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Otorohanga District Council

# MINUTES

24 January 2017

10.00am

Members of the Otorohanga District Council

Mr MM Baxter (Mayor)  
Mrs K Christison  
Mr RM Johnson  
Mrs RA Klos  
Mr P McConnell  
Mr KM Phillips  
Mrs DM Pilkington  
Mrs AJ Williams

Meeting Secretary: Colin Tutty (Governance Supervisor)

# OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

24 January 2017

## MINUTES

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## **PRESENT**

Councillors Mrs DM Pilkington (Deputy Mayor), Mr RM Johnson, Mrs RA Klos, Mr KC Phillips, Mrs K Christison, , Mr P McConnell, Mrs AJ Williams

## **IN ATTENDANCE**

Messrs DC Clibbery (Chief Executive), G Bunn (Finance and Administration Manager), R Brady (Engineering Manager), B O'Callaghan (District Accountant – attended 10.05am) C Tutty (Governance Supervisor) and D Dowd (Executive Assistant)

Councillor Pilkington (Deputy Mayor) declared the meeting open and extended a warm welcome to all those present. She thanked members for rearranging their diaries following the postponement of today's meeting from 17 January 2017.

## **APOLOGY**

Resolved that the apology received from His Worship the Mayor M Baxter be sustained.

## **Cr Phillips / Cr Williams**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Councillor Christison read the Opening Prayer.

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

**Resolved** that the following items be considered in General Business which may require resolutions-

- (a) Chief Executives report on a revised Waikato Region Triennial Agreement
- (b) Minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga Community Board held on 1 December 2016
- (c) Minutes of the meeting of the Kawhia Community Board held on 9 December 2016

## **Cr Johnson / Cr McConnell**

## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 13 DECEMBER 2016**

Matters Arising

Councillor Klos referred to page 3, Item Waikato District Health Board and reported that a Community / District Health Board Meeting is being held today in the Tuatara Room at the Otorohanga Kiwi House from 10am until 2pm. She said the appropriate people on behalf of the Board will be in attendance to have conversation with the Community about recent service reviews and access to services within the Community. Members were informed that Mr Peter Coventry, Deputy Chairman of the Otorohanga Community Board will be attending the meeting on behalf of His Worship.

Councillor Pilkington advised that Mr Coventry will be reporting back to Council / Board however it is envisaged that a more formalised structure be introduced to encourage communication between the District Health Board and Council, as a way forward. To date this has been via His Worship.

Councillor Pilkington referred to page 6 of the Minutes in particular to the Item Waikato Regional Council / Amendments to Healthy Rivers and requested that the second line be amended to read ...'amendments to the Healthy Rivers Proposed Plan Change'

Councillor Pilkington then referred to page 7 of the Minutes in particular the 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph, first line and requested that the word “funding” be replaced with “rules”.

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held on 13 December 2016, as amended, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting

### **Cr Phillips / Cr Klos**

#### **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

When asked by Councillor Pilkington members replied that they had no conflict of interest in matters to be discussed at today’s meeting.

#### **ITEM 26 PROPOSED REVISION OF FUNDING FOR DOG CONTROL**

The Chief Executive presented a report on a proposed revision to the way in which Council’s Dog Control Service is funded.

The Chief Executive referred to the current situation where 90 percent of the cost of this activity is recovered through user charges and suggested that this approach perhaps overlooks the following issues –

- There is substantial general public good in having effective dog control, in that it reduces risks of dog attacks and nuisance, creating a better and safer environment for all.
- There are significant numbers of unlicensed dogs, which may cause problems, but for which the associated cost does not get sheeted back to the owner, as they have not paid registration fees. These costs must instead be met by the owners of registered dogs, even if their animals have not generated any cost themselves. As such it is arguable that the current system does not fairly recover costs, with owners of multiple well managed and controlled dogs being particularly adversely affected.
- There is potentially a ‘vicious circle’ in respect of recovering costs under a system that is heavily reliant upon registrations fees for the funding of dog control services, in that any cost increase requires registration fees to rise, but these higher fees then deter some owners from registering their dogs, hence depressing revenue.

The Chief Executive advised that fees are due to this meeting being postponed a week there is a need to adjust the recommended timeframe. He said submissions will now close on 17 February 2017 and be heard at the next Council Meeting on 21 February 2017.

In reply to Councillor Phillips question as to where the proposed 30% UAGC charge came from the Chief Executive replied that this figure would always be subjective.

With regard to the public good component, Councillor Phillips expressed the opinion that only those people who own dogs will be responsible for their dogs not attacking other people.

The Chief Executive replied that in many instances the dogs are unlicensed.

Councillor Phillips was also advised that fees are charged per dog, with some fee variation which take account of where the dog is, how it is housed and if it is neutered.

Councillor Klos expressed the opinion that it is a bad principle to place a UAGC on all ratepayers.

Councillor Pilkington reported that unregistered rural dogs do end up on other persons properties and often it is necessary to involve the Dog Control Contractor. She said a key factor is to make the District a safe place to live.

Councillor McConnell said that most people that have unregistered dogs are not ratepayers anyway.

Councillor Pilkington replied that these people do contribute via the extra charge being incorporated into their payment for rental accommodation.

Councillor Williams advised that dog owners will receive a reduction in their fees with the introduction of an increased UAGC.

Councillor Klos expressed the opinion that Council needs to find a better way of resolving such issues rather than placing the burden onto the ratepayer.

Councillor Christison advised that the submissions may highlight another way of dealing with the proposed change.

Councillor Johnson suggested that the registration fees reduce as the number of dogs owned by a particular person increase. He said Council can expect a backlash from farmers on this issue.

The Chief Executive replied that this suggestion would have an effect of reducing the overall amount of revenue requiring average registration fees to rise. He said this would for example place an additional burden on retired people with only one dog.

Councillor Phillips queried what is the normal submission time.

The Chief Executive replied that should the submission time be increased this will delay and impact on the Long Term Plan amendments.

The Finance and Administration Manager informed members that a full funding review workshop will be held towards the end of this year.

**Resolved** that Council undertakes public consultation on a proposal to revise the funding of Dog Control services to 70% user charges and 30% UAGC.

### **Cr Christison / Cr Williams**

#### **ITEM 27 PLANNING REPORT FOR OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2016**

Mr Skilton introduced himself to members as Council's Consultant Planner and presented the Environmental Services Managers report on Resource Consents granted under Delegated Authority for the period 1 October to 31 December 2016.

The Consultant referred to the NZ Motor Caravan Associations application and informed members that they were issued with a Certificate of Compliance as the activity was a permitted under the District Plan and did not have to apply for a Resource Consent.

In reply to Councillor Christison regarding the Associations small building the consultant replied from a planning perspective, this complies.

The District Building Control Officer advised that the Association will be written to requesting them to obtain building compliance for the building.

The Chief Executive highlighted the Development Contributions applicable throughout the District

**Resolved** that the Planning Report for October to December 2016 be received.

### **Cr McConnell / Cr Phillips**

**ITEM 28                    DISTRICT BUILDING CONTROL OFFICERS REPORT FOR OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2016**

The District Building Control Officer attended the meeting and presented a report on Building Control statistics covering the period from 1 October to 31 December 2016. He said he had not prepared the report. The officer reported that this is a really busy time for the department which is good for the District.

**Resolved** that the District Building Control Officers Report for the period 1 October – 31 December 2016 be received.

**Cr Williams / Cr Johnson**

**PROPOSED WAIKATO TRIENNIAL AGREEMENT**

The Chief Executive summarised his report attaching a revised proposed Waikato Triennial Agreement for the approval of Council.

The Chief Executive advised that under Section 15 of the Local Government Act 2002 this requires all local authorities after each triennial election, to agree protocols for communication and collaboration over the next triennium. He said it must also include a statement on the process of new regional council activities.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the agreement does not place any particular obligations on Council to do anything; it is just a procedural matter.

Councillor Klos queried whether Council has seen any real improvements by being party to this agreement, anything tangible.

The Chief Executive replied that he thought so and referred in particular to Council's insurance programme and the work carried out by RATA.

The Chief Executive referred to the cost on Council to be part of the LASS programme, this being based on population.

Councillor Johnson referred to Resource Consents to carry out earthworks and expressed the opinion that this is an ideal situation for "crossover" between the Regional Council and the Territorial Authority concerned.

**Resolved** that His Worship the Mayor be authorised to sign the revised Waikato Regional Triennial Agreement.

**Cr Pilkington / Cr Johnson**

**ITEM 29                    MATTERS REFERRED**

The Governance Supervisor took members through Matters Referred

**Waikato District Health Board**

Councillor Klos expressed the opinion that the Waikato District Health Board should be accountable to Council to deliver effective Mental Health Services to its residents.

Councillor Pilkington replied that representatives of the Board communicate with His Worship.

**Council Meeting at Local Marae**

Councillor Phillips advised that Council Meetings are open to the public and any representatives from Iwi are welcome to attend. He questioned the value of holding meetings on a Marae.

Councillor Klos reported that some Councils do hold meetings at various locations throughout their District. She said she was approached about the suggestion for a future Council meeting to be held on a local Marae.

Councillor Klos reported she understood His Worship has carried out some work on the suggestion. Councillor Klos further reported that there is a significant population of the District who feel disenfranchised from Council as to how it operates. She suggested Council go to where the people are.

Councillor Pilkington suggested as this Item is under His Worship that a request be made to him and the Executive Assistant to progress the matter.

Councillor Johnson expressed the opinion he could not see any harm in Council holding a meeting on a local Marae.

## **GENERAL**

### **SCOTTISH FESTIVAL**

Councillor Johnson reported on how successful the recent Scottish Festival was. He said he is very supportive of such local events being held. Councillor Johnson expressed his gratitude to Leigh Peglar and associated volunteers.

Councillor Williams reported that the Festival was a very good night.

Councillor Pilkington expressed thanks to the organisers of the recent Scottish Festival on a job well done. She said she was disappointed she was unable to attend.

### **COUNCILS MEETING DATES**

Councillor Klos referred to the postponement of today's meeting and advised that such changes have quite a significant impact on some members. She asked whether Council could avoid postponing meetings due to this.

### **HAMILTON AND WAIKATO TOURISM**

Councillor Klos referred to the three Council representatives on Hamilton and Waikato Tourism and queried whether the association requires this number of representatives.

Councillor Pilkington suggested that Hamilton and Waikato Tourism make contact with Councils Executive Assistant. She said the Executive Assistant will ascertain the numbers required and forward the information out to the relevant people.

### **OTOROHANGA DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

Councillor Klos queried whether Council is aware of any decision made by the Board on its future.

Councillor Pilkington advised that Council cannot stop the Development Board from operating however it does provide the funding to them. The Chief Executive informed members that there are issues in terms of the role that the Development Board should play. He said as Council is the funder of the Board, this gives Council leverage over this role.

Councillor Pilkington advised that Council has had a service agreement with the Board which defines its role.

The Chief Executive advised that it had been hoped that the role of the Development Board could be modified through negotiation, rather than by Council dictating it.

## **FUNDING WORKSHOP**

Councillor Klos referred to Council's funding policy and the need to understand the implications of this.

The Finance and Administration Manager said it is important that Councillors understand the implications of funding the various Council activities. He said changes to the funding of activities will generally apply from 1 July 2018 therefore, a workshop will be arranged for later this financial year, around August – September 2017.

## **FREEDOM CAMPING**

Councillor Klos reported on Freedom Campers stopping at the Waipapa Reserve, where no facilities are available.

Councillor Pilkington advised that Council has no policy in place to police this matter however, it is a nationwide problem. She suggested the matter be raised with the Local MP for the District.

The Chief Executive reported that taking into account the whole District the level of freedom camping being carried out has been relatively low.

Councillor Pilkington questioned whether it would be worthwhile erecting signs prohibiting freedom camping in certain areas.

## **MAXIMISING RESOURCES**

Councillor Klos reported on a recent road trip she had undertaken and highlighted the number of places that are really "singing" and taking advantage of what they have to offer, maximising their resources. She suggested that Council look to see what it has available and to promote it.

Councillor Pilkington expressed the opinion that Otorohanga is well on the way to maximising what it has to offer.

## **PROPOSED DAIRY FACTORY**

Councillor McConnell asked whether Council is intending to have discussion on the proposed Dairy Factory. He referred in particular to the supply of water and distribution of wastewater. Councillor McConnell also referred to a new residential subdivision and queried how this would impact on Council's water supply.

The Chief Executive replied that such matters have been considered in responding to the Dairy Factory proposal. He then highlighted the leaks that were identified within the community water supply and now these have been rectified, the water saved will now be available to new customers.

Councillor McConnell then referred to the NZMCA's occupation of an area of land off Waipa Esplanade. He said apparently no consultation was carried out with property owners in the area, and queried whether there was a reason why this did not happen.

The Chief Executive replied that the NZMCA did not need to submit a Resource Consent application as their proposed activity was permitted under the District Plan. Accordingly, a Certificate of Compliance was sufficient.

Councillor Pilkington confirmed that to date no ratepayer funding have been allocated to the site and that all the services required by the association have been met at their cost.

Councillor McConnell asked whether Council could inform the surrounding property owners of this.

Councillor Christison agreed that those affected should be informed.

The Chief Executive reported that the association is paying the Council a commercial rental for the occupation of the area, and the NZMCA had had some informal engagement with neighbouring property owners.

Councillor Phillips queried what would happen should the association require an effluent disposal installation.

The Chief Executive replied that they had not indicated an intention to do so, but if they did they would need to connect to the sewer line and therefore pay a contribution for this.

Councillor Klos said that Council is keen to encourage people into the town however, when new development takes place people are against it.

Councillor McConnell expressed the opinion that there is too much negativity in the town.

In reply to Councillor McConnell, the Chief Executive replied that Council has made an offer for the purchase of the Otewa Road property.

Councillor Williams reported on her recent attendance at a property owners meeting regarding the proposed Dairy Factory. She said the property owners are concerned and lack knowledge as to the process behind the application. She queried whether there are guidelines available on how to work through this process and in particular the statutory timeframe. She queried whether there is provision for the submission date to be extended.

Councillor Williams was advised that staff have the ability to go back to the applicant to seek additional information in respect to the application, but that does not mean, but this does not mean that full information will necessarily be provided.

Councillor Williams queried if submissions were not able to be in until after the close off date, will Council allow these as 'late submissions'

Councillor Pilkington replied that the applicant would have to agree to this under the statutory process.

Councillor Williams queried how Council is guiding the submitters in this matter.

The Chief Executive replied that it would be very dangerous for Council and Councillors to become involved in guiding the submissions of other parties. He said submitters can express their concerns and the Independent Commissioner will look at these and go back to the applicant for their comments, if appropriate.

## **OTOROHANGA TENNIS CLUB**

Councillor Phillips reported that the new surface at the Otorohanga Tennis Club has been laid and the Club is now open for business. He said the resurfacing has been carried out to a really good standard.

Councillor Phillips reported that a Duncan Coull has been involved in arranging a meeting for farmers at the Tuatara Room, Otorohanga Kiwi House tomorrow night at 7pm regarding Healthy Rivers. He said the matter of the proposed Dairy Factory will also be discussed.

Councillor Christison reported that this meeting has been arranged by the Otorohanga Kiwi House.

Councillor Pilkington said it is important for as many Councillors to attend as possible.

Councillor Phillips also referred to a recent meeting of property owners living adjacent to the proposed Dairy Factory site. He said people wish to know and had concerns regarding the process being undertaken.

### **WAITOMO VALLEY ROAD – STATE HIGHWAY 31 – 39**

Councillor Christison referred to the intersection of Waitomo Valley Road with State Highway 31 and said this is an area where an accident is waiting to happen.

The Engineering Manager reported that Council's Roding Manager is looking into this particular intersection.

Councillor Phillips then raised the matter of the location of the 50km sign coming into Otorohanga on State Highway 31.

The Engineering Manager requested Councillor Phillips write a letter to Council expressing his concerns regarding the location of this sign.

### **FORMER OTOROHANGA GIRL GUIDES HALL**

Councillor Christison presented a letter received from Ms M O'Brien regarding her use of the former Otorohanga Girl Guides Hall.

The Chief Executive reported there is a substantial amount of misinformation concerning the use of this Hall and to date Council is only using part of it for storage.

The Finance and Administration Manager advised that in the interim users of the Hall are to carry on as usual.

Councillor Pilkington requested that Ms O'Brien's email be forwarded to the Finance and Administration Manager for reply.

### **KAWHIA BEACH**

In regards to a cleanup of Kawhia Beach the Engineering Manager replied that usually Council supplies the rubbish bags for this purpose.

### **BAIT STATIONS**

Councillor Williams reported she has been involved in clearing bait stations installed for the protection of reintroduced Kokako on Pirongia mountain.

### **KAWHIA KAI FESTIVAL**

Councillor Pilkington informed members of the Kawhia Kai Festival which will be held on the Saturday of the forthcoming Waitangi Day weekend.

### **HEAVY VEHICLE TRAFFIC**

The Engineering Manager advised that Council can ask carriers to use the Huiputea Drive 'bypass' however, it is not in a position to enforce this.

Councillor McConnell suggested that Fonterra be approached as they could help in this situation. He then referred to stock trucks and reported that these are instructed not to stop in Maniapoto Street. He said the drivers are encouraged to use the bypass when empty, however should they travel along Maniapoto Street they are to keep their effluent tanks shut.

**OTOROHANGA COMMUNITY BOARD MINUTES – 1 DECEMBER 2016**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Otorohanga Community Board meeting held 1 December 2016 be received.

**Cr McConnell / Cr Johnson**

**FORMER RADIO USERS BUILDING**

Councillor Klos referred to the proposed sale of the former Radio users building in Thomson Avenue and reported that she is looking for a building to house local history at Arohena.

**KIWIANA PLAYGROUND SURVEY RESULTS**

Councillor McConnell reported that a Community survey has been undertaken, the results have been in favour of the \$115,000 donated by Waipa Networks to be used to develop a Kiwiana Playground at the Reg Brett Reserve. He said workshops will be held with the Project Kiwiana Committee to progress this matter.

Councillor McConnell further reported that several other items were identified from the survey.

**KAWHIA COMMUNITY BOARD MINUTES – 9 DECEMBER 2016**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Kawhia Community Board meeting held on 9 December 2016 be received.

**Cr Pilkington / Cr Phillips**

**PROPOSED KAWHIA CREATIVE HUB**

Members were informed that alternative sites for the establishment of a Kawhia Creative Hub are being looked at.

**The meeting closed at 12.36pm**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_