



# Le Quesnoy Sister City Committee Minutes

**Time:** 5.00pm  
**Date:** Monday, 16 February 2015  
**Venue:** Committee Room, Cambridge Service Centre  
Waipa District Council  
23 Wilson Street, Cambridge

## 1 PRESENT

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### Members

John Bishop, Chairperson [Items 1, 2, 3]  
Mike Pettit, Chairperson [Items 4, 5, 6]

Elwyn Andree-Wiltens, Philip Coles, Julie Epps, Sue Milner, (Cambridge Community Board), , Toni Eames, Delysse Storey, Miriam Farrell, Brian Farrell, Anne Lee (Alliance Francaise de Hamilton), Sebastien Lemercier, Steve Tritt, Grant Middlemiss

### In Attendance

Noelene Barr, Committee Secretary

## 2 APOLOGIES

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### RESOLVED

*That the apology for lateness from Elwyn Andree-Wiltens be received.*

Milner/Pettit

## 3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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File: 01-80-05

**Minutes of the Meeting held 1 December 2014 were included in the agenda.**

### RESOLVED

*That the minutes of the meeting held 1 December 2014, as circulated with the agenda, be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings subject to Sue Milner being changed to **Sue Pickering** in item 5.2 on page 6.*

Middlemiss/B Farrell

### Matters Arising

#### 3.1 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of Le Quesnoy / Armistice in Cambridge 2018 – Update

**A photograph of the model of the proposed sculpture by Mr Fred Graham, depicting the link between Le Quesnoy and Cambridge, for installation at the oak arboretum was included in the agenda.**





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## **3.1.1 Application for Funds**

Julie Epps advised that the application for funds has been deferred to an additional funding round (\$5 million) which opens in June which will provide extra time to gather information and consolidate ideas. The Armistice in Cambridge Committee is submitting the application with representatives included from this committee, and they've been advised that there are not a lot of applications expected for events in 2018.

## **3.1.2 Cenotaph and Memorial Cleaning / Maintenance**

John Bishop reported that Australia have set aside a large fund for events during the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and cenotaphs and memorials are being cleaned and general maintenance undertaken.

This doesn't appear to be happening in New Zealand nor in the Waipa district; the war memorial gates at Hautapu Rugby grounds are looking very tatty and a recommendation should be made from the board.

## **3.1.3 Artwork / Sculpture**

Sue Milner, as Chair of Council's Heritage Committee, has requested Council's Museum Director seek artwork from National Archives to use for an art exhibition in 2018. Fred Graham, a former local resident and an esteemed sculptor, has provided a model of a proposed sculpture to be placed in the oak arboretum representing the link between Cambridge and Le Quesnoy. It is to be made of stainless steel and will be approximately six metres tall. It will incorporate a stylised ladder with four rungs representing each year that Le Quesnoy was under German rule. The base of the sculpture is to be in the shape of the ramparts at Le Quesnoy and in red brick similar to the wall that was scaled. A plaque is to be included with the names of those killed in the battle. The concept is still being explored and quotes are being sought from stainless steel fabricators for the construction. Fred has previously completed works for the New Zealand War Memorial in Korea and the duck sculpture in the fountain in the rose gardens in Te Awamutu and two sculptures at Lake Karapiro. He was runner up for the design for the New Zealand War Memorial in Hyde Park, London. Fred is not charging for his time.

## **3.1.4 New Zealand Listener, Article by Sally Blundell – "Too Quiet on the Western Front"**

An article, written by Sally Blundell, has been published in next week's New Zealand Listener regarding the liberation of Le Quesnoy by New Zealand soldiers.





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Several people were interviewed for the article including John Bishop, but she did not mention that Cambridge has a Sister City link with Le Quesnoy and that Armistice is commemorated here in recognition of the link.

A letter to be written to the New Zealand Listener advising them of the Sister City relationship and that a major event is planned in November 2018 commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Le Quesnoy.

New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) has indicated that this battle will be the focus of their commemorations in 2018. A letter should also be sent to NZDF requesting their presence in Cambridge in November 2018 to be part of these events.

There are most likely groups in Le Quesnoy who will also be planning commemorations in 2018 and an update to be sought from Herb Farrant, following his "Tag Along" tour in Europe this year.

### **3.1.5 The Le Quesnoy Banner**

The Le Quesnoy Banner, which was presented to the New Zealand Rifle Brigade by the town of Le Quesnoy, will be included in an exhibition at the National Army Museum in Waiouru and will not be available for display in Cambridge.

Toni Eames advised that a replica banner has been considered previously but it is too expensive as the threads have to be silk and gold. Funds could be included in the grant application however there would not be enough time to complete it by 2018; miniatures may be completed at some stage.

### **3.2 Promotional Brochure**

Steve Tritt reported that he's currently gathering information for the brochure and Council staff will format it when the content is available. A draft will be provided to the committee.

### **3.3 Resignation of Chair**

**A letter from John Bishop resigning as Chair of the committee was included in the agenda.**

#### **RESOLVED**

*That the letter dated 2 February 2015 from John Bishop be received.*

Bishop/Storey





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John Bishop advised that he wished to stand down as Chair as he was elected as a Councillor at the last local authority election and is no longer a member of the Cambridge Community Board. He continued as Chair of this committee in support of the Board's new Chair, Mike Pettit.

## **RESOLVED**

*That Mike Pettit be nominated and, there being no further nominations received, be appointed Chair of the Le Quesnoy Sister City Committee and the Cambridge/Le Quesnoy Friendship Association.*

Coles/Bishop

Mike Pettit continued as Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

## **4 INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE**

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### **4.1 New Zealand Memorial Museum at Le Quesnoy – Update**

**A progress update from The New Zealand Memorial Museum Trust for Friends of the Memorial Museum Concept was included in the agenda.**

An accompanying note from the Secretary of the Trust, Herb Farrant stated that “all financial contributions remain in a Trust Account as the Trustees are unwilling to expend funds until the project had a legitimate foundation on which to proceed to fruition. Failure to progress (as appeared to be the case up to the elections in Le Quesnoy) would automatically result in a return of donations. The year 2015 therefore, has the potential to recreate the intent and objectives of the Trust”.

## **RESOLVED**

*That the progress update from The New Zealand Memorial Museum Trust be received.*

Coles/Andree-Wiltens

Sebastian Lemerrier queried if there was a time frame proposed as everything could change when there is another election in Le Quesnoy. Delysse Storey advised that Herb Farrant is meeting with politicians to acquire formal documentation when he's in Le Quesnoy in April this year.

## **5 GENERAL**

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### **5.1 Construction of a Maze**

**A letter from Joan Clouston suggesting that a maze be constructed as part of the commemorations of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Le Quesnoy with reference to the labyrinth defences of Le Quesnoy, was distributed at the meeting.**





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## **RESOLVED**

*That the letter dated 9 February 2015 from Joan Clouston be received.*

Bishop/Pettit

Joan Clouston expressed her disappointment that her idea of constructing a maze, included in her previous letter, was not considered in discussions for the commemorations in 2018. She suggested that the maze “would refer to the labyrinth defences of the ‘ville forte’.....contained within the star shaped outer wall, and that the final goal of the quest would be centred on a tower – reminiscent of the ‘belfroi’”.

The construction of a permanent maze would be difficult and expensive, however temporary mazes have been created in maize paddocks. The “star shaped outer wall” could be incorporated in the sculpture. Julie Epps to take it to the Armistice in Cambridge Committee to consider as part of the funding application for the commemorations in 2018.

### **5.2 Documentary – “Kiwis in the Great War”**

Miriam Farrell had received an email from Marie-Lou Vezon providing an update on the documentary that she’s compiled and wished to give her thanks to members of the committee and the Cambridge/Le Quesnoy Friendship Association who had assisted her. The official presentation of the film is to be made on 25 April in Le Quesnoy with other projections being organised in the central region of France.

### **5.3 Cambridge Autumn Festival – Street Carnival, Sunday 29 March 2015**

Julie Epps said that the Trustees of the Autumn Festival are including a French theme in the Street Carnival this year such as food and movies and asked if the committee had any interest in hosting a stall. It would be held at the town hall and piazza. Anne Lee to make enquiries of Alliance Francaise.

### **5.4 Letters of Introduction**

Mike Pettit to write letters to Marie-Sophie Lesne, Mayor of Le Quesnoy and to Marie Jose Burlion, the President of the Association Le Quesnoy Nouvelle-Zelande and a newsletter to the Cambridge/Le Quesnoy Friendship Association introducing himself as the new Chair of the committee and association. Included in the letters will be a comment referring to the planned commemorations of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Le Quesnoy in November 2018.

### **5.5 Memorial – Group Captain “Hawkeye” Bill Wells**

Joan Clouston suggested that a memorial be made to Group Captain “Hawkeye” Wells to be located in Cambridge as he was born and educated in Cambridge.





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He joined the Royal New Zealand Air Force in 1939 and was one of Fighter Command's most outstanding pilots and carried out 133 sweeps over enemy occupied territory during World War II.

Mike Pettit advised that "Hawkeye" Wells had attended Cambridge Primary School and that there is a memory board dedicated to him at Cambridge High School.

**RESOLVED**

*That the obituary of "Hawkeye" Wells, as published on the website [www.telegraph.co.uk](http://www.telegraph.co.uk) dated 10 November 2005, be received.*

Bishop/Pettit

## 6 NEXT MEETING

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The next meeting will be held on Monday, 20 April 2015 at 5.00pm.

The meetings thereafter are scheduled on the third Monday on a bi-monthly basis as follows –

15 June

17 August

19 October

7 December (scheduled earlier in the month due to Christmas)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.08pm.

**CHAIRPERSON**

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**DATE**

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**CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

