Brown, Alex MacGibbon

The Chair opened the meeting to the public and thanked everyone for attending.

Reminder of meeting conduct

Reminder to everyone attending of our values, that we want the meeting to be a safe space where everyone is treated with respect.

Animal policy and by law – Proposal for change on Island Bay beach

Wellington City Council has a proposal to move dog exercise area to the East side of the beach.

Laurie apologised for any perceived lack of communication. The origin of the proposal is concern for restoration of dunes and native grasses. Concern that dogs are having a negative impact on regeneration. But the Council has been unable to address this issue until the dog policy was up for review (6 yearly). Preservation of dunes helps maintain infrastructure and restoration goals. Consultation on this issue is ongoing. Aware that there are a lot of conversations. Council is keen to listen and to take back concerns.

Paul Andrews - the Council is balancing the impact of dogs on indigenous wildlife. A lot of challenges for the preservation of the dune and the options all mean significant trade-offs. The council recognises that a large number of people own dogs but also many that don't - one option is to conduct a targeted survey.

Are dogs having a negative impact on the dunes? It is small and steep, weather events impacting. Overall the dune has improved but not without significant effort by community - weeding and planting. Hard to quantify. One of the issues is dogs going to the toilet there. Wildlife, especially penguins - none in this area - may not be a suitable habitat - however possibility of wildlife returning if there weren't dogs.



Key points from discussion:

- There are also oystercatchers that need protecting.
- Dunes around the surf club also need protection - but are more impacted by weather events.
- Question around impact on swimming on the Western side. The Western side of the Bay is more challenging for swimming. Eastern side is the safest side for swimming and better sand. The Western channel is narrower.
- Possibility of the West side being an on-leash area?
- A change in the policy that people carry a dog poo bag is also included in this review - but there is difficulty enforcing this (although this regulation will allow potential enforcement over what is currently present).
- No fence around the @dog park on the other side of the road on Reef street - this could be made more dog friendly as an alternative to the Beach.
- Comments on the methodology of "no preference" in a survey - selecting this can distort results if the reason for no preference is not provided, i.e. there was no option to tick 'not applicable' so all who don't use a certain area are likely to have ticked 'no preference' with a distortion of what appears to be the consensus on the proposals.
- One option is to ban dogs from the beach and accept they need to be exercised elsewhere. Andrew responded that we do allow dogs access to the beach due to demand – an increase in dog ownership and increased inner-city living. This is why we review dog policy. Also, human health outcomes are associated with dog ownership. Dogs enjoy the water. The Council decides when & where access is appropriate and periodically reviews the policy.
- Question about whether WCC will enforce the restriction of time on the beach. Andrew responded that residents need to be realistic about enforcement - funded through dog registration fees. Currently the enforcement is Mon to Fri and may need to extend this. Enforcement cannot be seen as the most effective and costly way to change behaviour.
- Question whether there is an opportunity to increase awareness of the specialness of the area, and link to the marine reserve, invite people to keep people to keep their dogs off this area. Giving people a nudge. It was noted that Island Bay beach is popular beyond the local community.
- Question whether there is a possibility to provide an escalation pathway in the policy - asking people to respect the dunes and if no improvement following monitoring then move to restricting access.
- Possibility of inviting a dunes expert to come to a community meeting to help explain why this area is so important from a conservation perspective.
- There are various options - dogs on leash, dogs south of the dunes
- Laurie emphasised that this proposal is still open and feedback welcome.
- **Oral submissions are really helpful**

Submissions close at 5pm on 18 October.



Council thanked everyone. Committee thanked Council members for attending.

Berhampore and Newtown walking/cycleway/parking proposal

Submissions closed on Sunday. It was open for 4 weeks.

It was commented that the sports clubs at Wakefield Park had engaged in productive discussions with the transitional cycle network team and were generally pleased with the proposal. Aiming for net zero parking loss, with additional parking on Dover street and the bus turn around zone.

A resident voiced concerns about WCC investment in cycleways and loss of parking.

Community Fund Applications

The \$100 grant for the Compassion Festival is not enough - need \$500. The fund has \$500 remaining so cannot support investment of \$500. The Committee agreed that the \$100 grant could be spent on pamphlets. Sonya to advise the church.

Halloween planning

This will be organised amongst the committee.

Any other business

Laurie asked the Committee to please let Nikki know that the uneven bricks have been repaired.

Date and time of next meeting

15 November AGM 7-8.30 pm

Action Running Sheet

Date	Actions	Who	Status
12 August	Halloween event planning	Ben	Open
13 September	Request council officer to provide update on any plans re a community hub/library expansion	Sheila	Closed
13 September	Log Fixit request re additional rubbish bin Shoreland Park	Ben	Closed
11 October	Write to Island Bay Ministers to see if there are any members of the congregation who would like to join the committee	Catherine & Mark	Open



11 October	Advise organisers of compassion festival that it can reallocate the \$100 grant	Sonya	Closed
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Items carried forward		
Date	Item	To when
September	Play platform for the bay	15 November

* Items that are crossed out will be removed following the next meeting