



Otorohanga District Council

MINUTES

18 September 2007

OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

18 September 2007

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held in the Council Chambers, Maniapoto St, Otorohanga on Tuesday 18 September 2007 commencing at 10.04am.

MINUTES

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PRESENT

Mr DF Williams (Mayor), Crs S Blackler, D de Haan (attended 10.55am), WH Earwaker, AL Gower, CE Jeffries, DM Pilkington and GA Wilshier.

IN ATTENDANCE

Messrs JL Pevreal (Chief Executive), DC Clibbery (Engineering Manager), GD Bunn (Finance & Administration Manager), RF Proffit (Policy Manager) and Mr CA Tutty (Customer Services Team Leader).

OPENING PRAYER

Cr Jeffries read the Opening Prayer.

His Worship welcomed those present and expressed his pleasure to see a number of Candidates in the forthcoming elections sharing in Council's processes.

APOLOGY

Resolved that the apology received from Cr de Haan for lateness, be sustained.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Jeffries

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held on 28 August 2007, as previously circulated, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Cr Gower / Cr Wilshier

MATTERS ARISING

Truck Wash Facility

The Engineering Manager reported a letter had been received from the Otorohanga Carriers Association advising that Mr Rob Gordon had been engaged to take over management of the Facility. He advised he was dissatisfied with the response and that contact has since been made with Mr David Bailey, representing the Carriers Association and Mr Rob Gordon. Mr Gordon visited the site and agreed it was unacceptable and also recognised the Facility does not function correctly. Mr Gordon had apparently agreed a substantial up-grade was required. The Engineering Manager reported the Association is required to forward a plan of what they intend to do to the Facility, to Council, within 10 days from Friday 14 September. He reported no discharge was going into the Community sewerage system.

REPORTS

Item-427 ROADSIDE PLANT PEST CONTROL ISSUES

Discussion

The Engineering Manager summarised his report on issues relating to Council's control of roadside plant pests. He suggested that the spraying of plant pests on Road Reserve be carried out every second year with minor plants such as papyrus being sprayed every year. Since the preparation of the report, the Engineering Manager advised there were two other options to be considered in funding the amount required to repay to LTNZ. These being -

1. The bulk metalling Contract had come \$98,000 under allocation, and

2. Lurman Road sealing works \$33,000 under allocation.

He said these could provide funding for the claim however, subsidised money is included in the figures.

Cr Earwaker expressed favour in carrying out repairs to the Abbots Slip and also questioned, under the bulk metalling Contract, that Council had carried out the scheduled work on those roads for the 2006/07 year. His Worship replied the metalling work is on a five year cycle and that every road in the District is catered for within this cycle. The Engineering Manager reported this allowed a good opportunity to carry out another 10km of metalling however, what had been scheduled, would be carried out. Cr Blackler expressed the opinion that the proposed work scheduled for Owawenga Road should be carried out as a considerable amount of produce comes out via this road. She also expressed the opinion that missing one year of spraying weeds incurs seven years work. Cr Jeffries said he had no preference with the suggestions however, did express concern that the expenditure is contained within the current budgets. The suggestion was made that the improvement work for Owawenga Road be postponed until the tenders are let and that the required works on the Abbots Slip be tendered out. Cr Jeffries queried whether there was any responsibility on land owners, in the rural areas, to be responsible for their own frontages. The Engineering Manager replied this is the case except for land that is impracticable or inaccessible for the land owners to maintain.

Resolved

That

1. The report be received, and;
2. Council's strategy in respect of plant pests on road reserve henceforth be based upon option c. contained in the report.
3. Council defers the scheduled Owawenga Road improvement works to enable repayment of incorrectly claimed subsidy for plant pest control works and to provide funding of works on Abbot's slip.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Gower

Item-428 WAIKATO REGION CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GROUP TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Discussion

The Policy Manager presented the Environmental Services Manager's report advising Member Councils of the Waikato Region CDEM must ensure that appropriate Transitional arrangements must be in place to allow the CDEM Group to continue the exercise of Council responsibilities under the CDEM Act during the Triennial Election period.

Cr Pilkington reported the Kawhia and Hauturu Schools have been requested, from the Ministry of Education, to provide an Emergency Management Plan. She reported she had referred the schools to the Civil Defence Coordinator, Mr Les Billcliffe however, to date there has been no contact. It was agreed this matter be followed up with Mr Billcliffe.

Resolved

That

1. That the report of the Environmental Services Manager be received.
- 2 That Council resolves, as provided by clause 30 (7), Schedule 7, Local Government Act 2002, that the Waikato Region Civil Defence Emergency Management Group and any subcommittee constituted by that Group shall not be deemed to be discharged on the

coming into office of the members of the Council elected or appointed at the next triennial general election of members.

Cr Earwaker / Cr Jeffries

Item-429 PLANNING REPORT FOR JUNE TO AUGUST 2007

Discussion

The Policy Manager presented the Environmental Services Manager's Planning report for the period 1 June to 31 August 2007.

Cr Jeffries queried whether there were any issues Council was aware of in regard to the Aotea Morrison subdivision. His Worship replied there were issues however, most of the Resource Consents for the subdivision are held by Environment Waikato (EW). He queried with Cr Jeffries which Aotea subdivision he was actually referring to.

Resolved

That the Environmental Services Manager's Planning report for the period 1 June - 31 August 2007 be received.

Cr Wilshier / Cr Earwaker

Item-430 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER REPORT FOR JUNE TO AUGUST 2007

Discussion

The Chief Executive summarised the Environmental Health Officer's report for the period 1 June to 31 August 2007.

Otorohanga Hotel

His Worship reported, as everything was in place to the satisfaction of the Liquor Licensing Authority, the Otorohanga Hotel was now back in operation.

Kawhia Pre-Christmas meeting

Cr Pilkington reminded Members of a pre-Christmas meeting in regard to Liquor Licensing in Kawhia.

Resolved

That the Environmental Health Officer's report for the period 1 June to 31 August 2007 be received.

Cr Jeffries / Cr Blackler

Item-431 OTOROHANGA ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY - REQUEST TO REMIT BUILDING CONSENT FEES

Discussion

The Policy Manager presented the Environmental Services Manager's report on a request from the Otorohanga Zoological Society that Council make a full or partial remission of the Building Consent fees charged for their display area at the Kiwi House.

Cr Gower questioned why the Society was undertaking this project when consideration was being given to the up-grade of the complete facility. His Worship replied the Society was 'carrying on' as usual in the interim.

Resolved

That

1. The Environmental Services Manager's report be received,
2. Council remit Building Consent fees to the value of \$346.00.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Jeffries

Item-432 DRAFT MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS 2006/07

Discussion

The Finance & Administration Manager referred Members to the Draft Management Accounts for the year ended 30 June 2007. He reported that Auditors are currently on the premises and that the final audited Annual Accounts will be presented to Council on 9 October 2007.

Cr DE HAAN

Cr de Haan attended the meeting at 10.55am.

The District Accountant presented the Draft Management Accounts and answered Members queries or noted their concerns as he worked through the presentation.

LUNCHEON ADJOURNMENT

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

Resolved

That the Draft Management Accounts for the year ended 30 June 2007 be received.

Cr Jeffries / Cr Blackler

Item-433 DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2006-07

Discussion

The District Accountant highlighted various items as he presented the Draft Annual Report. He advised that the Audited Report will also be presented to Council on 9 October 2007.

The District Accountant confirmed, in regard to the District background - roading network figures are required to be updated, as are the Kawhia permanent population figures.

Cr Earwaker congratulated the Finance team on a job well-done in producing the draft documents. His Worship reported, quite a number of the activities ended up over budget and stressed the need to be constantly focussing on these activities to come in or under budget. He said it will be necessary to either increase the budgets or make sure these stay within. He endorsed the comments made by Cr Earwaker. The Finance & Administration Manager acknowledged the work of the District Accountant into the preparation of the draft documents and said he appreciated his efforts.

Resolved

That the Draft Annual Report for the year ended 30/06/07 be received.

Cr Jeffries / Cr Blackler

Item-434 FRAUD POLICY

Discussion

The Finance & Administration Manager presented a report requiring Council to develop a Fraud Policy prepared with reference to the Responsibility of Public Entity Management to Minimise Fraud. Cr Jeffries raised the issue of providing a credit-card use policy and also felt it would be useful to make reference to the Protective Disclosure Act.

Resolved

That the Fraud Policy, as presented, be adopted and included in Council's Policy and Delegations Manual.

Cr Jeffries / Cr de Haan

Item-435 2007/08 CARRY OVER WORKS

Discussion

The Finance & Administration Manager presented a schedule of the proposed carry-over projects either not started or not completed, to be finished in the 2007/08 financial year.

With regard to the comment in the report that there is no rates impact on the carry-overs, Cr Jeffries suggested it be worded 'no additional rates impact'.

Resolved

That the budget allocation for the projects on the schedule attached to the report be carried over from the 2006/07 year into the 2007/08 year.

Cr Wilshier/ Cr Earwaker

Item-436 MATTERS REFERRED - 28 AUGUST 2007

Discussion

WAIPAPA RESERVE

Members were informed a report will be presented to the next meeting of Council on issues relating to the Waipapa Reserve, in particular those concerning the road, legal and survey work and Mighty River Power in order for the land to be prepared for sale. Cr Gower expressed the

opinion that should the area be put up for sale, Council needs to be careful as to whom it sells it to.

MANIAPOTO STREET WALKWAY

The Engineering Manager reported he has not yet been able to obtain a cost estimate in regard to the speaking modules to be included in the walkway proposal as Council is looking at how it will fund the overall cost of the project. He reported a donation of \$25,000 has been made towards the project from the Project Kiwiana Committee.

IN HOUSE ROADING WORKSHOP

The Engineering Manager reported he hoped to hold an in-house Roding Workshop to consider issues such as grading, after the next Council meeting however, the review of the Roding Programme will most likely not be held until a new Council is elected.

WCR RALLY

The Engineering Manager advised he is yet to contact other Local Authorities in the Region to gain their thoughts on the WRC Rally, in particular, the timing of the event. Cr Pilkington reported she had attended a de-brief meeting following the rally and advised that the Organisers are unable to do anything regarding the timing of next year's event but are optimistic consideration would be given for the following year. She said they are aware the timing of the event is an issue. His Worship undertook to contact the Rally Organisers voicing the concerns of the rural District. Cr Gower suggested conditions should be placed on the operators of the helicopters, etc.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

In reply to Cr de Haan she was advised that voting papers for the forthcoming elections will be posted out from 21 September 2007.

GENERAL

MEET THE CANDIDATES EVENING

Cr Pilkington queried whether a 'Meet the Candidates' evening is to be held in Kawhia. The Customer Services Team Leader advised Cr Pilkington to contact Mrs Edith Dockery who was approaching the Maori Women's League regarding such an evening.

WASTE WHEEL

Cr Pilkington reported, following discussions with the Principal of Hauturu School regarding the disposal of old computers, keyboards, etc, that there is to be a held E-Day in Hamilton shortly to clean up e-waste in the area.

ROCK ON TRUANCY

Cr Pilkington referred to the 'Rock On' Truancy programme and advised the Kawhia Maori School cluster has signed a Memorandum of Understanding to get the programme underway. She said a response was still being awaited from the Otorohanga College.

OTOROHANGA KIWI HOUSE

Cr Blackler requested Council's proposed resolution, in regard to the Kiwi House development, be placed on the next Council Agenda.

Item-437 THE LINES COMPANY

Discussion

Cr Gower and the Chief Executive reported on their attendance at a meeting with The Lines Company (TLC), Waitomo and Ruapehu District Councils to discuss the continuance of supply. It was reported the Electricity Act 1992 protects the supply of electricity until 2013 generally on lines that are considered uneconomic. The objective is to review that protection now to allow time for any change to be put in place. Cr Gower advised that 20 percent of the lines are in private ownership. The Chief Executive reported a submission is to be prepared based on an overall National Scheme then a further submission concerning the King Country Region only. The Chief Executive advised the proposal requires to be funded nationally not locally and that submissions are required to be in by 28 September 2007. He said TLC will be preparing their own submission.

Resolved

That His Worship and Cr Gower consider support for any submission made by TLC, approve the Council submission, and an opinion be sought from Waipa Networks on the proposal.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Gower

CR WILSHIER

Cr Wilshier reported this was his last meeting of Council and that he has enjoyed his terms on Council and the Board. He referred to the unity of Members, Council and the Boards and expressed the opinion that once a decision is made, Members move on. Cr Wilshier said that the future Council's greatest need is to protect it being a small Council and that this status should be fought for and retained. Cr Wilshier said he would be available for any consultancy work in the future, at no cost to Council. His Worship acknowledged the time Cr Wilshier has been on Council and the Board and his involvement in all the successful projects. He said the strength of this Council is due to people like him who have a vested interest in the District and make good decisions for its benefit. His Worship extended best wishes to Cr Wilshier for his future.

WAITANGI DAY FUNDING

His Worship informed Members of funding made available by Central Government for Waitangi Day Celebrations. He said applications close 28 September 2007.

ZONE 2 MEETING

His Worship reported on his recent attendance at a Zone 2 meeting where the following issues were raised -

His Worship said an excellent presentation was made on the Rating Inquiry however, the Minister decided to embargo the report thus stopping it going public.

His Worship said the Commissioner supported the introduction of water and sewerage meters however, this would require Government assistance to fund the implementation of.

With regard to the Rates Rebate Scheme, it was felt that the IRD could be administering this as they have all the necessary client information. Discussion was also held on difficult legislation, uniform annual charge increase and Local Government Investments.

SOLGM CONFERENCE

His Worship reported on his attendance at a recent SOLGM Conference along with the Chief Executive and Finance & Administration Manager. He said he was very impressed with the quality of the speakers and referred to a presentation made by Mr Jim Renick regarding Global Warming.

His Worship highlighted letters received from Otorohanga College students regarding what action or consideration Council has given to the subject of Global Warming.

TRUST WAIKATO GRANTS

His Worship reported \$187,000 had been funded for projects across the District by Trust Waikato.

CELEBRATING YOUTH

His Worship informed Members of an event entitled 'Celebrating Otorohanga's Youth' to be held Thursday 20 September 2007 at 7.30pm at the Otorohanga College. He said Mr Marcus Akuhata-Brown is the guest speaker.

DANCING WITH THE STARS EVENT

His Worship reported on the Dancing with the Stars event to be held at the end of October 2007 and advised that all the tickets have been sold however, it has been agreed for a second event to be held on 3 November 2007.

COUNCIL LUNCHEON

It was agreed, at the next meeting of Council on 9 October, that Council adjourn for luncheon at an outside establishment within the District.

PLANT REPLACEMENT

The Customer Services Team Leader reported an approach had been made for the replacement of the Environmental Services Managers Toyota Camry along with other tenders for replacement of plant. He said this vehicle has been budgeted to be replaced in 2008/09 year at an estimated cost of \$31,860. The Customer Services Team Leader reported, following consideration of the tenders received this vehicle could be replaced with a Honda Civic 1.8 Auto at a cost of \$29,950 with a trade in allowance of \$18,000 for the Toyota Camry, thus incurring a difference of \$11,950.

Following further discussion Members agreed the replacement of the Toyota Camry with the Honda Civic in the current year, be undertaken.

QUOTABLE VALUE

The Finance & Administration Manager reported Quotable Value have re-valued the District and wish to make a presentation to Council on 9 October 2007 outlining the effects of the re-valuation.

MEETING CLOSED

The meeting concluded at 2.55pm.

MAYOR:

DATE:

