



Otorohanga District Council

# MINUTES

4 August 2009

## OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

4 August 2009

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held in the Council Chambers, Maniapoto St, Otorohanga on Tuesday 4 August 2009 commencing at 10.05am.

### MINUTES

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## **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) and CA Tutty (Governance Supervisor).

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Cr Adam read the Opening Prayer.

## **APOLOGY**

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

**Cr Pilkington / Cr Earwaker**

## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - 14 JULY 2009**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held on 14 July 2009, as previously circulated, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.

**Cr Earwaker / Cr Adam**

## **REPORTS**

### **Item-235 OTOROHANGA COMMUNITY BOARD MINUTES - 9 JULY 2009**

#### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meetings of the Otorohanga Community Board held on 9 July 2009 be received and the recommendations contained therein adopted. .

**Cr Prescott / Cr Ormsby**

## **MATTERS ARISING**

### **SKATEBOARD HALF PIPE/HALF BASKETBALL COURT**

In reply to Cr Pilkington, the Chief Executive confirmed that the costs for re-surfacing the existing Skateboard Half Pipe, and the installation of a half Basketball Court, have been budgeted for.

### **Item-236 DISTRICT PLANNERS REPORT**

#### **Discussion**

The District Planner attended the meeting and summarised her report on Resource Consents granted under Delegated Authority for the period 1 January to 30 June 2009.

The District Planner advised that the results of the Resource Management Amendment Bill 2009 will be available on 18 August 2009. She said this Council has prepared a draft Resource

Consent Application form in order to receive a better standard of completion by the Applicants. The District Planner said there may be penalties for an Application not being processed within the statutory timeframe. She said the proposed new Resource Consent Application form has been based on one from the Hamilton City Council who receive a 100 percent turn around in the required timeframe. She suggested that more information be distributed to the public to encourage good quality applications. With regard to Landuse Applications, the District Planner advised that 80 percent of these are completed by the Landowners. The District Planner reported she proposed to call a meeting with Surveyors, Developers and interested parties to go through the Application process.

### **Resolved**

That the District Planner's report for January to June 2009 be received.

### **Cr Adam / Cr Prescott**

## **Item-237 ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS REPORT FOR APRIL-JUNE 2009**

### **Discussion**

The Chief Executive summarised the Environmental Services Manager's report on Dog & Animal Control activities in the District for the period 1 April to 30 June 2009.

The Chief Executive reported there has been a significant increase in the number of dogs where registration has not been completed. He said these were up some 45 percent on the previous year. The Chief Executive expressed the opinion this could be a reflection of the current economic circumstances.

### **Resolved**

That the Environmental Services Manager's report on Dog and Animal Control for 1 April - 30 June 2009 be received.

### **Cr Pilkington / Cr Blackler**

## **Item-238 REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TERM - POOL CONTRACT**

### **Discussion**

The Chief Executive presented a report advising that Total Leisure Concepts Ltd (TLC) has requested a further extension of its Contract to operate the Otorohanga Pool Complex in return for providing extended child water safety activities.

The Chief Executive reported that TLC has had a long involvement with the Pool Complex, having the Contract extended a number of times since it initially won the Contract in 1999. He said TLC were now looking at a further three year extension of the Contract which would take it through to 2015. The Chief Executive reported extended discussion had been held the last time the Contract was extended with a number of characteristics being identified making the Contract unusual. These were -

1. The incumbent Contractor has indicated that the extension of Contract will result in only a very modest increase of charges to Council
2. The works of the expiring Contract have been undertaken to a consistently high standard without significant Council staff input, meeting or exceeding Contract requirements.
3. Few if any justified complaints about Contractor performance have been received from the public.

4. There is evidence to suggest that conducting an open tender process could result in a significant increase in the cost of the service.
5. There may be very few affordable tenders from high quality service providers because of the location and/or specialised nature of the work.
6. There is a significant risk that awarding the Contract to a Contractor without strong relevant experience could have significant adverse effects on Council.

The Chief Executive advised the above six factors were still all true and with having a proven Contractor in place, this reduces any risk to Council. Cr Pilkington queried the legal position regarding Council providing a more or less open ended Contract over a long period. His Worship replied consideration of this Contract has been transparent and on a sound basis although 16 years was a very long time, during which period other interested parties had not had the opportunity to tender for the Contract. In reply to Cr Prescott regarding Council setting a precedent for other Council activities, the Chief Executive replied that as long as the six points outlined above are satisfied when applied to other Contracts, this should be in order. Cr Earwaker expressed the opinion the extended period was far too long and that Council was setting a precedent. His Worship said as this request was three years out from the end of the Contract it is too early to consider as Council would be into a new era and will not be aware of its responsibilities at that time. Cr Adam suggested Council test the market as how would it be aware of who is out there and their tender details. Cr Blackler suggested the Contract be placed out for Tender in three years time, with the existing party likely to have some advantage in this process through their previous track record. She also suggested that the use of the pool complex by rural schools be considered at the next funding review. His Worship suggested a record be compiled of some of the proposed benefits for possible consideration in the future. It was also highlighted that some of these benefits would not apply to Council itself. Mr Ormsby suggested that discussions be held with TLC and that Council not agree to extend the Contract further without going out to test the market. Following discussion it was agreed, at this stage, it is too early for Council to consider an extension of the current Contract however, opportunities for a Contract extension might be considered 12 months from its expiry date.

### **Resolved**

That the request from Total Leisure Concepts Ltd for a further extension of its Contract to operate the Otorohanga Pool Complex in return for providing extended Child water safety activities be declined.

### **Cr Adam / Cr Prescott**

## **Item-239            OTOROHANGA DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT BOARD REPORT FOR FEBRUARY-JULY 2009**

### **Discussion**

The Chairperson of the Otorohanga District Development Board, Mrs Carolyn Christian, attended the meeting and referred Members to her report for the period February - July 2009.

Mrs Christian reported on a recent visit by Rebecca Evans of the Hamilton International Airport regarding assistance in the promotion of Pacific Blue operating out of Hamilton. Mrs Christian advised that the ODDB will do as much as it can in supporting Pacific Blue. She said the Airline appeared to have a good relationship with Destination Waitomo.

Mrs Christian reported an Incite meeting will be held on 31 August 2009 which she hopes will receive a lot of support.

His Worship reported that the feedback received from the recent Sunday Programme was quite incredible and it was intended to hold a Community Open Day on 11 August 2009 in respect to

the Youth Initiatives. He said there were a number of the general public who wished to know more about the Centre and how it operates.

His Worship advised he had put his name forward to represent Council on the Regional Tourism Shareholder Group which will be holding its first meeting this coming Friday.

His Worship then outlined the subsidies available under the new Government Youth Funding initiative programme. He said under the Mayor's Taskforce all Mayors will be encouraged to set up a meeting with Work & Income, Community Groups, Employers, etc which he is happy to coordinate through the Mayor's desk in conjunction with the Otorohanga District Development Board. His Worship advised funding under this scheme is available from 14 September 2009. Cr Earwaker queried the number of people unemployed in the District under the age of 25. His Worship replied that those persons aged between 16 -18 years cannot be registered as unemployed however, the criteria under the initiative is broad enough to include people likely to be unemployed. His Worship said there is a large amount of flexibility under the scheme and that it would be desirable for those people to carry out a meaningful project. In reply to Cr Earwaker, His Worship said any Community group can apply for funding however, it is mainly aimed directly at Councils. Cr Blackler suggested consideration be given to planting at the Waipapa Reserve as a project.

His Worship requested Mrs Christian convey Council's appreciation to her Members.

### **Resolved**

That the Otorohanga District Development Board's report for the period February - July 2009 be received.

### **Cr Pilkington / Cr Earwaker**

## **Item-240 SPARC ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES**

### **Discussion**

The Governance Supervisor presented Minutes of a meeting of the Assessment Committee for the SPARC Rural Travel Fund held 14 July 2009.

Cr Pilkington reported that the SPARC Rural Travel Fund makes a significant impact in Kawhia particularly in encouraging children into teams and out amongst the competitions.

### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the SPARC Assessment Committee held on Tuesday 14 July 2009 be received.

### **Cr Pilkington / Cr Blackler**

## **Item-241 MATTERS REFERRED FROM 14 JULY 2009**

### **Discussion**

### **WAIKERIA PRISON COMPLEX**

The Chief Executive reported that Council's Environmental Health Officer was aware of the situation regarding Meade House in the Waikeria Prison Complex however, all sanitary issues relating to the building are being managed through the public Health unit of the District Health Board. They are aware of the issues raised.

## **GENERAL**

### **WATER TIGHT HOMES**

Members were circulated with information regarding the number and location of water tight home claims made to the Department of Building & Housing. Cr Prescott expressed the opinion it was unfair for this Council to be penalised by paying an extra sum to Riskpool for the benefit of other Councils. His Worship agreed this was in the main an urban problem however, outlined a situation where all Authorities assisted a Rural Area. His Worship said it was discouraging to see that the most of the money being awarded was allocated to go towards the legal fees involved.

### **CR ORMSBY - LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Cr Ormsby advised he will be away for the next two meetings, 25 August and 15 September 2009.

### **REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT**

Cr Earwaker reported on his attendance at a recent Regional Land Transport meeting whereat another plan/strategy was placed on the table. He said there were a number of submissions against the proposal to allow heavier trucks on our roads as no roads are up to the standards required to take these vehicles. Cr Earwaker referred to a Government Policy Statement which now takes into account traffic congestion and the economic return.

### **ROAD SAFETY**

Cr Blackler reported she will be attending a Road Safety Coordinators meeting this week. She advised she has received good feedback in regards to the calendar produced last year.

His Worship reported that the Principal of the Arohena School is arranging for a Community Safety Day to be held at the School on 7 November 2009. He said it was intended to take the Civil Defence information and promotion material to the event.

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE**

Cr Adam reported on his attendance at the recent Local Government Conference held in Christchurch which was a real 'eye opener' for him. He advised that the public wish to see what Council actually carries out not what they propose. He then outlined the topics of two or three speakers at the Conference. He said that this Council was doing a good job in respect of the District Plan Review. His Worship acknowledged Cr Adam's attendance at the Conference.

### **MAORI WARDENS**

His Worship reported a new Maori Warden Coordinator has recently been appointed and that there are 14 warranted Wardens in the area. He said funding is available and the Coordinator wishes to raise the profile of its Members within the District.

### **OTOROHANGA HEALTH DAY**

His Worship referred Members to tickets being available to attend tomorrow nights Otorohanga Health Day.

### **ZONE 2 MEETING**

His Worship reported that the next Zone 2 meeting planned for 10/11 September 2009 to be held at Te Kaha may be changed to Opotiki due to the attendance numbers being down and the fact it is difficult to attract suitable speakers where they are unable to fly directly into the area.

### **WAIPA DISTRICT COUNCIL**

His Worship informed Members that Mr Gary Dyet has recently been appointed as the new Chief Executive at the Waipa District Council. He said he was looking forward to working with Mr Dyet.

## **SUPER CITY DISCUSSION**

His Worship said it appears that Ms Margaret Evans has not received a lot of support for her proposal to create a Waikato Super City. He felt it was unhelpful that Ms Evans went into print however, important people are fully aware of the consequences of such a proposal. He said Auckland is the dysfunctional region, not the Waikato. His Worship said however, the Super City proposals are not finalised and if approved it will take time to see what benefits would come out of these.

## **DISTRICT PLAN REVIEW**

His Worship acknowledged Councillors and Staff who had participated in the recent District Plan Review Landowner meetings. He said these were a successful round of meetings and that those present are now better informed. Accordingly he made a presentation to each person. Cr Adam expressed the opinion that at the end of each meeting everyone present appeared to leave 'happy' as they had been provided with the appropriate information.

## **MEETING CLOSED**

The meeting concluded at 11.24am.

**MAYOR:**

**DATE:**

