



Otorohanga Community Board

MINUTES

26 OCTOBER 2017

4.02pm

OTOROHANGA COMMUNITY BOARD

26 October 2017

Minutes of an Ordinary meeting of the Otorohanga Community Board held in the Council Chambers,
17 Maniapoto Street, Otorohanga on 26 October 2017 commencing at 4.02pm

MINUTES

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

ITEM	PRECIS	PAGE
PRESENT		1
IN ATTENDANCE		1
APOLOGY		1
PUBLIC FORUM		1
ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN GENERAL BUSINESS		1
CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 28 SEPTEMBER 2017		1
DECLARATION OF INTEREST		2
ITEM 36	CALCULATION OF TARGETED WATER RATES COSTING	2
ITEM 37	MOWING GRASS BERMS	3
ITEM 38	MATTERS REFERRED FROM 28 SEPTEMBER 2017	3
	GENERAL	4

PRESENT

Mr P McConnell (Chair), Mrs. K Christison, Mrs. EM Cowan, Mr A Buckman, Mr N Gadd, Mr P Coventry

IN ATTENDANCE

Messrs DC Clibbery (Chief Executive) G Bunn (Finance and Administration Manager) R Brady (Engineering Manager), M Lewis (Community Facilities Officer), CA Tutty (Governance Supervisor) and Ms Trish Ambury (Land Management Officer)

The Chair declared the meeting open and welcomed those present.

PUBLIC FORUM

Bob Horsfall Reserve Mountain Bike Track

Mr Dave Williams attended the meeting and presented a report requesting the Otorohanga Community Board for assistance to complete the Bob Horsfall Mountain Bike track. Mr Williams thanked the Board for the opportunity to present his report.

Mr Williams reported on the history behind the establishment of Rotary Park and the Bob Horsfall Reserve. He said in 2009 the building of a new track for mountain bikes began. Funding came from private donations including the Mayor, Chief Executive and the Chairman of the Otorohanga Community Board. Mr Williams further reported that the Otorohanga Lions Club built the largest of three bridges and the Otorohanga Club donated funds for the hire of a digger. He said local businesses and contractors also helped with work or product.

Mr Williams reported that there has been many difficulties with the design, compliance and management of the track.

Mr Williams reported that the largest track builder is South Star Tracks from Rotorua and he had arranged for the owner to visit this track. He said he was very enthusiastic about the site and identified work that should be done to greatly improve the flow with fewer stops.

Members were advised that the most important requirement now is to improve the alignment of the track and drainage.

In concluding Mr Williams requested whether the Board could give consideration to providing \$15,000 in next years budget to complete this project. He suggested this could be funded from the Otorohanga Parks and Reserves Sundry Reserves Improvements.

The Chair thanked Mr Williams for his presentation and advised that the Board will consider his request further and come back to him.

Otorohanga Water Meters

Mr Robert Prescott attended the meeting and expressed his disappointment that the total budgeted cost for the installation of water meters amounted to \$716,000. Mr Prescott also expressed his concern at the proposed increases in the fixed charge.

The Chief Executive replied that the estimated costs were prepared some three years ago, based on the costs known at that time.

Mr Prescott asked whether the UAGC will keep increasing should the water consumption reduce.

He was advised that the water consumption charge rate will increase in this case.

Mr Prescott expressed the opinion that it was not right that the UAGC rate increase when people are attempting to save their water usage.

The Chief Executive replied that Council still has fixed costs to meet, items such as depreciation, maintenance of pipes and the fixing of breakages. He said a number of these costs do not change.

Mr Prescott also expressed concern that the former Otorohanga Community Board had not been asked by staff to adjust metered water charging rates.

The Chief Executive replied that the overall costs have increased however, seventy percent of consumers are likely to have their costs reduced by the installation of water meters. He said this is also freeing up surplus water for other uses.

Kerb and Channel

Mr Prescott referred to a meeting of the Otorohanga Community Board held on 28 September 2017 where at it was resolved to replace part of the Kerb and Channel and footpath along Domain Drive. Mr Prescott asked the Board to consider installing Kerb and Channel in Merrins Avenue as it currently is the only street that does not have Kerb and Channeling on both sides. Mr Prescott outlined the increased use of Merrins Avenue by vehicular traffic.

Kerb Mowing

Mr Prescott expressed disappointment that Council is mowing some road reserves after it being resolved by a former Otorohanga Community Board that no such mowing would be undertaken. He expressed disappointment that such resolutions are overturned by staff.

The Chief Executive replied that it has been recognised that what is currently happening is contrary to the Boards policy, and is to be reviewed.

Proposed Tourist Ambassadors

Mr Bill Millar attended the meeting and suggested that the town introduce Tourist Ambassadors to meet and greet visitors into the District. He said this suggestion would be undertaken by volunteers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 28 SEPTEMBER 2017

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga Community Board held on 28 September 2017, as circulated, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Mr Coventry / Mr Christison

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The Chair asked members whether they were aware of any situations where they could stand to make personal and/or monetary gains in any particular matter to be discussed at this meeting.

No such declarations were expressed by members.

ITEM 36 CALCULATION OF TARGETED WATER RATES COSTING

The Chief Executive presented a report intended to answer questions regarding water supply in the Otorohanga Community that were posed at the Boards meeting of 24 August 2017.

Mrs Cowan expressed concern at the 16% increase for this last year right across the whole Community. She said this increase was not signaled to the Board.

Mrs Cowan referred to the paragraph in the report stating that there was a reluctance of previous Boards to adjust existing metered water charging rates (mainly applicable to commercial premises) upwards prior to the introduction of "universal metering" regime – she said the Board had never received any proposal from staff on this matter.

Reference was made to the Waipa Rural Water Supply scheme and the 70 / 30 split with the Community. Staff were asked should the Waipa Scheme use less water, then will the Community pick up this shortfall.

The Chief Executive replied that should their water consumption reduce then consideration would need to be given to reducing the Otorohanga share with Waipa.

The Chief Executive further advised that it is the intention to retain water available for future promotion of the town.

Mrs Cowan reported that there are a large number of people really struggling within the Community and queried whether increases could be smoothed out.

The Finance and Administration Manager advised that staff are endeavoring to forecast water usage and costs six months in advance.

Mrs Cowan suggested that with new members on the Board relevant information should be given to them so they are able to make sound decisions.

In reply to Mr Buckman as to the Waipa Rural Water Supply the Chief Executive replied that this is a defined area south and east of the town which receives water from the Otorohanga supply. He said there is potential to have discussion with the Waipa Scheme Committee regarding the terms of supply.

Mr Coventry expressed his concern that with infrastructure increasing, the amount of depreciation also increases.

The Chief Executive agreed and confirmed that the higher value of infrastructure you have, the higher the amount of depreciation.

The Chair thanked the Chief Executive for his comprehensive report and suggested that this highlights the need for better communication. He also expressed appreciation to Mrs Cowan for her input.

Resolved that the Chief Executives Report be received.

Mr Coventry / Mr Gadd

OTOROHANGA STOPBANKS

Mr Buckman circulated information and calculations of the effect on the stopbank lease agreements should stock grazing on the stopbanks not be allowed during the winter months.

Mr Buckman expressed the opinion that he does not think the installation of a pathway along the top of the stopbanks will compromise the quality of these. The Chair thanked Mr Buckman for the information he prepared.

Mr Buckman then left the meeting at 5.12pm.

ITEM 37 MOWING GRASS BERMS

The Community Facilities Officer presented a report to clarify why Council is mowing certain areas under the Council mowing contract.

Mrs Cowan reported that the former Otorohanga Community Board had the opinion that should there be areas around town where the berms became particularly untidy, then these would be given a quick mow by Council.

Mrs Christison expressed the opinion that should the areas highlighted in the report continue to be mowed then other property owners will stop mowing their berms.

Mr Gadd queried whether Council has the ability to make people mow their frontages. The Chief Executive replied 'no'.

Mrs Cowan suggested that in future members receive copies of contracts such as the mowing and gardening contracts to give them an insight as to what is contained in these. She felt this could be very helpful for members.

With reference to the report Mr Gadd expressed the opinion that the areas currently being mowed should be removed from the contract.

Mr Coventry said he would not like to see the frontages of vacant sections becoming very untidy.

The Chair informed members of a resolution by the past Otorohanga Community Board that Council does not mow any road frontages. He said therefore no decision needs to be made by this Board.

Resolved that the previous resolution of the Otorohanga Community Board not to mow these areas, be given effect.

Mrs Cowan / Mr Gadd

Councils Asset Roading Manager Martin Gould who was in attendance at the meeting advised that in regards to rural roads some sites are given a rough mow, once a year mainly if these are restricting visibility.

ITEM 38 MATTERS REFERRED

The Governance Supervisor took members through Matters Referred.

BOARD MEMBER CHRISTISON – WAIPA RIVER

The Engineering Manager reported that he is still waiting to meet with the Regional Council regarding Willows along the Waipa River embankment. It was agreed however, that this item be deleted from matters referred under Board Member Christisons name.

Other items to be deleted are –

27 July 2017 Engineering Manager – Kerb and Channel Programme – Revised Footpath Programme.

24 August 2017 Workshop – Future Growth of the District

24 August 2017 Engineering Manager – Targeted Water Rates Uniform Annual General Charge

28 September 2017 Board Member Buckman – Presentation of calculations on effects of not allowing stock grazing on Stopbanks.

GENERAL

PROPOSED RAILWAY FENCE

In reply to Mrs Cowan the Community Facilities Officer replied he is now waiting on the receipt of a permit before undertaking the work.

DOMAIN TOILETS / ADJACENT KIWIHOUSE

Mrs Cowan reported that Kiwi House staff have repaired the door on this facility however, they are not maintaining it. She therefore requested that an "out of order" sign be erected on the building.

HISTORIC MINUTES

Mrs Cowan again requested that minutes relating to Council and the Boards be placed on Councils website going back to at least the year 2013.

STEAMFEST

Mrs Cowan requested a cost breakdown and final account in respect to the recent Steamfest.

The Chief Executive advised that the expenditure is in the order of \$40,000 and was substantially more than expected. He said as a result there is a sum of around \$20,000 overspent. The Chief Executive informed members that the organisers of the event have undertaken to bring the account into line. He said he has allowed them this opportunity to deliver.

KERB AND CHANNEL / GUTTERING KAKAMUTU ROAD

Mr Gadd highlighted the excessive weed growth in the Kerb and Channel and guttering along Kakamutu Road and queried when this would be remedied. The Chief Executive replied that this issue is currently with the Road Maintenance Contractor.

ROAD FRONTAGES

Mr Gadd referred to the advice that Council is not in control of the frontages of properties and queried whether these have to be laid in grass.

Ms Ambury replied that there is a need to give consideration to accessing any infrastructure through these frontages.

The Chief Executive advised that some have been established into rock gardens.

The Asset Roading Manager reported that it does become difficult when there is a need to access services within these areas. He said the main concern is that these areas be erosion proof and that grass appears to be the most cost effective solution.

FUTURE SUBDIVISION OF RESIDENTIAL LAND

Mrs Christison reported that the public meeting held on the subdivision of land and future residential land earmarked for development, proved to be very successful.

COMMUNITY PROPERTY / DEVELOPMENT

Discussion was held on the proposed new Otorohanga Medical Centre in Kakamutu Road, the former Girl Guides Hall and the St Brides Church Hall.

PROPOSED LEASE OF KIWIRAIL LAND

In reply to Mr Coventry the Land Management Officer reported that the lease has been signed and is now waiting to be executed. The Officer undertook to check whether there is any specific requirements regarding fencing of the area.

NOVEMBER 2017 MEETING

The Chair informed members that the second day of hearings on the Happy Valley Milk application will be on 23rd November 2017 and therefore suggested that the next Otorohanga Community Board meeting be moved to 30 November 2017. Members agreed to the change.

FORMER GIRL GUIDE HALL

The Chair requested that when considering the options available in respect to the former Girl Guide Hall it be remembered that the public were advised that Council purchased this as a worthwhile facility therefore, any reasons to take up another option need to outweigh this. He said the Hall was purchased with Council funds and is on Reserve land.

PROPOSED STOPBANK WALKWAY

The Chief Executive reported that the application submitted to the Waikato River Authority Fund has been rejected, therefore emphasis has to be placed on the proposed walkway becoming a transport route.

The Asset Roading Manager informed members that it is now necessary for the Board to highlight what it is attempting to achieve in its application to NZTA for financial assistance. He suggested that a workshop meeting be held to define the benefits of carrying out the proposal. He advised that no funding would be available until 1 July 2018 for construction during the summer of 2018.

WORKSHOP

It was agreed that a workshop meeting of the Board be held at 5.30pm this coming Monday 30 October 2017.

MEETING CONCLUSION

The meeting concluded at 6.24pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____