



Otorohanga District Council

# MINUTES

2 May 2006

# OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

2 May 2006

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held in the Council Chambers, Maniapoto St, Otorohanga on Tuesday 2 May 2006 commencing at 10.09am.

## MINUTES

### ORDER OF BUSINESS:

ITEM	PRECIS	PAGE
PRESENT		1
IN ATTENDANCE		1
OPENING PRAYER		1
APOLOGIES		1
CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES		1
	OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL - 11 APRIL 2006	
REPORTS		1
Item-230	BUILDING CONTROL OFFICER'S REPORT TO 31 MARCH 2006	1
Item-231	BUILDING ACT 2004 DRAFT POLICIES	2
Item-232	DISTRICT PLAN CHANGE NO 5	2
Item-233	LTCCP 2006	3
Item-237	OTOROHANGA DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT BOARD REPORT 1 FEBRUARY - 30 APRIL 2006	4
Item-235	ADDITION TO LIBRARY FEES AND CHARGES	6
Item-234	REPRESENTATION REVIEW FOR 2007 ELECTIONS	6
Item-236	REVIEW OF STOCK DROVING BYLAW	8
Item-238	CREATIVE COMMUNITIES NZ - MINUTES	9
GENERAL		9
MEETING CLOSED		11

## **PRESENT**

Mr DF Williams (Mayor), Crs S Blackler, D de Haan, WH Earwaker, AL Gower (attended 10.35am), DM Pilkington and GA Wilshier (attended 10.17am).

## **IN ATTENDANCE**

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

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Cr Blackler read the Opening Prayer.

## **APOLOGIES**

**Resolved** that that the apologies received from Crs Gower and Wilshier, for lateness, be sustained.

**Cr Earwaker/ Cr de Haan**

## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

### **OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL - 11 APRIL 2006**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held on 11 April 2006, as previously circulated, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.

**Cr Earwaker / Cr de Haan**

## **MATTERS ARISING**

### **Library Gold Card**

Cr Pilkington requested an addition be made to her comment in Item 228, page 2, which should read '*...there is room to increase fees because the Card offers more and...*'

### **Present Members**

The Customer Services Team Leader noted Cr Gower's apology for the meeting was recorded therefore requested his name be removed from those Present.

### **Environment Waikato - LTCCP**

Cr Pilkington queried whether Council would be making a submission to EW's LTCCP. His Worship advised a brief submission would be made as the due date is today.

## **REPORTS**

### **Item-230 BUILDING CONTROL OFFICER'S REPORT TO 31 MARCH 2006**

#### **Discussion**

The District Building Control Officer attended the meeting and presented his report. He advised Building Consent numbers are still on the rise. The Officer noted to Members there is now a higher standard of houses being built in the District and continued enquiries from people who want to come and live in the District.

Cr Earwaker queried whether the Officer ever turned down a request to relocate a building. The Officer replied it is rare because under the new Act, if a building is suitable and meets all requirements where it is, there would be no reason not to approve it. If it didn't meet these requirements, then a Demolition order should be issued.

In reply to Cr Pilkington's statement that the inspection is for structural soundness not cosmetic looks, the Officer said that once the Resource Consent is applied for, the Planner puts conditions on, which include landscaping and external changes required.

### **Resolved**

That the Building Control Officer's report to 31 March 2006 be received.

### **Cr Pilkington / Cr Blackler**

## **Item-231 BUILDING ACT 2004 DRAFT POLICIES**

### **Discussion**

The District Building Control Officer presented his report on the Building Act 2004 Draft Policies. He advised that some time ago the Waikato Forum had agreed to write a generic Policy for Member Councils. As no Policy has ever been issued, the Officer advised Council is now required to have a Policy in place by 31 May 2006. The Officer reported he has looked at other Council's Policies and has put together a Policy he believes is suitable for this Council to adopt.

His Worship queried whether the Policy for Dangerous and Insanitary Buildings was in the Environmental Health Officer's area. The Officer replied that both Officers were involved in putting the Policy together.

### **Cr WILSHIER**

Cr Wilshier attended the meeting at 10.18am.

Cr Earwaker congratulated Council's District Building Control Officer on preparing the Policies and keeping them simple for the District.

### **Resolved**

That

1. The Building Control Officer's report be received.
2. Council approve, for public consultation, the draft Policies for Earthquake Prone Buildings and Dangerous and Insanitary Buildings.

### **Cr Earwaker / Cr Pilkington**

## **Item-232 DISTRICT PLAN CHANGE NO 5**

### **Discussion**

The Environmental Services Manager presented her report on District Plan Change No. 5. She advised that with the increase in subdivision activity in the District there is a need for consistent standards to be adhered to in respect of roading, water and waste water services.

## **Resolved**

That

1. The Environmental Services Manager's report be received; and
2. The Chief Executive be authorised to notify Proposed Plan Change No 5 pursuant to Clause 5 of the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991,
3. Proposed Change No 5 be publicly notified.

## **Cr Earwaker/ Cr Pilkington**

### **Item-233 LTCCP 2006**

#### **Discussion**

The Finance & Administration Manager and District Accountant attended the meeting.

The Finance & Administration Manager circulated a schedule of changes to the Draft LTCCP which was circulated to Members last week. He informed Members the Draft LTCCP has been subject to two independent audits. The Finance & Administration Manager advised that no Development Contributions have been included in the Plan because additional work was required on this matter.

#### **CR GOWER**

Cr Gower attended the meeting at 10.35am.

The Chief Executive acknowledged the contribution made by the Finance & Administration Manager and in particular, the District Accountant, who assisted Council through the process required.

Cr Blackler suggested Council publicise the extra cost to the ratepayer in the preparation of these Plans.

The Finance & Administration Manager then outlined the proposed changes to the Draft LTCCP for Members information.

Cr Blackler referred to page 121 of the Draft LTCCP, in particular the last paragraph and queried why this was included. She was informed this was included to enable Council to pay for independent qualified advice, as opposed to providing Koha.

Cr Blackler drew Members attention to the Dog Control Activity and suggested that mention be made of the proposed 'micro-chipping'. The Chief Executive replied this issue would be referred to Council's next meeting.

Cr Blackler then referred to page 146, Library charges, and highlighted the fact that under the Gold Card there is a renewal charge of \$2 in respect to new fiction and selected non-fiction and a \$1 for new magazines.

Cr Earwaker referred to page 61 - Professional Engineering Business Unit, in particular the last paragraph under *How do we measure progress* and suggested that the accumulated 'surplus' be deleted.

Reference was then made to page 37 - Civil Defence, and a request made that Matamata/Piako be deleted from the Waikato Valley Emergency Management Group.

The Finance & Administration Manager referred to page 103 regarding the *Policy on Remission and Postponement of rates on Maori Freehold land* and advised the second 'remission' should read 'postponement'. The Finance & Administration Manager confirmed that the draft audit report had produced a 'clear opinion'.

Members agreed staff had worked extremely hard in the preparation of the document. His Worship endorsed these comments and said that thanks should also go to the Management team and to members of the public that were involved in the preparation of the Draft. He said the document will most likely never be read however, Council had met the deadline required.

### **Resolved**

That

1. The Draft Management Plan for 2006/07 and the Draft Long Term Council Community Plan for the financial period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2016 as amended be approved, and
2. Public Notice be given that the Council proposes to adopt the Long Term Council Community Plan, and
3. Submissions be heard at the meeting to be held 27 June 2006.

### **Cr Pilkington / Cr Blackler**

## **Item-237 OTOROHANGA DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT BOARD REPORT 1 FEBRUARY - 30 APRIL 2006**

### **Discussion**

Mr Eric Tait attended the meeting and presented his report on behalf of the District Development Board for the period 1 February to 30 April 2006.

### **New Members**

Mr Tait advised the Board now has a number of new Members, including Mr Bob Strawbridge, Mr Ken McGrath, Mrs Bev Moloney and Mrs Caroline Christian. He said the Board would still like a representative from Kawhia however, he appreciated it is a big commitment and a long way to travel.

### **i-Site**

The Otorohanga i-Site has not had a funding increase since the beginning of the Board's existence in 1995. The business is continuing to grow and increased funding is being generated through increased sales. The Board is working with the Kawhia Information Centre to help them increase their sales.

### **Kawhia Kai Festival**

The 2006 Festival went very well however, it was realised a number of matters need to be changed such as needing extra professional help with the organising and an admission fee. Cr Pilkington queried the legal status of Jervois Street during the Festival. His Worship stated that during a formal road closure, a road is not considered a 'road' at that time.

### **Kiwiana Festival / County Fair**

Mr Tait reported the Kiwiana and County Fair Committees had met with His Worship and had reached a level of understanding to move forward. Further meetings are scheduled.

### **District Brochure**

Mr Tait reported on the photographic competition that took place from which it was hoped a good number of entries would provide a selection of photos to be used by various groups in the District and for use in the District wide brochure. This however, did not happen and Mr Richard Wallace

was asked to provide a number of photos for this purpose. These have come out very professionally and will be put on CD to be used universally by other Community groups.

### **Otorohanga Medical Centre**

Mr Tait reported two Doctors have now been recruited by the Centre. Dr Mwanza has arrived and is taking care of his own accommodation. The new Doctor, arriving from South Africa soon will need assistance with accommodation. The Doctors are contracted to live in Otorohanga for one year. If this does not happen, funds are to be paid back to the Development Board. With the Doctors living in Otorohanga, it is hoped they will get involved in the life of the Community also.

### **National Bank Young Farmer of the Year Regional Finals**

Mr Tait reported the Finals are being held on Saturday 6 May with the practical section 11.00am-12.30pm at the Island Reserve, and the academic section at the College at 7.00pm. He advised the Board has given financial assistance to help print their brochure. He further said this is another great opportunity for Otorohanga to be put on the map with Jim Hopkins as commentator. Mr Tait said good support and sponsorship has been given to the group from the local business community.

### **Kiwi House**

Mr Tait reported Mr Steven Hamilton's report is due out before the end of the financial year. His Worship advised that the Zoological Society already has the basis of a Trust, a draft Constitution and the framework of how everything will be put together. He advised that the next decision cannot be made until the Scoping Study, with its outcomes, is received. Mr Tait reported there are funds available to employ a Project Manager, which will be funded on a percentage basis with the Development Board.

### **Regional Labour Employment Strategy**

Mr Tait reported the Board has met with two Government Departments to seek direction as to where Government funding agencies are committing funds. He advised the Board will meet with schools to advise them what skills are believed to be needed for the future. He further advised there will be a workshop on 15 May 2006 in Palmerston North.

### **Project Coordinator**

Mr Tait advised Members a meeting is to be held with the Ministry of Social Development in order to source funding for this position. He said the Coordinator would be responsible to the District Development Board Chairperson. Mr Tait advised it was envisaged they would also initially assist Project Kiwiana, but believed within three to four years a further independent position would be developed. The Coordinator would also assist with the Kawhia Kai Festival.

### **Destination Waitomo**

Mr Tait reported that Destination Waitomo's funding is coming to end and its future was uncertain.

### **Resolved**

That the Otorohanga District Development Board report for the period 1 February - 30 April 2006 be received.

### **Cr de Haan / Cr Gower**

## **Item-235 ADDITION TO LIBRARY FEES AND CHARGES**

### **Discussion**

The Finance & Administration Manager and the District Librarian attended the meeting. The District Librarian presented her report on the Addition to the Schedule of Library Fees and Charges. She advised that Waipa District Council charge non-residents (including Otorohanga residents) \$60 to join the Library.

The Librarian reported that currently Otorohanga and Waitomo have a reciprocal arrangement to not charge non-residents for library usage. She advised the proposed change would affect 20-25 people who are Waitomo District resident.

In reply to the query regarding the charge to a casual borrower, the Librarian replied that any non-resident wishing to borrow a book would have to pay the \$60 fee.

### **Resolved**

That an annual non-resident membership fee of \$60 be added to the schedule of library fees and charges which will take effect from 1 July 2006.

### **Cr Pilkington / Cr Earwaker**

## **Item-234 REPRESENTATION REVIEW FOR 2007 ELECTIONS**

### **Discussion**

The Chief Executive summarised his report on Representation Review for 2007 Elections. He reported that Council has received four letters of opposition in respect to the redefining of the Kawhia / Tihiroa Ward boundary. The Chief Executive reported Cr de Haan had suggested a change to the proposed boundary shift by following a stream from its southern boundary to Honikiwi Road to form the boundary between the Kawhia and Tihiroa Wards. He said this suggestion will meet the majority of concerns raised.

Cr Pilkington raised the issue that the Kawhia population figure doesn't take into account absentee owners. His Worship commended Councillors Pilkington and de Haan for their efforts in arriving at a solution to the proposed boundary changes.

### **Resolved**

That the following recommendations be adopted in accordance with Sections 19H and 19J of the Local Electoral Act 2001:

1. The Kawhia and Otorohanga Community Boards be retained.

*Explanation: Council believes that the Community Boards provide a valuable linkage between Council and the Otorohanga and Kawhia communities.*

2. The boundaries of the Kawhia Community be expanded to include that part of Meshblock 0992700 that includes the Aotea Community.

*Explanation: Aotea is an expanding coastal community and shares many common issues with Kawhia. By including the Aotea community within the Kawhia Community Board area ratepayers and residents will have an additional forum through which to communicate with the District Council.*

3. Membership of the Kawhia Community Board be expanded to 5 elected members and 1 member appointed by Council.

Explanation: The expansion of the Kawhia Community Board is necessary in order to provide an equitable split of representation between the Aotea and Kawhia communities.

4. The Kawhia Community Board 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
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5</b>

Explanation: Splitting the Kawhia Community Board into two subdivisions guarantees that both Kawhia and Aotea communities will be represented on the new Community Board.

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).

Explanation: The expansion of the Otorohanga Community is a reflection of both historical growth, such as the Westridge residential subdivision, and the need to provide for future growth.

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 / Korakonui	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
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>7</b>

Explanation 1: In order to comply with the statutory requirement that there be no greater than a +/- 10% variation in the ratio of population to elected members for each ward when compared to the ratio for the District as a whole it has been necessary to re-define the boundary between the Kawhia and Tihiroa Wards.

Explanation 2: It is proposed that the boundary of the Otorohanga Ward be expanded in order to coincide with the proposed boundary of the Otorohanga Community. This alteration is made for the purpose of avoiding future confusion between community Ward and Community Board boundaries.

## **Cr Earwaker / Cr Wilshier**

### **Item-236 REVIEW OF STOCK DROVING BYLAW**

#### **Discussion**

The Engineering Manager presented a report on the Review of the Stock Droving Bylaw. He advised this review was requested by Council in 2005.

The Engineering Manager advised that most people who hold permits conduct their activities within the stipulated conditions however there were a small number who do not comply by not removing effluent from the road or taking down stock crossing signs.

The Engineering Manager reported Otorohanga was one of the first Councils to produce a Stock Droving Bylaw and although he had looked at a number of other Council's Bylaws, he felt a comprehensive revision of the Bylaw was not necessary however, the issue was one of effective enforcement. He advised the Bylaw is already fairly comprehensive and that it was important to keep it simple for users.

Regarding Drivers Day Permits, the Engineering Manager advised this is working well with approximately 20 being issued. He reported currently there is no separate fee for this Permit and staff have been using their discretion and either not charging or charging only a token fee. He further advised that it was logical to have a lesser charge, for example \$20, for a one day permit.

In reply to a query regarding droving dairy cattle in the District, the Engineering Manager advised that no permit is required but it would be a courtesy to notify Council to enable staff to advise if any other animals are being moved at the same time.

With regard to moving cattle in the urban area, Section 7 of the Bylaw, Members were advised there is limited movement of cattle, usually in relation to Floodbank land.

The Engineering Manager advised that the bigger issue is enforcement of the Bylaw. He said there is provision in the Bylaw to recover costs, but a more detailed structure is required. A structure could be that if compliance is not met, a Permit Holder would be issued with a warning. Following this, the Permit Holder would be charged costs to remove the excrement or costs in relation to repair of the road. Charging to repair the road would be a last resort.

The Engineering Manager proposed that Permit Holders would sign a Contract and accept conditions as part of receiving a Permit.

Following discussion and viewing various graphs and models Members said they preferred the Waikato District Council model with more stringent regulations on building underpasses. It might mean that 90 percent of permit holders in this District would be required to build underpasses within 10 years.

The Engineering Manager undertook to plot this District's permit holders into the Waikato District Council model graph to see what effect it would have for Otorohanga.

Members queried what system could be put in place to highlight to new land owners the requirements/timeline in place for an underpass so they were aware when purchasing land. The

Engineering Manager suggested existing farmers, in the less urgent zones, could have up to 10 years, but on sale of the land, an underpass would be required immediately.

### **Resolved**

That

1. Preparation proceeds of a draft Livestock Movement Bylaw to supersede the Stock Droving Bylaw 1999, taking account of the content of this report and associated discussion.
2. The expiry date for existing and new permits issued under the Stock Droving Bylaw 1999 is extended to 31 August 2006, without any charges being made for these new permits or extensions.

### **Cr Earwaker / Cr de Haan**

## **Item-238 CREATIVE COMMUNITIES NZ - MINUTES**

### **Discussion**

The Customer Services Team Leader presented minutes of a meeting of the Assessment Committee for Creative Communities New Zealand Local Arts Scheme held 8 December 2005. He advised that under the new guidelines and procedures all grants must be paid to Applicants at the time the decisions are made and not held until after completion of the project.

The Customer Services Team Leader reported that the second funding round for the 2005/06 Financial year closed Friday 28 April 2006 with eight applications being received.

### **Resolved**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Assessment Committee for Creative Communities NZ Local Arts Scheme held 8 December 2005 be received.

### **Cr Pilkington / Cr Wilshier**

## **GENERAL**

### **ROADSIDE MAINTENANCE**

Cr Pilkington extended her thanks to the Contractor responsible for the recent vegetation cut back on rural roads.

### **DOG MICRO-CHIPPING**

Cr Pilkington requested that Council make the compliance with the proposed Dog Micro-chipping one of its lowest priorities. She suggested the whole issue be looked at and queried how the proposed Micro-chipping would contribute to reducing dog attacks. Cr Gower advised that a number of farmers have already agreed not to comply with the proposal. Cr Pilkington expressed the opinion that rural working dogs should be exempt. Cr Blackler said the proposal will have further implications, dog owners will stop registering their dogs. His Worship suggested Council keep the proposed Micro-chipping as low a priority as possible and that the proposal be objected to by large groups such as Federated Farmers and through Zone 2. Cr Gower expressed the opinion that the proposal was totally unenforceable.

## **OTOROHANGA DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

His Worship referred Members to minutes of a meeting of the Otorohanga District Development Board held 12 April 2006.

## **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RATES (FAR)**

His Worship reported Council's Chief Executive has been appointed as Facilitator for the Rural Sector response to the Financial Assistance Rates (FAR) review. The Chief Executive reported it was proposed to develop a case study identifying that the Rural Sector is paying too much. He said it was intended to get along side a number of metro Mayors informing them of the situation.

## **LUNCHEON ADJOURNMENT**

Members adjourned for lunch at 12.35pm and reconvened at 1.25pm.

## **ZONE 2 MEETING**

His Worship extended an invite to Members to attend the next Zone 2 meeting to be held at the Waikato Stadium Friday 5 May 2006 commencing at 10.00am.

## **TOURISM WAIKATO**

His Worship reported he had attended a Tourism Waikato strategic planning workshop. He said the workshops had gone back to the beginning, as if Tourism Waikato did not exist. His Worship reported it was necessary for the Region to promote itself and that Tourism Waikato's future will take on a different focus. He confirmed that the Hamilton City Council has taken back the management of their i-Site.

## **ENVIRONMENT WAIKATO**

His Worship informed Members that Environment Waikato's West Coast Planning meeting is to be held at the Waitomo Caves on 9 May 2006 from 10.30am to noon.

## **REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE (RLTC)**

His Worship reported that the RLTC meetings are to be held on Tuesday 16 May and Tuesday 6 June 2006. He said the purpose of the meeting is to approve the draft RLTS for the public submission process. His Worship advised unfortunately these coincide with Councils' meetings.

## **M (MICK) P GOLDSBORO, JP**

His Worship referred to the recent death of Mr Goldsboro, New Zealand's longest serving Justice of the Peace. He reported that in 1946 Mr Goldsboro was appointed Clerk of the Otorohanga County Council. He held this position until 1953 when moving to Hamilton to the position of Waikato County Clerk.

## **J CARTER, MP - NORTHLAND**

Expressing his disgust, dismay and alarm at the decision made by a Judge to a Dealer dealing in methamphetamine. He requested His Worship join him in the fight against this terrible drug.

## **SPARTINA CONTROL - KAWHIA HARBOUR**

His Worship reported a letter had been received from the Department of Conservation advising that they will be carrying out Spartina control within the Kawhia Harbour between 4-8 May 2006 with weather and tide permitting.

## **WALKING ACCESS CONSULTATION PANEL**

His Worship referred to a consultation document on Outdoor Walking Access and advised a panel has been established to consult with interested groups on their concerns about access to and along river, lakes and the coast. He said submissions close on 30 June 2006.

## **FUEL COSTS**

His Worship reported that Cr Jeffries had raised an issue regarding the cost of fuel and queried whether this was reflected in Council's budget. He had expressed the opinion that staff and Members are aware of the fuel crisis and queried why an allowance was not made for this. The Chief Executive replied that limited allowance had been made, but that any additional change to the budget could be made by way of a submission. Cr Wilshier expressed the opinion that the budget is carried out annually and that Council has to wear the consequences of any changes.

## **MEETING CLOSED**

The meeting concluded at 1.40pm.

**MAYOR:**

**DATE:**

