



MINUTES

Geraldine Community Board Meeting Wednesday, 14 April 2021

Ref: 1415369

**Minutes of Timaru District Council
Geraldine Community Board Meeting
Held in the Peel Forest Cafe, Peel Forest
on Wednesday, 14 April 2021 at 6.30pm**

Present: Wayne O'Donnell (Chairperson), Janene Adams (Deputy Chairperson), Jan Finlayson, Jennine Maguire, Cr Gavin Oliver, Natasha Rankin, McGregor Simpson

In Attendance: Cr Paddy O'Reilly, Strategy and Corporate Planning Manager (Mark Low), Road Safety Coordinator (Daniel Naude), Executive Assistant Infrastructure (Michelle Heal)

1 Apologies

An apology was received from the Peel Forest Preschool Chair Sarah Thatcher.

2 Public Forum

Allan Averis – Blandswood Ford and speed limit

Allan Averis, a resident of the Peel Forest area since 1940, attended to discuss his safety concerns relating to the Blandswood Ford and the speed limit in the Peel Forest village.

Mr Averis expressed his concerns over the condition of the current Blandswood Ford. Historical flooding events resulted in the original bridge (in 1975) being washed away with subsequent fords also being washed away/damaged over the years. Mr Averis felt there were safety risks associated with crossing this section of river to emergency services, residents (6 families), road users and visitors.

Mr Averis has been in contact with Timaru District Council's Land Transport Manager, discussing his above concerns and providing suggestions (ACL documentation) over the Blandswood Ford replacement. Mr Averis felt Council's Land Transport Manager listened and understood his concerns and that they would be addressed.

The Chair and Cr Oliver advised Mr Averis that the Blandswood Ford replacement was within the Timaru District Long Term Plan that was currently out for consultation (10 April – 5pm, 10 May 2021).

Mr Averis felt 70km was too fast for the Peel Forest Village with there being significant safety issues to residents and visitors. Mr Averis would like Council to reassess the speed restrictions potentially reducing the speed to 40km.

Matt Searle – Speed limits in Peel Forest township and road conditions

Matt Searle attended to discuss his safety concerns relating to the speed limit in the Peel Forest village and road conditions.

Mr Searle felt there were safety issues with the condition of the south bound approach road from Rangitata Gorge heading to Peel Forest and the north bound approach to boundary stream. These roads are heavily corrugated, experiencing significant increased vehicle use including heavy vehicles, are both blind approaches, narrow, hill ascent and descent, with gulleys and streams either side. These factors add to the hazardous and dangerous condition of the roads to users. Mr Seale

advised a sensible solution to these hazardous safety issues would be to extend the seal to the approaches to these areas much like the approach to White Rock.

The road speed limit within the Peel Forest village is also of concern. As the village and surrounding environs becomes more popular to residents and visitors the current speed limit needs to be reduced to ensure the safety of residents, visitors, road users and pedestrians. The current roading infrastructure doesn't cater for the recreational increase in traffic to the area. A temporary solution would be to extend the current temporary speed sign zone north of the village through the village with a permanent restriction being implemented in the long term.

The Chair, Committee Members and Timaru District Council, Road Safety Coordinator appreciated and understood Mr Searle, Mr Averis, the Preschool and the Peel Forest community's concerns. While in principle they supported and agreed it made sense to reduce speed restrictions, it was however an incredibly complex, lengthy and involved process – there is no simple solution. Road speed is a concern that is unfortunately not unique to the Peel Forest community. Driver education and awareness are aspects where some gains may be made. We are about to enter into the speed limit review within the next 1-2 years. Engineers are awaiting to implement the final process pending advice on who is to take the lead Government or Councils. This process will involve consultation and public/engagement/feedback, once the speed limit is agreed it will then be gazetted enabling NZ Police to enforce the speed limit. As an aside the current speed management options available are 50km, 60km, 80km and 100km, the option to use 70km is being phased out albeit where this speed restriction exists it is still legal. The Road Safety Coordinator will assess the road and what other road slowing measures may be suitable (if any).

McGregor Simpson – Speed Limit and Broom and Gorse growing on Council land

McGregor Simpson discussed his safety concerns relating to the speed limit in the Peel Forest area and Broom and Gorse growing on Council land.

Mr Simpson fully supported the Peel Forest village speed being reduced to 50km and the dangerous nature of the Rangitata Gorge Road. Mr Simpson suggested the speed reduction should go from Cain Flat to the School.

Mr Simpson suggested that the road on the West side of Kowhai Stream could be maintained and shingled, Blairs Road turn right 300m, then 1km alongside Kowhai Stream to Skidmores.

Mr Simpson expressed his concern in relation to the fire risk associated with the broom and gorse growing on Council forest plantations and land he felt this should be controlled/managed through spray and grazing.

3 Identification of Items of Urgent Business

- LTP – Future Geraldine Promotional Signage Budget

4 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature

- Geraldine Community Board Meeting (14 April 2021) Advertising

5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

6 Chairperson's Report

The Chair advised that since the last meeting, the following meetings have been attended:

- Geraldine Licensing Trust
- Geraldine Combined Sports General Meeting
- Geraldine Combined Sports Domain (Turf Project)
- Geraldine District Foundation Meetings
- Geraldine Vintage Car and Machinery Club Committee
- Geraldine Transport Strategy Workshop
- Geraldine River Trail
- Discussion and Correspondence:
 - Roading/Broadband Infrastructure
 - Water and Drainage in and around North and South Terrace
 - ECan River Protection Work email correspondence/updates – the Chair will circulate these and future emails to the Board for their information. Hard copies will be left at the Geraldine Service Centre for McGregor Simpson.

The Chair reminded the Board of the following upcoming meetings and events:

- Combined Community Board Updates meeting 6.30pm on 22 April 2021 to be held at Pleasant Point Town Hall
- ANZAC Day Services Sunday 25 April 2021
 - Geraldine
 - Woodbury
 - Orari

Resolution 2021/43

Moved: Wayne O'Donnell

Seconded: Jan Finlayson

That the Chairpersons report be accepted.

Carried

7 Confirmation of Minutes

7.1 Minutes of the Geraldine Community Board Meeting held on 10 March 2021

Resolution 2021/44

Moved: Gavin Oliver

Seconded: Janene Adams

That the Minutes of the Geraldine Community Board Meeting held on 10 March 2021 be corrected as DOC have advised they did not make the following statement:

8.1 Talbot Forest Working Group – Bat Viewing Evenings

REMOVE: "DOC have advised that if a platform was in this area, it is likely that bats would be seen every night flying and out at dusk."

That once the above correction has been made that the Minutes of the Geraldine Community Board Meeting held on 10 March 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairperson's electronic signature be attached.

Carried

8 Reports

8.1 Talbot Forest Working Group - February Meeting Notes

The meeting notes from the Talbot Forest Working Group's 23 February meeting were provided.

Resolution 2021/45

Moved: Jan Finlayson

Seconded: Gavin Oliver

That the board receive the 23 February 2021 meeting notes from the Talbot Forest Working Group.

Carried

8.2 Refurbishment of Thomas Hobson Memorial

The Community Board were presented with photos and an invoice for the maintenance of the Thomas Hobson Gravestone.

The Community Board members were incredibly pleased with the result.

Resolution 2021/46

Moved: Gavin Oliver

Seconded: Janene Adams

That the update be received and noted.

Carried

8.3 Long Term Plan 2021-31 Consultation

The Community Board were provided with an update on the Long Term Plan 2021-31 consultation process and copies of the Consultation Document by the Strategy and Corporate Planning Manager.

The Consultation Document went live for community consultation with submissions opening on 10 April 2021 and closing 5pm on 10 May 2021. There are four key issues the public are encouraged to provide feedback on, Climate Change, Aigantighe Art Gallery development, Aorangi Park Stadium development and the Timaru Central Business District regeneration.

The Long Term Plan has gone through an incredibly robust audit process over the past 6 weeks ensuring the public can be confident with the document.

Submissions to the Long Term Plan may be made online or on the FreePost Form provided at the back of the Consultation Document.

Resolution 2021/47

Moved: Jan Finlayson

Seconded: Jennine Maguire

That the Geraldine Community Board receive and note this report.

Carried

6 Consideration of Urgent Business Items

8.1 LTP – Future Geraldine Promotional Signage Budget

The Community Board discussed the necessity of including future budget provision for the upgrading and maintenance of the Geraldine promotional signage.

Resolution 2021/48

Moved: Jennine Maguire

Seconded: Gavin Oliver

That Jennine Adams will seek clarification from the Timaru District Council Land Transport Manager to ascertain if there is or is not a sufficient existing budget within the Long Term Plan for the upgrading and maintenance of the Geraldine Promotional Signage and report back to the Geraldine Community Board Chair; and

That if there is not existing or sufficient budget provision for the future upgrade and maintenance of the Geraldine Promotional Signage within the Long Term Plan that the Geraldine Community Board members will make a submission by 5pm 10 May 2021 to the Long Term Plan to include provision of the same. The Geraldine Community Board members agreed they will have further verbal and electronic discussions in relation to finalising their submission's detail if the submission is required.

Carried

7 Consideration of Minor Nature Matters

9.1 Geraldine Community Board Meeting (14 April 2021) Advertising

It was noted by Peter Skidmore, a member of the public, that the public advertisement of the 14 April 2021 Geraldine Community Board meeting incorrectly stated the venue as being:

- The Timaru Courier 8 April 2021 – advertised the venue as being Geraldine Library/Service Centre, Geraldine
- The Timaru District Council Website 11 April 2021 – advertised the venue as being Council Chamber, Timaru District Council, 2 King George Place, Timaru

The correct location was The Green Man Café, Peel Forest.

8 Public Forum Issues Requiring Consideration

10.1 Timaru District Policies on Eradicating and Managing Pest Plants on Council owned Land

The Community Board Members discussed McGregor Simpsons concern raised in the public forum in relation to the eradication and management of pest plants on Council owned land by spraying and/or grazing to mitigate fire risk and weed spread.

Resolution 2021/49

Moved: Jan Finlayson

Seconded: McGregor Simpson

That the Timaru District Council Parks and Reserves Manager report back to the Board on Timaru District Councils District wide policies on eradicating pest plants on Council owned land to mitigate fire risk and weed spread; and

That the Timaru District Council Parks and Reserves Manager report back on Timaru District Councils District wide policies on the management of Council owned forestry in relation to grazing to mitigate fire risk.

Carried

9 Board Member's Reports

Gavin Oliver

Attended Geraldine Transport Strategy Workshop, Geraldine Combined Sports meeting, Committee re Fibre Board band meeting, Senior Leadership Team re Pavilion meeting, various public enquiries and Council staff interactions.

McGregor Simpson

Has received public comment in relation to ECan's management or lack thereof of the river catchments e.g. flood protection and prevention, river management and control.

Jennine Maguire

Advised that Bike Geraldine is progressing well and pending some minor remedial repairs by the contractor will be officially opening at a date yet to be determined. Waihi River Trail is progressing pending securing the final land owner access confirmation. Further discussions are to be had to determine the best placed facility to hold the Heartland Trails funds raised prior to fundraising beginning. Attended the Geraldine Transport Strategy Workshop.

Natasha Rankin

Attended the Geraldine Transport Strategy Workshop and is on the Talbot Forest Working Group committee.

Jan Finlayson

Attended the Creative Communities meeting, OTOP meeting, Geraldine Community Arts Council and the Geraldine Transport Strategy Workshop. The Tourism Task Force has been wound up. The Arts of Tour Show – Cosmic is scheduled for July.

Jan felt the tree scape was diminishing and more thought and consideration should be given to suitable locations of appropriate tree species for future plantings.

Janene Adams

Discussed the issue of the concrete tree surrounds cracking with Council's Road Officer. There is unfortunately no simple solution and further investigation in relation to a suitable economic alternative is continuing. The dead tree replacement is progressing with some dead trees not being replaced as communications services run through the vicinity.

The two sets of bins outside the Gallery are being moved to the front of the Village Inn at the request of the owner.

The Geraldine Licensing Trust have committed \$5,000 to the Nature and Sculpture Trail Project.

Attended the Geraldine Transport Strategy Workshop.

The Meeting closed at 8.20pm.

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Wayne O'Donnell
Chairperson