



Otorohanga Community Board

MINUTES

14 August 2008

OTOROHANGA COMMUNITY BOARD

14 August 2008

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otorohanga Community Board held in the Council Chambers, Maniapoto St, Otorohanga on Thursday 14 August 2008 commencing at 4.22pm.

MINUTES

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PRESENT

Mrs EM Cowan (Chairperson), Mr TJ Jones, Mr B McNeil, Mr AG Ormsby Mr RJ Prescott and Mr PD Tindle.

IN ATTENDANCE

His Worship the Mayor, Mr DF Williams, Deputy Mayor Mr H Earwaker, Messrs JL Pevreal (Chief Executive), DC Clibbery (Engineering Manager), GD Bunn (Finance & Administration Manager), R Chadwick (Technical Services Manager) and CA Tutty (Customer Services Team Leader).

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

OTOROHANGA COMMUNITY BOARD - 10 JULY 2008

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga Community Board held on 10 July 2008, as previously circulated, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Mr Jones / Mr Prescott

MATTERS ARISING

Proposed Walkway Maniapoto Street / Wahanui Crescent

Mr Jones queried the progress in respect to the proposed walkway Maniapoto Street - Wahanui Crescent. The Technical Services Manager replied Contracts have been let for the various components and it was proposed the work commence 1 September 2008. The Engineering Manager advised the construction of the Kiwiana modules had been obtained at a reasonable price.

Mrs Cowan reported an invitation had been extended to Lady Hillary to attend the proposed opening of the walkway in honour of her late husband on either 14 or 28 November 2008. Mrs Cowan advised the Project Kiwiana Committee will then consult with the various Community groups concerning the event.

Members were updated on the progress of updating the Community maps

REPORTS

Item-55 DISTRICT LIBRARIAN'S QUARTERLY REPORT - APRIL - JUNE 2008

Discussion

The District Librarian attended the meeting and presented her quarterly report for the period April - June 2008. In reply to Mrs Cowan regarding the Aotearoa NZ People's Network the District Librarian advised this was a Government funded initiative administered by the National Library. She said the aim was to allow all New Zealanders free internet access. The Computers and Broadband charges are Government funded.

Mrs Cowan congratulated the District Librarian on being elected as the Waikato/Bay of Plenty Regional Representative for the APLM. She also extended the Board's thanks and appreciation to the District Librarian and staff on the successful way the Library is currently being operated.

Resolved

That the District Librarian's quarterly report for the period April - June 2008 be received.

Mr McNeil / Mr Jones

Item-56 MAIN STREET PAVERS

Discussion

The Engineering Manager summarised his report on further investigations of paver cleaning and replacement options for to the Central Business District area.

His Worship queried whether the present pavers had been funded for depreciation. He said this method could be used to replace the pavers when required. His Worship advised Maniapoto Street is the 'window' of Otorohanga and that the pavers will need to be replaced on a regular basis. The Engineering Manager advised 'glazed' pavers appear to last longer. Mr Ormsby congratulated the Engineering Manager on his comprehensive report however, queried how the replacement of the pavers would be funded. He suggested these should be budgeted and planned over a 10 to 20 year period. Mr Ormsby also suggested the Board approach the Otorohanga Business Association (OBA) to encourage their Members to take ownership of the areas outside their premises. He further suggested the Otorohanga Club be written to regarding the pavers outside their premises being damaged by vehicles running over them, suggesting they be replaced with heavier pavers. Mrs Cowan said Otorohanga was very fortunate with the high level of support from the OBA and that they should make every effort to educate their Members how to look after the pavers outside their premises. She suggested OBA Members read the Engineering Manager's report. Mr Prescott expressed the opinion the proposed replacement of the pavers was a substantial amount of money for the 'struggling' Ratepayer to finance. His Worship reported Council's owns the footpath however, with the assistance of the OBA their Members should be encouraged to look after these. His Worship further reported he had been approached by representatives of Beattie Home for himself and Mrs Cowan to ride a Mobility Scooter over various footpaths in the Community to highlight problems they encounter. The Chief Executive reported while funding has not been separately highlighted for the replacement of the pavers, this should be 'sitting' in the roading account. Mr Tindle endorsed the proposal that funding for the replacement of the pavers should be highlighted in the budget and provision be made every year towards this. Mr Jones queried whether there were various areas of high use which may need to be replaced earlier. Mr Ormsby suggested repairs be made to the 'trip' hazards. The Engineering Manager replied there was a need to replace the area at the Otorohanga Club but the remainder of the street is structurally 'ok'. Mr McNeil expressed the opinion should new pavers be installed, these be maintained and their replacement budgeted for in the future. He referred to the area outside the Otorohanga Club and suggested this would be better to be concreted.

Council's Community Facilities Officer, who was in attendance at the meeting, reported that a cleaning Company trading as 'Gum Busters' would remove the gum for a cost of \$4,000 from the two central blocks. He said this would then need to be followed by a general clean. Mr Ormsby suggested a letter be written to the OBA encouraging their Members to take ownership of the pavers outside their premises.

Resolved

That a preliminary draft budget allocation of not less than \$500,000 for renewal of pavers in the Otorohanga CBD area is included in the forthcoming 10 year budget estimates for further consideration by the Board during the LTCCP process.

Mr Jones / Mr Prescott

Item-57 NATURAL BURIALS

Discussion

The Community Facilities Officer summarised his report on potential sites for 'natural' burials within the Otorohanga Cemetery. He reported that people are appearing to be more environmentally aware.

HIS WORSHIP

His Worship left the meeting at 4.57pm.

The Community Facilities Officer informed Members this Council has a good system in place in regards to burials and felt it would be better to wait and see how other Cemeteries react to this proposal. Mr Prescott suggested that the matter be left in abeyance unless Council is approached to provide this type of burial. Mr Ormsby said there were a number of issues which need to be considered such as the health risk. Mr Tindle expressed the opinion, at this time, demand was too low. Mr McNeil agreed the matter be placed in abeyance.

Resolved

That the use of 'Natural' burial practices is not actively promoted.

Mr Ormsby / Mr Tindle

Item-58 MATTERS REFERRED FROM 10 JULY 2008

Discussion

OTOROHANGA CEMETERY MEMORIAL GARDEN

Mr McNeil reported, at the present time, people have no where to place ashes in a garden aspect, identified with the installation of a plaque. He reported Council's Community Facilities Officer and himself had visited the Otorohanga Cemetery and, at the present time, a retaining wall type installation or a small burial berm are the only options available. Mrs Cowan said the Board needs to consider the matter of maintenance and up-keep should additional gardens be created. Mr McNeil expressed the opinion the suggestion would provide the Community with another alternative for the internment of ashes. Following further discussion it was agreed the matter be referred to the Parks & Reserves Committee to consult with Council's Community Facilities Officer on the feasibility of such a project.

PROPERTY - CORNER STATE HIGHWAY 31 / MANIAPOTO STREET

The Community Facilities Officer reported he had spoken to Council's Contract gardener and advised she would be prepared to tend to the gardens on the property at the corner of State Highway 31 and Maniapoto Street for an initial sum of \$140 to tidy the area up and then a \$60 monthly charge to maintain the gardens. The Officer reported he had approached the property owner who was not interested funding in the suggested works. Mrs Cowan said the property was a focal entrance point to the town and that she would be prepared to personally assist with the clean up of the gardens. The Engineering Manager agreed the property was in a very visible location and the matter will create an on-going issue.

Resolved

That Council staff carry out an initial tidy up of the gardens on the property at the corner of State Highway 31 and Maniapoto Street and for Council's Contract gardener to be employed to maintain these gardens on a regular basis.

Mr Jones / Mr McNeil

OTOROHANGA SECURITY PATROL

The Engineering Manager reported the Otorohanga Security Patrol Contractor has approached Council for an increase in the Contract price due to the increase in fuel. The Customer Services Team Leader reported an approach had been made to the Otorohanga Business Association seeking their comments on the request. The Engineering Manager advised the increase in the cost of fuel has had a negative effect on other Contractors as well. He suggested that the request could be accommodated by changing the basis of the Contract price by linking this to a fuel price index. He said the Otorohanga Business Association were prepared to pay for an increase in the Contract price however this was a Council Contact and Council needs to be consistent. It was agreed the Engineering Manager deal with the suggested alternative to the Contract.

GENERAL

PHILLIPS AVENUE FOOTPATH

Mr Prescott again raised the matter of a tarsealed section of footpath in Phillips Avenue which is breaking up. The Engineering Manager undertook to have the matter followed up.

HUIPUTEA DRIVE - TREES

Mr Prescott again raised the matter of trees obstructing motorists vision on Huiputea Drive. The Engineering Manager said he would follow this matter up.

MCDONALDS FOOD CHAIN

Mr Ormsby queried what progress was being made on the McDonald's food chain site. The Engineering Manager replied the Company has been very quiet however, he was of the understanding they were making application to Transit NZ. It has since been established that no application has been made to them.

OTOROHANGA - HATOGAYA EXCHANGE

Mr McNeil reported four parents and 10 students had experienced a different culture by visiting Hatogaya City in Japan for 10 days recently. He said they were treated with the highest status within the Community and that the students represented this District very well.

CAREERS EVENING

Mr McNeil referred to the Career's evening put together by the Employment Shop, Otorohanga College and the Otorohanga District Development Board and said as an alternative, this year, Year 10 and 11 students would complete a questionnaire about their preferred interests. He said on 20 August 2008 students will be visiting various businesses within the District.

HINEWAI/TE KAWA STREETS

Mr McNeil advised it was pleasing to see a new stop sign erected at the intersection of Hinewai and Te Kawa Streets.

RANFURLY STREET

Mr McNeil reported the motorcycle premises on Ranfurly Street were washing their bikes on the footpath and leaving mud there.

SOUTHERN STATE HIGHWAY BRIDGE

Mr McNeil reported that the bridge on the State Highway south of Otorohanga has still not had its broken rail repaired. It was also asked whether this bridge could be cleaned and perhaps repainted.

TRUCK WASH FACILITY

Mr Jones queried the situation regarding the Track Wash Facility. The Engineering Manager replied the work is 'pretty' much completed however Council was still waiting on the receipt of the Agreement. He said he was advised this will be completed following their AGM and receipt of a water billing invoice from Council. Mr Ormsby advised the AGM is to be held next week. The Engineering Manager said he would be disappointed if the agreement is not received shortly after that meeting.

NORTHERN APPROACH INTO OTOROHANGA

Mr Jones referred to the original Housing NZ houses situated on the northern approach into Otorohanga. He queried whether some action could be taken with these homes as they detracted from the entrance into Otorohanga. Mr Jones queried whether they could be relocated.

OTOROHANGA STOP BANKS

Mr Tindle raised the following issues -

Otorohanga Stop banks, shocking state of roads throughout the District - very 'messy' condition, metal at the edge of the State Highway and entrance to Broadview Subdivision, the number of empty buildings within Maniapoto Street. With regard to the buildings in Maniapoto Street, it was agreed Mr Tindle follow up on his suggestion of carrying out a 'shop window clean up' to enhance the appearance of the street.

LEVELS OF SERVICE

The Engineering Manager circulated a report on an initial analysis of the results from the recent Levels of Service survey, together with proposed revised levels of service criteria in respect of Council's Roading and Water Services activities. He said the majority of people were satisfied with the current level of service however, a desire for moderate improvement had been highlighted for waste water and solid waste with a large desired improvement in the water supply by some persons. He said however, there was a clear message that the current Level of Service was generally the choice of the Ratepayer.

I-SITE PREMISES

Mrs Cowan reported, since the installation of seating adjacent to the Otorohanga i-Site premises refuse has accumulated in the area. She queried whether a suitable refuse container could be placed there.

MEMORIAL PARK

Mrs Cowan reported the plaque in respect of the Te Rohe Potae Memorial is difficult to read and requires some form of maintenance.

Item-59 PROJECT KIWIANA COMMITTEE

Discussion

Mrs Cowan reported the Kiwi Statue which was originally on the late Ian Hardy's building cannot be relocated back to this site. She queried on behalf of the Project Kiwiana Committee whether this could be re-erected within the Burt McKenzie Reserve.

Resolved

That approval be granted for the relocation of the kiwi statue to be made within the Burt McKenzie Reserve subject to consultation with the Project Kiwiana Committee on its exact siting.

Mr McNeil / Mr Jones

KEEP NZ BEAUTIFUL

Mrs Cowan reported a donation had been requested from the Organisers of Keep NZ Beautiful in respect to the forthcoming clean-up week to be held 5-12 September 2008.

RETIRING CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Mrs Cowan referred to the Chief Executive's retirement tomorrow and wished him all the very best for the future. She said he had been a great source of support and advice during his years with Council and that his contribution had been very much appreciated by herself and Members of the Board.

The Chief Executive made the appropriate reply and thanked Mrs Cowan for her comments. He said the Board is in a very strong position, having completed some very significant projects. He thanked Members for their support.

MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting concluded at 6.00pm.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE:

