

**Minutes of a meeting of the QLDC Community & Services Committee held via Zoom on Thursday 18 August 2022 commencing at 10.00 am****Present**

Councillor Ferguson (Chair), Councillor Miller, Councillor Shaw and Councillor Gladding. Councillor Whitehead joined at 10:01 am.

**In Attendance**

Ms Meaghan Miller (General Manager Community Services,) Briana Pringle (Acting Manager Community Services,) and Alixandra Villis (Governance Advisor) and Ken Bailey (Parks Manager)

**Apologies**

No apologies were presented.

Councillor Copland was absent.

**Declarations of Conflicts of Interest**

No declarations were made.

**Public Forum**

There were 2 speakers in the public forum;

**Grant Hensman and Athol Stephens**

Grant Hensman spoke to his support for the removal of the wilding Douglas conifer trees from both places. Wilding Conifer Group supports this removal to progressively change the species as the battle can't be won with seed sources remaining in the district. The trees were only to offer some kind of cover, and so the current golf club are looking to replace these with a more appropriate species for the natural ecosystem.

Athol Stephens (Chairman of the golf club) stated that the golf club have been reducing the conifers and replanting with native species over the last few years. The Conifers are a massive seed spreader which leave a large mess behind. They obscure the view of the natural landscape, and the golf course has already found many other areas to replant. The report says 290 trees are to be removed but the number should be 390. Mr Stephens would like to suggest an amendment to the recommendations, recommendation number 3 have a 3b- subject to confirmation of the error the committee authorises the parks manager to approve the removal of another 100 Douglas conifers from the location of the course known as Sherwood.

Councillor whitehead mentioned that the soil health and its ability to maintain the water table so that the best health can be had for the course is most important to support the area through drought season. The Councillor asked 'What advice has Council had and where from, with regards to biodiversity and replanting.'

It was then confirmed by Briana Pringle that Reforestation Trust has been involved and the numbers are in excess of 200 new trees on the particular site.

### **Matters Lying on the Table**

There were no matters lying on the table.

### **Confirmation of Agenda**

**On the motion of Councillor Gladding and Councillor Shaw the Community & Services Committee resolved that the agenda be confirmed without addition or alteration.**

### **Confirmation of Minutes**

**On the motion of Councillor Miller and Councillor Shaw the Community & Services Committee resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record.**

## **1 Tree Replacement Requests – Kelvin Peninsula Golf Course and Jardine Park**

A report was presented by Briana Pringle on the requests from three applicants to remove and replace trees at three locations on reserve land on the Kelvin Peninsular.

There was discussion on the excess trees to be removed. There was public feedback on the removals via let's talk and a drop-in session. It was also noted that just 24 hours ago an extra 100 trees were recognised to be removed. The issue that Council have is that if the extra 100 trees are removed there will need to be further public engagement.

Councillor Gladding mentioned that the eucalyptus and poplars are areas of concern for removal. The policy requires an assessment and a good reason to remove the trees. Does Council have this and does this removal abide by the tree policy?

Ken Bailey returned that the assessment confirmed they are healthy trees, but their removal is to improve the course. 26% of the trees aren't wildling conifers. Large removal blocks are assessed through health and forestry. Pest management is simple but individual mixed species can be more complicated, the willow population and other trees will continue to be something to manage and the wellbeing and risk assessments will need to be addressed in stages for the excess above the wilding conifers. The regeneration plan may be in conflict with the tree policy, so far however Council officers haven't made the decision. It has been escalated through this committee due to this matter. If the Committee look at this as a group of trees, some of them will have wind loading and health issues if the conifers are removed. The golf course wants to move to a native, park like setting. The Committee have requested clarity on where the replanting will be and what will be planted where.

Councillor Shaw agreed that for a request of this scale there needs to be a holistic approach, in terms of wind loading as this is a large factor.

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

- 1. Note the contents of this report and in particular;**
- 2. Note that the following requests were considered in accordance with the QLDC Tree Policy 2022, this includes replacing any removed tree with two trees.**
- 3. Approve the request by the Queenstown Golf Club to remove and replace approximately 290 trees within their lease area on the Queenstown Golf Course Recreation Reserve, on the Kelvin Peninsular.**
- 4. Approve the request by the Whakatipu Reforestation Trust, to remove and replace approximately 100 aging trees, near the Jean Malpas Nursery in the Jardine Park Recreation Reserve.**
- 5. Approve the request by the Whakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group, to remove approximately 20 Wilding Douglas Fir trees, near the Jean Malpas Nursery in the Jardine Park Recreation Reserve.**

*The meeting concluded at 10.41am.*

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**CHAIR**

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**DATE**