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**Minutes of a meeting of the Community and Services Committee held in the Council Chambers, 10 Gorge Road, Queenstown on Thursday 19 April 2018 commencing at 10.00am**

**Present:**

Councillors Stevens (Chairperson), Clark and Ferguson

**In attendance:**

Dr Thunes Cloete (General Manager, Community Services), Mr Stephen Quin (Parks Planning Manager) and Ms Jane Robertson (Senior Governance Advisor); two members of the media and one member of the public

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Miller and Councillor Smith.

**On the motion of Councillors Stevens and Ferguson the Community and Services Committee resolved to accept the apologies.**

**Declarations of Conflicts of Interest**

No declarations were made.

**Matters Lying on the Table**

There were no matters lying on the table.

**Public Forum**

1. Jay Cassells, Chair, Friends of Queenstown Gardens

Mr Cassells thanked the Council and staff, especially Stephen Quin for the time taken to consult with the Friends of Queenstown Gardens on the Queenstown Gardens Development Plan. He was pleased that this consultation had resulted in some significant changes, but asserted that it was a substantive topic which merited consideration by the full Council. Because of the short notice of the meeting, he was unable to give unqualified support for the plan despite the fact that some of it was very good. He presented comment from Lorraine Cooper who was unable to attend the meeting. She was opposed to moving away from the historic main entrance and did not agree that the Gardens needed to accommodate more activities, as they were loved for their peaceful surroundings.

Mr Cassells acknowledged that aspects of the plan would be subject to further consultation, especially when funding was sought but asked for greater levels of communication about the gardens between the Council and the community. He was also aware of the importance of legacy, adding that those making plans had not been in Queenstown as long as those who would be affected by these changes.

### **Confirmation of agenda**

The agenda was confirmed without addition or alteration.

### **Confirmation of Minutes**

**On the motion of Councillors Clark and Ferguson it was resolved that the Community and Services Committee confirm the minutes of the Community and Service Committee meeting held on 15 March 2018 as a true and correct record.**

#### **1. Queenstown Gardens Development Plan**

A covering report from Jeannie Galavazi (Senior Parks and Reserves Planner) presented the final Queenstown Gardens Development Plan for adoption, following completion of public consultation.

The report was presented by Stephen Quin. He thanked Mr Cassells and the Friends of Queenstown Gardens for their very valuable contribution to the consultation process. He advised of two errors in the agenda papers. The first was that the sound shell shown in the plan was now removed; the second was that 71, not 61, submissions had been received.

Mr Quin noted that event management was one of the most contentious issues in the gardens and staff had moved away from the proposed inclusion of a soundshell. Furthermore, as dictated by the applicable Reserve Management Plan, community events could take place in the Gardens but large commercial events were not appropriate. In response to feedback, it had also been decided to keep the existing rose gardens in their current configuration. He stressed that the Development Plan was a high level concept plan that still required detailed planning to be undertaken.

Councillor Clark observed that the community was vehemently opposed to major change in Queenstown Gardens. She supported the plan's proposals to improve the pedestrian experience and to address conflict with moving traffic, but she was opposed to bright lighting, removing the shelter belt and increased commercialism. She suggested that a third statement be added to the recommendation to reflect that everything proposed in the plan would be subject to further consultation when detailed plans were prepared.

Dr Cloete reassured the committee that members should not be uneasy that they would never see the plan again. He noted that any project would require detailed design and this would be presented to the committee for a decision following consultation.

In response to the request for an addition to the recommendation the Governance Advisor suggested: 'That the committee note that further detailed planning will be presented on an ongoing basis to the Community and Services Committee.' Members supported this additional text.

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Councillor Ferguson advised that he was opposed to the Queenstown Gardens Development Plan being considered only at committee level. He stated that as a mark of respect it merited consideration by the full Council.

**On the motion of Councillors Clark and Stevens it was resolved that the Community and Services Committee:**

- 1. Note the contents of this report;**
- 2. Adopt the Queenstown Gardens Development Plan; and**
- 3. Note that further detailed planning will be presented on an ongoing basis to the Community and Services Committee.**

*Councillor Ferguson recorded his vote against the motion because wanted the matter to be considered by the full Council.*

*The meeting concluded at 10.32am.*

**CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD**

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**CHAIRPERSON**

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**DATE**