



Otorohanga District Council

MINUTES

29 January 2008

OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

29 January 2008

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held in the Council Chambers, Maniapoto St, Otorohanga on Tuesday 29 January 2008 commenced at 10.02am.

MINUTES

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PRESENT

Mr DF Williams (Mayor), Crs SR Adam, S Blackler, WH Earwaker, AG Ormsby, DM Pilkington and RJ Prescott.

IN ATTENDANCE

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

APOLOGY

Resolved that the apology received from Cr AL Gower, be sustained.

Cr Earwaker / Cr Blackler

His Worship welcomed Members to the first meeting for 2008 and extended Members condolences to Cr Prescott in the recent loss of his father and to the Chief Executive Mr John Pevreal in the loss of his wife's father.

His Worship said 2008 will be a busy and full year for Council. He expressed his thanks to Members for supporting his absence from the last two meetings of 2007.

OPENING PRAYER

His Worship read the Opening Prayer.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held on 11 December 2007, as previously circulated, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Adam

MATTERS ARISING

PIRONGIA SPORTS & RECREATION CENTRE

Cr Pilkington queried whether Council had received any response in regard to the letter received on behalf of the Pirongia Sports & Recreation Centre requesting Council's assistance in the setting up of a zoning rate for the purpose of supporting the Sports Complex maintenance and to help support a possible loan. Cr Pilkington stressed the point that this is not an Otorohanga District Council project and that Council will not be funding the proposal. The Chief Executive reported the Waipa District Council had not advised they had agreed to the proposal.

REPORTS

Item-42 OTOROHANGA COMMUNITY BOARD MINUTES - 13 DECEMBER 2007

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga Community Board held on 13 December 2007 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

Cr Ormsby / Cr Prescott

STAFFING MATTER

The Engineering Manager introduced Mr Jon Stammers who will be taking over the role of Water Services Engineer from Mr Martin Gould. He said Mr Stammers has very extensive experience in the field along with many relevant qualifications.

Item-43 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORT - SEPT TO DEC 2007

Discussion

The Environmental Services Manager presented the Environmental Services report for the period September to December 2007. He highlighted that this report was prepared in a new format, including reports for Planning, Building and Environmental Health.

The Environmental Services Manager reported that Mrs Dianne Tautari (Building Control Officer) has recently passed a plumbing and drainage course.

With regard to the recent introduction of the Otorohanga Liquor Control Bylaw, Cr Pilkington stressed the need for a de-brief meeting to be held as soon as possible.

Resolved

That the Environmental Services Manager's report for September to December 2007 be received.

Cr Adam / Cr Earwaker

Item-45 REQUEST TO REMIT DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS - G YEATES

Discussion

Mr Graham Yeates and his father attended the meeting. The Environmental Services Manager presented a report on a request from Mr Graham Yeates of 394 Mangati Road, that Council remit the Development Contribution levied against the Subdivision Consent for his property on Mangati Road. Members were informed that the Development Contribution Policy was adopted as part of the Annual Plan. The Engineering Manager advised letters had been sent to all residents on the road six months prior to this policy being introduced. The Environmental Services Manager also reported that two months advance notice had been given to local surveyors. Mr Graham Yeates then made a submission to Council expressing how grateful he was to have the opportunity to speak. He said the Yeates family had provided some financial input into the initial widening and sealing of Mangati Road and that they were the only original owners remaining. He said their property was the last remaining sheep and beef farm not yet subdivided. Mr Yeates said he had contacted Council and was told, at that time, that all Subdivision Applications had been put on hold. Mr Yeates then referred to other roads in the District such as Pekanui and Robertson Roads which are also undergoing many subdivisions. Mr Yeates then advised that their family has 'retired' some 30 hectares of land to regenerate as native forest and furthermore their tourist business has ceased thus creating less traffic flow. His Worship advised that the Development Contribution Policy was adopted after two years of deliberation in order to find the fairest method to pay for the effect on Council's roads from lifestyle subdivisions. He said three roads had been selected due to their potential for lifestyle development. He said the current level of traffic movements exceeds the capacity of these roads.

His Worship thanked Messrs Yeates for their attendance and said he appreciated their time and input. He said Council will consider their application later in the meeting and get back to them.

Item-44 APPLICATION FOR CLASS 4 GAMBLING VENUE - OTOROHANGA SERVICE & CITIZENS CLUB

Discussion

The Environmental Services Manager presented a report on an application received to establish a new Class 4 Gambling Venue on the premises of the renovated Otorohanga Services & Citizens Club.

Resolved

That

1. The report of the Environmental Services Manager be received,
2. The Otorohanga District Council grant Consent for a new Class 4 Gambling Venue at the Otorohanga Services and Citizens Club.
3. The Council approve an application fee of \$650, including GST, for determining this application.

Cr Blackler / Cr Earwaker

Item-46 DISTRICT LIBRARIANS QUARTERLY REPORT OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2007

Discussion

The Finance & Administration Manager and District Librarian attended the meeting. The District Librarian presented a quarterly report for October to December 2007 summarising the Library's activities. With regard to the Aotearoa New Zealand People's Network Cr Earwaker queried how many PC's will be provided. The District Librarian replied the allocation is made based on population and she envisaged two PC's. Cr Blackler suggested Council should proceed with the proposal however, the provision of free broadband internet services not be advertised by footpath signage in order to allow tourists to use the facility at i-Site. In reply to Cr Earwaker the District Librarian advised the design and printing of the new Membership cards cost in the vicinity of \$3000.

Resolved

That

1. That the District Librarian's quarterly report be received,
2. The Otorohanga District Council support the Greater Waikato Libraries' Group's application to participate in phase two of the Aotearoa New Zealand People's Network.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Earwaker

The Finance & Administration Manager and District Librarian left the meeting.

Item-47 APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE - NKC MOTORCYCLE CLUB

Discussion

The Engineering Manager presented the Engineering Support Officer's report on an application received from the Northern King Country Motorcycle Club for a road closure within the Otorohanga District, to enable them to hold a Gravel Sprint event.

Resolved

That approval be granted for the following road closure:

Purpose: North King Country Gravel Sprint

Dates: Saturday, 8 and Sunday, 9 March 2008

Details of Closure: **TOLLEY ROAD, NGAROMA** (No Exit) – Full Length

Period of Proposed Closure: 8.00am to 6.00pm, both days

With the following conditions imposed:

1. Persons will be allowed through in the event of an emergency.
2. NKC Motorcycle Club is to pay an application fee of \$400.00 towards administration of the road closure to Otorohanga District Council, payable no later than 10 working days prior to the road closure.
3. Public notice advertisements are to be published in the Waitomo News. NKC Motorcycle Club is to pay for all advertising costs in appropriate newspapers.
4. NKC Motorcycle 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. 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.
7. NKC Motorcycle Club is to consult with all residents of all properties on the road intended to be closed. Mail drops to residents are also to be carried out no later than ten full days before the proposed closure, and to be approved by Council staff prior to distribution.
8. NKC Motorcycle Club is solely responsible for signposting and policing of the roads to be closed, to ensure that only vehicles connected with the event 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 NKC Motorcycle 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 Earwaker / Cr Prescott

Item-48 WAIPAPA RESERVE - APPROACH TO DOC

Discussion

The Engineering Manager summarised a report on the formal response received from the Department of Conservation to an enquiry regarding their interest in acquiring the land known as the 'Waipapa Reserve'. He advised two options remain, as detailed in his report of 9 October 2007, with these being -

1. Sale of the land, or
2. Retention with some variation on current maintenance practices.

He expressed the opinion that there will be risks associated with any proposed sale but Council may do well out of it financially. He confirmed, mowing of the area costs \$200 per month. During discussion with various Members expressing their opinions, the Engineering Manager confirmed the area of the land is classified as Road Reserve and costs of \$40-45,000 could be incurred in making this land saleable.

Resolved

That

1. The Engineering Manager's report be received.
2. Council proceeds with the consultation process towards effecting sale of the area.

Cr Earwaker / Cr Prescott

Item-49 FIRE RESTRICTIONS - TAINUI KAWHIA FOREST

Discussion

The Engineering Manager/Principal Rural Fire Officer presented a report on the proposed implementation of permanent prohibited and restricted fire seasons on and around the Tainui Kawhia forest. He said that he had not yet received a positive response to Council's proposed package of measures to address issues of fire risk and vandalism to the forest. The Engineering Manager said two low cost elements in particular, the imposition of a permanent restricted or prohibited fire season on the forest and surrounds and associated administrative measures, could be considered for delivery by Council without agreement being reached on the full package of measures. He said there was a real fire risk in the area at the present time.

The Engineering Manager then circulated a response from NZ Forestry Ltd confirming that their Management Committee respectfully requests that the Otorohanga District Council and Kawhia Community Board reconsider the issue of night time road closure of Te Puia Road and the sharing of costs of the proposed measures. Members agreed that Council will not reconsider this matter.

Cr Pilkington requested the Kawhia Police be informed of what is happening and that the Engineering Manager respond to TKI to the effect that Council will not be re-considering this matter again.

Resolved

That areas of permanent prohibited and restricted fire seasons are established on and around the Tainui Kawhia Forest and are supported by the appointment of two Rural Fire Officers based in Kawhia, as described in the Engineering Manager's report dated 29 January 2008.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Earwaker

Item-50 STANDING ORDERS

Discussion

The Chief Executive circulated copies of the Model of Amended Standing Orders for Members information. He then presented a report for Council to consider the changes to the Model Standing Orders.

Resolved

That the New Zealand Standard Model Standing Orders NZS 9202:2003 as amended at 1 March 2006 are adopted as the Council's Standing Orders, as from 1 March 2008, and shall apply to all meetings of the Council, its committees and sub-committees, and Community Boards subject to Cl. 2.5.1 (2) (b) and 3.14.2 (b) of the model being amended as follows –

“in the case of equality of votes the Chairperson have the casting vote”

Cr Ormsby / Cr Adam

Item-51 MATTERS REFERRED - 11 DECEMBER 2007

Discussion

The Customer Services Team Leader took Members through the Matters Referred.

DISTRICT ROAD SAFETY CO-ORDINATOR SCHEME

The Engineering Manager reported discussions had been held with representatives from LTNZ and the Waitomo and Otorohanga District Council's. He said Council did not have an option as to whether it contributed to the District Road Safety Coordinator Scheme. He said the representatives were in general agreement that the normal arrangements adopted elsewhere would work satisfactorily in this case. He said however, agreement was also reached that the proposed Calendar project needed to be revisited and for the Road Safety Coordinator to come back with other options. The Engineering Manager referred to the overall level of expenditure and advised there was no absolute figure however, \$50,000 for each Authority appeared to be in order considering their size. The Engineering Manager advised the Road Safety Coordinator will be employed by the Waitomo Council with a group of relevant parties to be formed to discuss the road safety programme. Cr Blackler suggested one project for consideration is the provision of signs on the back of school buses and for these to be erected on as many buses as possible. Cr Pilkington reported it was reiterated at the meeting that there was a high level of satisfaction with the District Road Safety Coordinator Scheme but the current list of projects is still under consideration.

BYLAW - CONTROL HORSES

The Environmental Services Manager reported Council's Policy Manager was undertaking a review of Council's Bylaws, as required by the Local Government Act, by July 2008.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Finance & Administration Manager reported this matter was still in progress.

MAIN NORTH ROAD - TARSEALING

The Engineering Manager reported hot mix sealing of the section of Main North Road, in particular the pull-off area adjacent to Trio's Dairy had been undertaken and had much improved the situation.

GENERAL

FREIGHTLINES - MAIN NORTH ROAD PREMISES

Cr Prescott reported he had received a comment regarding Freightlines new premises on the Main North Road out of Otorohanga that they intended to provide a drive through from Karaka Road to Merrin Avenue. Staff reported they had not heard of any such proposal and that a Resource Consent would be required to effect this work.

FIRE RISK - RANGITAHU STREET

Cr Prescott raised the matter of a vacant section in Rangitahi Street remaining unmown and thus creating a fire risk. His Worship replied this was multiple owned land however, a letter should be forwarded to the owners requesting them to tidy the section up. It was agreed this matter be followed up by staff.

FOOTPATHS

Cr Ormsby reported certain areas of Community footpaths are hindered by overgrown trees, retaining walls, etc. He said this has also spread out into the District. The Engineering Manager replied that staff act on complaints received and that any specific issues should be referred to Council's Community Facilities Officer, Mr Dave Williams.

WAIKERIA PRISON

Cr Blackler queried a call she had received from the Waikeria Prison regarding a site visit. The Environmental Services Manager replied this was a site tour which had arisen from a recent meeting of the Community Liaison Committee.

COUNCIL'S WEB SITE

Cr Adam raised the issue of the lack of District photographs on Council's website.

WAIHAREKIKI BRIDGE

The Engineering Manager reported a pier had failed on the Waiharekiki bridge and that following consultation with staff of the Waitomo District Council and a Consultant Engineer it was agreed to make full restoration by providing two new piles. He said piling had commenced yesterday but pile problems were encountered with the installation of the second pile with the adjacent pier sinking in a manner similar to the first. He said it is clearly a situation that the bridge is sub-standard and requiring replacement. In reply to Cr Blackler regarding assistance from Transit NZ, the Engineering Manager advised there will be some subsidy available however, it will still incur major expenditure for Waitomo and Otorohanga Districts. It was agreed the Engineering Manager come back to Council with the proposed costs and timelines.

DRY WEATHER CONDITIONS

The Engineering Manager referred to the dry conditions currently being experienced and the fact that many stream water levels are low. He said the Otorohanga water supply is working well, but the level of the reservoirs has been declining in response to heavy demand, and that many small streams within in the rural areas are very low and this may create issues that necessitate the imposition of restrictions.

The Engineering Manager reported on the status of the Kawhia Reservoir and advised this is very low with three broken mains occurring over the weekend. He said demand is heavy with holiday makers in the area. A request has been made for people to conserve water. His Worship expressed the opinion that restrictions should be placed on the usage of sprinklers. The Engineering Manager advised a restricted fire season has been in place for the last two weeks and that a significant fire had occurred in Kawhia last week. He said there is an extreme fire risk and people must obtain permits to light fires.

SINOSTEEL PTY

His Worship reported on a visit from representatives of a Chinese/NZ owned Company who have been granted by Central Government a prospecting permit to carry out investigation into iron sands on the West Coast. He said initially this investigation will be carried out from the air.

WAIKATO RIVER

His Worship referred to a recent meeting at Environment Waikato regarding a Waikato River Agreement with Waikato Tainui. He said it appears there are a number of other Iwi also involved in this river. He said it is envisaged the standard of the river will rise and increased costs in meeting these new standards will be significant. His Worship then outlined the various Committees formed and said it will be necessary for local Authorities to work together, at a staff level, to ascertain how Council fits within this management scheme.

THE LATE SIR EDMUND HILLARY

His Worship report a memorial service will be held for the late Sir Edmund Hillary on Thursday 31 January at the Harvest Centre at 12.30pm.

KAWHIA COMMUNITY BOARD

His Worship reminded Members the first meeting of the Kawhia Community Board for 2008 will be held on Wednesday 30 January at 1.00pm.

KAI FESTIVAL

His Worship informed Members of the Kai Festival to be held 3 February 2008 in Kawhia.

PROJECT KIWIANA/OTOROHANGA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION/DEVELOPMENT BOARD COMBINED MEETING

His Worship informed Members that on Monday 4 February 2008 a combined meeting of the Project Kiwiana Committee, Business Association and Otorohanga District Development Board will be held to discuss the proposed walkway development and Kiwiana modules.

COUNTY FAIR

His Worship informed Members this years County Fair is to be held on Saturday 9 February 2008.

FUNDING REVIEW WORKSHOP

This is to be held on 12 February 2008 commencing in the Council Boardroom at 9.30am.

OTOROHANGA COMMUNITY BOARD

Members were informed the first meeting of the Otorohanga Community Board is to be held on Thursday 14 February 2008 commencing at 4.00pm.

ZONE 2

His Worship informed Members the Zone 2 meeting will be held at the Waipa District Council on 15 February 2008.

COUNCIL MEETING 19 FEBRUARY 2008

His Worship informed Members approximately 13 people will take part in the next Citizenship Ceremony to be held prior to the Council meeting on 19 February 2008, commencing with morning tea at 9.30am.

YOUTH CONNECTION

His Worship reported a meeting regarding the youth of the District will be held at the District Library on 11 February 2008 commencing at 4.00pm. He said funding had been received for research into youth connection and that this will comprise a database of school leavers which will be regularly reviewed.

FEDERATED FARMERS

His Worship informed Members a letter had been received from Federated Farmers outlining suggestions to the Resource Management Act and requesting whether Council wishes to make a submission.

WAIKATO REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT STRATEGY

Members were informed a copy of the Waikato Regional Land Transport Strategy was available.

HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY COMMITTEE

The Customer Services Team Leader advised a meeting of the Housing for the Elderly Committee will be held Tuesday 5 February 2008, commencing at 4.00pm.

ESTIMATES MEETING

The Finance & Administration Manager advised the first Estimates meeting will be held 4 March 2008.

LUNCHEON ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned for luncheon at 12.25pm and resumed at 1.00pm.

MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

"THAT the Otorohanga District Council, pursuant to Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, resolves that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act or Section 6 or Section 7 or Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public."

Cr Blackler / Cr Pilkington

MEETING CLOSED

The meeting concluded at 1.27pm

MAYOR:

DATE:

