



## Otorohanga District Council

# MINUTES

29 April 2016

10.00am

Members of the Otorohanga District Council

Mr MM Baxter (Mayor)  
Mr RM Johnson  
Mrs RA Klos  
Mr KM Phillips  
Mrs DM Pilkington (Deputy Mayor)  
Mr R Prescott  
Mr PD Tindle  
Mrs AJ Williams

Meeting Secretary: Mr DJ Dowd (Executive Assistant)

**OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL**

29 April 2016

**MINUTES**

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## **PRESENT**

Mr MM Baxter (Mayor), Councillors RA Klos, KC Phillips, DM Pilkington, RJ Prescott and AJ Williams.

## **IN ATTENDANCE**

Messrs DC Clibbery (Chief Executive), GD Bunn (Finance & Administration Manager), Andrew Low (Environmental Services Officer) B B O'Callaghan (District Accountant) and DJ Dowd (Executive Assistant).

His Worship declared the meeting open and welcomed those present.

## **APOLOGIES**

**Resolved** that the apologies received from Councillor R Johnson and Councillor C Tindle be sustained.

## **Cr Pilkington / Cr Phillips**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

His Worship read the Opening Prayer.

## **ITEM 299 DEPUTY MAYOR REMUNERATION**

The Finance and Administration Manager referred members to the recently received advice from the Remuneration Authority that as from 01 July 2016 there is no longer a 40% cap over the base Councillors remuneration for Deputy Mayor. Under the old system, the Deputy Mayor's remuneration was based on a percentage of the Mayors Remuneration. When it was last allocated using this method it was set at 40% of the Mayors Salary.

Councillors Klos asked for clarification on the 40% cap in relation to the Deputy Mayor's job size.

The Finance and Administration Manager responded that there is no standard "Job Size" for the Deputy Mayor role as the responsibilities and duties of that role may vary between Councils.

His Worship said that should there come a time after the elections that there needs to be a change in the duties of the Deputy Mayor, this can be accommodated.

Councillor Prescott expressed the opinion that he would like to see the Deputy Mayor on a higher wage.

Councillor Phillips gave the opinion that he fully supports increasing remuneration because of the amount of work involved.

His Worship added that the changes permit a truer reflection of where the salary should be and that he is in full support of the rise.

Councillor Klos asked if it the increase was personalised?

His Worship replied that the workload is dictated by the Mayor and the workload across the table is quite large, including the Development Board and the Kawhia Community Board

Councillor Pilkington said she would like the freedom to roll back to 40% until we know what the workload may include.

The Finance and Administration Manager advised that other Councils have stated that it was not sufficient for them to grow the figure.

His Worship advised that when it was time to review the District Plan, Councillors all took pay cuts to cover the additional payments to the Councillors who were on the hearing committee.

**Resolved** that the additional allowance for the Deputy Mayor is increased from 40% to 65% over the base Councillor remuneration as from 1 July 2016 and this information is conveyed to the Remuneration Authority in the annual declaration.

### **His Worship/ Cr Prescott**

Councillor Pilkington requested that for the record it be noted that she was thinking of abstaining from the vote however, it was about the position and not about the person and for that reason that she did not abstain.

### **ITEM 300 BUDGET ESTIMATES**

The District Accountant took members through the proposed Budget Estimates for the 2016 – 2017 financial year.

His Worship said he had received an email from David Bailey and his request was that there should be no rates increase in light of where the rural community currently sits. In reply, His Worship said that his response has been non-committal and one needs to be mindful that increases can only be postponed.

Councillor Pilkington asked if David Bailey was thinking of Rural or Residential rates.

In reply, His Worship stated that David Bailey was leaning more towards the rural rates than the residential rates.

The Chief Executive had requested that the District Accountant prepare options if there was a need to lower rates increases for 2016/2017 and to identify the consequence of these.

Councillor Klos asked if there is an option to post pay rates if families are in difficulty.

The Finance and Administration Manager replied that Council would be happy to organise a payment plan program, there are options to remove penalties. Whilst there is a policy that we cannot postpone rates, we work with people to spread the burden.

The Chief Executive informed members that the presented Budget Estimates are closely based on the figures in the second year of the long term plan,

The Finance and Administration Manager informed members that there had been changes to the Local Government Act and we still have to present the full Annual Plan but no longer are required to call for submissions.

An agreed amendment to the presented estimates was a reduction of \$25,000 in the District Sports support account associated with the discontinuation of a Sport Waikato District Sport Coordinator.

**Subject to this amendment, projected rates increases were as follows**

<b>Otorohanga Rural</b>	<b>2.60%</b>
<b>Otorohanga Community</b>	<b>2.54%</b>
<b>Kawhia Community</b>	<b>2.38%</b>
<b>Overall Rates Increase</b>	<b>2.40%</b>

**Resolved** that the provided Budget Estimates for the 2016 – 2017 year, subject to any agreed amendments are approved.

**CR Prescott / C Phillips**

The Otorohanga District Council Meeting paused for lunch at 12.31pm and resumed at 12.51pm.

## **GENERAL**

### **Council Chamber**

The Chief Executive informed members that the Chamber tables are to have the top surface replaced.

Councillor Klos informed members that because the carpet in the Chamber is wool, it could be dyed to enhance the look of the Chamber. The Chief Executive suggested that research be undertaken into the dyeing of the Chamber carpet.

The Finance and Administration Manager gave the opinion that carpet tiles may indeed be a cheaper alternative.

### **Water Installation**

Councillor Prescott informed members that the water metering contractor is doing a really great job however there had been a few instances of the contractor attending properties then leaving gates open. In addition contractor staff had informed residents of the supply interruption then failed to inform residents that the water supply has resumed.

### **Councillor Phillips**

Councillor Phillips informed members that he had received very good reports about His Worship and what he is doing. The reports are saying he is doing a very good job.

His Worship in reply thanked the Councillor for conveying those comments.

### **Anzac Day**

Councillor Prescott said that he had attended the ANZAC Parade and noted how well the event went.

Councillor Phillips said he also attended the ANZAC day Parade with his father, it was noted however that no wreath was laid at the World War One Memorial and that the lack of acknowledgment of this was somewhat embarrassing. Councillor Prescott informed members that both His Worship and himself had wreaths to lay, however these were designated for the World War Two Memorial.

The Chief Executive suggested that Council needs to clarify what its role is in Anzac Day activities as the RSA is also involved. The Chief Executive informed members that this year the organisation of the event was a little untidy resulting in the Chief Executive himself having to place chairs for the services. In future it could be better planned.

Councillor Pilkington suggested that one wreath be placed at each monument.

His Worship informed members that he was following traditional historical practice and also noted that the Union Jack was flying upside down.

### **Harvest Centre**

Councillor Pilkington informed members that Peter Coventry from the Harvest Centre had advised that College Hostel students will be attending the Harvest Centre every Thursday night to partake in activities. Councillor Pilkington felt that it was a great move to create association and ideas for the students on how they can spend their spare time.

His Worship expressed the opinion that he is pleased with the new direction the Harvest Centre is taking.

## **Notification of Events**

Councillor Klos raised a point of communication and asked to be kept better informed and made aware of events that happen in the Otorohanga Community. Councillor Klos said she was not made aware of the Kiwi Nightzone Opening or the Prime Ministerial Visit.

Councillor Pilkington informed members that these events were by invitation.

## **Wasps**

Councillor Klos asked members if Council provided any services for the control Wasps.

The Chief Executive informed members that in the past the previous Animal Control Officer was understood to have done some such work and he will speak to the new Animal Control Officer about the potential for this.

## **Influenza Injections**

Councillor Klos asked if the Otorohanga District Council Staff receive Influenza injections.

The Chief Executive informed members that it does provide this service to staff.

## **District Sport Committee**

The Chief Executive informed members that in reference to the District Sport Committee that Council established, the names of Councillor representatives are needed.

Councillor Prescott agreed to be on this committee.

Councillor Pilkington asked if there needs to be an agenda item for the Kawhia Community Board on the need for a representative of Kawhia on this committee.

Councillor Pilkington said by having this vacancy listed gives time and notice prior to the day, especially since meetings of the Kawhia Community Board are so infrequent.

Councillor Pilkington also made mention of the District Development Strategy consultation workshop with the District Development Board and would like to thank the Councillors who took the time to attend. As noted in that workshop the discussion would be taken back to Council

## **His Worship**

His Worship informed members that he recently had a meeting with Andy Connor, noted that Andy has since been involved in a massive accident and was not doing well at this time.

His Worship also informed members of the success of the unveiling of the Pou on Te Kanawa Street was a great success with a large Iwi representation and was well supported by all.

His Worship noted that the speeches on Anzac Day by the Otorohanga College Head Boy and Head Girl were some of the best he had heard.

His Worship attended the farewell of Bev Gattenby the CEO of Trust Waikato and advised that the recent Prime Minister's visit went very well.

## **MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC**

"THAT the Otorohanga District Council , pursuant to Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, resolves that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

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 or Section 6 or Section 7 or Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982,

as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public."

**His Worship / Cr Pilkington**

