



Otorohanga District Council

MINUTES

6 December 2011

OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

6 December 2011

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held in the Council Chambers, Maniapoto St, Otorohanga on Tuesday 6 December 2011 commencing at 10.02 am.

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 Blackler read the Opening Prayer.

ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN GENERAL BUSINESS

The following items were raised for consideration in General Business which may require a resolution –

1. Cr Blackler referred to correspondence received from WRC regarding the affixing of Council's common seal to the Waikato Civil Defence Emergency Management Group constitution.
2. Application for temporary road closures – Hamilton Car Club.

Resolved

That the above items be considered in General Business as they may require a resolution.

Cr Phillips / Cr Pilkington

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held on 25 November 2011 as previously circulated, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Cr Johnson / Cr Prescott

MATTERS REFERRED

Cr Pilkington referred to page 7, the final item and advised that the West Coast Zone Liaison Committee should read 'Sub-committee'. Furthermore, Cr Pilkington requested that the final sentence on page 7 read, 'Cr Pilkington advised that an increase in Zone staff numbers on the Committee was approved...'.

The Engineering Manager referred to the Otorohanga Community Lawn Mowing Contract and reported that there has been some improvement in the work being provided however, there is still additional issues such as mowing around trees and fence line mowing that require attention. He said Council staff will keep pressure on the Contractor to ensure that the work is being carried out to the required standards.

REPORTS

Item-175 OTOROHANGA COMMUNITY BOARD MINUTES 10 NOVEMBER 2011

Discussion

MATTERS ARISING

Cr Pilkington referred to page 3 of the minutes in particular the Community website and requested that the wording 'Community website' be amended to read 'District website'.

OTOROHANGA STOPBANKS

In reply to Cr Johnson, Cr Prescott extended an invitation for him to join Board Members and staff to walk over the Otorohanga stopbanks this Thursday at 1.00pm.

PROPOSED WETLANDS

Cr Phillips reported on his attendance at a recent Dairy NZ/Waikato Regional Council (WRC) presentation regarding the disposal of effluent and advised that Council's existing sewerage ponds are up to standard and that the clay lined walls will be sufficient. The Engineering Manager reported there were no problems in regards to the ponds however, Council is to obtain a Resource Consent for seepage to land.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga Community Board held on 10 November 2011 be received.

Cr Prescott / Cr Ormsby

Item-176 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 2011

Discussion

The Environmental Services Manager summarised the Environmental Health Officer/Liquor Licencing Inspectors report for the period September to November 2011.

The Environmental Services Manager referred to the night visits by Police and the Liquor Licencing Inspector to Otorohanga licenced premises and reported that some venues were not complying with the requirements for a Duty Manager on the premises.

Resolved

That the Environmental Health Officer / Liquor Licensing Inspector's report for September to November 2011 be received.

Cr Baxter / Cr Blackler

Item-177 ODDB REPORT FOR MAY TO OCTOBER 2011

Discussion

His Worship reported that due to a misunderstanding the Chair of the Otorohanga District Development Board will not be attending the meeting today and that an invitation will be extended to her to attend the next meeting of Council. Cr Pilkington reported that ODDB have had a very busy year and achieved a lot. She extended thanks to the Chair and Mr Andrew Giltrap.

Resolved

That the Otorohanga District Development Board report for the period February 2011 to November 2011 is received.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Phillips

Item-178 ODC MATTERS REFERRED FROM 15 NOVEMBER 2011

Discussion

MATTERS REFERRED

MOTOR TRADE ASSOCIATION

The Chief Executive reported he had only received one letter on behalf of Ingham Mitsubishi regarding their opinion on the proposal for Council to participate in Central Government's 'All of Government' collective procurement scheme for the purchasing of light vehicles. He advised that other dealers may respond however, he is unsure whether they understand Council's proposal. The Chief Executive reported that the representative from Ingham Mitsubishi said it was his belief that most dealerships will be able to provide similar deals. Cr Blackler expressed the opinion that Council needs to receive their advice in writing. It was agreed that the matter remain on Matters Referred.

Item-179 APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES - HAMILTON CAR CLUB

Discussion

The Engineering Manager referred to the Engineering Support Officer's report on an application from the Hamilton Car Club for various road closures within the Otorohanga District to enable the Hamilton Car Club to hold the Ngutunui Tarmac Hill Climb. The Engineering Manager reported that one objection had been received to the proposal from Mr John Hegarty, his main concern being that last year it had been agreed the Hamilton Car Club would consider an alternative Hill Climb venue so that Pekanui Road was not the only road used for this event. Members were informed that all other property owners had signed their consent to the closure. Cr Pilkington felt that the period of closure is quite long and it is always the same roads being used. The Engineering Manager advised that some Clubs prefer certain roads and appear to go back to using them each year.

Cr Pilkington said she is concerned at the tone and nature of the objection, which she said was looking for an alternative road and this has not happened. She received confirmation from staff that the objector would be able to get out of his property if required. Cr Blackler queried whether the use of the road by tankers had been considered.

His Worship referred to the objection and said the onus is on the objector to specify exactly why he is objecting. He said everyone else has agreed to the proposal and that the local school benefits through fundraising.

His Worship suggested, to Cr Johnson's query, that Council's Engineering Manager could be proactive and approach the objector to discuss with him the proposed closure and his reasons for objecting.

Resolved

That approval is given to:

Purpose: Ngutunui 2-day Hillclimb Championship

Date: Saturday, 25 February 2012

Details of Closure: **PEKANUI ROAD** – entire length. Includes intersection with Scott Road (no exit)

Period of Proposed Closure: 9.00am to 5.00pm

Date: Sunday, 26 February 2012

Details of Closure: **TE RAUAMOA ROAD** – starting 600m from its intersection with SH31 to its intersection with Okupata, Pirongia West and Pekaui Roads.

Period of Proposed Closure: 9.00am to 5.00pm

With the following conditions imposed:

1. Persons will be allowed through in the event of an emergency.
2. Hamilton Car Club is to pay an application fee of \$2,000.00 towards administration of the road closure to Otorohanga District Council.
3. Hamilton Car Club is to pay for all advertising costs in appropriate newspapers. Public notice advertisements are to be published in the Waitomo News.
4. Hamilton Car Club is responsible for obtaining public liability insurance (and paying the cost thereof) to a minimum value of \$2,000,000. This is required to indemnify Council against any damage to property or persons as a result of rally activities during the road closure period.
5. Hamilton Car Club is to pay a bond of \$2,000.00 no later than 10 working days prior to the event. The bond is based on \$2,000.00 per road per day and is applicable to unsealed roads only.
6. Hamilton Car Club is to comply with the objection provisions contained in the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965.
7. Hamilton Car Club is to liaise, and provide evidence of liaison with all operators and businesses that may be affected by the road closures.
8. Hamilton Car Club is to consult with all residents of all properties on the roads intending to be closed and also residents on roads connecting with the roads intending to be closed, including any no exit roads. Two mail drops to residents are also to be carried out. All initial mail drops to residents are to be approved by Council staff before distribution commences. The subsequent mail drop is to be completed no later than ten full days before the proposed closures.
9. Hamilton Car Club is solely responsible for signposting and policing of the roads to be closed, to ensure that only vehicles connected with the event have access to the road closure areas. This includes arranging the delivery, erection and staffing of all road closure barriers and the removal thereof after closures. All gates and entranceways are to be taped and tape is to be removed thereafter.
10. Signs advising of the road closures are to be erected at the start and end of the closed portions of roads and on each intersecting road two weeks prior to the road closure. All signs are to be removed immediately after the closure. A Hamilton Car Club representative is to meet with Council Engineering staff regarding the required signs format, size, location and quantity of signs for approval before they are manufactured and erected.

Cr Prescott / Cr Pilkington

Item-180 WAIKATO CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GROUP

Discussion

Cr Blackler presented correspondence received from WRC advising that the resolution from the CDEM Joint Committee dated 5 September 2011 in respect to the adoption of the revised Constitution to the effect that –

1. The report CDEMG Group Constitution Review Update be received for information,
2. The revised Waikato CDEM Group Constitution be adopted by the CDEM Joint Committee.

Cr Blackler advised that this resolution was carried and that it now remains for each of the Local Authorities which are party to the Constitution to adopt and sign the agreement and arrange for the Common Seal of the Local Authority to be affixed. Cr Blackler reported that the Waikato CDEMG has already approved the adoption and that it is now up to the remaining three Local Authorities to do so.

Resolved

That the Otorohanga District Council adopt and sign the revised Waikato Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Constitution and to affix its common seal.

Cr Blackler / Cr Baxter

GENERAL

REGIONAL TRANSPORT

Cr Blackler reported on her attendance at a recent Regional Transport meeting and advised that the draft Regional Land Transport programme was adopted and is open for submissions until 20 February 2012. She said this does not provide anything for the Otorohanga District as the programme concentrates on the expressway.

Cr Blackler reported that the draft Stock Effluent Strategy was adopted with the first site to be at Te Kuiti. She said this will be funded by a regional rate.

Cr Blackler referred to road safety and reported that the Otorohanga District is the only District in the Region not to record a fatality so far this year. She said it would be wonderful if this can be maintained after the tragedies suffered last year.

TRIENNIAL FORUM

Cr Blackler reported on her attendance at the Triennial Forum and advised that the Auton Report had been received which was commissioned by the regions Chief Executives. She said this looks at strategic collaboration in the region.

Cr Blackler advised that WRC staff are working with Mr Alan Dormer on improving RMA policy making an attempt to speed up the process. She said the suggestion is that an independent chair be appointed and the Committee then hears submissions with the right to cross-examine. There are no appeals to the subsequent decision other than on points of law.

Cr Blackler reported that updates on UNISA (upper North Island Strategic Alliance) was received regarding inter-regional collaboration and also discussed the Auckland plan. She said this has upset the Waikato District Council who barely rate a mention, and yet Auckland expects to appropriate more water, power, land for industry and dormitory towns in the northern part of the Waikato region. Cr Blackler advised that a Regional Development Fund was also discussed.

CIVIL DEFENCE – WAIKATO REGION

Cr Blackler reported that this Council needs to formally approve the Second Generation plan. She said at a recent meeting they were presented with options for funding the new plan – to fully implement in year 1 or in stages over three years. She said the Committee decided to fully fund in year 1 as the difference between the two funding options was less small.

Cr Blackler advised that the Group now has three full-time officers and is independent of the WRC.

CIVIL DEFENCE – WAIKATO VALLEY GROUP

Cr Blackler reported she attended the Waikato Valley Group meeting yesterday and that their budget has been trimmed by nearly \$20,000 to just over \$400,000. She said the good news for this Council is that its share of that amount has dropped from 5.6 percent to 3.5 percent, a fall from \$22,400 to \$14,300 for the 2012/13 year as this Council is using more updated population figures which reflect the growth in northern Districts.

WAIKERIA PRISON – 100 YEAR CELEBRATION

Cr Blackler advised she had attended the 100 year celebrations at the Waikeria Prison which proved an interesting day. She said this was well attended by ex-residents and staff many of whom were disappointed how the farms have changed and a lot of the options for training have been removed. Cr Blackler said she also attended the Liaison Committee meeting and advised that new security cameras are being installed. A no smoking policy has been implemented and has gone much more smoothly than expected.

Cr Prescott advised he had also attended the recent Waikeria Prison 100 year celebrations and enjoyed the event. He said there were displays of old memorabilia and items made by prisoners over the years.

Cr Prescott said the loss of employment by the prison is quite staggering with only diary farming and catering now being carried out.

WALKER ROAD

Cr Blackler said she attended an on site meeting with residents, ODC staff and Department of Corrections staff and that progress is being made.

The Engineering Manager reported on his attendance at an on-site meeting on Walker Road whereat four representatives from the Dept of Corrections and two land owners were present. He said good discussion had been held and that land owners realise it is now the time to legalise the matter. He said the Dept of Corrections were carrying out work in respect to the legalisation of the road, which may have to be advertised.

The Engineering Manager informed Members that Council has allocated \$60,000 for its share of the costs. This comprises administration costs and some of the proposed physical works. He said the land owners have to agree to provide a contribution to the project and how this going to take place. He said it is hoped to form the road over the summer period. The Engineering Manager advised that currently he is waiting to hear back from the Dept of Corrections regarding the legalisation issues, then a final estimate of works will be prepared. He said this will then be presented to the land owners for their agreement. Cr Pilkington queried whether the land owners were clear on their contribution of funding. The Engineering Manager replied that he thought they were. Cr Baxter said that the land owners would then have a share in the road. It was agreed that the proposed legalisation will provide them with security for their property. Cr Blackler expressed the opinion that the Dept of Corrections were being remarkably generous in this matter and that they had altered the route of the road. His Worship congratulated those Members and staff involved in the matter to date.

The Chief Executive reported that the land owners had raised the question of whether Council would be prepared to put in place a targetted rate to fund the project. Cr Baxter said they had also discussed the matter with local MP Shane Ardern who suggested that a rate funding option could be introduced. The Chief Executive advised that this would be over just three properties. His Worship expressed the opinion he thought it would have been cheaper for the land owners to arrange their own funding. He suggested that staff present how this might be carried out. Cr Blackler confirmed that Council's contribution will be capped at \$60,000. His Worship said that this matter is a neighbour issue and no consequence to Council as the onus is on the land owners and the Dept of Corrections. He said Council does not wish to create a precedent.

INTRA-REGIONAL COLLABORATION

The Chief Executive referred to a recent meeting where it had been agreed in principle to explore intra-regional collaboration and at the next Triennial Agreement Forum meeting a cost analysis of employing a person to drive collaboration opportunities will be presented. He said he has reservations as to whether there will be benefits to this Council however, it is necessary to get resource on board to look at the 'nuts and bolts' of the proposal. He said however, there will be a financial commitment required from Council.

His Worship referred to the principle behind LASS, that it is Councils working together to provide better services at competitive costs to the ratepayer. He said this is enabling Council to obtain more comprehensive services to the ratepayer however, it is realistic not to expect large savings.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Cr Prescott reported he had tendered his apology for not attending the Habitat for Humanity (HFH) sponsor and volunteers day. He said he had had discussions with a representative of HFH regarding the Merrin Avenue property and reported it was envisaged that a house would be placed on this site towards the end of 2012, following the demolition of the existing house. Cr Prescott informed Members of HFH's refurbishment offer, in particular for the elderly applicants, that would be considered case-by-case. He said the exterior of properties and some interior work could be undertaken and the cost repaid by the property owner via a loan. His Worship suggested that details of this programme be circulated perhaps by way of Councils newsletter for public information.

IDEA SERVICES

Cr Prescott reported on his attendance at an opening day of IDEA services.

KAWHIA CELEBRATION

Cr Pilkington reminded Members of the Kawhia Christmas/New Year celebrations in particular, the fire works and annual regatta. She advised that the Liquor Ban will take effect from 23 December 2011.

EFFLUENT PONDS

Cr Baxter reported on his attendance at a recent workshop regarding effluent ponds and advised that over the next five years 70 percent of farmers irrigation systems will not be up to standard. He said the result will cost the dairy farmer a substantial amount of money and will impact on regulatory requirements.

DISTRICT PLAN REVIEW

The Policy Manager reported that the District Plan Review work has progressed to finalising reports to be presented to the Hearings panel. He said following this, reports will be presented in a workshop to Council in the New Year, towards the end of January or early February 2012. Following this workshop it is the intention to present a paper to Council for the adoption of the operative District Plan.

WRC – PROPOSED REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT

The Policy Manager reported WRC have been writing up their responses to submissions. These will be released early in the New Year and the Hearings will commence on 13 February 2012 and will continue through into March 2012.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARD – CONTAMINATED LAND

The Environmental Services Manager informed Members of the new regulations concerning the National Environmental Standard on contaminated land.

The Environmental Services Manager informed Members that building licencing will be going live on 1 March 2012 and that this will require additional staff resource resulting in more cost to applicants.

The Environmental Services Manager informed Members that pre-season Liquor Control meetings have been held with good attendance and that the message is being well received.

EFFLUENT DISPOSAL

The Engineering Manager advised that in regards to the oxidation ponds a Resource Consent has been received for the management of solids with some conditions. With regard to the main Consent, being the Discharge of Effluent, this has been placed on hold with the agreement of WRC due to the Christmas/New Year period. He said it has been agreed to advertise the application during the middle of January 2012. The Engineering Manager reported that de-sludging of the oxidation ponds will commence after the Christmas break.

NORTH KING COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

His Worship reported that resources have been employed to put together relevant documents and that an inventory of information is now available for people to access.

CARPENTRY MODULE

His Worship reported that Mr Robin Kapoor has retired and requested that his grateful appreciation for his employment be extended to Council. His Worship reported that Wintec and the Otorohanga College are discussing aspects of the Carpentry module and that a new tutor has been employed.

APPRECIATION

His Worship acknowledged all Member's contribution since being elected last year and said that he has appreciated those Members that have represented Council at various meetings, etc and gathered information. He said Council has been represented very well.

2012-22 LONG TERM PLAN

The Finance & Administration Manager informed Members that a proposed financial strategy will be presented to the first meeting of Council to be held in January 2012. He said it is proposed to present the draft Management Plan and Estimates to Council on 14 February 2012.

The Finance & Administration Manager further advised that Council will review the draft LTP at its meeting to be held 6 March 2012 and will consider the draft LTP and Estimates and call for submissions at its meeting to be held 8 May 2012. He said it is proposed to adopt the LTP and Management Plan at the meeting of Council on 19 June 2012.

MEETING CLOSED

The meeting concluded at 11.20am.

MAYOR:

DATE: 24 January 2011

