



Otorohanga District Council

MINUTES

18 November 2008

OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

18 November 2008

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held in the Council Chambers, Maniapoto St, Otorohanga on Tuesday 18 November 2008 commencing at 9.57am.

MINUTES

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

ITEM	PRECIS	PAGE
PRESENT		1
IN ATTENDANCE		1
OPENING PRAYER		1
APOLOGY		1
CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES		1
REPORTS		1
Item-156	HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY ALLOCATION POLICY	1
Item-157	DRAFT MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2008	2
Item-158	COMMENTS FROM THE LEVELS OF SERVICE SURVEY - RURAL	2
Item-159	OTOROHANGA DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT BOARD REPORT	3
Item-160	MATTERS REFERRED FROM 28 OCTOBER 2008	4
GENERAL		4
MEETING CLOSED		5

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Messrs DC Clibbery (Chief Executive), R Chadwick (Engineering Manager), GD Bunn (Finance & Administration Manager), AR Loe (Environmental Services Manager), RF Proffit (Policy Manager) and Mrs A Burdon (Executive Assistant).

OPENING PRAYER

His Worship read the Opening Prayer

APOLOGY

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

Cr Earwaker / Cr Adam

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MATTERS ARISING

In response to Cr Pilkington's query, if any tenders had been received for Westridge Lot 1, the Executive Assistant advised no tenders had been received. His Worship advised the Otorohanga Community Board would reconsider the matter at its next meeting.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held on 28 October 2008 as previously circulated, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Adam

REPORTS

Item-156 HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY ALLOCATION POLICY

Discussion

The Finance & Administration Manager presented the Customer Services Team Leaders report on the Housing for the Elderly allocation policy to review the asset limit figure Council uses in allocating units to pensioners. His Worship stated he thought \$300,000 was too high. He advised that over the past years the Committee has not necessarily kept to the criteria but considered each application on a case-by-case basis in order to keep the units full. He said he would not necessarily like to see a figure set for this. Cr Blackler stated she also thought that \$300,000 was too high and that there were other units available for the more affluent. She suggested that guidelines need to be set but if there is an application that differs, for the Committee to come back to Council. The Chief Executive advised he had had discussions with the Customer Services Team Leader to agree on \$300,000. He asked that if no asset figure was to be set, what criteria would then be used. Cr Blackler said there was not an excessive demand for the units but the Committee tried to look at the 'best fit' for the units especially if the applicant did not qualify for other housing options. She said the asset figure is a lesser issue in considering applicants.

Resolved

That the Asset limit figure in Council's Housing for the Elderly Allocation Policy be increased from \$50,000 to \$200,000.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Blackler

Item-157 DRAFT MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2008

Discussion

The District Accountant attended the meeting and presented the Draft Management Accounts to 30 September 2008. Discussion was held on the various group categories.

Resolved

That the Draft Management Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2008 be received.

Cr Blackler / Cr Earwaker

DISTRICT ACCOUNTANT

The District Accountant left the meeting at 10.42am.

Item-158 COMMENTS FROM THE LEVELS OF SERVICE SURVEY - RURAL

Discussion

The Engineering Manager presented his report on the Levels of Service Survey - Rural. He said the surveys were posted out in early July and following feedback now an opportune time to review comments to look at funding in the 2009 Estimates. The Engineering Manager stated that no major comments stood out other than the quality of some workmanship on roads, of which some of these matters have already been addressed with the Contractor. He advised that the comments relating to Otorohanga have already been presented to the Community Board and the Kawhia Community Board will review its comments at its meeting next week.

The Engineering Manager reported there were significant comments requesting better recycling and refuse collection services in the rural areas. Cr Blackler advised Waipa District Council offer recycling across their District, on a fortnightly collection basis. His Worship expressed the opinion that offering the rural areas recycling would underpin Council's Zero Waste philosophy. The Chief Executive commented that residents desire for recycling stood out in the survey comments but said Otorohanga District had a more sparse rural population than Waipa. He said it was likely Council could get additional revenue that could go to recycling. His Worship stated any recycling should be based around the school in the area, for them to take ownership and for educational purposes. The Chief Executive reported that to offer recycling at the schools in the District could cost an additional \$3-4,000 pa for each school. Cr Earwaker advised that five percent of respondents requested recycling.

The Chief Executive reported that overall there was a good return of surveys. He said that the survey results suggested that two percent indicated they wanted more services and were prepared to pay. He said the rest of the respondents were happy with the current level of service. Overall he said respondents were satisfied with the existing level of services but not to over look the significant comments received.

Cr Pilkington said that there were also a significant number of comments received on road maintenance in the District.

His Worship said the two significant areas of comments that stood out were the Otorohanga water and recycling, and queried what reporting back had been given to respondents. The Engineering Manager reported that feedback will be given in the next Ratepayers Newsletter due out in early December. In reply to His Worship's query, the Engineering Manager said a survey will be undertaken every three years and random selected surveys of 50-100 questionnaires will be sent out in between. The Chief Executive said the survey results will form an element of the LTCCP.

Resolved

That the Engineering Manager's report on comments on the 'Levels of Service' survey be received.

Cr Prescott / Cr Pilkington

Item-159 OTOROHANGA DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT BOARD REPORT

Discussion

Ms Carolyn Christian, Chairperson of the Otorohanga District Development Board, attended the meeting at 10.43am and presented her report. She reported that a meeting is scheduled tomorrow to discuss some issues with the i-Site.

The Chairperson reported the Otorohanga Trade Training Centre had received funding of \$50,000 for a Trade Apprenticeship Coordinator. His Worship said the Coordinator, Mr Ray Hayley, is achieving 25 percent higher results with Apprentices than is being achieved in the rest of region. Apprentices in Otorohanga are now completing their studies in 3-4 years, which had been 8-9 years. He said the Trade Industry is looking at why Otorohanga is achieving such good results. His Worship said most Modern Apprenticeship Coordinators have a contract with the Ministry which involves them just 'ticking the boxes', not working for a successful outcome for Apprentices. His Worship reported funding has been received by the Centre to undertake research on this with Mrs Julie Mead-Rose being requested to undertake this research, which is expected to be completed by the end of February 2009. He said this outcome is significant for all New Zealand. Cr Pilkington said it was important for the Ministry to see success in a small Community and wish to provide a similar system for Apprentices elsewhere.

The Chairperson reported Mr Andrew Giltrap spends considerable amounts of time working on behalf of the Trade Training Centre.

The Chairperson reported the next Kiwiana Festival was to be held in 2010 and she had just heard the County Fair were also looking to hold their next fair in 2010.

In reply to Cr Earwaker's query regarding the sign in Kawhia, the Chairperson said it was the Museum and Information Centre sign on the side of the Museum.

In reply to Cr Earwaker's query regarding how the i-Site was performing, the Chairperson said most people are now making bookings on the web so visiting tourist numbers were down and tourism in general in NZ is down. She reported i-Site is now going into retail and organising trips. The Chairperson said i-Site is getting less funding and is having to work more efficiently. His Worship stated that driving efficiency needs to be the first step and once this is undertaken to possibly come back to Council for further funding. He said i-Site's core function is the provision of information and a warm welcome to visitors, which can't be charged for.

Cr Ormsby raised the matter of why i-Site does not own the building. In reply His Worship advised that purchasing the building had been looked into previously but was not possible. In reply to Cr Blackler's query about whether i-Site could become a Ticketek outlet, the Chairperson advised this had been looked into and it was not possible. Cr Pilkington requested the telephone number for i-Site be put in the telephone book. She thanked the Chairperson for the hard work she was doing for the Development Board. The Chairperson acknowledged the support and help she received from the Board

Resolved

That the Otorohanga District Development Board report for the period August - October 2008 be received.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Prescott

Item-160 MATTERS REFERRED FROM 28 OCTOBER 2008

Discussion

RIGHT DEBATE

This is to be held on Tuesday 25 November, 9.00-4.00pm.

No matters now remain on Matters Referred.

GENERAL

BUILDING CONSENT AUTHORITY ACCREDITATION

Cr Prescott reported he understood Council had received its Building Consent Authority Accreditation. The Chief Executive advised that this had been received yesterday. He said it had been a massive process for staff to undertake. His Worship advised it was great for staff to see the result of their hard work, which had been undertaken over and above their normal daily tasks. He said it was a significant achievement that had cost a lot of money but the 'Team', led by Gavin and Andrew, had risen to the task. He said he was very proud of them.

Cr Pilkington congratulated the team on their achievement. The Finance & Administration Manager said it had also been a huge task for the Customer Services Officers to up-skill as the 'first responders'.

KAWHIA TOURISM MEETING

Cr Pilkington reported Kawhia will be holding a Tourism meeting on Wednesday 26 November 2008 commencing at 6.00pm.

EMMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME

Cr Pilkington reported on a meeting she attended whereat it was resolved to take the matter to Hon. Shane Ardern.

WAIPA RIVER LIAISON GROUP

Cr Blackler reported on her attendance at a Waipa River Liaison Group meeting held on 10 November 2008. She reported there was a proposed 10 percent increase in the Zone Rate for Project Watershed. Cr Blackler said the Group had sent a clear message to Environment Waikato that any increase was not to exceed five percent. Environment Waikato reported any cut backs would mean less work being undertaken. Cr Blackler said she believed the Tunawae work should be funded regionally rather than locally. She reported the cost of the maintenance work was \$100,000 pa, of which a high proportion was for an annual goat cull.

LGNZ RURAL SECTOR

His Worship reported on his attendance at the LGNZ Rural Sector meeting in Wellington on 21/22 November 2008. He said LGNZ had taken on Council's concerns around the R & N funding, that it should be taken up nationally. He said the real issue was a lack of money. His Worship reported the Regional Land Transport Committee had never indicated local roads would be part of regional prioritisation however, because local roads could not provide a walking and/or cycling element, they were disqualified for funding. He said this matter is now being looked into.

ZONE 2

His Worship reported on his attendance at the LGNZ Zone 2 meeting held Friday 14 November in Opotiki and advised Mayor Graeme Weld had passed away last week. He said he was a 'Mountain of a man' and will be sadly missed.

NEXT KAWHIA COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

His Worship informed Members of the next Kawhia Community Board meeting, the final of the year, to be held on Friday 28 November 2008.

ED HILLARY WALKWAY OPENING.

His Worship invited Elected Members to the official opening of the Ed Hillary Walkway to be held on 12 December at 12 noon with Lady Hillary, with lunch following at 1.00pm. He said this was a significant project for the Community.

VEHICLE FLEET

The Chief Executive queried, with the plunging exchange rate, whether it would be possible to bring forward by one year the purchase of new fleet vehicles into this year therefore avoiding a large price increase. He said with a potential purchase of five or six vehicles at a cost of \$130,000, a savings of 20 percent could perhaps be made and asked whether Council would consider incurring this expenditure now rather than next year. Cr Pilkington asked whether it was possible to wait until the following financial year. The Chief Executive reported the old vehicles had already been extended by one year and were now four to five years old. In reply to Cr Blackler's query whether Council only purchases from local dealers, His Worship said yes, as long as local dealers, who stocked non-franchise brands, could honour warranty servicing. Cr Earwaker said he believed that there would be a more competitive market not necessarily a price hike and queried whether perhaps two or three vehicles could be purchased this year and the remainder next year. His Worship said he believed such purchasing decisions should be at the Chief Executive's discretion.

Cr Prescott said he was impressed to see the Chief Executive driving a 'reasonably priced car'. The Chief Executive reported it was a Suzuki SX4 costing \$19,000.

RATES NEWSLETTER

The Executive Assistant reported the next Rates Newsletter would be posted out during the first week in December.

MEETING CLOSED

The meeting concluded at 11.08am.

MAYOR:

DATE:

