



Otorohanga District Council

MINUTES

10 October 2006

OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

10 October 2006

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held in the Council Chambers, Maniapoto St, Otorohanga on Tuesday 10 October 2006 commencing at 10.17am.

MINUTES

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PRESENT

Mr DF Williams (Mayor), Crs S Blackler, WH Earwaker, AL Gower, CE Jeffries and DM Pilkington.

IN ATTENDANCE

Messrs JL Pevreal (Chief Executive), DC Clibbery (Engineering Manager), and CA Tutty (Customer Services Team Leader).

OPENING PRAYER

Cr Jeffries read the Opening Prayer.

APOLOGIES

Resolved that the apologies received from Crs D de Haan and G Wilshier be sustained.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Earwaker

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL - 19 SEPTEMBER 2006

Matters Arising

Update on District Plan

The Chief Executive reported four Open Days had been held and these had been very successful except for the one at Arohena. He said the Open Days held at Ngutunui, Otorohanga and Kawhia had good attendance and proved very successful.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held on 19 September 2006, as previously circulated, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Cr Blackler / Cr Gower

REPORTS

Item-294 OTOROHANGA COMMUNITY BOARD MINUTES 14 SEPTEMBER 2006

Discussion

Members referred to the Minutes of a meeting of the Otorohanga Community Board held 14 September 2006.

HARPER AVENUE INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

Cr Pilkington referred to Item-136, the discussion paragraph on the Harper Avenue intersection improvements and requested that the sentence referring to the proposed funding of the works be amended to read "Engineering Manager reported there were two projects covered by this work, one being the intersection, which will be funded by Transit New Zealand, a Developer and with a possible contribution from Council."

OTOROHANGA KIWI HOUSE BUSINESS CASE STUDY

Cr Pilkington referred to the final sentence and requested that the last word, "proposal", be amended to read "investigation".

PRIMARY SCHOOL FLOOD PROTECTION WORKS

In reply to Cr Earwaker regarding the proposal to install a larger culvert under Phillips Avenue, the Engineering Manager advised that this would be funded out of the Roothing Account, unsubsidised. He said the effects of the flooding were not sufficient on the road to justify subsidy from Land Transport New Zealand, and agreed that Environment Waikato needs to accept more responsibility to remedy the situation. Cr Blackler queried why Council was considering undertaking any work. The Engineering Manager replied that other residential properties had been affected. His Worship queried what obligation Council had to undertake the work. The Engineering Manager advised that Council did not have any liability, it was a matter of "doing the right thing by the Community". Cr Earwaker agreed with Cr Blackler and said Council has no funding towards the proposal and accordingly the matter should be left up to Environment Waikato. The Engineering Manager advised that the Otorohanga Community Board had signaled they would provide some funding towards the work, which would come out of the Flood Protection Account, rather than the roading account that he had indicated previously. Cr Jeffries reported that Environment Waikato was not carrying out work on the rivers, such as cleaning the river bed or raising the level of the stop banks. His Worship suggested an invitation be extended to Regional Councillor, Ms Andra Nealey to discuss these issue. Cr Blackler suggested it might be best to wait for the results of Environment Waikato's Regional Election.

REQUEST FOR REDUCTION OF WATER CHARGES

Cr Jeffries referred to the resolution regarding Otorohanga Timber Company's request for a reduction of water charges to their property and said he understood further information had become available, therefore he felt it appropriate that the matter be referred back to the Board. The Engineering Manager replied that on Council's role in installing the meter, in particular, to a disused line there had been further discussion.

POOL CONTRACT EXTENSION

Cr Earwaker referred to the Pool Contract Extension and queried whether this would be extending the Contract through to 2009. The Engineering Manager replied, it was resolved that the Contract be extended for two years to 30 June 2009, with potential for a further three year extension to 30 June 2012. He advised that due to the increase in the cost of power of approximately \$9,000 per annum the Contract rates had been lifted to include this amount, by way of a performance bonus. He confirmed that the pool complex was not an economic asset. Cr Jeffries suggested, during the funding review that Council ask itself whether the facility is really required. He suggested Council keep an "open mind" as to the level of Community benefit provided by this facility.

CR GOWER

Cr Gower left the meeting at 11.00am.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga Community Board held on 14 September 2006 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

Cr Jeffries / Cr Earwaker

Item-295 KAWHIA COMMUNITY BOARD MINUTES 28 SEPTEMBER 2006

Discussion

Members referred to the Minutes of a meeting of the Kawhia Community Board held 28 September 2006.

KAWHIA CEMETERY PROJECTS

Cr Pilkington referred to the last sentence in the discussion of the Kawhia Cemetery projects and asked for it to read "Cr Pilkington also had some reservations regarding graffiti being placed on the wooden fence to be erected at the back of the cemetery". The Chairman had replied he did not think this would be a problem.

Cr Jeffries referred to the sentence reading "the proposal to replant the gorse was however agreed to". He said this should read "replant the area".

WHARF SHEDS

Cr Jeffries referred to the increased rental on the Kawhia Wharf sheds and queried whether the Board should re-visit at this matter. The Chief Executive replied that the rentals were increased following discussions from a previous meeting and to-date, one Tenant had relinquished their tenancy.

KAWHIA LAGOON AREA

Cr Jeffries referred to Mr Tooman's comments regarding a "lost opportunity" for the lagoon area to be filled with rock fall from above State Highway 31. His Worship replied that Mr Tooman thought it would be an opportunity to enhance the area.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Kawhia Community Board held on 28 September 2006 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Earwaker

ENGINEERING MANAGER

The Engineering Manager left the meeting at 11.08am.

Item-296 OTOROHANGA DISTRICT SPORTS COORDINATORS REPORT FOR 1 MAY - 31 JULY 2006

Discussion

The Otorohanga District Sports Coordinator, Ms Robbie Matthews, attended the meeting and referred Members to her report for the period 1 May – 31 July 2006. She asked Members whether they had any questions relating to her report. Cr Jeffries queried how the proposal to set up a Cycling and Multi-Sports Club in Otorohanga was progressing. The Coordinator replied contact had been made with people who had indicated that they would be interested in forming such a club. She said a mix of people had come forward and that the group meet each week. She said it was intended to commence with the "Trust in Justin" project, the proceeds of which will be forwarded to Child Cancer.

Cr Jeffries queried the progress of an investigation into a combined Sports Club being formed. The Coordinator replied that this suggestion was still processing and that the Otorohanga Sports Club was very keen to extend its activities along with the Domain users. She said, however, the proposal will be a long process.

The Coordinator informed Members of the Sports Awards to be held 10 November 2006. She said the awards will also recognise and acknowledge the efforts of sponsors.

The Coordinator informed Members of the Push-Play Nation project whereby events and challenges have been organised for a month, to achieve being the most active District in New Zealand.

Resolved

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

Cr Pilkington / Cr Blackler

Item-298 HEALTH MATTERS

Discussion

Mr Murray Loewenthal attended the meeting to present a report on health matters concerning Otorohanga. Mr Loewenthal informed Members that health issues are covered in two forms, firstly by primary care, consisting of doctors, chemists, dentists etc and secondary care being hospital care, etc. He said the concept was to reduce the reliance on secondary care by placing additional funding into primary care, thus reducing the number of people going into secondary care.

Mr Loewenthal advised that the Waikato District Health Board has two separate arms, a funding arm and a provider arm. He said the funding arm funds almost all health matters in the area with the provider arm providing most of the secondary (hospital care, etc) and tertiary (surgery) in the area.

Mr Loewenthal advised that the Primary Health Organisations communicate and consult with its Community through a Local Management Group which have a fixed membership approved by the Board and are answerable to the Board. He said Waitomo and Otorohanga are jointly involved in a group, as by both organisations, this is seen as an area with a Community of Interest.

Mr Loewenthal referred to the Fit 4 School programme which deals with the health aspects of children aged four, before they commence school. He said this was Waikato's response and will be picked up by the Government. His Worship said the District was very fortunate to have Mr Loewenthal to ensure it does not get overlooked. Cr Jeffries suggested that someone needs to determine and manage the immigrant flow for the benefit of the Community. He also queried whether any emphasis with the health structure had been placed on aged people.

Mr Loewenthal said this Council has a responsibility to involve itself in health issues for the benefit of the District. He expressed the opinion that it is not doing as much as it could in this regard.

Resolved

That Mr Loewenthal's report on Health Matters be received.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Earwaker

Item-297 HAMILTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ANNUAL REPORT 2005/06

Discussion

The Chief Executive advised a Notice of the Annual General Meeting has been received. This is to be held on 19 October 2006 at the Waikato Stadium, commencing at 10.30am. His Worship and Cr Earwaker indicated they will attend if possible.

Resolved

That the Chief Executive's report on the Hamilton International Airport Annual Report be received.

Cr Earwaker / Cr Blackler

Item-299 MATTERS REFERRED - APRIL-SEPTEMBER 2006

Discussion

It was agreed all matters contained in Matters Referred remain.

Resolved

That it is recommended that Matters Referred be received.

Cr Jeffries / Cr Pilkington

GENERAL

OTOTOHANGA DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Cr Jeffries referred to Minutes of an Otorohanga District Development Board meeting and the positive news regarding the continuation of the Overlander. He expressed the opinion that those involved in retaining this service need to be congratulated, and made particular mention of Mr Bill Millar.

KAWHIA I-SITE

His Worship reported the Development Board is contributing a large amount of funding towards the Kawhia i-Site and promotion, with reluctant support/general agreement being received from the Kawhia Community. He said the people of Kawhia need to decide whether they wish to promote the area for tourism, etc. Cr Pilkington suggested Council focus on the simple things, such as the township being clean and tidy and free from graffiti. Cr Blackler expressed the opinion that the people of Kawhia need to help themselves.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWSLETTER

Cr Jeffries referred to publications in the Local Government Newsletter, namely Maori/Local Government and Coastal Policy Statement Review and suggested copies of these publications be obtained.

RESOURCE CONSENT 060128

Cr Jeffries referred to Resource Consent number 060128 in respect of a garage being erected in Fairchild Street, Kawhia and queried whether this was going to be utilised only for cars.

QUARRY – NEWMAN ROAD

Cr Earwaker raised the question of land owner consent in respect to a quarry situated on Newman Road.

OVERLANDER

Cr Pilkington said she would like to acknowledge her trip, along with Cr Blackler, on the Overlander through to National Park last week. She said it was a wonderful journey of learning and suggested Council acknowledge, by way of letter, Mr Bill Millar's contribution to the service being retained.

ENVIRONMENT COURT HEARINGS

Cr Pilkington referred to the Environment Court hearings in respect of Macpherson and Bird and said these were in progress at the moment. She expressed the opinion that the hearing for Macpherson's would finish today and the hearing for Bird's commence tomorrow. Cr Pilkington advised her attendance at the hearing has been quite an "eye opener".

TREE FELLING

Cr Pilkington reported on an incident whereby a tree had been felled and another pruned in Pearl Avenue, Kawhia. It was agreed, as this was private property, and unless a particular tree has been classified as "protected", the property owner was well within his rights to remove the tree.

Cr Blackler endorsed the comments made by Cr Pilkington in regards to their journey on the Overlander. The Chief Executive advised that the Waikato Times dated Friday 29 September 2006 reported that Council would be one of the first to seek a meeting with Toll staff to discuss ways of improving marketing and promoting local attractions to domestic and overseas tourists. The Chief Executive advised this comment had been taken out of the Community Outcomes. It was agreed the issue be referred to the Otorohanga District Development Board for consideration.

LUNCHEON ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned for luncheon at 12.43pm and resumed at 1.22 pm.

CR JEFFRIES

Cr Jefferies left the meeting following the luncheon adjournment.

ENGINEERING MANAGER

The Engineering Manager re-attended the meeting following the luncheon adjournment.

WALKER ROAD

The Engineering Manager reported that the Department of Corrections may not object to Council carrying out minor work on Walker Road, but there was the question as to what extent Council should improve the condition of this road given the uncertainty in respect of security for its long-term use. He said the Department of Corrections appear reluctant to define their position on this issue. During further discussion it was agreed His Worship, Cr Earwaker and the Engineering Manager meet with the property owners on Walker Road to assist Council in providing a potential list of options regarding maintenance of this road.

NEW/AMENDED LEGISLATION

Members were circulated with a copy of new or amended legislation that have impacted on Council.

YELLOW THISTLE GRASS

His Worship advised that a group has been established to eradicate yellow thistle grass. He said a meeting will be held during November with key industry people.

WORKS INFRASTRUCTURE

His Worship referred to a letter received from Works Infrastructure confirming they have agreed to provide road management services for the ANZAC ceremony next year.

ZONE 2 MEETING

His Worship extended an invitation to Members to attend a Zone 2 meeting which will be held at the Otorohanga Club on 3 November 2006 commencing at 9.00am

NEW ZEALAND POLICE

His Worship advised he will be meeting with the new Commissioner of Police tomorrow.

HARVEST CENTRE

His Worship reported a formal opening of the Harvest Centre will be held on 29 October 2006.

YEAR OF THE VETERAN

The Customer Services Team Leader extended an invitation to Members to attend a function to acknowledge the "Year of the Veteran" to be held on Thursday 26 October 2006 at the Otorohanga Club at 3.00pm

MEETING CLOSED

The meeting concluded at 1.50pm.

MAYOR:

DATE:

