

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GERALDINE COMMUNITY BOARD, HELD IN THE PEEL FOREST CAFÉ, PEEL FOREST ON WEDNESDAY 12 APRIL 2017 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT

Wayne O'Donnell (Chairperson), Janene Adams, Jan Finlayson, Jennine Maguire, Jarrod Marsden, Gavin Oliver and Cllr Kerry Stevens

IN ATTENDANCE

Land Transport Manager (Andrew Dixon), Communications Manager (Stephen Doran), Council Secretary (Joanne Brownie)

Members of the Peel Forest Community – Rex Mason, Don Murray, Grant South, Bruce Allan, Rochelle Watson, Sandy McKirdy, Rod Wills

1 PUBLIC FORUM

Roading Issues – Rex Mason

Rex Mason thanked the Board for coming to Peel Forest and alerted the Board to his concerns relating to tree roots damaging the road surface south of the Peel Forest/Pithie Road intersection, edge breaks on the seal south of Peel Forest/Pratt Road, and an unstable road shoulder 20m south of the Peel Forest/Blandswood Rd intersection.

He queried the system for conveying complaints/issues and what acknowledgement and response system there is. Mr Mason requested that a hard copy option for reporting of complaints be made available. In reply, Board members outlined the service request system and explained the various reporting options available. The Board encouraged residents to report any issues promptly in order that appropriate action can be taken to remedy any problems.

Roading Issue, Speed Limit and Request for Cycle/Walking Track - Don Murray

Don Murray thanked the Board for holding its meeting in Peel Forest. He requested attention be given to the stretch of road between Rangitata Gorge Road and Peel Forest Road between the entrance to the camping ground and the Peel Forest village, noting the narrow width of the road is a safety concern, especially with the number of heavy vehicles using the road. He suggested a speed reduction in the area would help to improve safety.

The Land Transport Manager advised that speed limits are set under a speed limit rule with prescribed criteria, in accordance with government legislation. Unfortunately with houses only on one side of the road through Peel Forest, the criteria for a lower speed limit would not be met. However, these rules are currently under review and the review may result in giving local communities and councils more discretion over the setting of speed limits. Also the Timaru District Council Bylaws are being reviewed later this year. As speed limits are set under a Bylaw, the review process will provide an opportunity to request changes in speed limits. The review will involve public consultation and residents are encouraged to participate in the process if they have concerns/suggestions.

Mr Murray supported Mr Mason's comments in regard to having a hard copy service request option, particularly for the outer rural areas where telecommunications are not always adequate.

Mr Murray suggested an offroad cycle/walking track be established on the eastern side of the road between the township and the camping ground to improve the safety and recreational value of the area. However, examining an aerial photo of the area at the meeting, it would appear that a track may have to cross private land and therefore landowner approval would be required. The current track to Clarkes Flat could be made more obvious with improved signage.

Blandswood Ford and Unstable Shoulder on Road to Camping Ground – Grant South

Grant South expressed his concern at the work that has been undertaken on the Blandswood Ford. He believes the remedial work will cause problems rather than improve the ford. He is concerned that the rock work will create a dam, with ongoing further build up behind the dam and consequential damage to the sides of the streambank.

He has driven both a car and a four wheel drive over the ford and has had no problem when the gravel was cleaned out of the stream, before the work was done. He believes the work has not been effective and will result in people getting stuck in the ford. While he is aware that the steepness of the access to the ford was considered by some to be an issue, Mr South does not agree.

The Land Transport Manager provided background to the ford issue, explaining that a number of complaints had been received regarding the steep access to the ford, with NZ Post refusing to continue delivering mail to properties on the other side. Council considered a number of options to improve the situation, taking into account the dynamic nature of the stream and the amount of gravel movement at times. The option of installing a 'mattress' was decided on, in effect lifting the ford. While there will be some shingle that moves onto the ford, this should pass over the top of the ford, and the rock work is expected to settle over the next 6 months. The ford will be closely monitored over this time. No complaints have been received following the recent work. The option of a bridge would fix the problem but the span would have to be extensive, making the cost unaffordable, and therefore a bridge is not a realistic option.

The Board noted that the management of the ford involves difficult terrain in a changing environment, complicated by mixed messages received from the community.

Speed Limit, Maintenance of Unsealed Roads, Public Toilets, Project Peel – Bruce Allan

Bruce Allan supported the call to reduce the speed limit through Peel Forest township to 50km/hr. He referred to the meeting with a Council Transportation Engineer some time ago which explored engineered options for slowing traffic through the township. In the meantime, Mr Allan requested that Council work with the Peel Forest Plan to take any other action that may be appropriate.

He raised concerns at the level of maintenance on unsealed roads and the quality of road grading, citing Blair Road and Rangitata Gorge Road as examples of grading not being carried out properly. He requested that Council monitor its grading contracts more closely.

Mr Allan asked about progress with the provision of public toilets in the township, noting that Council's Property Manager was investigating the option of making the Peel Forest hall, or the Outdoor Pursuits Centre toilets available.

Mr Allan said the involvement of the Timaru District Council in the Project Peel initiative would be welcome.

2 IDENTIFICATION OF MINOR NATURE MATTERS

The Board agreed to discuss a letter from Go Geraldine regarding Easter Trading and a review of road signage prepared by Rose King and Janene Adams as minor nature items.

3 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The Chairperson reported on duties he had carried out and meetings he had attended since the last meeting including the Geraldine Combined Sports, Go Geraldine, ECan meeting and conversations with Council staff. He advised that the flashing lights are now in operation at Coach Road. The turning stone has been removed from Talbot Street, cleaned and lodged at the museum. The museum would like to be consulted regarding its permanent location.

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Proposed Cllr Kerry Stevens
Seconded Janene Adams

"That the minutes of the Geraldine Community Board meeting held on 8 March 2017 be confirmed as a true and correct record."

MOTION CARRIED

5 CONSIDERATION OF MINOR NATURE MATTERS

Easter Trading

The Board considered a letter from Go Geraldine which was tabled at the meeting, supporting the development of a policy allowing Easter trading in Geraldine. Cllr Stevens informed the Board of the process Council will undertake, which will include consultation with the community. It is the intention that the timetable for the process would allow for any policy to be in place by Easter 2018.

Review of Signage

Janene Adams tabled a review of signage outside Geraldine, prepared by herself and Rose King, reporting on the current signage and raising issues for discussion. There were varying views around the Board table, noting that 70% of drivers do not read signs.

6 BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

Council Owned Land in Geraldine

Jarrold Marsden reported on discussions some of the Board members had had with Council's Property Manager regarding the Geraldine Guide and Scout Den and other local Council owned properties. It was noted that with the District Plan Review underway, it is the appropriate time to review some of the Council owned property in the Geraldine Ward, including the possibility of any parcels being rezoned if necessary.

Proposed Janene Adams
Seconded Jan Finlayson

“That the Board request an issues and options report on parcels of Council owned land in the Geraldine Ward, with a view to recommending any property be rezoned if appropriate, as part of the District Plan Review.”

MOTION CARRIED

General Reports

Board members further reported on meetings they had attended on behalf of the Board including the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee, Geraldine Arts Council, Creative Communities, Geraldine Cinema Trust, Geraldine Guide and Scout Den Board of Control, Geraldine Ward Tour, Geraldine Heartsafe, Go Geraldine B@6, Geraldine Visitor Signs meeting, opening of the lych gate at the cemetery, Geraldine Lions Club 50th anniversary celebrations, Geraldine Anzac Commemorations Trust, Ultrafast Broadband meeting with Chorus, Community Boards' visit to Redruth Waste Management facility and Wastewater Treatment facility, bike and tracks meeting, meet and greet with Geraldine groups to introduce new Council Chief Executive.

Janene Adams suggested that the Board host a series of workshops to attract volunteers and provide information on meeting procedures. There was general consensus that this would not be the best way to increase volunteers.

The Board was reminded of the public drop-in session on the Draft Growth Management Strategy.

The meeting concluded at 10pm.

Chairperson