



Otorohanga Community Board

MINUTES

10 April 2008

OTOROHANGA COMMUNITY BOARD

10 April 2008

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otorohanga Community Board held in the Council Chambers, Maniapoto St, Otorohanga on Thursday 10 commencing at 4.05pm.

MINUTES

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

ITEM	PRECIS	PAGE
PRESENT		1
IN ATTENDANCE		1
APOLOGY		1
CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES		1
REPORTS		1
Item-35	OCB COMMITTEE MINUTES - 26 MARCH 2008	1
Item-36	PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO TRAFFIC BYLAW - STREET SIGNS AND FURNITURE	2
Item-37	MATTERS REFERRED FROM 13 MARCH 2008	3
GENERAL		4
MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC		5
Item-38	REQUEST TO LEASE FLOODLANDS AREA BEHIND PROGRESS PARK CONFIDENTIAL	5
MEETING CLOSURE		5

PRESENT

Messrs TJ Jones (Acting Chairperson), B McNeil, AG Ormsby RJ Prescott and PD Tindle (attended 4.07pm).

IN ATTENDANCE

His Worship the Mayor Mr DF Williams, Messrs JL Pevreal (Chief Executive), DC Clibbery (Engineering Manager), GD Bunn (Finance & Administration Manager), AR Loe (Environmental Services Manager) and CA Tutty (Customer Services Team Leader).

APOLOGY

Resolved that the apology received from Mrs E Cowan, be sustained.

Mr Prescott / Mr Ormsby

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga Community Board held on 13 March 2008, as previously circulated, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Mr Ormsby / Mr McNeil

REPORTS

Item-35 OCB COMMITTEE MINUTES - 26 MARCH 2008

Discussion

PARKS & RESERVES COMMITTEE

Mr McNeil presented minutes of a meeting of the Parks & Reserves Committee held 26 March 2008.

Otorohanga Domain Landscaping Proposal

The Engineering Manager reported that, further to his advice at the meeting held 26 March 2008, there now only remains approximately \$2,000 in the current budget for the proposed work. Mr Prescott queried where the extra funding would be obtained from. The Engineering Manager replied it would be necessary to defer the work to the next financial year and some adjustment made to the existing allocations. The Engineering Manager confirmed he would obtain prices from two local Contractors to carry out the earth works.

Mr McNeil reported discussions had been held regarding the painting of the interior of the Domain Pavilion as, at the present time, there was no carpet on the floor. The Engineering Manager suggested Council could utilise the \$2,000 in the current budget towards the purchase of paint with the work being undertaken by the Waikeria Prison working party.

WORKS & WATER COMMITTEE

Mr Ormsby presented minutes of a meeting of the Works & Water Committee held 26 March 2008.

Floodland Areas

The Engineering Manager reported discussions had been held regarding the income derived from the leasing of the Floodbank land and that the rental received is worthwhile. The Chief Executive replied the Environment Waikato rates are less due to the rental received. Members agreed the amount received from the Leases should not be considered at the expense of compromising the condition of the Stopbanks.

T Smit Developments

The Environmental Services Manager advised Mr Smit has provided an amended street layout which excludes the Reserve of Harpers Avenue.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meetings of the Parks & Reserves, Works & Water and General Purposes Committees held 26 March 2008 be received and the following recommendations adopted - that

1. The Domain Landscaping proposal be approved, in principle, with the Engineering Manager to obtain costings for the work, for further consideration by the Board.
2. The Board accept the Tree Policy, as presented, subject to minor changes as highlighted.
3. The row of Lemonwood Pittasporium trees, adjacent to the carpark at the Otorohanga Cemetery, be removed.
4. The request received from Mr Eric Tait, of Supa Bins to lease an area of Floodland Reserve behind 34 Progress Park, be declined.
5. The following rates of remuneration be paid to Community Board Members -

Chairman	\$9,500
Deputy Chairman	\$7952
Board Members	\$7452.

Mr McNeil/ Mr Ormsby

Item-36 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO TRAFFIC BYLAW - STREET SIGNS AND FURNITURE

Discussion

Mr J Haddad, representing the Otorohanga Business Association, attended the meeting and presented a submission on the proposed changes to the Traffic Bylaw - Footpath signs and Furniture. Mr Haddad thanked the Board for the opportunity to attend the meeting and submitted an apology on behalf of the President of the Otorohanga Business Association Mrs Anne Laws. Mr Haddad reported he had personally approached main street business owners concerning the proposed changes. He said the proposal was an attempt to remedy an abuse of a privilege available to shopkeepers. In reply to Mr Jones' query regarding what proportion of businesses belong to the Otorohanga Business Association, Mr Haddad replied previously there were over 70 members. Mr Haddad reported the Retailers felt it would be fair to place the signs at the beginning and/or end of a car park, one 'block' in from the kerb. He also informed Members that the position of some of the rubbish bins need to be reviewed as some are also restricting vehicle access. Mr McNeil queried whether the Board give consideration to providing exceptions to the Bylaw due to the placement of various structures, door entrances and flower beds. The Environmental Services Manager said it may be necessary for Council to state what it requires with accompanying guidelines for compliance with these conditions.

Mr Haddad referred, in particular, to provision 'F' which states that *'the outdoor furniture, merchandise stands and/or footpath signs are to be placed beside the shop frontage in order to keep the kerbside free from obstructions'* and reported this is definitely not acceptable in its present format for the following reasons -

1. Not all shop frontages can comply without creating an obstruction for customers entering and exiting premises,
2. The signs will obscure potential customers from looking at shop window display,
3. When it is raining, pedestrians wish to walk along the shop side of the footpath not the kerbside to take advantage of the shelter of the verandah.

Mr Jones thanked Mr Haddad and other Members of the public present for their attendance at the meeting.

Members were referred to the letter dated 31 March 2008 presented by Mr John Haddad, on behalf of the Otorohanga Business Association. The Environmental Services Manager advised that the proposed amendments have been well thought through and perhaps these could be introduced as guidelines, circulated to Members of the Business Community, as to what Council requires in order to lift 'the appearance of Maniapoto Street'. His Worship suggested the Otorohanga Business Association must take a lead role in policing the proposed amendments. His Worship queried whether consideration could be given to introducing a standard type sign with some Kiwiana influence.

Members were informed that there are three options available, these being -

- Approved as detailed in the minutes of the Committee meeting
- Accept the changes of the Otorohanga Business Association
- Defer the matter until wording and amendments are satisfactory to all parties.

Mr Jones expressed the opinion that pedestrian safety, appearance of the street and placement of signs are all issues which assist in attracting customers to the doors of the businesses. It is a privilege to them to be allowed to have signs placed on the footpath.

Resolved

That

1. The Environmental Services Manager's report be received and,
2. The proposed amendment to the Traffic Bylaw - street signs and furniture be referred to the Environmental Services Manager to hold further discussions with the Chairperson of the Otorohanga Community Board and Otorohanga Business Association, for report back to the Board.

Mr Prescott / Mr Ormsby

Item-37 MATTERS REFERRED FROM 13 MARCH 2008

Discussion

The Customer Services Team Leader took Members through Matters Referred.

SKATE PARK FACILITY

The Engineering Manager reported a considerable amount of work had been carried out previously to ascertain the status of the land upon which the Skate Park is located. He said it

appeared that Council had been comfortable with the intention to sell this area however, it is necessary for options to be highlighted to relocate the Skate Park facility.

TRUCK WASH FACILITY

The Engineering Manager reported he had spoken to the Project Manager of the Facility and confirmed in writing that a deadline of 19 May 2008 had been set for all works to be completed. He said, failing this the facility will be closed by Council.

RANGITAHU STREET PROPERTY

The Environmental Services Manager reported he had spoken to Council's Solicitor and that a site visit of the property will be carried out in the near future to gather evidence.

HALF BASKETBALL COURT

The Engineering Manager informed Members that Council's Community Facilities Officer has applied to Trust Waikato for funding assistance to build a half basketball court adjacent to the present Skate Park.

GENERAL

HUIPUTEA DRIVE

Mr Prescott reported he had observed a Campervan exiting from the Holiday Park on Huiputea Drive and being driven on the right hand side of the road. He referred to a stand of trees and said these would obstruct the vision of approaching vehicles. The Engineering Manager undertook to look at the matter.

EMBANKMENT - OTOROHANGA CEMETERY

Mr Ormsby reported rats had been observed in the area below the Otorohanga Cemetery bank. The Environmental Services Manager reported he had recently received two complaints regarding rats and accordingly contacted Environment Waikato. He said, apparently, a poison is being developed that does not transfer down from one animal to another and is only eaten by rats.

OTOROHANGA COLLEGE

Mr McNeil reported on his attendance at an Otorohanga College parents evening designed to assist children choosing their careers. He said there were approximately 30 parents in attendance.

NZ POLICE

His Worship reported he will be meeting with the local Sergeant in the near future and will raise the matter of graffiti in the area. He requested whether Members had any other matters he could raise. One positive comment received was that it was encouraging to see a Policeman walk up Maniapoto Street.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

His Worship reported on a Roadshow Presentation undertaken by the Ministry of Education promoting what Community's expectations are of its secondary schools. He outlined a system which re-connects pupils, up to the age of 18 years, back to the education system. His Worship also referred to a new 'Connexion's' programme under which contact is made with pupils, twice a year, up to until the age of 19 years.

MAYORAL GRADUATION CEREMONY

His Worship reported on the recent Wintec Mayoral Graduation Ceremony and Tourism Familiarisation evening held recently.

STAFFING MATTER

The Environmental Services Manager informed Members that Council's Environmental Health Officer had resigned from Council. A retired Health Officer will be employed two days per week.

HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY

The Customer Services Team Leader reported, following recent advertising of the housing complexes, new applications were received and all units are now full.

EX-OTOROHANGA RAILWAY STATION

The Finance & Administration Manager advised a rental review with the occupier of the former Railway Station has been held and a 15 percent increase in the rate of rent agreed to.

MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

"THAT the Otorohanga Community Board, 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."

Mr Prescott / Mr Ormsby

Item-38 REQUEST TO LEASE FLOODLANDS AREA BEHIND PROGRESS PARK CONFIDENTIAL

MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting concluded at 6.00pm.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE:

