



Otorohanga Community Board

MINUTES

11 June 2009

OTOROHANGA COMMUNITY BOARD

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Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otorohanga Community Board held in the Council Chambers, Maniapoto St, Otorohanga on Thursday 11 June 2009 commencing at 4.05pm.

MINUTES

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PRESENT

Mrs EM Cowan (Chairperson), Mr TJ Jones (attended 4.08pm), Mr B McNeil, Mr RJ Prescott and Mr PD Tindle.

IN ATTENDANCE

Messrs DC Clibbery (Chief Executive) and CA Tutty (Governance Supervisor).

APOLOGIES

Resolved that the apologies received from Mr AG Ormsby, and Mr TJ Jones (for lateness) be sustained.

Mr Prescott / Mr Tindle

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - 7 MAY 2009

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Mrs Cowan referred to the request from Habitat for Humanity for dispensation to encroach on a sewer line and advised the resolution did not make any reference to the existing situation. She requested that the resolution be amended to read -

'That the existing sanitary sewer pipe remain in-situ and that Habitat for Humanity be advised that further projects in the District will be subject to the same policy as any other Organisation and they should not expect to receive 'special' consideration.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga Community Board held on 7 May 2009, as amended, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Mr Jones / Mr Prescott

REPORTS

Item-112 MATTERS REFERRED FROM 7 MAY 2009

Discussion

TRANSIT SIGNAGE REVIEW

Council's Roading Manager attended the meeting and presented a report advising that limited consultation has been carried out with potentially interested parties regarding traveller facility signage maintained by NZTA within the Otorohanga CBD. He said the general feeling of the submissions was support for correction, maintenance and improvements to be requested of the HNO (previously Transit).

Mrs Cowan advised there was currently no indication on Maniapoto Street as to the location of the Otorohanga College. The Roading Manager replied this issue had already been queried some time ago however, at that time there were a maximum number of signs on the board. He suggested perhaps an exchange of signs could be undertaken. In reply to Mrs Cowan regarding what proposal will be forwarded to NZTA, the Roading Manager said he will take the Board's direction however, highlighted the following issues -

1. Making existing signs more visible
2. Delete the sign to the Backpackers

3. Other suggestions as highlighted by the interested parties.

Reference was made to an approach sign coming into Otorohanga and it was suggested that reference could be made to the two existing Camping Grounds, one being along Huiputea Drive, the other Alex Telfer Drive.

Mrs Cowan made mention of a sign highlighting the location of the Museum. She was advised that the Museum is only open for a limited time. Mr Tindle suggested it is up to the Historical Society to erect signage on their front lawn if they so desire. The Roding Manager said it had also been suggested to dispose of the 'Tourism Drive' signage.

The Roding Manager advised it had also been highlighted that consideration should be given to the installation of stylised maps showing points of tourist interest in locations accessible to bus travellers. Mr Jones raised the matter of identifying the location of essential services. In conclusion the Roding Manager undertook to prepare a diagram highlighting proposed new signage and the removal of existing signage.

Mrs Cowan thanked the Roding Manager for his comprehensive report.

OTOROHANGA COLLEGE

Mrs Cowan introduced the Principal of the Otorohanga College, Mr Timoti Harris. Mr Harris thanked the Board for the opportunity to meet and outlined his professional history. Mr Harris advised he had trained as a Primary, Secondary and Special Needs teacher and was also a Guidance Councillor and involved in setting up alternative school programmes. He said children are our future and will come back to us as our community. Mr Harris advised that the Otorohanga College is different from others he has been involved in as the Otorohanga children in general feel 20 years behind city schools. Mr Harris then outlined challenges the College is facing and that the preparation of a new curriculum is being undertaken based on values, people participation/contribution and relating to others. He referred to a 'restorative approach' the result of which is that pupils get to sample the consequences of their actions. He said staff will still have the option of punishment however, the preferred approach related to the restoring of relationships.

Mr Harris reported consideration was also being given to the redevelopment of the exterior areas of the College and it is proposed that three to four buildings will be removed. In reply to Mr Jones regarding the issue of bullying, Mr Harris replied that this matter has to be challenged by going back and looking at what is happening, talking the issue through and then monitoring the situation.

Mr McNeil said it was encouraging to hear Mr Harris speak positively about the school and the Community. He suggested the Board look at ways of working with the College to form a close relationship. Members agreed an invitation be extended to leaders of the school to come to the Board or alternatively the Board could meet with them.

Mrs Cowan thanked Mr Harris for his thoughts and said it was an honour and privilege to have him in the Community.

Mrs Cowan continued to take Members through Matters Referred. It was agreed that item 3.i. can now be deleted.

Item-111 WESTRIDGE LOT 1 - TENDER PROCESS

Discussion

The Chief Executive presented his report regarding the tender process for the Westridge subdivision Lot 1. He said one tender was received of \$25,555.50 and that this tender was accepted. He said it is expected this will provide the Board with a nett \$20,000. Mr Jones thanked staff for their efforts in disposing of this section and that the Board can now have closure

in this matter. Mr Tindle advised that the selling of all sections in the subdivision takes Council away from enforcing the various Covenants.

GENERAL

ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY

Mr Jones raised the matter of the role of the Community Board and referred to discussions with His Worship regarding this matter being deferred until after the Local Body elections next year. The Chief Executive replied it is proposed to hold a workshop meeting with Council in the near future that will advance this matter. He said His Worship will bring this issue up at the next Council meeting.

The Chief Executive referred to the Auckland Super City proposal and said this has already started to have a ripple effect beyond Auckland, with discussion of potential further changes to Local Government.

OTOROHANGA CEMETERY - MEMORIAL GARDEN

Mr McNeil referred to the previous discussions and resolution in respect to the provision of a Memorial Garden at the Otorohanga Cemetery and said it was his original intention to provide a different level of service. He outlined a cheaper ashes burial option to be provided on the edge of a garden. He said the current ash wall facility is disgusting and also serves the purpose of a retaining wall. He said he envisaged that his proposal would be self-funding. It was agreed that the proposal submitted earlier be reconsidered at the next Committee meetings of the Board to be held Wednesday 24 June 2009.

SIGNIFICANT TREES

Mr McNeil asked for Members to give consideration to the matter of significant trees and advised that submissions close on 26 June 2009.

FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE COURSE

Mrs Cowan informed Members of a one day Financial Governance Conference to be held in Te Kuiti on 19 November 2009 at a cost of \$300 per person. She confirmed that funding is available should Members be interested in attending.

OTOROHANGA RESERVE (VILLAGE GREEN)

Mrs Cowan referred to an email from Council's Community Facilities Officer regarding the presentation of the Village Green and the matter of the accumulation of rubbish. She said it was suggested that the current Contract with Tidy Gardens be extended. The Chief Executive advised that such action would incur significant additional costs. Mr Prescott felt that the onus should be placed back on the business operators in the area.

SMALL TOWNS CONFERENCE

Mrs Cowan informed Members of a Small Towns Conference to be held 16 -18 September 2009.

ED HILLARY WALKWAY

The Chief Executive referred to the Ed Hillary Walkway and the accumulation of heat during the summer period. He highlighted the structure of the walkway and said this has been closed off at the eastern end thus contributing to the accumulation of hot air. It was agreed that the end cover either be removed, lowered, or pulled out from the end of the structure to allow air to circulate.

EXCELSIOR NISSAN

Mr McNeil reported local business Excelsior Nissan has been sold to Jim Wright Nissan. He asked whether the Board should write and welcome the new owners to the Community. Mrs

Cowan undertook to take this matter up with the Otorohanga District Development Board. Mr Tindle also suggested that reference be made to the out-going business owners and that they be thanked for their contribution to the area over the years.

MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting concluded at 5.45pm.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE:

