



Otorohanga District Council

MINUTES

12 May 2009

OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

12 May 2009

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held in the Council Chambers, Maniapoto St, Otorohanga on Tuesday 12 May 2009 commencing at 10.02am.

MINUTES

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

ITEM	PRECIS	PAGE
PRESENT		1
INATTENDANCE		1
OPENING PRAYER		1
APOLOGY		1
CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - 21 APRIL 2009		1
REPORTS		1
Item-202	REGIONAL TOURISM - HAMILTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PRESENTATION	1
Item-205	SPORT WAIKATO REPORT FOR JANUARY - MAY 2009	1
Item-203	DISTRICT LIBRARIANS QUARTERLY REPORT - JANUARY TO MARCH 2009	2
Item-209	PROJECT KIWIANA REQUEST FOR LIBRARY MEETING ROOM FEE REDUCTION	1
Item-204	ROUTINE ENGINEERING REPORT	1
Item-206	DRAFT MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS TO 31 MARCH 2009	4
Item-207	ODC WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE	4
Item-208	DOG REGISTRATION FEES 2009/10	5
Item-210	MATTERS REFERRED FROM 21 APRIL 2009	5
GENERAL		5
MEETING CLOSED		7

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Messrs DC Clibbery (Chief Executive), GD Bunn (Finance & Administration Manager) and CA Tutty (Customer Services Team Leader).

OPENING PRAYER

His Worship read the Opening Prayer.

APOLOGY

Resolved that the apology received from Cr AG Ormsby be sustained.

Cr Prescott / Cr Earwaker

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - 21 APRIL 2009

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held on 21 April 2009, as previously circulated, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Adam

REPORTS

Item-202 REGIONAL TOURISM - HAMILTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PRESENTATION

Discussion

His Worship informed Members representatives of Hamilton Airport will not be attending today's meeting to make a presentation on Regional Tourism. He said, in the first instance, a presentation will be made to the Waikato Mayoral Forum.

Item-205 SPORT WAIKATO REPORT FOR JANUARY - MAY 2009

Discussion

Ms Robbie Matthews, District Sports Coordinator, attended the meeting and highlighted sections of her report for January - May 2009. She also circulated a copy of Sports Waikato's Business Plan for Members information. Ms Matthews said the key goals were focused around 'Active Living' and specific to the Otorohanga District. She reported that she had interviewed a number of local people to obtain their views on sporting activities within the District. She reported one local businessman would like to see the re-run of the Super Stars event which could comprise a veteran section and also to introduce street races in the CBD.

Ms Matthews said she has been working with Council and is very keen to promote Otorohanga as a 'Cycle friendly District'. She is on a steering group at Council to help develop the Cycling & Walking Strategy for the District.

Interest had also been expressed in organising an Inter-District Challenge between this Council and the Waitomo District Council in conjunction with the various sporting Clubs.

Ms Matthews advised she currently has a University student working with her assisting in the preparation of a plan to establish and coordinate a Cycling Club. In reply to Cr Earwaker regarding the Arohena and Korakonui Schools, the Coordinator replied that these two schools are included in her programme although they are also focused with the Waipa District as well. Cr Pilkington queried how the Coordinator gets schools to participate in her programme. She replied they are invited and encouraged to participate. With regard to the Kawhia School she said the situation may change with the change of Principal. His Worship thanked Ms Matthews for her presentation and encouraged her to keep up the good work.

Resolved

That the Otorohanga District Coordinator's report for the period January – May 2009 be received.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Adam

Item-203 DISTRICT LIBRARIANS QUARTERLY REPORT - JANUARY TO MARCH 2009

Discussion

The District Librarian attended the meeting and presented her quarterly report for the period January to March 2009. In reply to Cr Earwaker regarding funding of the B4 School Health Checks, he was informed that these checks are funded by Pinnacle Health.

In reply to Cr Earwaker regarding the increase in income from fines, the District Librarian replied that the new computer system manages things more tightly.

Cr Pilkington referred to the drop in income in respect to DVD's/videos and queried whether this was a national trend. The District Librarian reported that the current collection is approximately two years old with people having seen most of the material. She said new material could be purchased to help the situation. Cr Pilkington queried whether it was worthwhile staying with the collection. The District Librarian advised that the selection was popular with the younger children however, it was a situation of retaining and maintaining or doing away with the selection completely.

Cr Blackler raised the matter of the free internet sign being placed outside the Library and felt that the local people are now aware of this service. She suggested that it be removed to encourage visitors to frequent the i-Site. The District Librarian replied that the sign does attract people into the Library. His Worship said that both activities, the Library and i-Site, are heavily subsidised by Council however, following further discussion Members agreed that the sign be withdrawn so that the Library does not compete with the service provided by i-Site.

His Worship thanked the District Librarian for her report and said Council was very appreciative of the work carried out by herself and the staff.

Resolved

That the District Librarian's quarterly report for the period January to March 2009 be received.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Blackler

**Item-209 PROJECT KIWIANA REQUEST FOR LIBRARY MEETING ROOM FEE
REDUCTION**

Discussion

Members were referred to a brief report prepared by Council's Executive Assistant regarding a letter received from the Project Kiwiana Committee requesting Council to waive the \$40 charge for the Library Meeting Room for their monthly meeting. Cr Pilkington outlined a situation which she thought may have arisen due to the overlap of meetings whereat Project Kiwiana had obtained assistance with funding amounting to a grant of \$2000 per annum for two years to enable them to continue to operate. His Worship said Council owns the Library building therefore it has to cover its costs. Cr Pilkington again referred to the \$2000 grant and said the Committee could use part of this to pay the meeting room costs. Cr Blackler suggested, as a form of recognition for the work carried out by Project Kiwiana that Council charge them half the normal rate. His Worship felt this was a dangerous situation to approve and that Ratepayers subsidy was available through the Otorohanga District Development Board.

Resolved

That

1. The Executive Assistant's report be received, and
2. The application from the Project Kiwiana Committee for a reduction in the charge for the Library Meeting Room be declined.

Cr Earwaker / Cr Adam

Item-204 ROUTINE ENGINEERING REPORT

Discussion

The Engineering Manager summarised the Routine Engineering report on matters for February - April 2009.

WAIHAREKEKE BRIDGE

Cr Pilkington reported she was receiving feedback on the surface of the Waiharekeke Bridge which was proving to be very slippery. She queried if the appropriate signs were still in place.

TE KAWA ROAD

Cr Earwaker referred to approximately six Willow trees growing alongside a section of Te Kawa Road and advised that these trees are creating a hollow in the road and need to be removed.

TIHIROA RURAL WATER SUPPLY

The Engineering Manager reported discussions have been held with the Tihiroa Rural Water Supply Committee and that the recent tenderers had reduced their tender price to a reasonable cost. He said however, problems have occurred with the water reservoir and that its liner has been replaced. The Engineering Manager reported a letter has been forwarded to the Committee Members to read and sign if they are in agreement to a submission being prepared in respect to Council's LTCCP.

ROAD SAFETY AUDIT

In reply to Cr Pilkington, the Engineering Manager replied some responses have been received however, these have not been collated.

OTOROHANGA MEMORIAL POOL COMPLEX

Following information from Cr Prescott it was agreed that the Engineering Manager check and report back to Council on the re-opening of the heated pool following installation of new windows.

Resolved

That

1. The Engineering Manager's Routine Engineering report be received,
2. In terms of the Contract documents, the Roads Maintenance Contract 863 be extended to Downer EDi Works for a one year period until 30 June 2010.

Cr Earwaker / Cr Prescott

STAFF HANDOUTS

His Worship requested when staff have any handouts for Members that they are to ensure there is sufficient for the Press.

Item-206 DRAFT MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS TO 31 MARCH 2009

Discussion

The District Accountant attended the meeting and presented the Draft Management Accounts to 31 March 2009.

The Finance & Administration Manager informed Members that as at 30 June 2009 most activities will come within budget except for Corporate Planning which will be well over budget.

His Worship referred to expenditure in Council's account in particular 'Sundry Allowance' which has a budget of \$7,000. He said the balance is currently \$12,000 and likely to be around \$15,000 by 30 June 2009. His Worship said this includes costs relating to visitors to the District with more and more interest being shown in Otorohanga. The Chief Executive advised this account will have an ongoing shortfall if the budget allocation is not increased.

Resolved

That the Draft Management Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2009, as presented, be received.

Cr Blackler / Cr Gower

Item-207 ODC WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Discussion

The Finance & Administration Manager summarised a report prepared by Council's IT Manager updating Members on Otorohanga District Council's proposed website development and the options available. He advised Members there is a budget of \$27,000 available to upgrade Council's website. Cr Blackler queried the number of 'hits' Council receives on its current website. Staff were unable to answer this question however, the Finance & Administration Manager advised that the current website has not been maintained to the appropriate level and consists of old technology. Cr Pilkington replied that any system will require the information to be kept up to date. She queried whether a usability survey had been carried out.

Resolved

That

1. The Finance & Administration Manager's report be received, and
2. The IT Manager provide additional information on the proposal for further consideration by Council.

Cr Earwaker / Cr Pilkington

Item-208 DOG REGISTRATION FEES 2009/10

Discussion

The Environmental Services Manager attended the meeting and presented a report proposing that Dog Registration Fees be raised to cover the increased costs of funding this activity.

Resolved

That Council approve the proposed schedule of Dog Registration Fees as detailed below effective from 1 July 2009 -

Urban Dogs	\$116
Urban Plus Neutered Dogs	\$90
Urban plus Special Owner Dogs	\$90
Rural Dogs	\$90
Special Owner Plus Neutered	\$47
Rural plus Special Owner Dogs	\$47

Cr Prescott / Cr Adam

Item-210 MATTERS REFERRED FROM 21 APRIL 2009

Discussion

RANGITAHU STREET PROPERTY

The Environmental Services Manager reported he had looked at the property in Rangitahi Street and confirmed he would write to the Occupier requesting him to remove the car bodies from the site. His Worship said Council is obliged to deal with this matter as it has rules in place which are being broken. He said the property needs to be watched and when the Occupier steps out of line, Council staff need to take the appropriate action.

In the meantime, it was agreed the matter be deleted from Matters Referred.

GENERAL

HAMILTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Cr Prescott reported on his attendance at a presentation by Pacific Blue at the Hamilton International Airport. He said the Company was investigating the proposal further as to whether it operates from Hamilton. In regard to an issue raised by Cr Gower, His Worship undertook to query whether the Airport had adequate gear in place to provide the necessary services.

TRANSPORT MEETING

Cr Earwaker said he had attended a Transport meeting recently where discussion was held on the Rail Commuter proposal.

FLETCHER HEARING

In reply to Cr Pilkington, the Environmental Services Manager advised that the Consent was granted however, the Applicant has to remove all waste water from the property.

RECYCLING CENTRES

Cr Blackler queried how the establishment of Recycling Centres in the rural areas was progressing. The Chief Executive replied that no further Centres will be established until confirmation is received of funding being available under the Waste Minimisation Act. He said when funding is confirmed an approach will be made to the rural schools. Cr Gower expressed the opinion that if the service is shared with local schools this could only be beneficial to the area concerned.

PRE-SEAL REPAIRS

Cr Adam reported he had received a number of complaints in respect to re-seal repairs.

ENVIRONMENT WAIKATO'S LTCCP

The Policy Manager, who was in attendance at the meeting, referred to Environment Waikato's LTCCP and reported that the Hearing for submissions commenced today and will go through to Thursday 21 May. He queried if Council could confirm who will be in attendance to present Council's submission. Following discussion it was agreed this coming Friday would be most suitable for Council to present its submission.

HISTORIC TREES

The Environmental Services Manager reported, at the end of this week, submissions close on the matter of classifying two historic trees at Kawhia as historic sites. The Policy Manager advised that, although these are trees, they will be classified as 'historic sites' and benefit from the appropriate protection. Cr Earwaker suggested that those people who have applied for these trees to be classified, they should take the responsibility of maintaining them and looking after them. The Chief Executive referred to the establishment of a Stewardship arrangement. His Worship advised that Council would have to make the call as to what gets done. The Policy Manager advised that the trees were on Council land, and as Landowner, Council should have a say in the management of the trees. The Environmental Services Manager reported that previous Council staff had indicated support for the registration of the two sites. The Policy Manager reported once the trees are classified as a registered historic site, provisions will apply in and around the trees. He said, under the new District Plan, this will be a 20m radius. The Environmental Services Manager confirmed that should no submissions be received, then the proposal becomes effective.

DISTRICT PLANNER

The Environmental Services Manager advised that Council is engaging the services of a new District Planner who will commence next week. He said her name is Aimee Bishop and that her application was made under the Shared Employment Initiative.

LGNZ CONFERENCE

His Worship confirmed Cr Adam was the only Member who had expressed interest in attending the forthcoming LGNZ Conference in Christchurch.

PHO CHAIRMAN

His Worship reported Mr Murray Loewenthal, the Chairman of PHO had been 'removed' from the position. His Worship advised that Pinnacle has appointed its own Board to the PHO and there were concerns regarding conflicts of interest as Pinnacle is owned by Doctors. His Worship said he has asked Mr Loewenthal to prepare a list of what might be at risk through this action which he will pass on to other Mayors.

TRANSPower COMMUNITY CARE FUND

His Worship reported on the availability of assistance under Transpower's Community Care Fund.

CIVIL DEFENCE MEETING

His Worship reported on his attendance at a Civil Defence meeting last week whereat via a Health Report 28 cases of food poisoning had been identified at a Kawhia Marae. His Worship referred to the efforts made by Council's Environmental Health Officer in regard to the Kai Festival to prevent an issue like this occurring.

MEETING CLOSED

The meeting concluded at 12.27pm.

MAYOR:

DATE:

