



Ōtorohanga District Council

MINUTES

15 FEBRUARY 2022

10AM

Members of the Ōtorohanga District Council

His Worship the Mayor MM Baxter
Councillor K Christison
Councillor B Ferguson
Councillor R Johnson (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor K Jeffries
Councillor R Dow
Councillor RA Klos
Councillor A Williams

Meeting Secretary: Ms K King (Manager Governance)

ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

15 FEBRUARY 2022

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Ōtorohanga District Council was held in the Council Chambers, Ōtorohanga District Council, 17 Maniapoto Street, Ōtorohanga and via Zoom on Tuesday 15 February 2022 commencing at 10am.

Tanya Winter
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

15 February 2022

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PRESENT

His Worship the Mayor M Baxter, Councillors R Johnson (Deputy Mayor), A Williams, B Ferguson, K Christison, K Jeffries, R Klos and R Dow.

IN ATTENDANCE

Present: T Winter (Chief Executive) and K King (Manager Governance).

Via Zoom: N Gower (Group Manager Strategy & Community), G Bunn (Group Manager Business Enablement), A Loe (Group Manager Regulatory & Growth), M Lewis (Group Manager Engineering & Assets), B O'Callaghan (Manager Finance), R McNeil (Strategic Advisor), A Senger (Manager Roading), P Saunders (Manager Building Control) and H Taylor (Manager Libraries).

His Worship the Mayor declared the meeting open and welcomed members to the first Council of the year.

APOLOGY

No apologies were received.

REFLECTION / PRAYER / WORDS OF WISDOM

Councillor Klos provided these words of wisdom:

*Work for a cause, not for applause
Live life to express, not to impress
Don't strive to think make your presence noticed
Just make your absence felt.*

Author unknown

*If you are lucky enough to be different don't ever change.
Honesty saves everyone's time.*

Believe nothing, no matter where you read it or who has said it, not even if I have said it unless it agrees with your own reason and your own common sense.

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did but people will never forget how you made them feel.

Taylor Swift

DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No declarations of conflicts of interest were received.

PUBLIC FORM

No members of the public were present in the public forum section of this meeting.

RECEIPT OF MINUTES – ŌTOROHANGA COMMUNITY BOARD

Resolved: That Council receive the minutes of the Ōtorohanga Community Board meeting held on 4 November 2021.

Councillor Christison | Councillor Dow

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Resolved: That Council receive the minutes of the Kāwhia Community Board meeting held on 17 December 2021.

Councillor Jeffries | Councillor Williams

ITEM 227: HIS WORKSHOP THE MAYOR'S VERBAL REPORT

His Worship reported on activities he has participated in since the last meeting of Council, these being –

- 1 December – Handover due to the national programme manager's resignation from the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs.
- 3 December – Waikato Regional Airport Limited's annual general meeting
- 3 December – Te Poutama Rangitahi Employment Pathways Programme hui with the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs
- 13 December – Ōtorohanga Town Concept Plan meeting
- 14 December – Readiness Plan presented by Maniapoto Maori Trust Board
- 15/16 December – Interviews for Mayors Taskforce for Jobs national programme manager role in Wellington
- 21 December – Ministry of Social Development stakeholder function
- 2 February – Rural water supplies technical working group hui
- 4 February – Future for Local Government meeting
- 8 February – Site visit with Councillor Williams to Mangati Road
- 9 February – Mayors Taskforce for Jobs with Te Puni Kōkiri, the Ministry of Maori Development
- 10 February – Waikato Plan youth training and employment service
- 10 February – Farewell function for Jason Dawson, Chief Executive of Hamilton-Waikato Tourism
- 14 February – Waikato Plan leadership meeting

Resolved: That Council receive the verbal update provided to the meeting by His Worship the Mayor.

Mayor Baxter | Councillor Christison

In response to a query His Worship confirmed no dividend pay-out was provided by the Waikato Regional Airport Limited due to the uncertainty around the pandemic and associated economic outlook.

ITEM 228: REPURPOSING OF SEAL EXTENSION FUNDING

Council's Manager Roading took the report as read and noted Council had determined to continue with the seal extension programme as part of the Long Term Plan. Initial investigations into Huirimu Road and associated design cost estimates identified the budget allocation was insufficient to seal the anticipated one kilometre portion of the southern end where it adjoins Waipapa Road. The initial investigations identified a survey would need to be undertaken to confirm if the road lies within the road reserve designated area.

Mr Senger sought confirmation from Council if the project should continue with a smaller portion of the road sealed, if additional funding should be sought to continue with the proposed one kilometre as planned or, if the funding should be reallocated to either footpath extension work within Ōtorohanga Township or for safety improvements within the Wharepūhanga ward.

His Worship advised a letter had been received immediately prior to the Council meeting from a resident on Huirimu Road expressing their frustration however under Council's meetings procedures it was unable to be tabled. In response to a query, Mr Senger outlined alternative options for the unused funding within the Wharepūhanga ward rather than elsewhere in the District. He noted safety improvement options included near Arohena School due to the pending school zone speed limit changes, tree

removal where impacting the road corridor or, intersection/lighting enhancements. The safety improvements may attract Waka Kotahi funding whereas seal improvements do not qualify.

The Wharepūhanga ward councillor, R Klos spoke of the community's frustration and desire to proceed with the sealing as outlined in the Long Term Plan. She spoke of the expectation of road sealing being undertaken and the impact on traffic flows within the area.

Members spoke in support of sealing one kilometre of Huirimu Road during which the following were clarified by staff:

- The actual maintenance costs for unsealed roads are lower than sealed roads.
- The vegetation maintenance costs are higher for sealed roads as the increased speeds require additional control as per the One Road Network Classification requirements.
- Sealed roads incur greater rehabilitation costs.
- Design work would be undertaken in the current financial year with the physical works to be undertaken in the 22/23 financial year.
- Unused funding from 21/22 can be transferred, and funding for 23/24 brought forward, to the 22/23 financial year. This will allow the maximum funding available for the physical works. There would be no impact on rates as the overall budget is in alignment with the Long Term Plan.

Resolved: That:

- a The report presented by the Roothing Manager be received; and,
- b One kilometre (1km) of Huirimu Road (no shared cycle path) is sealed as planned with three (3) year's budget brought forward making a total of \$708,000 available for this project.

Mayor Baxter | Councillor Klos

ITEM 229: FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2021

Council's Finance Manager took the report as read before highlighting the subsidies and grants component of the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses was impacted by the timing of Waka Kotahi claims whereas the budget is spread evenly across the financial year. He noted expenditure is below budget due to the impact of the COVID since August 2021.

He drew attention to the revised Combined Cost of Service Statement that now shows operating expenditure by group of activity as included in the Long Term Plan. In response to a query, he advised of Council's approach to bank account management.

Council's Group Manager Engineering and Assets spoke to the capital projects section of the report noting some products had availability issues so were being purchased earlier in the process to shorten overall timeframes. Also, he noted design work on projects for the 22/23 financial year had commenced to allow faster physical work commencement. In response to a query, he advised a report on the Kāwhia water supply issues over the holiday period would be presented to the Kāwhia Community Board. In response to a query around the Arohena water scheme he noted the community was kept informed during the Long Term Plan process including discussions at the scheme committee meetings.

Resolved: That the Financial Report, including the capital projects update, for the month ended 31 December 2021 be received.

Councillor Jeffries | Councillor Fergusson

ITEM 230: CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT QUARTERLY REPORT

Council's Group Manager Regulatory and Growth took the item as read. In response to a query, he undertook to provide further information on the activities of the Waikato Primary Industries Adverse Events Cluster noting one matter the Cluster were investigating was large movements of stock due to events such as ash fall covering pastures and contaminating water supplies.

Resolved: That Council receives the report.

Councillor Fergusson | Councillor Johnson

ITEM 231: BUILDING CONTROL ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2021

Council's Building Control Manager took the report as read. In response to a query, he advised the Waikeria Prison development was impacted by supply availability issues. He also noted the construction site was split into four separate sectors with no intermingling to reduce COVID risks.

His Worship congratulated the building team on achieving re-accreditation and it was noted the reduction to two-yearly audits was an indication Ōtorohanga is seen as low risk by the auditors.

Resolved: That the Building Control activity report for the last quarter of 2021 be received.

Mayor Baxter | Councillor Dow

ITEM 232: DISTRICT LIBRARY REPORT

Council's Library Manager took the report as read before noting the impact of COVID restrictions on library usage. She advised staff were working on protocols for running library programmes in-house under the traffic light system. In the interim the library had successfully run an online library programme with excited children recently receiving prizes.

In response to a query, she advised the RFID project places a Radio Frequency Identification tag on the book. This allows books to be piled onto the scanning device and checked out automatically rather than scanning every book individually. Additionally she noted the RFID would mean less physical handling of books during inventory audits as well as assisting in finding misplaced books.

Resolved: That the Library Manager's quarterly report be received.

Councillor Christison | Councillor Jeffries

COUNCILLOR UPDATES

- Councillor Williams has been focused on the civil defence emergency management Trifecta Programme meetings and with His Worship met residents onsite on Mangati Road.
- Councillor Jeffries attended the Kāwhia Community Board meeting in December and the Te Taiao o Kāwhia Moana steering group's strategic thinking meeting focused on erosion of the inner harbor but also access to Ocean Beach.
- Councillor Klos was focused on connecting with the Wharepūhanga community.
- Councillor Ferguson commented on the recent rain being of benefit to the District after the summer dry period.
- Councillor Christison spoke on the contributions the new staff would be making.
- Councillor Dow advised residents were concerned about the lack of a safety barrier on the State Highway 3 bridge which is traversed by pupils on bikes and noted vehicles tend to travel fast across the bridge. He has raised the issue at the Waikato Regional Council's Regional Transport meetings.
- Councillor Johnson advised the Beattie Home manager had resigned and a recruitment process was underway. Additionally, one of the registered nurses had resigned due to the COVID mandate and there are currently challenges in filling the role.

ITEM 233: RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Resolved: That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely,

- a) The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and

Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General Subject of each Matter to be Considered	Reason for Passing this Resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the Passing of this Resolution
Item 234: Northern Precinct Development – Waikato Regional Airport Ltd	Good reason to withhold exists under section 7	Section 48(1)(a)

b) This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

- Section 7(2)(i) to enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).

Mayor Baxter | Councillor Jeffries

The open session of the meeting resumed at 11.49am and there being no further business the meeting was closed at 11.50am.