



Otorohanga District Council

MINUTES

31 October 2006

OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

31 October 2006

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held in the Council Chambers, Maniapoto St, Otorohanga on Tuesday 31 October 2006 commencing at 10.08am.

MINUTES

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PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Messrs JL Pevreal (Chief Executive), GD Bunn (Finance & Administration Manager), DC Clibbery (Engineering Manager), Mrs J Meade Rose (Environmental Services Manager) and Mrs A Burdon (Executive Assistant).

OPENING PRAYER

Cr Earwaker read the Opening Prayer.

APOLOGIES

Resolved that that the apologies received from Cr de Haan and Mr CA Tutty (Customer Services Team Leader) be sustained.

Cr Earwaker / Cr Pilkington

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held on 10 October 2006 as previously circulated, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Earwaker

Matters Arising

Local Government Newsletter

From page 5, Cr Blackler queried whether there was any information on Maori in Local Government and Coastal Policy Statement Review information referred to at the last meeting. The Chief Executive responded that he has not received any information at all other than what Cr Earwaker has shown him following his attendance at the Rural Sector meeting in Wellington in mid October.

New/Amended Legislation

Cr Jeffries queried what this Council's costs were to carry out all of the legislative changes imposed by Government over the past few years. The Chief Executive replied some Council's have undertaken cost investigations. Cr Jeffries said this information would be helpful for Members to have because they are regularly asked where rates money is spent.

REPORTS

Item-300 OTOROHANGA COMMUNITY BOARD MINUTES 12 OCTOBER 2006

Discussion

Kauri Trees planted on Mair Street

Cr Blackler expressed the opinion she believed Council should not be putting any money towards this project. The Engineering Manager advised the Board has referred the matter to Council's Landscape Consultant Mrs Rosemary Davison and Council's Community Facilities Officer to advise on the suitability of the trees and their location and are awaiting their recommendation.

Otorohanga Art House Project

Cr Wilshier said he will report back further in the near future as a number of matters were confidential at this stage.

District Librarian's Report

Crs Blackler and Pilkington said they would be against any lowering of the Non-resident Membership fee because it would mean non-residents would get usage of the Library cheaper than Otorohanga District ratepayers. The Chief Executive explained that what was meant by 'a lesser fee for the second part of a particular year' was that if a non-resident joined the Library in January, they would only pay half of the Non-resident Membership fee of \$60.00. He said the full year fee would still be \$60.

Westridge Subdivision Financial Report and Section Sales

Cr Jeffries stated he had received information published only a couple of days prior to the meeting that property values in the Otorohanga District had gone up 42 percent. He said his comment at the meeting was that he wanted to see the sections sold, not to price them off the market. If the minutes could be changed to read "On the basis of the information received that property values had gone up 42 percent within the Otorohanga District,..."

In reply to Cr Blackler's query that sales on the subdivision had been over \$1M but repayments had only been \$600,000, the Finance & Administration Manager said the difference was in expenses incurred.

Williams Street

Cr Blackler queried why Targa would be considered in closing a road within the Community. Cr Jeffries said it was stated in the report but in reality the Board had not considered this at the meeting but other factors, such as the opinions of the residents, were discussed.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga Community Board held on 12 October 2006 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

Cr Wilshier / Cr Jeffries

Item-301 BUILDING CONTROL OFFICERS REPORT TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2006

Discussion

The District Building Control Officer attended the meeting and presented his report to 30 September 2006. He highlighted that building is thriving in the District. He further advised that he has received considerable feedback from builders, etc that communication is exceptional both internally and externally, he said which is great for how people perceive Council.

Members sent best wishes to the Environmental Health Officer for a speedy recovery.

In reply to Cr Jeffries query regarding how many Building Consents had been issued for the Morrison subdivision, the District Building Control Officer replied 'five'. Cr Jeffries said this was very encouraging and good to see the subdivision progressing as it's been on the go for some time.

Cr Blackler expressed the opinion she was pleased to see more income in the Management Accounts from Building Consents, therefore less subsidy from Council, which meant the user is paying for the service.

Resolved

That the Building Control Officer's report to 30 September 2006 be received.

Cr Jeffries / Cr Gower

Item-303 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS 2005/06

Discussion

The Finance & Administration Manager introduced the new District Accountant Mr Brendon O'Callaghan who has taken over the position from him. The Finance & Administration Manager said this was the eighth set of annual accounts he had presented to Council and would be his last as the new District Account would produce the next set.

The Finance & Administration Manager presented the Management Accounts to 30 June 2006.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGER

The Environmental Services Manager left the meeting at 12.00pm.

Cr Earwaker congratulated staff on getting through the audit so 'cleanly'. His Worship endorsed Cr Earwaker comments.

Resolved

That the Management Accounts for the period ended 30 June 2006 be received.

Cr Jeffries / Cr Earwaker

Item-304 AUDIT HIGHLIGHTS MEMO FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006

Resolved

That the Deloitte Audit Highlights Memo for the year ended 30 June 2006 be received.

Cr Jeffries / Cr Earwaker

Item-305 ANNUAL REPORT 2006

Resolved

That the Annual Report for year ending 30 June 2006 be adopted.

Cr Jeffries / Cr Earwaker

Item-306 MATTERS REFERRED - 10 SEPTEMBER 2006

Discussion

Waiharekeke Bridge

1. i) The Engineering Manager stated that preliminary discussion with Waitomo District Council had been conducted, and a report received from a Consultant on the work required. The Officer reported that the work had been included in a draft programme for 2007/08

submitted to Land Transport New Zealand, but in reality the project was likely to be deferred or spread over two or more years.

Walker Road

1. ii) The Engineering Manager reported on discussion of this matter with the Corrections Department. It was agreed that no further approaches to the Corrections Department should be made, and that a legal opinion on potential access restrictions should be obtained for use in response to any proposal that Corrections might present.

LUNCH ADJOURNMENT

Members adjourned the meeting at 12.27pm and reconvened at 1.00pm.

CR JEFFRIES

Cr Jeffries left the meeting at 12.30pm

GENERAL

RURAL SECTOR MEETING

Cr Earwaker reported he had attended the Rural Sector meeting in Wellington on 13 October. The main discussion had been around the review of the FAR. It appeared that the rates would be increased across the board.

ENVIRONMENT COURT HEARINGS

Cr Pilkington reported she had attended the Environment Court hearings in Cambridge recently. She advised a decision is expected out by Christmas for the two cases.

PEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Cr Pilkington said she has been advised Environment Waikato's Pest Management Strategy is expected out by 1 July 2007. She said their emphasis is now on animal pests as opposed to plant pests. She added that funding options will be explored. Cr Earwaker said this is a big shift for UAGC rather than rating per hectare.

NEW KAWHIA POLICE OFFICER

Cr Pilkington advised the Kawhia Community board met recently with the new Kawhia Police Officer, Mr Craig Blakey, to discuss issues facing the Community. She said Constable Blakey 'took on board' the issues raised and showed a real willingness to work with the Board.

SHORE FUTURES MEETING - OPARAU

Cr Pilkington reported on a public meeting to be held in Oparau by Environment Waikato to discuss Shore Futures with the Community, and also the District Plan Review. She advised Council's Environmental Services Manager will also be in attendance at the meeting.

REGIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - MOKAI KAINGA MARAE

Cr Pilkington said she had attended the recent RMC meeting, along with His Worship and other Council staff on Friday 27 October. She said the RMC Members were very helpful.

OTOROHANGA COMMUNITY GARDEN COMPETITION

Cr Pilkington advised she had had a very pleasant day recently judging the Garden Competition.

YEAR OF THE VETERAN

Cr Pilkington reported she had attended the recent function hosted by Council on 26 October 2006 at the Otorohanga Club. She said a large group attended the function from Kawhia. Cr Pilkington advised those present were grateful for the acknowledgement and she thanked Council for hosting such a successful function.

KAWHIA MUSEUM RE-OPENING

Cr Pilkington advised she had attended the Kawhia Museum re-opening on Saturday 28 October. The Engineering Manager said Council is currently pursuing funding, through Opus Consultants, for upgrading the building's exterior.

TE TAHI ROAD SUBDIVISION

Cr Pilkington said concerns had been raised with her, in lieu of Cr de Haan who is currently overseas, on the subdivision of small blocks on steep land which has high rainfall. Cr Pilkington advised the caller that Council did listen to concerns raised.

EDGE OF ROAD SPRAYING

Cr Blackler reported she had received a number of complaints regarding the spraying of the edges of the roads in the District. She advised she explained to the callers that the spraying saved the cost of one mowing, in the vicinity of \$20,000 across the District. But then a few days later Cr Blackler said she saw the mower mowing the road edges, which defeated the purpose of having it sprayed. She said most people say that the sprayed roadsides looks ugly but agree that saving \$20,00 from just one mowing is a significant savings for ratepayers. Cr Earwaker said he would prefer to see a spray that leaves a clover or a green covering rather than the 'burnt brown' edge.

His Worship reported on the following items -

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WAIKATO HOUSE BUILD

A team of executives from Otorohanga started the house off on 30 October at Waikato Stadium, working 7.00am to 12 noon. The build went really with Waikato being ahead most of the way but Hamilton took out the points at the end of the shift. His Worship advised he will attend the Celebration at 5.00pm on Friday 3 November when it will be completed.

ZONE 2

Is being held in Otorohanga on 3 November 2006 at the Otorohanga Club, commence at 9.00am and concluding at approximately 3.00pm. His Worship advised he will be making a presentation on the Trade Centre and newly opened Harvest Youth Centre. He request which Councillors would be attending. Crs Pilkington, Earwaker, Blackler, Gower and Wilshier advised would be attending.

KIWI HOUSE

A meeting was held last week and a timeline was agreed upon that a decision is to be made by Christmas. His Worship said he advised the Trust that if no clear direction was given by Estimates, Council could have to remove the funding option and that it would be put into another project.

OTOROHANGA DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT BOARD

The Development Board's AGM will be held on 8 November 2006 at 12 noon.

OTOROHANGA SPORTS AWARDS

The Sports Awards will be presented at a function on 10 November 2006 at the Otorohanga Club. All Members are invited.

KATALYST

His Worship advised Tourism Waikato/Katalyst has recently been reported in the media. He said it had been discovered that Hamilton i-Site had not paid gst on sales for a number of years which had not picked up even by the auditors but now needs to be paid. His Worship said he was disappointed that Hamilton City Council had so publically accused the former Directors. He said Katalyst had requested Council's remain committed to funding the research to find a viable alternative. Members agreed they now did not support spending the \$5,000 they had previously committed to funding Katalyst.

AOTEA BOLLARDS

His Worship tabled a proposal from A Melgren and M Inglis regarding painting the bollards at Aotea. The Engineering Manager said the funding of ongoing maintenance is an issue not the initial painting. His Worship advised he will respond that Council thinks it is a good idea however it not able to support it because of the ongoing maintenance issues.

IWI LIAISON

His Worship tabled a letter from Mr Keith Ikin, Kowhai Consultants regarding a research proposal He said Internal Affairs and Local Government have come up with research funding for two Councils, one in NI and one is SI, to look into 'best practice' for iwi liaison. His Worship requested Members read the tabled letter and get back by end of next week whether or not they think Council should be involved. Cr Blackler said she was concerned not to get involved in anything binding on Council.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT GRANT

The Chief Executive advised Council will be administering the grant from the Ministry of Youth Development given to the Harvest Youth Centre ensuring the Centre meets its commitments and milestones which are conditions of the grant.

DISTRICT PLAN REVIEW

The Environmental Services Manager advised that a further non-public meeting will be held with representatives of Mokai Kainga Marae on Wednesday 6 December 2006 commencing at 2.00pm until late. She said this will involve herself, Ms Dorothy Wakeling, Cr Pilkington and three Marae representatives to discuss a number of issues and to come to some conclusions. She advised the agenda is yet to be agreed to but will be advised ahead of time. The Environmental Services Manager reported the review is going to plan.

NEWMAN'S ROAD QUARRY HEARING

The Environmental Services Manager reported that if the Consent goes ahead, a hearing will need to be held which will probably take place on the 18 (or 19) December. She advised it would be a limited notification hearing and that His Worship, Deputy-Mayor Cr Earwaker and Cr Blackler would be the Hearings Committee.

ODC CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

His Worship advised that the Members the Elected Members and Staff Christmas Function was to be held on 9 December at the Royal Hotel and the theme was masquerade.

MEETING CLOSED

The meeting concluded at 2.42pm.

MAYOR:

DATE:

