

**Minutes of a meeting of the Queenstown Lakes District Council Community & Services Committee held in the Council Chambers, 10 Gorge Road on Tuesday 24 September 2024 commencing at 10.00am.**

**Present**

Councillor Craig Ferguson (Chair), Councillor Esther Whitehead (online), Councillor Barry Bruce, Councillor Lisa Guy, Councillor Matt Wong, Councillor Cody Tucker.

**In attendance**

Mr Kenneth Bailey (General Manager Community Services), Ms Silvia Dancose (Welcoming Communities Coordinator), Mr Matthew Judd (Parks Property Planner), Ms Briana Pringle (Parks & Open Spaces Planning Manager), Mr Jon Winterbottom (Democracy Services Team Leader), Mr Dave Winterburn (Parks Manager), Mr Simon Battrick (Sports and Recreation Manager), Ms Marie Day (Community Partnerships Manager), Ms Briana Pringle (Parks and Open Spaces Planning Manager), Ms Samantha Saccomanno (Community Partnerships Advisor), Ms Kat Banyard (Senior Parks Advisor), five members of the public and no members of the media

**Apologies**

There were no apologies.

**Declarations of Conflicts of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

**Matters Lying on the Table**

There were no matters lying on the table.

**Public Forum**

1. Fraser Gordon (Queenstown Mountain Bike Club) presented in support of the Draft Coronet Trail Network Plan. Mr Gordon expressed strong support for the plan, noting that funding for and maintenance of the area is critically important.
2. Dave Harding-Shaw (Arrowtown Village Association) presented in support of the Draft Coronet Trail Network Plan. Mr Harding-Shaw suggested that a variety of community members, clubs and groups would benefit from the plan. Mr Harding-Shaw suggested the plan would save money in the long run and shared an expectation that maintenance would be largely funded by the community including private funds.

3. Kate Pirovano and Kaye Eden (Wakatipu Riding Club) presented in support of the Draft Coronet Trail Network Plan. Ms Pirovano expressed hope that the riding club would be granted early access to the trail network (prior to its being reopened) and requested that horses be given priority to these areas. Ms Pirovano noted that this is a low-carbon form of transport and that horse trails would not require a great deal of maintenance. Ms Pirovano also suggested that there was a lack of inclusiveness when it comes to consulting with the club about what would be needed to support horse riding in the area, e.g. resource needs.
4. Annie Ford (Tāhuna Ride and Conservation (TRACT) trust) presented in support of the Draft Coronet Trail Network Plan. Ms Ford stressed its importance to recreation and the positive environmental impact. Ms Ford indicated that the TRACT trust is committed to funding 50% for the establishment of the trail network as well as 100% of ongoing maintenance for up to five years.

### **Confirmation of Agenda**

**On the motion of Councillor Wong and Councillor Guy the Community & Services Committee resolved that the agenda be confirmed without alteration.**

**Motion carried.**

### **Confirmation of Minutes**

**On the motion of Councillor Tucker and Councillor Whitehead the Community & Services Committee resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 August 2024 be confirmed without alteration.**

**Motion carried.**

### **1. Queenstown Lakes District Welcoming Plan 2024-2027**

The report's author was Ms Silvia Dancose (Welcoming Communities Coordinator). The purpose of the report was to present the inaugural Queenstown Lakes District Welcoming Plan 2024-2027 to the Community & Services Committee for adoption. The Plan has been developed by Queenstown Lakes District Council in collaboration with community advisory groups, key community partners and was informed by community engagement.

Ms Dancose and Ms Marie Day provided some background on Queenstown Lakes District Welcoming Plan 2024-2027 (the Plan), emphasising that it has been three years in the making.

Ms Dancose and Ms Day responded to questions on whether the \$9,500 Central Government funding has been taken away and whether it is a one-off payment, whether there is political support for the Plan from Government, and what was the most significant learning that came out of this work.

Councillors praised the many well-attended Welcoming Communities hui by diverse migrant groups and community engagement associated with the Plan, highlighted the importance of socialising the Plan with the community, emphasised the enormity of the task given the international diversity of the communities impacted, suggested that there would be a ripple effect on the broader community, offered congratulations on the Plan and expressed thanks for officers' leadership in this space.

**On the motion of Councillor Whithead and Councillor Tucker  
it was resolved that the Community & Services Committee:**

- 1. Note the contents of this report; and**
- 2. Adopt the Queenstown Lakes District Welcoming Plan 2024-2027; and**
- 3. Agree the Queenstown Lakes District Welcoming Plan 2024-2027 will come into effect on 24 September 2024.**

**Motion carried.**

## **2. Application for Rippled Earth Limited for Licence to Occupy Scenic Reserve**

The report's author was Mr Matthew Judd (Parks Property Planner). The purpose of this report was to consider recommending to Council to exercise Minister's approval and grant a new licence to occupy for Rippled Earth Limited (Ltd) for the Pigeon and Pig Island Scenic Reserves.

Mr Judd introduced himself to the Committee. Mr Judd and Ms Briana Pringle presented the report.

Mr Judd responded to questions on whether the proposed licence conditions were consistent with the current licence, whether reassurance could be given with respect to this licence not compromising other reserve users and infrastructure on the island, and whether there were any conditions in the consent around protecting flora and fauna.

Councillor Wong expressed confidence in the operator and support for the application.

**On the motion of Councillor Wong and Councillor Guy it was resolved that the Community & Services Committee:**

- 1. Note the contents of this report; and**
- 2. Recommend to Council to approve a new licence and exercise Minister's consent for a licence to occupy Pigeon and Pig Island Scenic Reserves, legally described as Section 2-3 Block X Glenorchy Survey District, to the applicant under section 56(1)(b) of the Reserves Act 1977 on the following terms and conditions:**

**Commencement 1 December 2023**

**Term Five (5) years**

**Annual Rent The greater of \$2,500 + GST or 7.5% of the Licensee's Gross Revenue**

**Renewal One (1) right of renewal of five (5) years**

**Renewal Date 1 December 2028**

**Final Expiry 30 November 2033**

**Rent Review On renewal**

- 3. Delegate signing authority to the General Manager Community Services.**

**Motion carried.**

### **3. Queenstown Gardens Reserve Management Plan Amendment**

The report's author was Mr Matthew Judd (Parks Property Planner). Mr Judd spoke to the report, providing background on the amendment. The purpose of this report was to consider a minor amendment to the Queenstown Gardens Reserve Management Plan 2011 to permit the LUMA Light Festival to operate in Queenstown Gardens.

Mr Judd and Ms Pringle responded to a question on opportunities for educating the public about succession planting plans within Queenstown Gardens.

The Chair signalled the importance for continuing dialogue with the Friends of the Gardens. Councillors spoke to the importance of LUMA for the community. It was also suggested that there was a perception of risk with staff not consulting for five years, although it was noted that officers are sensitive to this issue.

On the motion of Councillor Wong and Councillor Guy it was resolved that the Community & Services Committee:

1. Note the contents of this report; and
2. Recommend to Council to adopt the following minor amendment under section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977, that the Queenstown Gardens Reserve Management Plan 2011 include a new policy that permits the LUMA Light Festival event within the Queenstown Gardens. Specifically the inclusion of the following clauses:

*8.8 Permit the LUMA Light Festival Trust to run a light festival event for up to 5 consecutive days each year. The festival may occupy part of the reserve for up to 20 total consecutive days to facilitate festival operations. Disruption to other users of the Reserve must be minimised during occupation. Subject to implementation conditions below.*

***Explanation***

*The Luma light festival is an established event operating in the Queenstown Gardens since 2016. It is recognised that this annual event benefits the community and the district. The event shall be permitted recognising the need to minimise the impact on the gardens and on other users of the Reserve.*

***Implementation***

- *LUMA Light Festival: Ensure recognised stakeholder groups are consulted during the licence process whenever a new licence is considered for this event. Ensure QLDC and Friends of the Wakatipu Gardens and Reserves (or successors) have the opportunity to review and consult on the festival plan annually.*

**Motion carried.**

#### **4. Draft Coronet Trail Network Plan**

The report's author was Ms Briana Pringle (Parks and Open Spaces Planning Manager). The purpose of this report was to present the Draft Coronet Trail Network Plan for adoption. The trail network plan (the plan) was developed in partnership with the Coronet Forest Recreational Working Group.

Ms Pringle introduced the report and noted that, since the writing of the report, the TRACT Trust has indicated that they will fund 50% - which is \$750,000 – of the build, and has also indicated that they will contribute to maintenance over the next five years.

Ms Pingle and Mr Winterburn responded to questions on how soon horse riders can access the areas, what opportunities there are for other users e.g. the paragliding community, engagement with the Coronet Forest Recreational Working Group, and clarifying any potential risks (and related contingency plans) associated with adopting the plan.

There was extensive discussion over a potential amendment to the language in the report's recommendation that would ensure appropriate oversight with respect to development and funding as the program progresses. Councillors overall agreed to add the following extra language to point 2 of the recommendation in the report: "reporting back to the Community & Services Committee on staging and funding options" (although Councillor Bruce did not support the addition of this phrase).

**On the motion of Councillor Whitehead and Councillor Wong it was resolved that the Community & Services Committee:**

- 1. Note the contents of this report; and**
- 2. Adopt the Draft Coronet Trail Network Plan (Attachment A) reporting back to the Community & Services Committee on staging and funding options.**

**Motion carried.**

## **5. Chair's Report**

A report from Chair Ferguson provided the Committee with an update on projects of interest. Councillor Guy presented the report and highlighted some key points including and/or related to great turnout at Jardine Park drop-in sessions, parks maintenance contracts renewal, councillor conversations around the opportunity for educational opportunities related to safety in the waterways, community activation and partnerships related to Ben Lomond trails, and the fine free initiative across QLDC libraries. Councillor Guy also emphasised that members of the public are encouraged to attend Councillor drop-in sessions (the next one of which is being held in the library).

**On the motion of Councillor Bruce and Councillor Tucker it was resolved that the Community & Services Committee:**

- 1. Note the contents of this report.**

**Motion carried.**

*The meeting concluded at 11.25am.*

**Confirmed as a true and correct record:**

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**CHAIR**

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**DATE**