



Otorohanga Community Board

MINUTES

21 April 2016

OTOROHANGA COMMUNITY BOARD

21 April 2016

Minutes of an Ordinary meeting of the Otorohanga Community Board held in the Council Chambers, Maniapoto Street, Otorohanga on 21 April 2016 commencing at 4pm.

MINUTES

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

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PRESENT

Mr R Prescott (Chair), Mrs EM Cowan, Mrs AC Laws, Mr PD Tindle and Mr DR Williams.

IN ATTENDANCE

His Worship the Mayor, Mr MM Baxter, Messrs DC Clibbery (Chief Executive), RH Brady (Engineering Manager), David Dowd (Executive Assistant) and CA Tutty (Governance Supervisor). And Mrs D Hooker (Community Facilities Officer)

The Chair declared the meeting open and welcomed those present.

APOLOGY

Resolved that the apology received from Mr NS Chetty be sustained.

Mrs Laws / Mrs Cowan

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 10 March 2016

The Governance Supervisor referred members to the Item of Pest Control in Rotary Park and Bob Horsfall Reserve in particular the resolution on Page 2 and reported that it was highlighted at the Otorohanga District Council Meeting held on 19 April 2016 that the word “DISCONTINUED” is incorrect and should read “CONTINUED”.

This has since been corrected.

Mrs Cowan referred to the Item regarding the Otorohanga Kiwi House and advised that those in attendance on behalf of the Kiwi House in particular Mrs Heather Hammond is a committee member of the Otorohanga Kiwi House.

Mr Williams advised that he had not received a hard copy of the Agenda for today’s meeting. Other members also indicated that they had not received their copy.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga Community Board held on 10 March 2016, as amended, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Mrs Cowan / Chair

REPORTS

OTOROHANGA KIWI HOUSE – REQUEST FOR FUNDING.

Further to the presentation made at the meeting of 10 March 2016 by representatives of the Otorohanga Zoological Society, the Chair asked members whether they are in favour of approving a grant of \$100,000 to the Kiwi House towards Predator Proof Fencing, to be funded from the Community Special Fund account.

Mrs Laws said she is in favour of approving the grant.

Mr Tindle referred to the presentation given at the last meeting of the Board and said this was great with true and correct information being provided. He said it was stressed that the erection of a Predator Proof Fence is a matter of urgency. Mr Tindle said he believed the Kiwi House is the “Jewel in the Crown” for the Community, it is iconic and an important part of the Town. He said he definitely supported the application.

Mr Williams advised that he supported the approval of the grant in principle, however again referred to waiting for the results of the proposed strategic plan. Mrs Cowan advised that the current fence is failing and it is a matter of urgency and great importance that a vermin free environment is created. Mrs Cowan said she is in favour of the proposal.

The Chair reported from previous discussion that absentee board member Nigel Chetty is in favor of a grant being approved.

The Chief Executive suggested that approving of a grant should be conditional upon other necessary funding also being obtained for the project.

Resolved that the Chief Executives Report be received.

Mrs Laws / Mr Tindle

Resolved the Otorohanga Kiwi House request for a financial contribution of \$100,000 towards the cost of a new Predator Proof Fence around the Otorohanga Kiwi Houses facility be approved to be funded from the Community Special Fund and conditional upon other required funding for this project also being obtained.

Mr Tindle / Mr Cowan

Item 81 POTENTIAL USE OF BUILDING AT WATER RESERVE

The Chief Executive referred members to his report on the potential use of a small building adjacent to the water reservoirs at Thomson Avenue and advised that since this report has been prepared, the Waitomo Radio Club have indicated that they believe they are the owners of the Building.

The Chair reported that this building was originally a one bedroom dwelling situated in Karaka Road prior to being moved to the site.

Resolved that the matter of the Potential Use of the Building adjacent to the Water Reservoirs at Thomson Avenue not be considered until the matter of ownership has been resolved.

Chair / Mr Williams

Item 82 HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY – REVIEW OF RENTALS

The Governance Supervisor presented a report on the review of Housing for the Elderly rentals in Elizabeth Place and Windsor Court Otorohanga.

The Chair informed members that this activity is supposed to be self-funding.

With regard to the refurbishment and upgrading of the bathrooms, the Community Facilities Officer advised that there are a further seven more to be completed.

She said it is a matter of urgency for the welfare of a current tenant that another bathroom is renovated as soon as possible.

Resolved that rental charged for units in Elizabeth Place and Windsor Court Otorohanga be increased as follows –

Single Unit (Bedsitter) - \$100 per week

Double Unit (1 Bedroom) - \$130 per week

Effective from 1 July 2016.

Chair / Mr Williams

ITEM 83 SIR EDMUND HILLARY WALKWAY ROOF

The Engineering Manager presented the Community Facilities Officers report regarding the replacement of roofing product in the Sir Edmund Hillary Walkway. The Engineering Manager reported that other ways of dealing with the Heat have been discussed, including the installation of a longitudinal vent along the complete length of the Walkway, however it could not be guaranteed that this would work. This option would also be very expensive.

The Chair queried whether, quotation had been obtained from Angle Roofing.

The Engineering Manager replied it had not, however a quote could be obtained from this company.

Mrs Cowan referred to the recommendation and queried whether it would be more desirable to re-roof the structure with ColorSteel. She felt this would be a better long term option.

The Chief Executive replied that due to the pitch of the roof it is common for Lichen may grow on ColorSteel where it will generally not do so on Zinalume.

The Community Facilities Officer advised that it is not necessary to paint a Zinalume roof and there is also the benefit that this reflects the heat.

Mrs Cowan suggested that at the entrance to Sir Edmund Hillary Walkway, one panel of a transparent material be retained.

The Chief Executive reported that an opinion had been expressed that should the walkway be completely covered with a metal roof, this may create a dark and cold area particular during the Winter months.

The Community Services Officer advised that the Walkway lighting could be programmed to come on during the day, or that transparent sheets could be introduced later if a full metal roof made it too dark.

Mr Williams also suggested that Solar Panels could be installed.

Resolved that the transparent roofing material on the Sir Edmund Hillary Walkway be replaced with solid Zinalume roofing at a cost of \$4000.

Mrs Cowan / Mr Tindle

Item 84 DISTRICT LIBRARIANS QUARTERLY REPORT

The District Librarian attended the meeting and presented her quarterly report for the period January – March 2016. She advised that it is very pleasing to see an increase in Library usage as this had previously been on the decrease.

Mrs Cowan extended congratulations to the District Librarian and her staff on creating such a busy, vibrant atmosphere, it being great to see it so active.

Resolved that the District Librarians quarterly report for the period January – March 2016 be received.

Chair / Mr Williams

Item 85 MATTERS REFERRED

The Governance Supervisor took members through Matters Referred

OTOROHANGA DOMAIN CONCRETE EXERCISE PATH

The Chair reported that he is still waiting on Mr Kerr-Bell to present drawings and specifications of the proposed path for consideration by the Board. He said in the meantime this item be deleted from Matters Referred.

WIFI

The Chief Executive reported that he has referred those Communities that currently use WIFI as a promotional tool to the IT manager to follow up.

OTOROHANGA DOMAIN RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Engineering Manager reported that a review of the Otorohanga Domain Reserve Management Plan has commenced, but it will be necessary to engage additional resources to complete this.

Mr Williams advised that surrounding neighbours wish to have a “say” in this review.

The Chief Executive replied that Council appears to wish to continue to manage this area as per the existing Management Plan. He said the Board at the present time is quite comfortable with the bush area, sight lines etc. and at the time the Management Plan was put in place difficult decisions had to be made. He said that to re-visit this could be a painful process.

Mrs Cowan advised that this is just a minor review of the Management Plan updating and deleting items not now relevant.

The Chief Executive reported that there is very limited resources in-house and that a full review would take considerable time to carry out.

Mrs Cowan referred to the Item of Board Members meeting with the Otorohanga Zoological Society and requested that this be placed back on Matters Referred.

ROTARY PARK / BOB HORSFALL RESERVE

Mr & Mrs Aaron Hearfield attended the meeting. Mrs Hearfield presented a verbal report on their Paintball activity.

Mrs Hearfield expressed thanks to the Board for making the time available. She said they have had a very robust discussion around Health and Safety matters with organisations such as WorkSafe and ACC in order to ensure they comply with a Safety Management Plan for the area. Mrs Hearfield reported that the activity of Paintball is not classified as an Adventure Sport.

Mrs Hearfield advised that they are happy to provide signage in the area however; this has to be approved by Council. She said that motorbikes were recently observed using the Mountain Bike track.

Mrs Hearfield informed members that prior to players entering the Paintball area, an induction is undertaken informing them of the rules of engagement.

Mrs Hearfield reported that the Paintball activity has been used as an element of an NZQA unit, therefore they are supporting the Community in providing this activity as a teaching tool and furthermore, the users of the area are spending money within the Community.

Mrs Hearfield referred to the provision of plants in the area and advised that they have to date planted approximately 1000 native plants within their area.

Mrs Hearfield suggested that as most of the bookings are made in advance, details of these could be logged into Council's website. They are also happy to erect barriers and signage along the track.

Mrs Hearfield advised that there are approximately 3 – 4 families that regularly cycle through the track and that they have personally talked to them regarding the Paintball activity.

She further advised that a horn is sounded at the commencement of each Paintball game. Mrs Hearfield advised that they really wished to continue with the Paintball activity, it is good for themselves and the Community. She advised that Waitomo no longer has this activity.

Mrs Hearfield reported that no one is restricted during the time the Paintball is undertaken, the Public is allowed through. She expressed the opinion that the Mountain Bike Riders are of more danger to walkers on the track than this activity.

Mr Williams suggested it would be desirable for members of the Board to walk the track.

Mr Tindle congratulated Mr and Mrs Hearfield on what they have achieved to date, however he said this is more than just a matter of Health and Safety. He expressed concern as to the exposure that might be there for the Board as there is no formal lease agreement in place for the activity being undertaken.

In addressing Mr and Mrs Hearfield, Mr Tindle said whatever they undertake he hoped they did well and it is more a matter of the rules and conditions for use of the area that must be adhered to.

Mrs Cowan agreed that a formal lease is vital highlighting the area concerned. She said it is necessary for this to be identified and for a proper formal lease being prepared.

Mrs Hearfield advised that they are also interested in obtaining the open paddock for the Paintball activity. She said it has been found that when both options (bush and paddock) are available the majority prefer to use the paddock area. Accordingly she said this reduces the use in the bush area.

The Chair congratulated Mr and Mrs Hearfield on the Farmers Day held recently.

Mr Williams said he is impressed with what Mr and Mrs Hearfield have achieved however he is concerned that due to the Paintball activity, the area for bikers and walkers may be lost.

Mr Tindle queried when and how a formal lease will be undertaken. He advised that there is no clear divide between walkers / cyclists and the Paintball area. He queried Who will be responsible should an accident occur.

The Chief Executive advised that general negligence is the only issue Council could be held liable for as it has allowed people cycle / walk through an area where Paintball is being carried out. He said the Paintball activity is not compatible with that of walking and cycling.

Mrs Cowan said she agreed the Hearfield have a great operation however suggested that in order to protect the Community and public a clear area needs to be defined. She felt that legal advice should be sought.

The Chief Executive advised that a Hazardous Activity needs to be within a confined and controlled area.

Mr Tindle said there needs to be protection around the Paintball area to stop Paintballs from exiting this area. He queried if this was not the responsibility of the Hearfields.

The Chief Executive advised that it is necessary for the Hearfields to protect the people paying to take part in their activity.

Mr Williams advised that in order to divert the existing Mountain Bike track, this will cost a considerable amount of money and time.

It was agreed that this matter be left in abeyance to be discussed after the meeting.

GENERAL

TREES – TOP OF FORMER DEER PARK

In reply to Mr Williams, the Engineering Manager replied that maintenance has been carried out on the tallest / hazardous trees located at the top of the former Deer Park area.

LAKE HUPITEA DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Community Services Officer reported that until the Maori Trustees have approved the proposed development plan for the Historic Tree and surrounding area, no further work can be undertaken. She circulated a copy of the proposed development plan for members information.

RAILWAY FENCE

The Community Facilities Officer reported she has a couple of ideas regarding the proposed erection of a fence adjacent to the Railway Station Platform. She undertook to scan this to members seeking their opinion.

HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY

The Community Facilities Officer reported that it is necessary to replace a Stove in Flat 6, Windsor Court however as this is a narrow sized model and more expensive to purchase, she suggest that a ceramic cooktop and oven be purchased to replace this.

Members agreed that the Community Facilities Officer proceed with the purchase as proposed.

PROJECT KIWIANA COMMITTEE – OTOROHANGA DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT BOARD INC

The Chair read a letter on behalf of the Project Kiwiana Committee – Otorohanga District Development Board Inc advising that people are commenting on the difficulty in accessing the entrance to the Sir Edmund Hillary Walkway as they navigate their way through people, tables and chairs that are spilling out onto the Walkway from the O Café.

The Chair reported that he has walked in this vicinity on several occasions and experienced no problems. He said the Board wishes Otorohanga to be a vibrant flourishing town and the situation in the walkway is no different to that of a number of other towns.

Mrs Cowan reported she has received several phone calls from concerned people on the problems they have encountered attempting to walk through the walkway. She said approximately half of the width of the walkway is taken up with tables and chairs from the Café. Mrs Cowan expressed the opinion that this matter needs to be considered further by the Board.

The Chief Executive advised that this matter was discussed and an area approved by the Board.

His Worship expressed the opinion that this area creates a real vibrancy.

The Chair undertook to have discussion with the owners of the O Café to request they regularly patrol the area to ensure Chairs are pushed under the tables.

MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting concluded at 5.21pm

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: