



Otorohanga District Council

MINUTES

16 May 2006

OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

16 May 2006

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held in the Council Chambers, Maniapoto St, Otorohanga on Tuesday 16 May 2006 commencing at 10.08am.

MINUTES

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PRESENT

Mr DF Williams (Mayor), Crs S Blackler, D de Haan, WH Earwaker, AL Gower (attended 10.25am) and DM Pilkington.

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 de Haan read the Opening Prayer.

APOLOGIES

Resolved that the apologies received from Crs Jeffries and Wilshier, District Sports Coordinator, and Cr Gower-for lateness, be sustained.

Cr Earwaker / Cr de Haan

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

OTOROHANGA COMMUNITY BOARD - 26 APRIL 2006

Matters Arising

Cr Pilkington queried when the Kiwi House Scheme Report is expected. The Chief Executive advised that a meeting will be held tomorrow and that a new scheduled date for the report to be ready is late May/June 2006.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held on 26 April 2006, be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

His Worship the Mayor / Cr de Haan

OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL - 2 MAY 2006

Matters Arising

Item 233 - LTCCP 2006 Cr Blacker requested the following change be added to her comment on Library charges - *'...and renewal charges of \$2.00 in respect to new fiction and selected non-fiction and \$1.00 for new magazines'*.

Cr Pilkington stated on page 3, Civil Defence, that the item was unclear and requested the change be made to read *'that Matamata/Piako be deleted from the Waikato Valley Emergency Management Group'*.

General - Dog Micro-Chipping - Cr Blackler queried whether Council could pass a resolution to make this a low priority for Council. The Chief Executive advised the Environmental Services Manager is preparing a report with a considered opinion for the next Council meeting. His Worship advised that Council has certain statutory requirements they are obliged to adhere to.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held on 2 May 2006, as previously circulated, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Blackler

REPORTS

Item-239 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 16 MAY 2006

Discussion

The Environmental Health Officer attended the meeting and presented his report for the period March to April 2006.

Communicable Disease Control

The Officer advised that cases had dropped during this period.

Food Quality

The Officer advised that a new Coffee Roasting business had located into the former Railway Station building. He advised the business is currently roasting beans but has not opened its doors to the public as yet. He further advised that roasting does cause emissions to the air and it is hoped this will not cause any problems. However, if surrounding business find the emissions offensive, there are further steps that can be taken, such as raising the height of the flue. Members confirmed they did not notice any roasting smell when they arrived.

Requisition Served

Cr Blackler queried whether it was the same business which was reported at the last meeting and if so, what steps are to be taken. The Environmental Health Officer replied that it was and that if compliance did not happen, the next step was to close the premises.

Noise

The Officer reported excessive noise problems are still occurring but these will decrease with the coming of the colder weather.

Liquor Liaison Group

The Officer advised that research is being undertaken to identify the role of alcohol in all incidents, not merely drink driving. He said this reporting is attempting to identify where drinking is taking place and the level of intoxication. These statistics are being used to improve management practice in licensed premises whereas home environments cannot be controlled.

His Worship congratulated the Environmental Health Officer for his full report.

Resolved

That the Environmental Health Officer's report be received.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Gower

Item-240 DISTRICT PLAN REVIEW

Discussion

Ms Dorothy Wakeling attended the meeting. Ms Wakeling introduced herself to Members and said she had been involved in the review of the current District Plan in 1996.

Ms Wakeling recommended the Review of the District Plan should commence in May 2006 to utilise the current public consultation process for the Kawhia/Aotea study to avoid duplication of a similar process. She advised a draft Plan was hoped to be notified by May 2007.

Cr Pilkington endorsed Ms Wakeling's approach to include the Kawhia/Aotea Plan as good foresight and to include representation from all groups. Members were informed that this is one issue which will be likely to have an effect on the District Plan.

His Worship said it would be good if this process could be achieved in 12 months. He said we are aware where possible tensions could arise and for these to be concentrated on. He said Council needs to ensure it has a 'say' at the meetings as it will be responsible to carry out the Policies in the future.

Ms Wakeling advised it was the Environmental Services Manager's intention to write most of the Plan's policies herself.

His Worship said there needs to be a balance of representation from across the District, to include all parties. In reply to Cr Blackler's query regarding staff/time resources to complete the Review, the Environmental Services Manager advised adjustments are being made to ensure resources are used to their best advantage.

Ms Wakeling advised that if the draft Plan is notified in May 2007, it was likely submissions would not be heard until after the October 2007 elections. She advised hearings generally take longer than expected and that it was not ideal to change the Hearing Committee in mid stream. She further advised that in today's climate, the draft Plan will receive submissions.

His Worship said he was very glad to have Ms Wakeling 'on board' with the District Plan Review because of her history with our District and that she already has a relationship with many of those who will be involved.

Resolved

That Council adopts the process outlined in the Draft Timetable of Actions and the Draft Consultation Plan in order to initiate preparation of the Proposed Otorohanga District Plan.

Cr Earwaker / Cr Pilkington

Item-241 DRAFT MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS TO 31 MARCH 2006

Discussion

The District Accountant attended the meeting. The Chief Executive advised the Draft Management Accounts are an overview of where Council is from a financial point of view. He informed Members that the accounts have been left in a simple format rather than to include projected figures based on the LTCCP. The District Accountant advised that should Council require Forecasted Actual figures, as contained in the LTCCP, these would be easy to produce. He said the Forecasted Actual figures were prepared in November/December last year and except for the alterations in the Roading account, all other accounts are on track. Members were informed the LTCCP costs will be slightly higher than estimated. Cr Earwaker requested that the 'forecast' column to the end of the financial year, be included. Cr Earwaker referred to page 6 of the Draft Accounts, in particular Other Activities and expressed the opinion that Council needs to be mindful of some of the costs that are being incurred.

Resolved

That the Draft Management Accounts for the period ended 31 March 2006 be received.

Cr Earwaker / Cr de Haan

Item-242 ROUTINE ROADING REPORT

Discussion

The Engineering Manager presented his Routine Roading report.

Grading

The Engineering Manager advised the inclement weather was creating problems. He said Works now has two graders, instead of the usual one, undertaking the grading. The Engineering Manager advised the Contracts Engineer (Maintenance) had suggested there might be value in undertaking only two heavier grades as opposed to the current four grades per year. It was agreed staff explore the options in respect to the pre-winter grading strategy.

Crs Gower and Pilkington said they were very happy with the grading now happening, with issues are being dealt with quickly. Cr Pilkington agreed the standard of metal roads has improved with the only issue remaining was the lack of metal.

Waiharakiki Bridge

The Engineering Manager advised the Independent Bridge Engineer's report showed the pier settlement and bridge condition was not as bad as was originally thought, but in the medium term, significant work will still be required on the bridge. His Worship stated he was in favour of a weight restriction being placed on the bridge to prevent heavy trucks doing further damage. The Engineering Manager undertook to speak to the Roading Manager regarding bridge weight restrictions. His Worship requested the Engineering Manager conduct preliminary discussions with Waitomo District Council on these matters.

Contract 709 Plant Pest Control - KS Murphy

The Engineering Manager outlined the work carried out by the Contractor and reported Council is happy with the current standard of work being carried out. He advised that extending the Contract for a further one year would be desirable to Council.

Contract 837 - Te Tahi Road AWPT

The Engineering Manager reported this road is very narrow and the condition of the pavement is deteriorating. He advised a strategy is needed to prioritise work on this road because of the development taking place. He further advised a 20 lot subdivision is being proposed for Te Tahi Road which would create even more demand on the pavement.

ENTRY SIGNS

In reply to His Worship's query, the Engineering Manager advised that \$13,000 had been allocated to this work and it is about to be addressed.

KAWHIA TOILET SIGNS

His Worship reported he had been advised the Maori names on the toilets were incorrect, with one singular and the other plural. He requested this be addressed and advice taken as to what was culturally correct.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION

The Chief Executive advised that the proposal to introduce a Development Contribution was originally intended to coincide with the District Plan Review process. He said if accepted the works in relations to the Development Contribution must be included in the Roothing Programme. Consideration needs to be given as to whether these works would take precedence over other works. Cr Earwaker expressed the opinion that if a Development Levy is introduced this shouldn't affect other work.

OKUPATA ROAD

Cr Pilkington reported she would like to see resolved the matter of a blocked culvert on Okupata Road.

Resolved

That

- a) The report be received.
- b) ODC Contract 709 for plant pest control is extended for a further period of 1 year, to terminate on 30 June 2007.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Blackler

Action Required

1. Waiharekiki Bridge - His Worship requested the Engineering Manager conduct preliminary discussions with Waitomo District Council on these matters.
2. Kawhia Toilet Signs - His Worship asked for the matter of singular and plural names to be addressed and advice to be taken as to what would be culturally correct.

Item-243 OTOROHANGA DISTRICT SPORTS COORDINATORS REPORT FOR 1 MARCH - 31 APRIL 2006

Discussion

The District Sports Coordinator was unable to attend the meeting to present her report and accordingly submitted her apology.

His Worship advised that, under Looking Ahead, he had accompanied the Coordinator when she met with the Easy Exercise and Walking Group. The issues were discussed and a strategy outlined for the future.

Cr Pilkington was delighted to advise that a girl's netball team from Kawhia has taken advantage of Rural Travel Fund assistance and now participates in the Otorohanga competition every two weeks.

Resolved

That the Otorohanga District Sports Coordinators report for the period 1 March - 30 April 2006 be received.

Cr de Haan / Cr Gower

GENERAL

ENVIRONMENT WAIKATO - PROJECT WATERSHED

Cr Blackler reported she had attended a Project Watershed meeting in Hamilton. She advised there are sub-committees that work on different catchments. Some catchments, she said, who are not servicing their debt, will end up with a huge debt level, which may get written off. She said other groups are pushing EW to get tougher on monitoring.

Cr Blackler reported on a hydro dam being built on the river south of Te Kuiti which supplies water to Otorohanga. She said the initial Resource Consent was rejected but an amended Consent must have been submitted because development has commenced. She said the building work is creating a lot of problems and is not being monitored EW.

WEST COAST PLANNING MEETING

His Worship reported on a meeting held on 9 May 2006 at Waitomo Caves. He said Environment Waikato proposed a budget of \$100,000 for the consultation process. His Worship said they were able to reduce this to \$25,000. Cr Blackler reported the meeting had been a huge eye opener for her.

WAIKATO REGIONAL AIRPORT LTD

His Worship reported the new Airport Board Chairman Mr Jerry Rickman and new Chief Executive Mr Chris Doak visited Council. He said they presented their future strategy for developing the Airport. Mr Rickman reported the Airport had been over resourced with Consultants and short on staff. He said Mr Andrew Toot has been appointed to the position of Corporate Development, where he will be involved in negotiating with commercial operators, on land purchase and attracting new business. Mr Rickman advised their main projects will be looking at the financial management, a joint venture with strategic partner and the completion of airport including sealing of whole car park area. He said investigations have shown the future of the airport is more in freight cargo than customer flights, providing an efficient service for farmers, local industries and the racing industry. Mr Rickman reported a new Director – Mr John Spencer, has been appointed.

HOLCIM

His Worship reported he had had discussions with Directors regarding their plans for future. He was advised they are now going through the Resource Consent process for Oamaru. He said they already know what is required for Consents in the North King Country and Westport but not for Oamaru. They advised no final decision has been made, but that it would be made in Switzerland and that it was a few years away yet.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT

His Worship said the Deputy-Mayor and himself would be attending a 'Making Good Decision' Refresher seminar on Monday 22 May in Tauranga.

ART HOUSE MEETING

His Worship advised there will be an open public meeting on Sunday 21 May between 1.00-4.00pm at the College Art Room. The purpose is to see the building and to gauge community interest in establishing an Art House in Otorohanga.

TSUNAMI WARNING

His Worship reported on the debacle that surrounded the recent Tsunami warning on the East Coast. He said the system had been reliant on radio warnings to evacuate people but in this situation realised no one would be listening to a radio at 2.30am! His Worship reported he had spoken to Mr Les Billcliff, Waikato Civil Defence Coordinator, who agreed, in the end, it comes

down to local people. His Worship advised he was less confident now in the readiness system of Civil Defence although there is a much larger budget and more training.

STEAM TRAIN

His Worship advised last Saturday saw the first steam train to go through Otorohanga which will be seen fortnightly for the next 16 weeks. He said it goes through at around 1.30pm, stops and turns at Te Kuiti and returns around 5.00pm.

KAWHIA POLICE OFFICER

His Worship advised that Police Officer Leanne Frost is traveling to Kawhia each day following the departure of Officer Arama Chase. He was unaware if the position was being covered five or seven days per week. His Worship said the position is currently being advertised and will take about six weeks to fill. In speaking to Officer Dave Simmons of the Te Awamutu Station, His Worship advised he reiterated the importance of this service for Kawhia which can't afford to be lost. He said Officer Simons confirmed it will not be forgotten.

SHARED SERVICES MEETING

The Chief Executive advised that Mayor's and Chief Executives from Waipa and Waitomo District Council's will attend a meeting at Otorohanga on Thursday 18 May. He advised Mr John Inglis, Waipa's Chief Executive has represented the three Council's for the past year. The Chief Executive advised that a representative is to be appointed to the Regional Passenger Transport Sub-committee. He advised because only Waipa has a shared transport system, the representative should be from Waipa.

WAITANGI TRIBUNAL

The Chief Executive reported he had received a letter from the Waitangi Tribunal advising of a meeting on 5 May in Te Kuiti. He advised that it appears preparations are underway in Te Rohe Potae for the progression of the King Country Claims.

CREATIVE NEW ZEALAND

The Customer Services Team Leader advised that a Creative NZ Regional Meeting will be held on Thursday 8 June 2006 in Hamilton. He said His Worship, Cr de Haan, possibly Cr Gower and himself will be attending, to update them in their managing of the Scheme.

MEETING CLOSED

The meeting concluded at 12.15pm.

MAYOR:

DATE:

