



Otorohanga District Council

MINUTES

19 September 2006

OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

19 September 2006

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held in the Council Chambers, Maniapoto St, Otorohanga on Tuesday 19 September 2006 commencing at 10.07am.

MINUTES

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PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Messrs JL Pevreal (Chief Executive), DC Clibbery (Engineering Manager), Mrs J Meade Rose (Environmental Services Manager) and Mr CA Tutty (Customer Services Team Leader).

OPENING PRAYER

Cr Gower read the Opening Prayer.

APOLOGY

Resolved that the apology received from Cr CE Jeffries be sustained.

Cr Earwaker / Cr Pilkington

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held on 29 August 2006, as previously circulated, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Cr Blackler / Cr Earwaker

OTOROHANGA ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Considerable discussion was held on the proposed development of the Otorohanga Kiwi House, in particular, that relating to Stage III of the business plan.

REPORTS

Item-285 OTOROHANGA COMMUNITY BOARD MINUTES 10 AUGUST 2006

Discussion

Cr Gower referred to the Agenda for the Otorohanga Community Board meeting held 14 September 2006 and highlighted the fact that should some projects proceed these will over run the budget and have a serious rate implication on the Community. The Engineering Manager replied there was no commitment by the Board at this stage and one proposed project has already been taken out.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga Community Board held on 10 August 2006 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

Cr Wilshier / Cr de Haan

Item-286 KAHWIA COMMUNITY BOARD MINUTES - 27 JULY 2006

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Kawhia Community Board held on 27 July 2006 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Earwaker

VAILIMA PLACE

In reply to Cr Earwaker the Engineering Manager advised affected parties had been requested to respond to a proposal, however the replies received were generally negative. He said it was the intention to hold a further meeting with the affected parties.

HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY

Cr Pilkington queried whether the maintenance items relating to the Housing for the Elderly flats had been attended to. The Engineering Manager undertook to take the matter up with Council's Community Facility Officer.

Item-287 PLANNING REPORT TO 31 AUGUST 2006

Discussion

The Environmental Services Manager presented the quarterly Planning Report with an attached list of the Resource Consents given under Delegated Authority from 1 June to 31 August 2006.

The Environmental Services Manager advised that the number of Resource Consents processed so far number 120 which has already exceeded the total processed for the whole of last year. In regard to the seven Land use Resource Consent decisions, five of these related to relocated buildings. The Environmental Services Manager further reported that of the 15 Subdivision Resource Consent decisions, 11 of these related to creating one or two Lots thus being reasonably small developments.

Cr Blackler queried, with the increase in the number of Resource Consents, are these being processed within the statutory time frame. The Environmental Services Manager replied, yes they were and that she has engaged another Consultant to assist in this regard. Cr Gower reported there appeared to be a difference of opinion and a problem existing between the expectation of the Ratepayer and what is actually being undertaken by staff. Cr Pilkington agreed there was a need for more communication between all parties effected.

Resolved

That the Environmental Services Manager's planning report be received.

Cr Pilkington / Cr de Haan

Item-288 UPDATE ON DISTRICT PLAN REVIEW

Discussion

The Environmental Services Manager presented a report on the District Plan Review timetable. She confirmed that meetings have been held with Environment Waikato (EW), DOC and Transit NZ, and advised that notices of the District Plan Review will be placed in local shops at Kawhia, sent to the Ngutunui, Arohena and Kawhia Schools, public notices will be published in the local paper and a newsletter sent to every Ratepayer.

The Environmental Services Manager advised that at the Open Days handouts will be available for people to take away however, the questions raised at the various Open Days will vary from place to place. She said EW had requested to be in attendance at the Kawhia Open Day meeting and that Council's Engineers will be available during part of the day. In reply to Cr Pilkington regarding the programme for the Open Days, the Environmental Services Manager advised Council's Consultant, Ms Dorothy Wakeling, and herself will be in attendance the whole time with Engineering staff being available by phone or in attendance for part of the day. His Worship said it will be up to the people to identify the issues they have, and some issues would be of a general nature. The process will determine what these issues are and to create a resolution. The Environmental Services Manager advised that a report will be prepared from each Open Day.

His Worship said the Review was progressing really well.

Resolved

That the Environmental Services Manager's Update on the District Plan Review report be received.

Cr Pilkington / Cr de Haan

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGER

The Environmental Services Manager left the meeting at 10.50am.

Item-289 ROUTINE ROADING REPORT

Discussion

The Engineering Manager presented the Routine Roading report. He circulated a schedule of major road maintenance issues as at September 2006 and requested Members look at these to ascertain whether there were any other issues they may wish to be included.

AOTEA STREETS SEAL EXTENSION

Reference was made to the suggestion of sealing the car park area adjacent to the Aotea toilet block. Cr Earwaker expressed the opinion this work should not be carried out. The Engineering Manager confirmed the cost to seal the car park would be in the vicinity of \$15,000. His Worship suggested that sealing of the car park area, could be negotiated with the Kawhia Community Board. Cr Pilkington agreed and suggested the funding would be better utilised by providing more metal on the metal roads.

WALKER ROAD

With regard to the matter of undertaking improvements to the western section of Walker Road, Cr Earwaker suggested that Council staff meet with the property owners concerned to obtain a commitment from them to fund 50 percent of the cost of the work. His Worship advised that should the presence of Walker Road provide a security risk to the Prison facility then this must take precedent over any other issues. It was suggested that His Worship, Cr Earwaker and Council's Engineering Manager meet to provide Council with a potential set of options.

GENERAL

Cr Gower expressed the opinion that mechanisms need to be in place in order for Council to close a road should it so wish.

In reply to Cr de Haan as to when the seal extension for Tapuae Road commences, the Engineering Manager replied this work does not meet the criteria in the seal extension programme.

Resolved

That the Engineering Manager's Routine Roothing report be received.

Cr de Haan / Cr Pilkington

Item-290 PIPED SERVICES CONTRACT

Discussion

The Engineering Manager presented a report on issues arising from a request for a variation in respect of Council's Contract for the operation and maintenance of piped services. He informed Members that the requested Contract variation would change the whole nature of the Contract.

Resolved

That Council declines City Care Ltd's request for a Contract variation to 'unbundle' electrical power charges and associated administrative costs from ODC Contract 765.

Cr Wilshier / Cr Earwaker

Item-291 APPLICATION FOR ROAD CLOSURE - OTOROHANGA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Discussion

The Engineering Support Officer attended the meeting and summarised her report on an application received from Inframax Construction Ltd on behalf of the Otorohanga Business Association for the closure of various roads within the Otorohanga Central Business District for the purpose of holding the Otorohanga Christmas Parade and associated events.

Resolved

That approval be granted for the following road closures:

Purpose: Otorohanga Annual Christmas Parade

Date: Friday, 1 December 2006

Details of Closure: **Otorohanga Christmas Parade**

MANIAPOTO STREET / S H 3 – from its intersection with Kakamutu road to its intersection with Te Kanawa Street/S H 31. Includes intersections with Ranfurly, Ballance and Tuhoro Streets.

RANFURLY STREET – from its intersection with Maniapoto Street to its intersection with Cowley Lane.

COWLEY LANE – entire length

WAHANUI CRESCENT – entire length

WHITTINGTON LANE – entire length

PINE STREET – entire length

HUNTER LANE – entire length

Period of Closure: 5.45pm to 8.45pm

Carols by Candlelight

MANIAPOTO STREET / S H 3 – from its intersection with Ballance Street to its intersection with Tuhoro Street.

Period of Closure: 8.30pm to 9.30pm

Detour will be by way of: Kakamutu Road, Turongo Street and Te Kanawa Street/SH31 OR Huiputea Drive.

With the following conditions imposed:

1. No objections are received from the NZ Police Department or Transit NZ.
2. Persons will be allowed through in the event of an emergency.
3. Otorohanga Business Association is to pay for all advertising costs in appropriate newspapers. Public notice advertisements are to be published in the Waitomo News.
4. Otorohanga Business Association is responsible for obtaining public liability insurance (and paying the cost thereof) to a minimum value of \$2,000,000. This is required to indemnify Council against any damage to property or persons as a result of activities during the road closure period. Council requires that it is held covered under the terms of such policy and accordingly the policy is required to be in both parties' names on the form prescribed by Council.
5. Otorohanga Business Association is to comply with the objection provisions contained in the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965.
6. Otorohanga Business Association is to notify the bus and taxi operators of the closures.
7. Otorohanga Business Association is solely responsible for signposting and policing of the roads to be closed and for the detour route. This includes arranging the delivery, erection and staffing of all road closure barriers and the removal thereof after closures.
8. Signs advising of the road closures are to be erected at the start and end of the closed portions of roads and on each intersecting road two weeks prior to the road closure. All signs are to be removed immediately after the closure. An Otorohanga Business Association representative is to meet with Council Engineering Staff regarding the required signs format, size, location and quantity of signs for approval before they are manufactured and erected.

Cr Wilshier / Cr de Haan

Item-292 MARAE MEETINGS

Discussion

The Customer Services Team Leader presented a report on the holding of an ordinary meeting of Council on a Marae within the District.

Resolved

That the Council meeting to be held on Tuesday 31 October 2006 be held on the Purekireki Marae, Ormsby Road, Otorohanga.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Blackler

Item-293 LTCCP - DELOITTE AUDIT REPORT

Discussion

The Finance & Administration Manager attended the meeting. The Chief Executive referred Members to his report on the Management letter received from Deloitte's for Council's 2006-16 Long Term Council Community Plan. He informed Members that Deloitte's were duty bound to report to Council and that this was a positive report, identifying minor issues which will be worked through in due course.

The Finance & Administration Manager informed Members that Council has appointed a new District Accountant who will commence on 2 October 2006. He said the successful Applicant is currently working for Deloitte's and therefore is very familiar with Council's systems and processes.

Cr Earwaker congratulated the staff involved in taking Council through the process. His comments were endorsed by Cr Pilkington who expressed the opinion she would not like to see the process stifled with checklists and standardised templates to ensure all the information as required by Council for the decision has been included.

Resolved

That the Management letter received from Deloitte's for Council's 2006-16 Long Term Council Community Plan and the Chief Executives report be received.

Cr Earwaker / Cr Pilkington

GENERAL

Cr DE HAAN APOLOGY

Cr de Haan extended her apology for the next two meetings of Council to be held 10 and 31 October 2006.

WAIPA HERITAGE AWARDS

Cr Gower reported he had attended a recent Waipa Heritage Award which encouraged people to consider and look after their heritage.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGER

The Environmental Services Manager re-attended the meeting at 11.55am.

SUBDIVISION CONSENT APPLICATION

Cr Wilshier referred to a Subdivision Consent Application creating seven Lots on State Highway 31 and queried exactly where this property was located. The Environmental Services Manager replied it was just past the former Tihiroa School, prior to the first turn off to Kawhia on State Highway 31. Reference was also made to the sewerage requirements by providing individual septic tanks and it was thought Council would state the relevant requirements rather than the Applicant. Cr Pilkington said this would be covered by Environment Waikato rules. The Environmental Services Manager advised that it will be one of the conditions of the subdivision.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

His Worship displayed a Certificate of Appreciation to Council from Habitat for Humanity. He expressed his sincere thanks to all Councillors and staff who contributed and participated in the building of the house in Merrins Avenue, Otorohanga.

POLICING MATTERS

His Worship reported Sergeant Lex Soepnel had updated him on what has been happening in the District. He reported seven staff were located in Otorohanga and that provincial statistics had shown a reduction in all types of crime in the District. He said the Otorohanga Police branch had also received the highest crime solving rate in the country. His Worship extended congratulations to the Sergeant and his staff on this achievement.

His Worship reported a new Constable has been located to Kawhia and that the Kawhia Community Board would make an approach to meet with him.

WORK AND INCOME

His Worship reported the Regional Commissioner for Work and Income had visited the area and the statistics show that Otorohanga has no people, under 20 years of age, registered as unemployed.

ZONE 2 MEETING

His Worship highlighted that a number of Local Authorities are providing the public with a breakdown on their rate charges.

RURAL SECTOR MEETING

His Worship reported the Rural Sector meeting will be held in Wellington from lunch time 12 to lunchtime on 13 October 2006. He confirmed the Chief Executive will be attending and queried whether Cr Earwaker wished to attend also.

TAX GUIDE INFORMATION

His Worship referred Members to the Tax Guide information pamphlet and said Council has to pay Members their mileage as a 'taxable allowance'.

HAMILTON AIRPORT

His Worship referred to the airport release documentation and advised that the new Chairman and Chief Executive were carrying out what the shareholders expected of them.

ROTARY CLUB - COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

His Worship advised that Council currently has a modest advertisement in the Rotary Community directory and queried whether additional information should be included. Following discussion it was agreed that the advertisement be left as it is.

PLANNING HEARING

His Worship informed Members of a Resource Consent Application Hearing to be held Thursday 21 September 2006 in regard to the Scott properties application on Pekanui Road.

JAPAN EXCHANGE

His Worship advised he will be leaving for Japan on Friday 22 September and returning 1 October.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND - INDEPENDENT RATES ENQUIRY

The Chief Executive circulated Members with a copy of Local Government New Zealand's memorandum on rates enquiry. He said the Government is currently working on the detail of its independent rates enquiry including the terms of reference for the enquiry, its membership and how it will operate.

ENVIRONMENT COURT HEARINGS

The Environmental Services Manager referred to the Macpherson/Stevens and Bird hearings programmed for the Environment Court commencing at a venue in Cambridge from 2 October 2006. She said it is unlikely the Bird Hearing will start until the second week. His Worship said Council will have no role to play in the hearing other than to be a member of the public.

MEETING CLOSED

The meeting concluded at 12.15pm.

MAYOR:

DATE:

