



Otorohanga District Council

# MINUTES

23 August 2011

## OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

23 August 2011

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held in the Council Chambers, Maniapoto St, Otorohanga on Tuesday 22 August 2011 commencing at 10.03am.

### MINUTES

Minutes are unconfirmed and subject to amendment at the next meeting of Council.

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## **PRESENT**

Mr DF Williams (Mayor), Crs MM Baxter, S Blackler, RM Johnson, AG Ormsby, KM Phillips, 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 CA Tutty (Governance Supervisor).

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Cr Johnson read the Opening Prayer.

## **ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN GENERAL BUSINESS**

No items were highlighted for consideration in General Business which may require a resolution.

## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 2 AUGUST 2011**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held on 2 August 2011 as previously circulated, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.

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

## **MATTERS ARISING**

Cr Blackler referred to page 9, General item, Transport Meeting and requested the final sentence in the first paragraph be amended to read 'She reported that one of the first such sites would be at the Te Kuiti Saleyards.'

## **TARGA NZ 2011**

The Engineering Manager referred to the Application received from Club Targa Inc for various road closures within the Otorohanga District and advised that a letter has been received from the Ministry of Education wishing to record an objection to the road closures identified as part of the Club Targa NZ Inc 2011 motoring event scheduled for Thursday 27 October 2011. The letter advised that the road closures listed will impact on school bus routes affecting students from the Otorohanga College, St Mary's, Otorohanga South School, Otewa School, Kio Kio Primary School and Waitomo Caves School.

The Engineering Manager reported that if the timing of the Targa event could be re-scheduled to ensure that the road closures occur during school hours, and will not therefore impact on student travel plans, the Ministry would remove its objection to the road closures. However, as it stands, this correspondence is a formal objection to the planned road closures associated with the Targa NZ Inc 2011 motoring event. The Engineering Manager reported that Targa has taken care of the situation and will work around the school bus timetables. He confirmed that Council will reply to the Ministry of Education's letter. In reply to Cr Pilkington, the Engineering Manager confirmed that the objection was in respect to the afternoon section of the event. He advised that Targa's advertisements are for a longer period than actually required and as soon as the various

stages are finished, the road is re-opened. His Worship stressed the need for Targa NZ to communicate with the Ministry of Education to clarify any issues.

## **REPORTS**

### **Item-138 ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS REPORT FOR APRIL TO JUNE 2011**

#### **Discussion**

The Environmental Services Manager summarised his report on Dog and Animal Control activities in the District for the period April to June 2011. He advised that approximately 300 letters had been sent out earlier this month to dog owners who have not re-registered their dogs. He reported that Council's Animal Control Contractor will follow up on these.

The Environmental Services Manager then updated Members on the outcome of a Hearing in respect of a recent dog attack where joint charges had been laid. He said the next step in the process will be to hold a Status Hearing.

Cr Phillips referred to the high number of verbal warnings given by the Contractor and queried what these entailed. The Environmental Services Manager replied that these related to a variety of offences such as unregistered dogs, noise, roaming, etc. He advised that unlike large urban Authorities, Council's Animal Control Contractor is more flexible in his approach in order to encourage cooperation from the dog owners.

#### **Resolved**

That the Environmental Services Manager report on Dog and Animal Control for April to June 2011 be received.

**Cr Blackler / Cr Pilkington**

### **Item-139 ASSISTANCE DOGS NZ**

#### **Discussion**

The Environmental Services Manager presented a report on a request received from Assistance Dogs NZ Trust for continuing support through the remission of the registration fees for dogs that it has in training.

#### **Resolved**

That

1. The report be received,
2. Council approve a dog registration fee of \$10.00 for dogs in training with the Assistance Dogs New Zealand Trust.

**Cr Blackler / Mr Phillips**

### **Item-141 ROUTINE ENGINEERING REPORT MAY TO JULY 2011**

#### **Discussion**

The Engineering Manager presented a report on general engineering matters for May to July 2011. He advised that in general the roads are in considerably better condition than they were this time last year.

Cr Pilkington queried whether any progress had been made in the provision of bollards to block access past the Kawhia Museum. The Engineering Manager replied that to date no progress

had been made. In reply to Cr Blackler regarding maintenance metaling, the Engineering Manager replied that the full amount of metal under the programme was utilised.

Cr Pilkington expressed her appreciation to staff member Mr David Brown regarding her concerns about minor shaping works on Te Rauamo Road. The Engineering Manager reported that the Contractor has some minor shaping issues to go back to during the maintenance period however, a final inspection of the work will be carried out.

Cr Blackler queried what progress had been made in regard to Walker Road. The Engineering Manager replied he had last heard from a Department of Corrections staff Member in Wellington who had actioned his input but was waiting for a response to it. His Worship queried who was focused on ensuring the matter is progressed further. It was agreed that the Engineering Manager follow the matter up.

The Engineering Manager reported he had received advice that representatives of the Waikato Regional Council (WRC) wished to visit Council to discuss issues relating to Flood Protection. The Chief Executive reported he had passed on to a senior WRC manager a message relating to the matter of the renewal of the Land Service Agreement in respect of the Otorohanga floodbanks.

Cr Phillips referred to 'sight benching' and queried whether hydroseeding had been carried out on a section of Rangiatea Road. He expressed the opinion that if so, the work does not look very good. The Engineering Manager replied that should the work not be up to the required standard, the Contractor will be required to re-sow that particular area.

Cr Blackler directed a query to Council's Roothing Manager, Mr Martin Gould, who had just attended the meeting, regarding the re-sealing of Bayley Road. She referred to a property which annually plants maize and suggested if any sight benching work is to be undertaken, that this be commenced as soon as possible before the area is planted.

#### **FUNDING ASSISTANCE RATE (FAR)**

The Chief Executive circulated the Roothing Manager's information on the effects of a reduced Funding Assistance Rate based on the budget for the 2011/12 current financial year, a reduction in funding from NZTA of approximately \$60,000 per annum results from this reduced FAR. He reported that this Council's base rate has reduced from 53 to 52 percent from 2012/13 along with the following reductions:

1. Passenger Transport – 60 down to 50 percent
2. Public Transport Infrastructure – 60 down to 50 percent
3. Transport planning studies and strategies – 75 down to 52 percent
4. Road Safety Community Programmes – 75 down to 52 percent.

The Roothing Manager reported there is no loss of funding proposed in respect of Minor Safety Works however, there was a substantial reduction in the subsidy for a District Roothing Coordinator.

His Worship said the reduced rates places pressure on Council to deliver what it said it would, at no fault of its own.

#### **Resolved**

That the Routine Engineering report for May to July 2011 be received.

#### **Cr Pilkington / Cr Johnson**

## **Item-140 DISTRICT SPORTS COORDINATORS REPORT**

### **Discussion**

The District Sports Coordinator, Ms Robbie Matthews, attended the meeting and referred Members to her report for the period January to June 2011.

Ms Matthews reported that the new initiative called 'Kiwi Sport' has been a highlight for her. She said Kiwi Sport is a government funded initiative to promote sport for school aged children and will be coordinated throughout the Waikato region by Sport Waikato. She said the purpose of the initiative is to encourage more kids into sport. In reply to Cr Pilkington, Ms Matthews advised that Kawhia will become their focus for this initiative during the next six months. This will include outlying areas such as Hauturu. Cr Blackler queried whether there has been a good uptake of rural kids coming into the Community. Ms Matthews replied that attempts are being made to get out into the rural areas.

Cr Pilkington reported on how wonderful the SPARC Rural Travel Funding scheme is and the positive effect it has for the area she represents. She said the scheme provides really good value out west. Ms Matthews reported that another programme 'Energise' is a really good example of programmes which add value to the District Coordinator's Contract. She said this programme has been successful and will be rolled over again this year.

Ms Matthews then made a presentation on a project specifically for Otorohanga called 'Be a Sportie'. She advised for sport to survive we are reliant on the input of volunteers and people wanting to participate. This project is aimed at looking at ways to help sports and Clubs in the Otorohanga District to promote themselves and what they offer to the Community. She said she wishes to raise the awareness of the benefits of sport and encourage more people to become involved in sport whether it be as a volunteer/supporter or a player.

Ms Matthews advised that all events and sports promotion in Otorohanga is now branded with its very own District logo 'Be a Sportie – Support Sport in Otorohanga'. She outlined two new initiatives – 'Sport Volunteer Card' and 'Caught being a Sportie' vouchers. She said the volunteer cards brings together local sport and businesses in a different way than before. The vouchers have been developed to be used by Schools, Clubs, Coaches, etc. These are to be used along similar lines to 'Player of the Day' awards except they are to be handed out to supporters. Sporties are those children and adults that are getting involved in 'giving it heaps', for example not necessarily the best players.

His Worship thanked Ms Matthews for her presentation and said it is obvious that she has the passion for the job and the District as a whole.

His Worship reported that the local Tennis Club, its facility being on Maori Lease Land, wish to have discussions on its long term options, perhaps to be included with other sporting activities such netball and bowls, for an all weather surface facility to be established at the Island Reserve. His Worship said, Council as owners of the land, is comfortable to have discussions on the proposal.

### **Resolved**

That the Otorohanga District Sports Coordinator's report for the period January to June 2011 be received.

**Cr Johnson / Cr Baxter**

## **Item-142 KIWI HOUSE DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATION**

### **Discussion**

Messrs Roger Brady, Paul Stuart-Higgs, Alan Buckman, Julian Phillips and Mrs Elizabeth Cowan attended the meeting.

Mr Buckman reported that the current Kiwi House facility is dated and requires an upgrade. He said due to the standard of the facility it is being left behind other similar facilities. He requested that Otorohanga and the surrounding areas be asked to assist/support the proposed re-development. Mr Brady informed Members that the business case study as presented, is sound.

Mr Stuart-Higgs emphasised how special the Kiwi House is to him and the work that happens there is world-class however, educational programmes and infrastructure are lacking. He said there is a need to renew the facility and showcase what the Kiwi House is all about.

His Worship reported that some six years ago the Otorohanga District Council, in conjunction with the Otorohanga District Development Board, funded a study to look into the possibilities for the facility. He said a three year strategy was established with Council funding up to \$50,000 for this purpose. His Worship further reported that Council agreed to place in its Estimates a figure of \$500,000 in case 'something' physical came out of the strategy. He said what has come out now is better for Council and a more considered approach. He said, Council as landowner, is to consider whether it will act as guarantor for any loan raised.

The Finance & Administration Manager expressed the opinion that the proposal as presented is extremely sound with very realistic financial forecasts.

Cr Phillips suggested that the buses enroute to Waitomo could be targeted to include visits to the Kiwi House. His Worship felt that the proposal was really exciting and agreed that the facility badly needs an upgrade. He said a proposal to upgrade is long overdue in coming to reality. He wished those present all the best with the proposal.

### **Resolved**

That

1. The Kiwi House development presentation be received.
2. Council approves the proposed development for the Kiwi House
3. Council acts as guarantor for the proposed loan for the Kiwi House development up to a maximum of \$580,000

### **His Worship the Mayor / Cr Baxter**

## **Item-143 ODC MATTERS REFEREED FROM 2 AUGUST 2011**

### **Discussion**

The Governance Supervisor took Members through Matters Referred.

### **DISTRICT LOGO**

The Chief Executive reported that no progress has been made with designer David Walmsley on discreet changes to the existing District logo.

### **PLANTING – STATE HIGHWAY 3**

The Engineering Manager reported that the planting of trees close to the footpath adjacent to the former Otorohanga Wool Store, backing onto State Highway 3 are definitely planted on Road Reserve. He said the matter is to be followed up by Council's Roading Manager with the property owner.

With regard to a workshop to consider the issue of property owners planting trees along road boundaries, the Engineering Manager reported that more information is being obtained in order to hold the workshop.

## **GENERAL**

### **LOCAL BUSINESSES**

Cr Ormsby referred to a local establishment and expressed his concern as to what takes place on the premises. His Worship replied that Council's Licencing staff and the NZ Police will deal with any issues.

Cr Ormsby referred to business opportunities and questioned where the town is headed. He said Otorohanga is a good town and he would like to see it move forward. His Worship suggested that any proposal be driven by the Otorohanga Community Board and for liaison to take place with the Otorohanga District Development Board.

### **MITRE 10/LIBRARY**

Cr Phillips reported that the fence between the Mitre10 property and the Library requires repairs. Cr Prescott replied that discussions have been held with the Mitre10 business owner.

### **CIVIL DEFENCE**

Cr Pilkington expressed her thanks to Council's Environmental Services Manager for his attendance at a recent Civil Defence meeting at Kawhia.

Cr Pilkington reported that the Otorohanga District Development Board is being very pro-active throughout NZ.

### **WAIKATO VALLEY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Cr Blackler reported on her attendance at a meeting of the Waikato Valley Emergency Management Committee held on 12 August 2011. She advised that a new Chairperson was elected and reports presented on the Christchurch Earthquake outlining the involvement of the Waikato Region. Cr Blackler further advised that a business plan and a budget of \$400,000 was approved at that meeting.

### **ZONE 2 MEETING**

His Worship reminded Members of a Zone 2 meeting to be held in Gisborne on 8/9 September 2011. He referred to a partners tour and requested Members inform Council's Executive Assistant if they would like to attend.

### **LINES COMPANY**

His Worship reported on a recent visit by Ms Elizabeth Anglesea on behalf of The Lines Company who is attempting to address public opinion of the Company.

### **LOCAL CANCER FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST**

His Worship reported that the proposed Cancer fundraising breakfast has been cancelled.

### **EXTENDED WAIKATO RURAL FIRE DISTRICT**

The Chief Executive reported that it was thought an agreement had been reached however, DOC indicated they were in a state of turmoil and would be unable to commit to any new arrangement at present. He said the matter has been placed 'on hold' however, should agreement be reached, it will be to this Council's advantage.

### **FUNDING REVIEW WORKSHOP**

The Finance & Administration Manager requested consideration be given for a suitable date to hold a full day funding review workshop including both Community Boards. It was suggested that perhaps it could be held in conjunction with a normal Council meeting either 13 September or 4 October 2011.

## **MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12 noon and resumed at 1.05pm.

## **RANGATAHI LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME**

Messrs Marcus Akahuta-Brown and Richard Te Wao and supporters attended the meeting. His Worship welcomed them on behalf of Council. He said Mr Akahuta-Brown is Convenor of the Rangatahi programme on behalf of the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs. Mr Akahuta-Brown outlined his background and why he has become part of supporting civic leadership. He said he now lives in his home town in Te Araroa where he appreciates the value and sense of connection, belonging to the Community. Mr Akahuta-Brown then outlined his secondary schooling through to his attendance at the University of Waikato where he questioned himself as to who he was and where he was heading in life. He said he wanted to make his and others lives worthwhile. Mr Akahuta-Brown advised that at the age of 21 he was Principal of a school for at-risk young people and attempting to develop the potential of young people. Mr Akahuta-Brown has represented NZ in many international forums encouraging people to live their lives for the benefit of others. He outlined his attempts to get Iwi to identify those persons willing to help/invest into people's lives, through Council.

Mr Akahuta-Brown said there are currently 14 young people participating in the Rangitahi Leadership Programme. He envisaged that the intake for next year will be around 35 young people.

Mr Akahuta-Brown congratulated His Worship and Council for their positive contribution to the lives of young people.

His Worship welcomed Richard Te Wao and informed Members that he was the first person Council invested in. He acknowledged Council for supporting him in this project. His Worship said he was impressed with how Mr Te Wao has shared his time and experiences with him.

Mr Te Wao thanked His Worship and Council for the support given to him. He said he was born in Otorohanga and attended both Otorohanga Primary School and Otorohanga College to the 7<sup>th</sup> Form.

Mr Te Wao informed Members that during this period he got himself into considerable trouble resulting in a jail term. He said during his time in jail he came to the conclusion he did not want others to follow in his footsteps. He said he started helping out in his Community and returned to College to assist with carving.

Mr Te Wao reported on his attendance at a Youth Achievement Camp which led him to aim for where he is now. He said he enjoys meeting new people and potential leaders which could make changes in his Community.

His Worship thanked those in the public gallery for their support of Mr Te Wao.

## **MEETING CLOSED**

The meeting concluded at 1.45pm.

**MAYOR:**

**DATE:** 13 September 2011

