



Otorohanga District Council

MINUTES

13 March 2007

OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

13 March 2007

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held in the Council Chambers, Maniapoto St, Otorohanga on Tuesday 13 March 2007 commencing at 10.23am.

MINUTES

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PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Messrs JL Pevreal (Chief Executive), DC Clibbery (Engineering Manager) (attended 11.47am), Mrs J Meade Rose (attended 10.35am) and Mr CA Tutty (Customer Services Team Leader).

OPENING PRAYER

Cr Gower read the Opening Prayer.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held on 20 February 2007, as previously circulated, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Earwaker

MATTERS ARISING

Abbots Slip

Cr Pilkington referred to Item-344 regarding Abbots slip, in particular to the sentence reading "His Worship queried whether the proposed work would have a stabling effect on the slip", and requested that the word 'stabling' be changed to 'stabilising'.

Shore Futures

Cr Pilkington referred to the General Item on page 6 and requested, that the final sentence be amended to read 'Cr Pilkington reported, unfortunately, some members of the Community had considered incorrect information which had not been based on scientific advice.'

Waipapa Reserve & Toilet Issues

The Chief Executive reported on Item-347 that Council's Consultant, Mr Peter Cotter, had carried out some background work regarding the Reserve at Lake Waipapa. He will discuss the matter with him upon his return to the office.

Local Government Rates Forum

In reply to Cr Jeffries, the Chief Executive reported in relation to the General Item - page 7, that a number of issues were raised at the Forum and during the next two to three weeks he hopes to have a draft submission prepared based on the issues discussed. He said the main items raised were that of no GST on rates, local taxation and the 30 percent maximum UAC.

REPORTS

Item-348 PLANNING REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2006 - FEBRUARY 2007

Discussion

The Environmental Services Manager attended the meeting and presented a planning report for the period from 1 December 2006 to 28 February 2007.

Kakamutu Road Development

In reply to Cr Jeffries, the Environmental Services Manager reported that the Developer had until the end of the first week of April 2007 to have the exterior of the relocated homes up to a certain standard. She confirmed that the Developer had been written to advise this. His Worship said that, during the past three weeks, no work had been carried out on the houses and he was doubtful whether there was any chance of this being completed by the due date. He suggested that staff be prepared to move immediately when the time is up. The Environmental Services Manager reported there is a process Council will need to work through and that the situation will not be fixed immediately.

Resolved

That the Environmental Services Manager's Planning report for 1 December 2006 to 28 February 2007 be received.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Jeffries

Item-349 SUBMISSIONS ON REVIEW OF CLASS 4 GAMBLING VENUE POLICY

Discussion

The Environmental Services Manager summarised her report which accompanied the submissions received on the review of the Class 4 Gambling Venue Policy. She reported that a further submission had been received on behalf of the Management Committee of the Otorohanga Support House expressing their support of the present policy.

The Environmental Services Manager advised that the Class 4 Gambling Venue Policy, as it is now, takes into account the nature of the Otorohanga District by having a relatively low-key policy and which reflects the intent of the Act in managing the number, size and location of venues.

Cr Pilkington referred to a comment on the proposed policy from the Problem Gambling Foundation of New Zealand, which stated that 'on reviewing the District's policy we have found that it does not appear to cover all the requirements of the Gambling Act.' Mr Reg Proffit, on behalf of the Problem Gambling Foundation of NZ, presented the Organisation's submission. He advised part of the submission addressed the time period prior to when the legislation came into effect. He said the status quo allowed for up to 18 machines per venue and during this pre-legislation inflation period saw an increase in the number of venues and machines. He said from October 2003 this was reduced back to nine machines per venue. The Environmental Services Manager confirmed that the number of machines at the Kawhia Hotel is within the requirement of the Act.

Mr Proffit then made a presentation on the following issues -

- Social impact assessment,
- Carrying the burden
- Recent decline in numbers
- Proposed approach
- Recommendation

His Worship suggested the policy be monitored and that information be sourced on the Trillion Trust and Pub Charity to regarding their distributions.

Resolved

That, pursuant to Section 101 of the Gambling Act 2003, Council re-adopts the Class 4 Gambling Venue Policy.

Cr Blackler / Cr Earwaker

Cr de Haan voted against the resolution.

ENGINEERING MANAGER

The Engineering Manager attended the meeting at 11.47am.

Item-350 APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE - GVI RALLY OF WAITOMO

Discussion

The Engineering Manager presented the Engineering Support Officer's report on an application received from the Hamilton Car Club Inc for various road closures within the Otorohanga District, to enable the GVI Rally of Waitomo event and associated activities to proceed.

Cr Blackler stressed the need for sign-off to be obtained from the people affected by the proposed closures, and in this particular case, requested to see a list of those who had responded to ensure that no-one had been missed.

Resolved

That approval is granted for the following road closures:

Purpose:	GVI Rally of Waitomo
Date:	Saturday, 23 June 2007
Details of Closure:	HEWER AND TAHAIA ROADS – including intersections with Irvine, Shank and Veale Roads, No Exits. Period of Closure: 12 noon to 3.45pm BARBER ROAD, entire length Period of Closure: 12.15pm to 4.00pm MAIHIIHI ROAD, from Maihihi Hall to Paewhenua Road PAEWHENUA ROAD, entire length Period of Closure: 2.00pm to 5.45pm WAITOMO VALLEY ROAD, from Haurua Road to District Boundary HAURUA ROAD, entire length Period of Closure: 2.45pm to 6.30pm

With the following conditions imposed:

1. Persons will be allowed through in the event of an emergency.
2. Hamilton Car Club is to pay an application fee of \$400.00 towards administration of the road closure to Otorohanga District Council.
3. Hamilton Car Club is to pay for all advertising costs in appropriate newspapers. Public notice advertisements are to be published in the Waitomo News.
4. Hamilton Car Club 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 rally activities during the road closure period.

5. Hamilton Car Club is to comply with the objection provisions contained in the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965.
6. Hamilton Car Club is to liaise, and provide evidence of liaison with all public transport operators and businesses that may be affected by the road closures.
7. Hamilton Car Club is to consult with all residents of all properties on the roads intended to be closed and also residents on roads connecting with the roads intending to be closed, including any no exit roads. Mail drops to residents are also to be carried out. All mail drops to residents are to be approved by Council staff before distribution to residents commences and must include the date that objections close with council. The subsequent mail drop to be completed no later than ten full days before the proposed closures.
8. Hamilton Car Club is solely responsible for signposting and policing of the roads to be closed, to ensure that only vehicles connected with the Rally have access to the road closure areas. This includes arranging the delivery, erection and staffing of all road closure barriers and the removal thereof after closures. All gates and entranceways are to be taped and tape is to be removed thereafter.
9. 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. A Hamilton Club 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-351 ROAD SAFETY COORDINATOR REPORT

Discussion

Mrs Christine Chaplow, the Otorohanga/Waitomo Road Safety Coordinator attended the meeting and updated Members on various road safety initiatives currently being pursued. She expressed her thanks to Council for allowing her the opportunity to attend the meeting. Mrs Chaplow then circulated information on the Road Safety Coordinators Contract for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007. She reported on various initiatives being undertaken during this period. Mrs Chaplow referred to the initiative of 'Drive to Conditions - Tourist Map' and questioned whether Otorohanga would like to be involved in this by providing a small township location map along with funding of \$1,000 for some notations. His Worship replied he will take this request to the next meeting of the Otorohanga District Development Board for their consideration.

Mrs Chaplow then reported on approaching local schools to assist her with the design of a Backpack to make children more visible. Cr Gower expressed his support for the initiative. Mrs Chaplow then circulated Code 3 packs for Members information.

Resolved

That the Road Safety Coordinator's report be received.

Cr Pilkington / Cr de Haan

Item-352 PROCESS TO APPOINT CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Discussion

The Chief Executive referred Members to his report on the process to appoint a new Chief Executive.

Resolved

That

1. The report be received; and
2. The process to appoint a Chief Executive be as follows –

	Completed by -
Give ACE Notice in terms of Contract	15 February 2008
Review Chief Executive Job Description	15 February 2008
Appoint Consultant	15 February 2008
Agree Job Description with Consultant	1 March 2008
Advertise Position	1 April 2008
Interview and appoint successful applicant	9 May 2008
New Appointee commences	11 August 2008

Cr Earwaker / Cr Jeffries

Item-353 MATTERS REFERRED - 20 FEBRUARY 2007

Discussion

Otorohanga District Development Board - i-Site Property

The Chief Executive advised he had indicated to the Chairman of the Otorohanga District Development Board that it was unlikely a rates remission would be applied to the i-Site property.

Te Kawa Swamp

The Engineering Manager advised the 30km sign referred to at Council's meeting on 20 February 2007, was not a Council sign but a privately produced one. He said however, there is a potential hazard on the carriageway across the Te Kawa swamp and suggested that warning signs be erected. The Engineering Manager reported that the sealing on the carriageway is in fairly good order therefore the situation cannot be remedied in the short term on a subsidised basis.

Waipapa Reserve

Cr Gower referred to advice from DOC that flax would be suitable for planting out the Waipapa Reserve area.

LUNCHEON ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned for luncheon at 12.32pm and resumed at 1.02pm.

Abbots Slip

Cr Pilkington requested, following receipt of further information, that the decision not to carry out remedial work on the Abbot's slip be reconsidered. She said she was not aware one of the Abbot girls attends school at Te Mata and therefore would need to cross over the slip area. Furthermore that Mr Keith Abbot had carried out some clearing of the slip on the understanding that Council would be commencing remedial work. Cr Pilkington reported she had spoken to the Engineering Manager who had advised her that some Contracts were coming in under budget therefore, there maybe some funding available to carry out remedial work. The Engineering Manager confirmed Council had under-spent on some of its major projects with a potential net saving of approximately \$27,000. He advised \$40,000 unsubsidised funding would be required for remedial work on this slip. The Engineering Manager reported the slip was unique in that it is comprised of a sloppy texture. Cr Gower stressed the need for Council to work with the property

owner on this matter. Cr Pilkington suggested consideration be given to carrying out some remedial work rather than to send out vehicles, workmen, etc when the slip moves out onto the carriageway. In reply to His Worship requesting what had changed since earlier consideration of this matter, Cr Pilkington advised the land owners were under the impression that the slip would be dealt with, he has been carrying out work on the slip and that she was not aware of some of the access and maintenance problems. She said Council has the potential to 'toe' the slip and does not now have all the budgetary restraints that were expected when the matter was previously discussed. His Worship again referred to the Estimates meeting where it was agreed to repair the slip as and when required and queried what has changed other than pressure being placed on Council by the landowner. Cr Blackler suggested the land owner be advised that Council does not have the funds available to carry out the remedial work immediately and that the matter be reviewed again in 12 months time. Cr Jeffries expressed the opinion that the property owner, in the main, only receives use of a road in payment of rates. He had some sympathy towards them if they could not use the road as and when required.

Following further discussion it was agreed that the matter be placed in Council's forward roading programme to be considered each year however, in the meantime if anything changes then remedial work be considered. Cr Pilkington expressed her disappointment with the decision.

GENERAL

JUDICIAL REVIEW

In reply to Cr Jeffries, the Chief Executive advised a Court date has been set for 31 May and 1 June 2007 in respect of the judicial review.

INSURANCE PREMIUMS

Cr Jeffries referred to the Leaky Homes Syndrome and queried whether this would affect Council's insurance premiums. The Chief Executive replied Council's Insurer, Riskpool, has advised that any additional costs will lay where the issues have arisen.

WALKER ROAD

The Engineering Manager reported he had received a response from a Consultant and expressed disappointment that they did not appear to be getting to the core of the matter. He expressed concern at the cost in engaging the Consultant and advised that it may be more appropriate to spend \$10,000 on repair of the potholes rather than conducting further investigation. He confirmed that the remainder of the paving was in satisfactory condition. The Engineering Manger advised that some repair work will be carried out by the end of this financial year and should the Department of Corrections wish to close the road sometime in the future, then they would need to undertake the necessary investigation.

SHORE FUTURES

Cr Pilkington reported workshops have commenced and that Shore Futures meetings will be held in the Kawhia area in late March.

ZONE 2 MEETING

Cr Pilkington reported on her recent attendance at a Zone 2 meeting held at the Western Bay of Plenty Council. She highlighted the possibility of Council being able to negotiate costs with its Auditors, Deloitte. The Finance & Administration Manager, who was in attendance at the meeting, advised that staff will be meeting with Deloitte's later in the week. It was envisaged Council will have to wear some increase however, attempts will be made to get them to reduce the audit hours.

Cr Pilkington then referred to a presentation made at the meeting of raising the profile of Primary Industry, which could impact on this District.

Cr Pilkington then reported on Basil Morrison's presentation regarding Elected Members best practice.

LIBRARY REPORT

In reply to Cr Blackler she was advised that the Library Report contained in the Otorohanga Community Board Agenda was a report previously presented to Council.

MOTORCYCLE EVENT

Cr Gower advised he attended a Motorcycle event held in Ngaroma and there was talk of the course becoming a North Island speed champion circuit.

SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT MEETING

Cr Gower reported on his attendance at a recent Sustainable Land Management meeting which was looking towards how Councils could facilitate the planting of pine trees. He said \$150M has been made available for this purpose.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGER

Cr Wilshier referred to the resignation of Council's Environmental Services Manager and queried what process was being undertaken to replace her. The Chief Executive replied the position has been advertised, with applications closing Friday 16 March 2007. He said, to date, some interest has been shown in the position.

KIWIANA FESTIVAL

Cr Wilshier requested a letter be forwarded to the Project Kiwiana Committee, on behalf of Council, congratulating them on a successful festival.

SHORE FUTURES

His Worship advised meetings are to be held at Kawhia on 21 March, Oparau on 22 March, Kinohaku on 23 March and Te Kauri on 30 March 2007 commencing at 6.00pm.

SOUTH SCHOOL GALA

His Worship reminded Members the South School Gala will be held this Friday.

OTOROHANGA PRIMARY SCHOOL 50TH ANNIVERSARY

His Worship reminded Members of the Otorohanga Primary School's 50th Anniversary celebrations this coming weekend.

KAWHIA COMMUNITY BOARD

His Worship informed Members of the Kawhia Community Board Estimates and meeting to be held on Thursday 29 March 2007 commencing at 10.00am. He said it will be helpful if Councillors could attend.

MAYORAL GRADUATION CEREMONY

His Worship reported, on the day of the next Council meeting, 3 April 2007, a Mayoral Graduation Ceremony will be held at 7.30pm.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Chief Executive circulated a copy of Local Government's Survey of Functions and Costs imposed on Local Government since 1989 for Members information.

MEMBERS REMUNERATION

The Chief Executive advised Council and the Community Boards should resolve, by the end of March, the matter of Members remuneration. Mr Wilshier said this matter was discussed after the Otorohanga Community Board meeting last week and he has written data to put forward on behalf of the Board. He advised the Otorohanga Community Board sees no need for any change. His Worship suggested that both Boards meet with Council to explain their points of view.

COURT CASE - RATES

The Chief Executive reported on the successful outcome of a recent Court case involving the non-payment of rates.

MEETING CLOSED

The meeting concluded at 2.02pm.

MAYOR:

DATE:

