



Otorohanga District Council

MINUTES

29 January 2013

OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

29 January 2013

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held in the Council Chambers, Maniapoto St, Otorohanga on Tuesday 29 December commencing at 10.04am.

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 & Engineering Manager), GD Bunn (Finance & Administration Manager) and CA Tutty (Governance Supervisor).

OPENING PRAYER

Cr Pilkington read the Opening Prayer.

His Worship declared the meeting open and welcomed those present. He wished Councillors and staff a happy New Year, which promised to be another exciting year ahead.

ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN GENERAL BUSINESS

Resolved that the matter of the Otorohanga Counselling Service Committee's current financial position and budget projections be considered in General Business which may require a resolution.

Cr Prescott / Cr Johnson

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 4 DECEMBER 2012

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held on 4 December 2012, as previously circulated, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Baxter

MATTERS ARISING

LIQUOR CONTROL BYLAW

Cr Pilkington referred to Item 300, page 2, and reported that consideration may be given to modifying or extending the current Bylaw.

Cr Blackler referred to the item Matters Arising, page 1, and requested that the wording 'UV filters' be deleted from the first paragraph, second sentence.

His Worship extended good luck to both the Otorohanga & Kawhia Community Boards for 2013.

REPORTS

Item 305 OTOROHANGA COMMUNITY BOARD MINUTES FOR 8 NOVEMBER & 13 DECEMBER 2012

Resolved

That the minutes of the meetings of the Otorohanga Community Board held on 8 November & 13 December 2012 be received.

Cr Ormsby / Cr Prescott

Item 306 KAWHIA COMMUNITY BOARD MINUTES 23 NOVEMBER 2012

Discussion

Cr Pilkington referred to the General item 'Signage adjacent to Museum' on page 4, and requested that the second sentence read, 'Mrs Pilkington reported that this has been dealt with through the Otorohanga District Development Board and Museum Director, in consultation with Mr David Walmsley'.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Kawhia Community Board held on 23 November 2012 be received.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Blackler

Item 307 DISTRICT LIBRARIANS REPORT FOR OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2012

Discussion

The District Librarian attended the meeting and presented her report for October to December 2012.

His Worship referred to the Kawhia Library Usage Statistics and the large decrease which has occurred compared to the 2011/12 year. The District Librarian replied that the number of issues is only small and that in some cases such as large print books there is insufficient material available. His Worship queried when were local people last surveyed as to what they might like from the Library. The District Librarian referred to a survey carried out a number of years ago and reported that this did not highlight any particular issues other than the users did not wish the library to close. Cr Pilkington reported that timing is also a factor with library activities being a seasonal issue. His Worship queried whether there is a way for users of the library to put forward their views. The District Librarian replied that she relies on the staff member at Kawhia to forward these views on. Cr Phillips referred to the increasing number of people downloading books. His Worship said the world is changing and queried whether the library would be able to access new systems in order to provide for active encouragement for library users to make use of. He said direct marketing using the technology that the library has may help to increase user numbers. The District Librarian expressed the opinion that many people use new technology however, of these many are not actually reading books through this source.

With regard to the current overdue book charges, Cr Phillips queried whether any further breakdown of information has been prepared. It was queried whether any change to the issue period and/or fines would make any significant difference in reducing the number of fines. The District Librarian advised that a certain pattern can change for a little while however, then things settle down. Cr Baxter felt that the introduction of higher penalties would ensure that users return books on time. Cr Blackler suggested that the overdue charge be removed off children's books and added to adult books. The District Librarian reported that her reason for requesting consideration be given to reducing the overdue charge for children's books may be a way to boost the circulation of children's material. If this proposal was published it may get through to the people with the aim of increasing circulation. Cr Baxter suggested that a notice be forwarded to users that their book/s will be coming overdue in two or three days rather than wait until books are actually overdue for return.

The Chief Executive advised that a total of approximately \$4900 was generated from library overdue charges however, in respect to children's books, this could equate to \$1000 which is an

extremely small amount. He said it is desirable to encourage children to read as this will provide a long standing benefit for the entire family.

In reply to His Worship regarding placing a time frame on any change, the District Librarian advised that such changes take a while to show any effect. His Worship suggested that should the overdue charge for children's books be reduced then the District Librarian's quarterly report should update Members on its effect, if any. Cr Phillips extended congratulations to the District Librarian and staff on the mystery activity programme carried out through the summer holiday period.

His Worship thanked the District Librarian for her comprehensive report.

Resolved

That

1. The District Librarian's quarterly report for the period October to December 2012 be received.
2. The overdue charge for children's books be reduced to 10 cents per item per day, to take effect from 1 July 2013.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Prescott

Item 308 DISTRICT BUILDING CONTROL OFFICERS REPORT OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2012

Discussion

The Environmental Services Manager attended the meeting and presented the District Building Control Officer's report on building control matters. In reply to Cr Pilkingtons' query regarding the increase in the number of CCC's issued, the Environmental Services Manager replied that with additional part-time resources to carry out inspections, this has allowed existing staff to catch up on the issuing of these.

Cr Blackler referred to her earlier request for a breakdown to be provided on Consents issued within the various wards. The Environment Services Manager replied that this cannot be supplied from the existing database however, he will prepare a report on the number of Building Consents issued for the quarterly period.

Resolved

That the District Building Control Officer's report for October to December 2012 be received.

Cr Johnson / Cr Pilkington

Item 309 PLANNING REPORT FOR OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2012

Discussion

The Environmental Services Manager summarised the report on Resource Consents granted under delegated authority for the period 1 October to 31 December 2012.

Resolved

That the Planning report for October to December 2012 be received.

Cr Blackler / Cr Ormsby

Item 310 DISTRICT SPORTS COORDINATORS REPORT JULY - DECEMBER 2012

Discussion

The District Sports Coordinator attended the meeting and presented her report for the period July to December 2012.

Cr Pilkington referred to the formation of a Sports Council within the Otorohanga College and queried how this will be targeted towards the College hostel pupils. The Coordinator replied that it is the intention to get these children involved, take up leadership roles and for them to take back home to Kawhia what they have learned.

His Worship acknowledged all that the Coordinator has carried out and said Council looks forward to working with her again this coming year.

Resolved

That the Otorohanga District Sports Coordinator's report for the period July - December 2012 be received.

Cr Phillips / Cr Blackler

Item 312 ODC MATTERS REFERRED FROM 4 DECEMBER 2012

Discussion

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

The Engineering Manager informed Members that Mr David Brown, Technical Manager for the Ministry of Health, is the contact person in regards to the proposed Drinking Water Standards for Rural Water Supply Schemes.

The Engineering Manager informed Members that there is a state of uncertainty as to how the proposed Drinking Water Standards will be applied in respect to the Rural Water Supply Schemes.

Item 311 WAIPA NETWORKS UPDATE ON 110KV LINE

Discussion

Mr Ray Milner, Chief Executive of Waipa Networks attended the meeting to update Members on a new 110KV line between Te Awamutu and Hangitiki. Mr Milner reported that this is a major programme for his Company and made Members aware that his Company serves the Kawhia area as well. Mr Milner advised that every four years there is a planned interruption to the supply from Transpower via one line from Karapiro for a period of 8-9 hours in order to carry out planned maintenance. He said it is difficult for his company to obtain a balance to try and find the best time for its customers to have this work carried out. Mr Milner reported that his Company is constantly trying to improve its level of supply however, unplanned faults will never be eliminated. He said however, with the proposal to install a new 110KV line this, the effect of such faults will be significantly reduced.

Mr Milner reported that the proposed line will come through this area and that to date approximately 60 percent of the affected landowners have been spoken to. He said it is desirable to keep the details of this matter confidential until the remaining land owners have been approached. He said his company has come up with a preferred route however, this may be moved a little either way following consultation with landowners. Mr Milner confirmed that

Council, along with the wider community, will also have input into the proposal through a Resource Consent process.

Mr Milner informed Members that Waipa Networks is a Trust owned company and any profit is returned to its consumers.

Mr Milner outlined possible funding of the proposal which he said will have no major impact on the consumers. He said any increase will be very modest. His Worship said he appreciated Mr Milner's update however, questioned why his company had not been involved in the recent District Plan Review. Mr Milner replied that agreement had only been reached with Trust Power just over a year ago that the proposed line would be built. He said around mid 2012 Council Officers had been contacted. Mr Milner referred to the preferred chosen route and said that this has taken into account Council's landscape values and that the line, in some cases, will be in close proximity to the existing railway line. Reference was made to the existing rail corridor for such lines however, Mr Milner advised that this is now electrified making it unsuitable to contain other power lines. He said generally the proposed lines should be kept as straight as possible however, it can be amended slightly.

Mr Milner then referred to the terms of financial implications to the landowners and reported that a benchmark is to be used which will be consistent across all properties. Cr Blackler queried the height of the proposed poles to which Mr Milner replied that these will be constructed of concrete and average around 16m. He said depending on the terrain of the land the line is going across, the span between the proposed poles will vary but is typically 90 to 100 metres.

Cr Phillips reported that the proposed line is going through the east of Otorohanga, through prime farming country of the District and queried why consideration was not given to going through the west of Otorohanga. Cr Phillips said he required a map of the route of the proposed line. Mr Milner confirmed that an easement will be placed on any title to the property affected. He advised that the line is no closer than 200m from any particular house. Mr Ormsby reported that the proposed line will be crossing the existing railway line therefore why not keep the line on the west side where the land is cheaper. Reference was made to an existing line to which Mr Milner advised that this is only a 33Kv line, which is owned by The Lines Company. He said his Company has had discussions with The Lines Company however, this existing line is not suitable for either party's purposes. Mr Milner reported that his Company is trying to carry this proposal out as economically as possible and that any concerns should be brought out in the forthcoming negotiations. He said his Company is Community owned and wishes to be respected by the Community.

His Worship queried what the process would be from here. He said he understood that Waipa Networks has legislation to do what it wishes under the Public Works Act. Mr Milner replied that his company is attempting to contact all remaining property owners and to negotiate with them. He said this will be followed up and in some case this has already begun. He said it will take some time however, it is envisaged that the project would be completed by mid 2016. His Worship requested that Waipa Networks keep Council 'in the loop' as to how things are progressing. His Worship said he would like to see an acceptable outcome for all parties involved. He encouraged Waipa Networks to get alongside the landowners in order to obtain the best results.

His Worship thanked Mr Milner for his presentation.

Resolved

That Mr Ray Milner's presentation be received.

Cr Baxter / Cr Prescott

GENERAL

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Cr Prescott reported on his recent attendance at an Outdoor Bowls Business House function which was a great night. He said it is proposed to hold twilight bowls on a Monday evening. Cr Prescott also informed Members that the Tigers Rugby Football Club have commenced twilight softball.

RURAL GATEWAY

Cr Ormsby referred to rural gateways and Council's policy on the funding of these and whether this is pursued by staff. The Engineering Manager replied that in general rural gateways are dealt with on a case by case basis responding to roading staff identifying problems and/or complaints. Cr Blackler advised that when repairs or reseals are carried out on a particular road then this is the time to talk to the land owner regarding their entranceways.

RANGIATEA ROAD

Cr Phillips referred to a section of Rangiatea Road between Wolvers and Pease's properties where the road is particularly narrow. His Worship informed Members that Council is due to have a roading workshop with staff.

Cr Phillips then referred to the patching of the carriageway up Gradara Avenue and Mountain View Road. He was informed that this patching is carried out to smooth the surface before resealing.

KAWHIA COMMUNITY

Cr Pilkington acknowledged His Worship acting as Chair at a recent public meeting following an incident with the local Kawhia Police Constable. She said the Board has had a preliminary meeting, highlighting various options and the need to involve Community leaders in this matter. She said great ideas have been put forward for consideration in the near future.

His Worship extended his and Council's acknowledgement of the Kawhia Community Board Members in the situation of last month. He said this had intense media interest however, the 24/7 commitment by members to manage what is best for Kawhia is commendable. He said the Community presented themselves very responsibly.

KAI FESTIVAL

Cr Pilkington reminded Members of the annual Kai Festival to be held this Saturday 2 February 2013.

WAIKERIA PRISON FACILITY

Cr Blackler reported on her attendance at a recent meeting where it was indicated that the bed numbers at the Prison will reduce from around 1000 beds to between 750-800. She informed Members that some buildings are being demolished as they are substandard. Cr Blackler reported that Members of Council's building team were present at this meeting where a comprehensive review of the building/development programme was presented.

OTOROHANGA MEDICAL CENTRE

His Worship informed Members of the forthcoming District farewell for Dr Bruce Phillips of the Otorohanga Medical Centre. He said it is proposed that this be held towards the end of March/early April however, public notices will be issued. His Worship reported that due to the relationship that exists between the Otorohanga Medical Centre and the Otorohanga District Development Board, in particular regarding recruitment, three new doctors have been employed. He said the Medical Centre is very appreciative to Council and the District Development Board

for their assistance. He said this is a very positive response for the future and that the new doctors will be resident doctors.

WILSHIER FAMILY – OTOROHANGA TIMBER COMPANY

His Worship advised that the Wilshier family wish to host Council at its next meeting to be held 19 February 2013 to view their new facility and to provide lunch and refreshments. He said it is intended to divide Council and Management staff into two groups for a two hour tour of their facility. The Chief Executive reported that the Regional Council has made an approach to Council to attend its next meeting to present their economic development programme. The Chief Executive undertook to inform Members of what will take place at its next meeting.

RESTRICTED FIRE SEASON

The Chief Executive reported that fire conditions are rapidly escalating and therefore Council will move into a prohibited fire season with all existing permits being withdrawn. He said concern has been expressed as to the dry conditions therefore Council may advertise water conservation measures.

Item 313 OTOROHANGA COUNSELLING SERVICE

Discussion

Confidential information was circulated to Members outlining the Otorohanga Counselling Service Committee's current financial position and budget projections. The Committee has requested Council to give consideration to providing interim funding support to ensure 20 years of counseling services to the Otorohanga District can continue.

Resolved

That Council approve grants of \$10,000 in each of the 2012/13 and 2013/14 financial years to the Otorohanga Counselling Service (OCS) on the condition that this funding is repaid by OCS as other funding becomes available in August 2013.

His Worship / Cr Phillips

MEETING CLOSED

The meeting concluded at 12.22pm.

MAYOR:

DATE: 19 February 2013