



Otorohanga District Council

# MINUTES

15 September 2009

## OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

15 September 2009

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held in the Council Chambers, Maniapoto St, Otorohanga on Tuesday 15 September 2009 commencing at 10.04am.

### 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), GD Bunn (Finance & Administration Manager), AR Loe (Environmental Services Manager) and CA Tutty (Governance Supervisor).

## **OPENING PRAYER**

His Worship read the Opening Prayer.

## **APOLOGY**

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

**Cr Earwaker / Cr Blackler**

## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - 25 AUGUST 2009**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held on 25 August 2009, as previously circulated, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.

**Cr Adam / Cr Pilkington**

## **MATTERS ARISING**

Cr Pilkington referred to page six and the Shore Futures item and advised that the meeting to be held on 17 September 2009 was not an AGM.

Cr Earwaker referred to the Routine Engineering Report, second paragraph and requested the final sentence be amended to read, 'He said the Contractor should notify Council if they wish to change the design and that approval could be given on a phone call.'

## **REPORTS**

**Item-249            ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICERS REPORT MARCH - AUGUST 2009**

### **Discussion**

The Environmental Services Manager summarised the Environmental Health Officer/Liquor Licensing Inspector's report for the period 1 March to 31 August 2009. His Worship expressed the opinion it was a very comprehensive report and that the Officer, Mr Bryan Faris, does an excellent job on behalf of Council. He has a good rapport with people.

### **Resolved**

That the Environmental Health Officer/Liquor Licensing Inspector's report is received.

**Cr Earwaker / Cr Pilkington**

**Item-251            ASSISTANCE DOGS NZ - REQUEST TO REMIT DOG  
REGISTRATION FEES**

**Discussion**

The Environmental Services Manager presented a report advising that Council has received a written request from the Chairperson of Assistance Dogs NZ that Council make a full or partial remission of the dog registration fees now due on four dogs that she has in training. In reply to Cr Earwaker, the Environmental Services Manager advised that when one of the dogs is placed to assist a person with a disability they will be responsible to register the dog once the full year has expired. He said the dog may be placed in a register of one of the Organisations approved to certify dogs as Assistance Dogs for the purposes of the Dog Control Act.

**Resolved**

That

1. The Environmental Services Manager's report be received,
2. Council remit to Assistance Dogs NZ dog registration fees to the value of \$188.00.

**Cr Prescott / Cr Adam**

**Item-250            DISTRICT SPORTS COORDINATORS REPORT MAY - SEPTEMBER  
2009**

**Discussion**

The District Sports Coordinator attended the meeting and answered Councillors questions on the content of her report.

The Coordinator informed Councillors that nominations were being called for the annual Sports Awards to be held on 18 November 2009. She also informed Members of a Super Star event to be held on 16/17 October 2009 and suggested Council submit a team.

The Coordinator advised that as part of the annual Christmas Parade sprint races will be held in Maniapoto Street for school children. She also referred to a future road circuit cycle race which will be promoted as a family day.

The Coordinator reported that a new leader has been appointed in Kawhia and is currently undergoing training. She said she will be aimed more at the younger age group and will endeavour to introduce touch rugby on a Friday night. She confirmed that the new leader is a local lady.

His Worship thanked the Coordinator for her attendance and said that Council receives value for its money and that the District receives good use of the Coordinators abilities.

**Resolved**

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

**Cr Ormsby / Cr Adam**

**Item-255            REQUEST TO REMIT DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS**

**Discussion**

His Worship welcomed Greg and Sally Bevan Maitland to the meeting.

Mr Maitland thanked Councillors for the opportunity to present their request to remit Development Contributions.

Mr Maitland advised they purchased the property on Mangati Road in February 2006 and at that time were not advised of any levies that could be incurred. He said they did submit a proposed plan to erect a dwelling however, the builders refused to build this because of the design of the house and furthermore to the Maitlands budgetary restraints. Mr Maitland said since this time they have been looking for an affordable house design and have now found one. He said he had spoken to Council staff regarding the application procedure and were advised they would be charged a 'roading fee' and for some work on the original plan. Mr Maitland referred to an invoice they had received for Building Consent fees totalling \$5217 and was advised by a Council staff member that this was not correct and they would be re-invoiced with the correct amount. He said this amended invoice had never been received. Mr Maitland said they did not understand why they should be paying a Development Contribution fee now as they have owned their property a lot longer than other property owners along the road. He reported there were six new subdivisions along Mangati Road however, and he believed that no more subdivisions will be allowed and that is one reason why they purchased the property as it had a 'country road' feel. Mr Maitland said he could not understand why six property owners have to pay a \$12,000 fee.

Mr Maitland reported that their Builder is currently preparing a final plan of a dwelling which will then be presented to Council. Mrs Maitland outlined a problem they encountered with the survey of their property which contributed to delays.

His Worship informed Mr & Mrs Maitland that Development Contribution levies were introduced simply to enable development to increase, which in turn requires roading upgrades. He said there is an expectation by people to have a good standard of road and it is unfair for the whole District to contribute to these specific roads. His Worship said timing is always an issue however, in introducing Development Contributions, Council did allow a six month lead in period in order for people to make their applications. He said any change of plan is classified as a new application. His Worship said he was keen for Councillors to know why this case was special compared to neighbours who would also be using the road. Mr Maitland replied they were never advised of any 'roading fee' prior to the original application being lodged. The Environmental Services Manager advised that property owners were informed in Council's May 2007 newsletter and that the cut-off date was set to allow Applicants sufficient time to lodge their applications. Mrs Maitland said they purchased the property in 2006 and did not know of any other expenses that maybe incurred. She said the property was purchased before the fee was implemented. Mr Maitland said it was always their intention to build on the property. His Worship informed the Applicants that it was immaterial when they purchased the property, the issue was around the timing of the Application being lodged and the subsequent request to substitute a new application.

His Worship extended Council's appreciation to Mr & Mrs Maitland for their attendance.

### **Resolved**

That the Environmental Services Manager report on Mr & Mrs Maitland's request that Council remit the payment of a Development Contribution for their proposed dwelling on Mangati Road, be received.

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

### **Resolved**

That the request for remission of the Development Contribution by Greg & Sally Bevan-Maitland is declined.

### **Cr Blackler/ Cr Prescott**

## **Item-252          DRAFT MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS TO 30 JUNE 2009**

### **Discussion**

The Engineering Manager and District Accountant attended the meeting.

The District Accountant took Members through the Draft Management Accounts for the period ended 30 June 2009.

The Finance & Administration Manager advised that the deficit in the District Account had increased by approximately \$12,000. He said due to the under-expenditure in the Policy Account this has off-set several accounts which have been over spent. The Finance & Administration Manager reported that Council's Auditors, Deloitte's, are currently in the office and that their audit is progressing reasonably well. He said the Management Accounts presented were still in draft form and it is proposed to present the Annual Report to Council at its next meeting. His Worship expressed the opinion it was not the best set of accounts he had seen however, this was a reflection of the ongoing District Plan Review and the difficult times being experienced at the moment. He said Council is mindful of its responsibilities to produce adequate services that are affordable by the Ratepayers. His Worship extended thanks to Councillors and staff for their input. Cr Earwaker expressed the opinion that it is extremely important that the budgets are adhered to. The Chief Executive said it may be necessary for Council and the Boards to look at some of the proposed improvement projects as to whether they still wish to carry these out.

### **Resolved**

That the Draft Management Accounts for the year ended 30 June 2009 be received.

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

## **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

**Resolved** that the meeting be adjourned for the luncheon break, and presentation under the District Plan Review.

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

Accordingly the meeting was adjourned at 12.45pm.

## **RE-ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

**Resolved** that the meeting be re-adjourned at 2.25pm.

### **Cr Adam / Cr Pilkington**

## **Item-253          COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES 2009/10**

### **Discussion**

The Engineering Manager summarised the Roding Manager's report following final approval of the Level of Subsidy funding available for the Community Road Safety activities, the Road Safety Coordinator for Otorohanga and Waitomo - Mrs Christine Chaplow - has prepared a final activity programme and budget for approval. The Engineering Manager reported the budget implications identified that the local share required has dropped from \$12,500 to \$11,000 an overall spend reduction of \$1,500. He said Council has the option of re-allocating this saving to other Community Road Safety initiatives for this financial year, or setting the funds aside as savings. The Engineering Manager reported also contained within the 2009/10 Land Transport Account there is a value of \$1,000 under non-subsidised road safety which is not yet allocated for expenditure and this could be added to the \$1,500 savings from CFA to provide a total of \$2,500 of funding.

Cr Pilkington said she understood there were monies available under the programme in respect to the Kawhia Liquor Ban. Cr Blackler undertook to re-assure Cr Pilkington this was the case. Cr Pilkington suggested the matter be placed on hold until nearer the end of Council's financial year. Cr Earwaker agreed with the suggestion. In regard to safety signage being provided, His Worship suggested Council should contact the various groups and ask whether they could contribute to the purchase of signs. Cr Adam informed Members that the life of the signs is not that long. Cr Blackler queried whether Works Infrastructure could lend Council the signs when required. His Worship also suggested that the various groups could combine and make an application to Trust Waikato for the purchase of safety signs.

Members were informed it would be desirable to raise this item for consideration at Estimates times.

### **Resolved**

That

1. The Roding Manager's report be received,
2. The programme of activities for Community Focused Road Safety be accepted for the 2009/10 year.

### **Cr Earwaker / Cr Adam**

## **Item-254          2009-12 NATIONAL LAND TRANSPORT PLAN**

### **Discussion**

The Engineering Manager presented the Roding Manager's report advising that the release of the 2009-12 National Land Transport Plan has identified the value of subsidy funding approved for the Otorohanga District Council, and has confirmed the level of funding for Council's Roding Maintenance and Operations and Renewals activities is fully provided for.

In regard to footpath construction, Cr Earwaker suggested that Council staff re-apply under the National Land Transport Plan providing full information on the proposed footpath work. He said he understood due to the lack of initial information these projects had been placed in a reserve category.

Cr Pilkington reported that Hoturoa Street, Kawhia, has no footpath and is a long stretch of road. The Engineering Manager replied this work will be carried out from non-subsidised funding. Cr Pilkington also queried whether footpath work along State Highway 31 into Kawhia could come under the applications to be re-applied for. The Engineering Manager advised that Kawhia does have an account for non-subsidised footpath work. He said in Otorohanga there are no footpaths that are critical.

### **Resolved**

That

1. The 2009-12 National Land Transport Plan report be received and;
2. Due to the loss of subsidy funding, and in light of the current financial situation Council discontinues subsidised footpath construction for the duration of the current NLTP, and set aside the budgeted local share of \$16,450 per annum for savings.

### **Cr Earwaker / Cr Blackler**

## **Item-256            MATTERS REFERRED FROM 25 AUGUST 2009**

### **Discussion**

The Engineering Manager reported items 1. i and ii have been prepared and the information will be supplied to Councillors.

## **GENERAL**

### **MEETING PROCEDURES**

His Worship informed Members that in future General Business items will be handled differently, that all such items must be briefly identified at the start of the meeting and if Members desire to make a resolution in respect of that item, then a formal resolution must be made for such decision making to occur.

### **LAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Cr Earwaker reported that submissions to the Road Safety Plan close on 5 October 2009 and suggested that Council should make a submission to cover issues such as speed, alcohol and licensing. The Engineering Manager undertook to prepare a submission however, he said he will need the direction of Council. It was suggested that a small committee comprising Crs Earwaker, Blackler, Engineering Manager and Roding Manager be formed to prepare the submission.

### **OTOROHANGA DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

Cr Pilkington reported that the AGM of the Otorohanga District Development Board will be held tomorrow at 12noon.

### **SPRING FLING ART FESTIVAL - KAWHIA**

Cr Pilkington reported on the Spring Fling Art Festival held in Kawhia on 6/7 September 2009 and said this had been a success, with a steady stream of people that the local businesses could cope with.

### **DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS - MAITLAND**

Cr Adam requested that Council's Engineering Consultant Mr Peter Cotter be thanked for his efforts in this matter which have been very much appreciated by all concerned.

### **ENVIRONMENT WAIKATO**

The Environmental Services Manager reported that Environment Waikato (EW) will soon be sending letters out to the Land Owners regarding contaminated land. He said in the first instance this is an EW matter and relates to approximately 300 sites around the Otorohanga District.

### **PROPOSED HEARINGS**

The Environmental Services Manager reported that during the next few months it will be necessary for a number of Hearings to be held. He brought this to the attention of those who may be called to sit on the Hearings Committee.

### **RIVER TRAILS**

His Worship referred to the recent River Trails meeting and said that the advancement of the River Trails programme went through smoothly. He said however, the Trust's role is to develop the River Trails and then disband. He said it will be necessary for the Local Authorities concerned to undertake future maintenance. His Worship reported it was proposed that EW take over the administration of the Trails and a rate will be introduced for this.

## **DRINKING WATER STANDARDS**

His Worship referred to a press release regarding the Drinking Water Fund Review and said Council was unsure of its expectations.

## **STOCK TRUCK EFFLUENT**

His Worship referred to information provided by Council's Roding Manager, Mr Martin Gould, on a strategy to establish Stock Truck effluent disposal sites. He queried how this is going to be funded. Cr Earwaker suggested that the Roding Manager needs to talk to Council to ascertain their views on the matter.

## **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

His Worship reported that Habitat for Humanity is now proceeding to purchase land in Otorohanga, as it has, at the present time, been unable to secure suitable land in Kawhia.

## **NORTH KING COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

His Worship reported that the North King Country Development Trust will be calling for applications for projects that promote economic development. He said the Trust has \$150,000 a year available for allocation.

## **MEETING CLOSED**

The meeting concluded at 3.07pm.

**MAYOR:**

**DATE:**

