



Otorohanga District Council

MINUTES

28 February 2006

OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

28 February 2006

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held in the Council Chambers, Maniapoto St, Otorohanga on Tuesday 28 February 2006 commencing at 10.03am.

MINUTES

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PRESENT

Cr WH Earwaker (Deputy-Mayor), Crs S Blackler, D de Haan (attended 10.15am), AL Gower, CE Jeffries, DM Pilkington and GA Wilshier.

IN ATTENDANCE

Messrs DR Hall (Chief Executive), DC Clibbery (Engineering Manager), JL Pevreal (Finance & Administration Manager), Mrs J Meade Rose (Environmental Services Manager), Mr CA Tutty (Customer Services Team Leader) and Mrs A Burdon (Executive Assistant).

OPENING PRAYER

The Chief Executive read the Opening Prayer.

APOLOGY

Resolved that the apology received from His Worship the Mayor, Mr DF Williams, be sustained.

Cr Earwaker / Cr Wilshier

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

In reply to Cr Blackler's query regarding a hearing for the Dog Prosecution, the Chief Executive replied it will be held at the end of March 2006.

Cr Jeffries queried how many tenders had been received for the Kawhia Sewerage Stage 2 project. The Chief Executive replied two tenders had been received, both were over budget. He advised the Engineering Manager had spent considerable time reducing the level of the work in the tender, to a comfortable level. He also advised he had heard the Scheme had been very over-subscribed and that the Government is probably not interested in allocating any further funds.

Cr Jeffries queried whether it was Council's intention to make underpasses compulsory in the Stock Droving Bylaw. The Chief Executive replied a number of discussions had taken place and it was this Council's intention to be consistent with other Council's in the Waikato Region. A report to Council is expected within the next few months.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held on 7 February 2006, as previously circulated, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Blackler

Kawhia Community Board Minutes - 24 November 2005 & 26 January 2006

Cr Blackler queried why the Board decided on the trickle feed option when all other Councils had said not to go there. The Chief Executive advised a report will go to the Kawhia Community Board in March on this matter.

Resolved that the minutes of the meetings of the Kawhia Community Board held on 24 November 2005 and 26 January 2006, as previously circulated, be received and the recommendations contained therein adopted.

Cr Pilkington / Cr de Haan

REPORTS

Item-201 BUILDING CONTROL OFFICER'S REPORT TO JANUARY 2006

Discussion

The District Building Control Officer attended the meeting and presented his report. He advised that building applications have increased by 17% this year with the number of new dwellings having doubled. Building applications amounted to approximately \$10M in 2005 and are currently at \$20M for 2006 with the greatest increase in the rural areas with some homes costing \$.5M. He said the District is progressing and in good heart with a number of new lifestyle blocks around and that there certainly was no decline in the building activity within the District.

The Building Control Officer advised of the following -

- i) Aotea Subdivision - building applications have been quite slow in coming in with only two received, others are in the pipeline.
- ii) Illegal buildings. The general public do not seem to understand what permits are required for. Council will need to advertise requirements in local newspapers or put an article in the next rates newsletter.
- iii) Accreditation of Council's Building Department. Over the past few months requirements have changed. Now each Local Authority will be required to carry out all functions of building control. If a Building Consent is beyond the qualifications of staff, Council will need to contract out that Consent. He advised that all Building Control Officers will now have to be licenced.
- iv) Earthquake Prone Buildings Policy. Council is required to produce a Policy by 30 May 2006. A discussion document will be produced for Council by this date but a Policy will not actually be in place by then. The Policy will require public notification and discussion.

Cr Pilkington queried whether the need for shipping containers to have a Building Consent will be mentioned in any article. Cr Jeffries suggested mention in Council's newsletter would be beneficial.

Cr Pilkington asked whether there were a number of buildings not compliant in the District and if this is an ongoing issue. The District Building Control Officer replied that there are a number and that there is a process under the Building Act to work through. He advised Certificates of Acceptance can be issued which incur fees being charged for inspections completed.

Resolved

That the District Building Control Officer's report from November 2005 to January 2006 be received.

Cr Wilshier/ Cr Pilkington

Item-203 DISTRICT PLAN CHANGE NO 4

Discussion

The Environmental Services Manager presented her report on District Plan Change No. 4. She reported advice had been received from Mr John Irving following which the Change was notified on 13 December 2005. She further advised the submission closing date was 8 February, with no submissions received. Surveyors and neighbouring Councils now need to be advised of this Change, to become operative on 1 April 2006.

Cr de Haan queried whether charges were similar to other Councils. The Environmental Services Manager advised they vary greatly between each Council, with Otorohanga's charges at the lower end of the scale.

Resolved

That:

1. The Environmental Services Manager's report on District Plan Change No. 4 be received,
2. The District Plan Change No 4 becomes operative on 1 April 2006.

Cr Jeffries / Cr Wilshier

Item-204 OTOROHANGA DISTRICT SPORTS COORDINATORS REPORT FOR 31 OCTOBER 2005 - FEBRUARY 2006

Discussion

The District Sports Coordinator, Ms Robbie Matthews, attended the meeting and presented her report.

She advised she had met recently with the Mayor and Chief Executive and highlighted what she was wishing to achieve, along with Council's target, to make sure she was on track with what Council had in mind.

The Chief Executive advised Ms Matthews had been carrying out a lot of work with Council staff to promote well-being. Ms Matthews replied that staff have really supported this, there had been a good change in attitude, staff had formed a Committee, organised activities and even set up competitions against other work places. Ms Matthews advised that the Heart Beat Challenge had now been picked up by Sport Waikato who had employed someone to run the programme. A meeting has been organised with CI Munro, with other big businesses in mind also. She said it was good to have people getting involved.

Ms Matthews advised that the Otorohanga to Kawhia relay is on in April, with quite a few teams entering from Kawhia.

Ms Matthews reported that Mr Don Russell, Otorohanga College Sports Coordinator is looking into the Passport to Activity, including College staff.

Ms Matthews replied to Cr Pilkington's query whether there had been any monitoring of Project Engergise and advised the programme was due for monitoring but from preliminary reports, results looked good. She advised Sport Waikato had employed a promoter for 'Active Schools' where schools have an extra one hour of activity per week. The promoter works with schools to see if their curriculum includes this and to teach them how to make it happen.

Cr Jeffries congratulated Ms Matthews on the Sports Awards evening in 2005 saying it was an excellent evening. He queried when Expo evenings were to be held and whether there was merit to encourage some Clubs to combine their administration and to promote linkages. Ms Matthews replied her big concern is that when young people leave College they are not joining Clubs. She advised that Club numbers were down, lack of team coaches and lack of team spirit. She said over all the issue is time.

Cr de Haan congratulated the District Sports Coordinator on her extensive report.

Resolved

That the Otorohanga District Sports Coordinator's report for the period 31 October 2005 - 28 February 2006 be received.

Cr Pilkington / Cr de Haan

Item-205 DRAFT MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS TO 31 DECEMBER 2005

Discussion

The District Accountant attended the meeting and presented the Draft Management Accounts for the period ended 31 December 2005. He informed Members he was expecting the Accounts to be very much 'on line' other than those accounts already highlighted. In reply to Cr Earwaker, he said the usual amount was budgeted for and that no funds were being accumulated towards an Emergency Disaster Fund. Cr Earwaker expressed the opinion that he thought an amount up to \$100,000 should be accumulated. The Chief Executive advised discussion had been held on this matter however, it had been agreed not to set aside a special Fund. Cr Earwaker advised there may be a chance to build up a fund this year. The Chief Executive replied the difficulty was, in establishing a special fund that in any one year a substantial amount may be spent over and above that set aside or alternatively another year the set aside funds may not be required at all. The District Accountant said a special account, an Emergency Disaster Fund could be set up and funds transferred into it. The Chief Executive expressed his opinion that he was not in favour of Special Fund Accounts being established.

Cr Gower queried whether Council was borrowing to fund its roading programme. The District Accountant replied Council was winding down its debt over the next couple of years. The Chief Executive said the aim was for Council to bring its rates income up to a level to sustain its roading programme. He said to date Council has had a huge roading programme which was now reducing. He said Council has never funded the total roading operation out of loan money. The District Accountant confirmed the projected loan funding is for new capital work only.

Cr Jeffries referred to the Management Accounts and suggested whether a forecasted Estimated Actual figure could be shown in future. He said he was keen to see how the Accounts are likely to end up as at the end of the financial year.

Resolved

That the Draft Management Accounts for the period ended 31 December 2005, as presented, be received.

Cr Wilshier / Cr Jeffries

ENGINEERING MANAGER

The Engineering Manager left the meeting at 10.20am.

Item-206 DESTINATION WAITOMO REPORT PRESENTATION

Discussion

Ms Kelly Fox, Tourism Project Coordinator, and Justine McKey, Board Member, Destination Waitomo, attended the meeting. Ms Fox gave a presentation on what Destination Waitomo is doing to promote Otorohanga to the domestic and international markets.

Resolved

That the information provided by Destination Waitomo be received.

Cr Blackler / Cr Pilkington

Item-210 TOURISM WAIKATO REPORT 2005

Discussion

Mr John Rasmussen, Chief Executive, Tourism Waikato attended the meeting and presented his report. Mr Rasmussen highlighted that all of Council's grant was spent on marketing activities such as a radio campaign in greater Auckland, participation in the TRENZ international trade buyer show in Christchurch and generic regional advertising in several publications, etc. He advised that the greatest number of visitors to Otorohanga were still New Zealanders, particularly from the greater Auckland area.

Cr Earwaker thanked Mr Rasmussen for attending the meeting and presenting his report. The Chief Executive advised that Otorohanga Community Board Member Mrs Cowan, who took over from Mr Eric Tait on Tourism Waikato's Executive Board certainly appreciates the value of the work carried out by Tourism Waikato.

LUNCHEON

Members adjourned for lunch at 12.30pm and reconvened at 1.17pm.

Item-208 REPRESENTATION REVIEW FOR 2007 ELECTIONS

Discussion

The Chief Executive presented his report and said each Local Authority is required to publicly review its Community Boards not less than once every six years. He said no such review was undertaken prior to the last elections in 2004 therefore it now needed to be done and notified by 8 September 2006. If any Ward/Community boundaries are to change, new Survey Plans will be required to be approved.

The Chief Executive reported Council has already considered and resolved the electoral system to be used (FPP), the inclusion of Maori Wards, etc.

The Chief Executive advised Council needs to discuss Community Board structure and boundaries. The Otorohanga and Kawhia Community Boards have considered the review and have both made recommendations to Council. He advised that His Worship, Cr Pilkington and himself had met on 18 February with representatives of the Aotea ratepayers. They indicated they would like to have representation on the Kawhia Board, giving them specific representation. The Finance & Administration Manager advised that there would be no additional cost to ratepayers.

The Chief Executive advised that if the Otorohanga Ward boundaries change the rural Ward boundaries should change also. He said some re-arrangement may be useful and would include the Otewa/Old Te Kuiti Road area and the Westridge subdivision. The Chief Executive advised a letter would be forwarded to everyone that the proposed change will 'capture' to meet with Council.

Cr Blackler raised the matter that only approximately 40 people are residents in Aotea, the other 60 non-residents were not represented. The Chief Executive replied a review of absent Property Owners will be carried out after the next election. In reply to Cr de Haan's query regarding public consultation, the Chief Executive replied that Aotea residents have already been consulted. He said following this Council meeting, he will write to all Aotea residents.

In reply to Cr Wilshier query whether the +- 10% has to be complied with, the Chief Executive replied that it is a legal requirement. He further added that it is not good practice to ignore legislative requirements. Cr Gower said he would prefer that Council do as little as possible to comply with legislation.

It was agreed that His Worship and Crs Earwaker, de Haan and Pilkington further discuss Ward boundaries at a meeting to be held on 14 March, 9.00am at Council.

Resolved

That the following recommendations be adopted in principle, subject to further definition and consultation:

1. The Kawhia and Otorohanga Community Boards be retained.
2. The boundaries of the Kawhia Community be expanded to include that part of Meshblock 0992700 that includes the Aotea Community.
3. Membership of the Kawhia Community Board be expanded to 5 elected members and 1 member appointed by Council.
4. The Kawhia Community Board shall be split into two Subdivisions. The names of the Subdivisions, the boundaries of the Subdivisions, and the number of members to be elected by the Electors of each Subdivision are:

SUBDIVISION	BOUNDARIES OF EACH SUBDIVISION SHOWN ON...	NO. OF ELECTED MEMBERS
Kawhia	New SO Plan Required	4
Aotea	New SO Plan Required	1
TOTAL		5

5. The boundaries of the Otorohanga Community be expanded to include meshblock MB1001101 and part MB1001001 (the Westridge subdivision, including all of the land from the end of Blucks Road through to the railway line) and part of Meshblock MB1002801 (from the southernmost point of the Otorohanga Community on Old Te Kuiti Road through to Otewa Road, opposite Te Kotahitanga Marae).
6. No subdivisions for electoral purposes are required within the Otorohanga Community.
7. Existing representation arrangements (4 community board members elected at large and 2 appointed members) be retained for the Otorohanga Community.
8. The Council (including the Mayor) shall have a total membership of eight persons.
9. The Council (other than the Mayor) shall be elected by the electors of each Ward of the District.
10. The names of the Wards, the boundaries of the Wards, and the number of members to be elected by the Electors of each Ward are:

WARD	BOUNDARIES OF EACH WARD SHOWN ON...	NUMBER OF MEMBERS
Kawhia	New SO Plan Required	1
Kiokio / Korokonui	New SO Plan Required	1
Otorohanga	New SO Plan Required	2
Tihiroa	New SO Plan Required	1
Waipa	New SO Plan Required	1
Wharepuhunga	SO Plan 59040	1
	TOTAL	7

11. The Kawhia Ward be expanded, as to be determined by Mayor, Deputy-Mayor and the Kawhia and Tihiroa Ward Councillors.
12. That the boundaries of the Otorohanga, Waipa and Kiokio Korokonui Wards be amended to coincide with the proposed Otorohanga Community Board boundaries.
13. For the avoidance of any doubt, the resolutions made above are provisional and not intended to be a resolution for the purpose of Section 19H of the Local Electoral Act 2001.

Cr Jeffries / Cr Pilkington

Item-209 TEMPORARY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT FOR LOCAL ROADS - SUPPLEMENT TO TNZ COPTTM

Discussion

The Engineering Manager presented the Roading Manager's report on Temporary Traffic Management for local roads. He advised that the Code of Practice on low volume roads relates to roads with 500 vehicles per day or less. The Engineering Manager advised that all Otorohanga District roads fell into this category.

The Engineering Manager's reply to Cr Jeffries' query whether future subsidies could be affected by designating all Otorohanga roads as Local Roads, was that it wouldn't.

Cr Jeffries queried how often are the footpaths in the Community cleaned. The Engineering Manager replied, other than Maniapoto St, there is no regular cleaning of Community footpaths. Cr Jeffries said there was a particular problem with the north end of Maniapoto Street footpath area. The Engineering Manager said Maniapoto Street is swept twice a week however, he undertook to look into the matter further.

Resolved

That

1. All Otorohanga District roads be classed as 'Local Roads' for the purposes of Temporary Traffic Management
2. The Temporary Traffic Management for Local Roads – Supplement to TNZ COPTTM be adopted by Council as a suitable code for the Otorohanga District.

Cr Wilshier / Cr Jeffries

Action Required

The Engineering Manager undertook to look into the matter of Maniapoto Street cleaning.

GENERAL

NGUTUNUI - ROAD CONDITION

Cr Jeffries queried when the road would be repaired on State Highway 31 west of Ngutunui. The Engineering Manager replied he was aware of it being rough and that he had raised the matter with the Roading Manager that work was required on this section of road.

WALKER ROAD POT HOLES

Cr Blackler queried who was responsible for the maintenance of Walker Road as there were a number of bad potholes on it. Cr Earwaker replied that although Walker Road is within the Prison boundary, it is Council's responsibility.

RECYCLING COLLECTION POINTS

Cr Earwaker queried the refuse collection at KioKio School and whether this was to remain there. The Engineering Manager replied that the container would remain at KioKio School but other locations may be considered for additional containers in the future. Cr Gower advised that Arohena School is also looking at having such a facility.

A question was raised regarding refuse and recycling at Aotea, and the Engineering Manager replied that Aotea now has a kerbside refuse and recycling collection service.

NATIONAL ROAD BUDGET

Cr Jeffries queried whether the reduction in the National Road Budget would have any implication for Otorohanga. The Engineering Manager responded that he had not heard anything formal as yet.

ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Cr de Haan thanked His Worship for allowing her to represent Council at the recent NZ Rowing Championships as it was a great occasion. She also thanked Council for the opportunity to attend the Combined Council meeting on 24 February.

KIWIANA FESTIVAL

Cr Wilshier reminded Members about the Kiwiana Festival on 11 March.

TOA'S BRIDGE

Cr Wilshier advised staff of the state of Toa's bridge on Otewa Road. He said the cows walking over it regularly have left it in quite a state. The Chief Executive undertook to ask the Business Unit Manager to look into the matter. Cr de Haan advised that the bridge on Waitomo Valley Rd is in a similar state.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Cr Earwaker presented items from His Worship -

- Mayoral Forum report – Development Contributions were quite large for some Councils with some Councils having a specific roading charge while some had different charges for different areas of their District.

- Zone 2, Kawerau, on 17 February. It was reported that for Communities who have applied for the Sewerage Subsidy, e.g. Kihikihi, it will take approximately four years for the money to come through.
- Mayoral Graduation Ceremony - Thursday 2 March, Wilshier Centre, Beattie Home. Twelve Wintec graduates and Apprentices will receive their National Certificates. Cr Jeffries submitted his apology due to a family wedding.
- LTCCP workshop is on 14 March at 10.00am.

HARVEST CENTRE OPEN DAY

The Chief Executive advised Members of the Harvest Centre open day on 14 March at 5.15pm.

ENVIRONMENT WAIKATO - PEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGY & NAVIGATION SAFETY BYLAW

The Chief Executive reported Environment Waikato's Pest Management Strategy has now been issued. He advised Council made submissions to this Strategy.

Cr Pilkington advised that Environment Waikato is reviewing their Navigation Safety Bylaw and she is liaising with them on this matter.

MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

"THAT the Otorohanga District Council, pursuant to Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, resolves that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act or Section 6 or Section 7 or Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public."

Cr Jeffries/ Cr Gower

Item-202 ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER - CHANGES TO CONTRACT

MEETING CLOSED

The meeting concluded at 2

MAYOR:

DATE:

