



# Le Quesnoy Sister City Committee Minutes

**Time:** 5.00pm  
**Date:** Monday, 15 June 2015  
**Venue:** Committee Room, Cambridge Service Centre  
Waipa District Council  
23 Wilson Street, Cambridge

## 1 PRESENT

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### Members

Mike Pettit, Chairperson

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

### Visitors

Herb Farrant, President New Zealand Military Historical Society  
Alan Livingston

### In Attendance

Noelene Barr, Committee Secretary

## 2 APOLOGIES

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Nil

## 3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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File: 180-06-05

**Minutes of the Meeting held 20 April 2015 were included in the agenda.**

### RESOLVED

*That the minutes of the meeting held 20 April 2015, as circulated with the agenda, be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.*

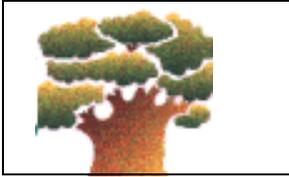
Bishop/S Pickering

### Matters Arising

#### 3.1 Promotional Brochure – Final Format

**The promotional brochure (final format) was included in the agenda for information purposes.**





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## **RESOLVED**

*That the promotional brochure (final format) depicting the relationship between Cambridge and Le Quesnoy be received.*

Pettit/Epps

The brochure was well received by members who expressed their appreciation to Council staff for a professional outcome.

Brochures to be placed at the following venues –

Cambridge iSite  
Cambridge Museum  
Te Awamutu Museum  
Waikato Museum (Hamilton)  
National Army Museum (Waiouru)

### **3.2 Free Standing Pull Up Banner – Display Purposes**

Julie Epps reported that two pull up banners previously used by Council staff for promoting the Long Term Plan will be reskinned with images and information to promote the Sister Cities relationship with Le Quesnoy. Herb Farrant will provide some relevant photos of Le Quesnoy for this purpose. The key message of the banners will be Sister Cities.

Mike Pettit said that a newsletter will be sent to all members of the Cambridge/Le Quesnoy Friendship Association which will include the update from Herb Farrant and anything else of interest.

## **4 LE QUESNOY UPDATE**

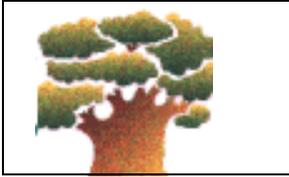
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Herb Farrant complimented the brochure and advised that the official figures are incorrect as 135 New Zealanders died on 4 November 1918 and 48 are buried in the Le Quesnoy cemetery .

Herb has recently returned from a trip to Le Quesnoy and reported the following on the project to build a museum and hotel by The New Zealand Memorial Museum Trust –

- Greg Moyle, Chair of The New Zealand Memorial Museum Trust had formal meetings with the Marie-Sophie Lesne, Mayor of Le Quesnoy to progress the project and to obtain a letter from the Mayor approving the project.
- The property to be purchased is one hectare in size and is the largest property within the town ramparts and is owned by the French government.
- Discussions were also held with two members of the finance department of the French government. Government owned land is disposed of via a tender to the highest bidder but as there isn't a local bidder there is no impediment to that process and there is a clear indication that there is an economic benefit from the project.





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- The Trustees requested a formal reply and has since received a verbal reply requesting an outline of the project and on that basis they are willing to negotiate with the Trust to acquire the land and buildings.
- The property includes the formal Mayoral residence and nine residential two storied accommodation which currently don't conform to current insulation code which can be rectified. There is also an open area in the middle of the site where the hotel would be located.
- The project received exposure through an article in the New Zealand Listener and an interview on Radio New Zealand; corporate organisations have made contact to support the project.
- Personnel of the New Zealand Defence Force are attending the ANZAC commemorations at Le Quesnoy.
- The property has a book value of \$NZ400,000; the former Mayoral residence is three storied and includes a basement; the upper floor was previously used for servants quarters and could be used for accommodation for museum staff.
- Due to the existing residential buildings on site the size of the hotel could be reduced by one floor.
- Located in the grounds are entries to tunnels which run to the ramparts; a tunnel entry is also in the basement of the house.
- The Trust would own the entire site; the hotel would be leased from the Trust.
- A meeting was held with Freddie Dolphin, former Mayor of Le Quesnoy, who is the current Director of Tourism in Northern France who is supportive of the proposal and would like to include the museum in promotions of the Western Front. The tourist office in Le Quesnoy reports that 5,000 (parties) New Zealanders visited Le Quesnoy last year. Statistics show that when 24 hour accommodation is available, visitors stay longer in that location which will increase tourist numbers overall in Le Quesnoy.
- Intention to settle the sale of the land by 1 July 2016; the hotel will be managed by New Zealanders and will be open by 4 November 2018. The residential houses on site will offer cheaper accommodation.
- An annex will be built on the back of the museum to cater for disabled access and heavy exhibits; a heritage architect will be working with the Trust.
- The project to cost \$NZ11.2 million; fundraising will commence later this year on a number of levels with strong support indicated.
- There is a proposal from the French Chamber of Commerce to put a memorial arch on the Porte St Martin entrance into the town with the 135 names of the New Zealanders.
- New Zealand Government has indicated that something significant will be done at Le Quesnoy; further details are unknown at this stage.

Planning has commenced for commemorations of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Le Quesnoy through the Armistice in Cambridge committee and will be included in the strategic plan of the Cambridge Community Board.

[Delysse Storey, Sue Milner, Toni Eames, Elwyn Andree-Wiltens departed 6.05pm]





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Herb Farrant outlined the “Advance to Victory” project progressed by the Kiwi Expats Association (KEA), whereby 30 plinths are being placed in 30 towns depicting the marching feet of the soldiers of the New Zealand Division, the final plinth being in Le Quesnoy.

## 5 GENERAL

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### 5.1 Bastille Day – Tuesday, 14 July 2015

Julie Epps queried if there was to be any form of celebration in Cambridge as it was a good opportunity to promote the Sister City relationship with Le Quesnoy and another opportunity for members of the friendship group to connect with each other.

Mike Pettit suggested that it be included in the Cambridge Community Board’s strategic plan and to be considered next year as there was not enough time to organise something for this year.

The French flag will be flown at the Cambridge Service Centre of Waipa District Council.

## 6 NEXT MEETING

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**The next meeting will be held on Monday, 17 August 2015 at 5.00pm.**

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

19 October

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

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.07pm.

**CHAIRPERSON**

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**DATE**

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

