



Otorohanga Community Board

MINUTES

12 December 2013

OTOROHANGA COMMUNITY BOARD

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Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otorohanga Community Board held in the Council Chambers, Maniapoto St, Otorohanga on Thursday 12 December 2013 commencing at 4.00pm.

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
APOLOGIES		1
ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN GENERAL BUSINESS		1
CONFIRAMTION OF MINUTES – 31 NOVEMBER 2013		1
REPORTS		1
Item 11	ANNUAL COMMUNITY GARDEN COMPETITION 2013	1
Item 12	OTOROHANGA DOMAIN - PROPOSAL TO INSTALL PRACTICE WICKETS	1
Item 13	OTOROHANGA CRAFT FAIR	2
Item 14	HUIPUTEA / WAIPA RIVER IMPROVEMENT WORKS	2
Item 15	OCB MATTERS REFERRED 31 OCTOBER 2013	3
GENERAL		4
MEETING CLOSURE		5

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

His Worship the Mayor, Mr M Baxter, Messrs DC Clibbery (Chief Executive & Engineering Manager), and CA Tutty (Governance Supervisor).

ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN GENERAL BUSINESS

Resolved

That the Item raised by Mr Williams that consideration be given to the signage to be erected in the Fin Phillips Reserve be considered in general business as a late item.

Mr Williams / Mrs Cowan

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 31 OCTOBER 2013

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga Community Board held on 31 October 2013, as previously circulated, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Mr Tindle / Mrs Laws

Item 11 ANNUAL COMMUNITY GARDEN COMPETITION 2013

Discussion

The Governance Supervisor summarised a report on the Annual Community Garden Competition, which was judged on Friday 8 November 2013. He advised that this is the last year the Garden Competition will be held in this format and that the Otorohanga Community Board is considering new ways to encourage good gardening within the Otorohanga Township.

Resolved

That the report on the Annual Garden Competition 2013 be received.

Mr Tindle / Mr Chetty

Item 12 OTOROHANGA DOMAIN – PROPOSAL TO INSTALL PRACTICE WICKETS

Discussion

The Engineering Manager presented a report informing members that the Otorohanga Junior and Senior Cricket Clubs Combined have requested permission to install two practice wickets in the Otorohanga Domain, and ask for consideration of a financial contribution towards this. He informed Members of the proposed area which is located in the corner of the Domain, by the Kiwi House, and that permission is also being sought for the removal of a row of trees which will border the new wickets. In reply to Mrs Laws regarding the type of trees Mr Williams advised that there are six Totara and one Rimu tree in this particular row. He expressed the opinion that he would like to see the Totara trees remain. In reply to Mrs Cowan regarding how close the proposed mesh fence will be to the Caravan Park, the Engineering Manager replied this would be approximately ten metres away. Mrs Cowan suggested that Members have a site visit and to include consultant, Mrs Rosemary Davison. The Chair expressed the opinion he is happy with the proposal in principle however, Members are to look at the matter of the trees. Mr Chetty raised a point that the trees will shade the proposed pitch. Mrs Cowan suggested whether the trees could be pruned to assist in this regard. The Chair confirmed that the Cricket Clubs have received \$5,000 funding from the ANZ Bank towards the proposal.

Resolved

That permission be given for the installation of two practice wickets in the Otorohanga Domain, including the associated removal of trees, subject to discussion with Council representatives regarding potential retention of some trees.

Mrs Cowan / Mr Williams

Resolved

That the request for a financial contribution be declined for reasons stated in the Engineering Manager's report.

Mrs Cowan / Mrs Laws

Item 13 OTOROHANGA CRAFT FAIR

Discussion

The Governance Supervisor presented a report informing Members that advice has been received that new organisers will be taking over the running of the Otorohanga Craft Fair. He referred to a letter forwarded to the present organisers back in 2007 that they be granted permission to introduce buskers at the monthly fairs. This approval is also required for the new organisers.

Resolved

That

1. The Otorohanga Craft Fair report be received
2. Approval be granted to Jan & Jill McGillivray to co-ordinate the monthly Otorohanga Craft Fairs.

Mr Tindle / Mrs Laws

Item 14 HUIPUTEA / WAIPA RIVER IMPROVEMENT WORKS

Discussion

The Engineering Manager presented a report advising that the Waikato River Authority has granted Council funding to conduct works related to the Waipa River and its catchment. The Engineering Manager advised that Waikato River Clean-up Trust (WRCUT) has responded to the application by advising that some of the proposed project elements (in particular the riparian planting and some works at Huiputea associated with the historic Huiputea Tree) do not meet their funding criteria, but the other elements (the majority of the proposed works) do, and they have generously offered funding of \$100,000 towards these works. He said the basis for funding is 2:1 from the Waikato River Authority, Council share being approximately \$58,000. In reply to Mrs Cowan regarding the cost of linking the Huiputea Tree with Lake Huiputea and its surrounds, the Engineering Manager replied it is proposed this would be a concrete path perhaps costing in the order of \$20,000. The Chair reported that there is a Treaty claim on the Huiputea Tree and surrounding area which is being forwarded to the Waitangi Tribunal to consider the funding of any improvements, the results of which will come back to Council. Mr Tindle said his understanding with the concept is for Council to carry out a small amount of work in the area to show it is being proactive and to continue to remain active in this area. The Engineering Manager advised that Council will ascertain what it will carry out with the funding available.

The Engineering Manager described the proposal to form an entrance to the river below the State Highway 3 road bridge to enable people to carry out water related activities. It was agreed it would be worthwhile to obtain feedback from Board Members on this proposal. In reply to Mr Williams regarding Reserve Contributions, the Engineering Manager advised that a substantial

amount of this has been received from the rural area and that Council is looking at other projects which will provide a wider District benefit. Members were informed that the timeframe for the improvement works project is one year.

Resolved

That

1. The Huiputea/Waipā Improvement Works report be received.
2. Funding, up to a maximum of \$58,000, to be taken from existing budget 2013/14 allocations in the Parks and Reserves account, or from the Community's Special Fund, is authorised to support the projects described in the Engineering Managers report.

Chair / Mrs Laws

Item 15 OCB MATTER REFERRED 31 OCTOBER 2013

Discussion

The Governance Supervisor took Members through the Matters Referred.

ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES/PORTFOLIOS

Mr Tindle reported that he has recently spoken to a former board Member and he now feels even stronger that portfolios be allocated to Members. He felt this will assist in setting a focus for members and to give them some responsibility for dedicated areas. Mr Chetty expressed the opinion that portfolios would provide a tool for Members to stay engaged. Mrs Cowan said that the proposed workshop dates will then become Committee/Portfolio days. Following further discussion it was agreed that the following Committee appointments be made -

1. Works & Water – Mr Chetty/Mr Tindle
2. Parks & Reserves – Mrs Cowan/Mr Williams
3. General Purposes – Chair/Mrs Laws

Mrs Cowan raised the matter of it being desirable for Members to undertake a Community tour in the near future.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF RAIL IN NZ

The Chair reported that the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of rail in NZ held in Otorohanga was a good day with many people coming and going throughout the day. He expressed disappointment that the local paper did not attend nor cover the event. Mrs Cowan expressed congratulations to the Chair and Mr Williams for their involvement with the celebration.

FIN PHILLIPS RESERVE

Mr Williams moved that the Board confirm that only the poppy signs in respect to the ANZAC Day celebrations be erected in the Fin Phillips Reserve. He outlined the last signs that were erected in this area and others that have indicated they would like to do so. The Chair questioned Mr Williams's advice as to what took place when the White Ribbon riders placed signage in the area. Mrs Cowan referred to Council correspondence dated 11 August 2011 whereat the Board resolved that the erection of poppies continue and the silver fern signage remain as a permitted activity. Mrs Cowan expressed concern as to the damage which may occur in removing and re-erecting signage and felt there should be a clear protocol in place approved by the Board for erection of any additional signage. Mr Tindle said he did not wish for any signage to be damaged however, he did not have an issue with relevant signs being erected. He said signage which promotes a cause or activity provides a 'point of difference' for the Otorohanga township and also perhaps of benefit to the town. He said however, there needs to be documentation that clearly defines the process to ensure not just anybody is placing signs up there. Mrs Laws concurred

with Mrs Cowan and Mr Tindle's comments. Mrs Cowan agreed that should any particular person or group wish to place signage in the Reserve then they come to the Board for an agreed process. Mr Chetty referred to Mr Williams's comment regarding the White Ribbon Campaign and advised that this did have significance and that the attendees had had real life experience in regards to family violence. He felt that this particular Reserve is of significance and is a Community resource and that each proposal should be considered on a case by case basis.

Mr Williams referred to his earlier Motion. This Motion lapsed through want of a seconder.

Resolved

That a protocol and process be developed for potential sign placement on the Fin Phillips Reserve.

Mrs Cowan / Mr Chetty

GENERAL

SOLID FUEL HEATING IN HOMES ASSISTANCE

Mr Tindle reported that a resident had mentioned a scheme which operates in Tokoroa through the Local Council which allows people that own homes who do not have solid fuel heating the ability to purchase a log fire through a local dealership and installer. The amount incurred can be paid through their rates. The Chief Executive replied that Council can certainly introduce such a scheme however, areas such as Tokoroa have instigated this in response to the condition of their air quality. It was agreed that the Governance Supervisor investigate the matter and obtain any relevant information.

REG BRETT RESERVE – CONSIDERATION OF TOILET FACILITES

Mr Chetty reported that when he has been on the Reg Brett Reserve, a urine smell emanates from the grove of trees. He expressed concern that there is no toilet facility available on the Reserve. The Chair advised that a proposal has also been considered for a toilet at Windsor Park. Members were informed that it is not only the cost of providing such a facility but also the maintenance costs that need to be considered. The Engineering Manager advised that staff will look into the suggestion and in particular at the Reg Brett Reserve which has been proposed for future development.

OTOROHANGA DOMAIN

Mrs Cowan requested a letter be forwarded to the organisers of events at the Otorohanga Domain regarding people urinating in the area particularly, under the trees next to the camping ground.

Mr Tindle undertook to bring this matter up with the relative representatives.

MANIAPOTO STREET DISABILITY PARKING REQUEST

Mrs Cowan reported that a ratepayer has requested the establishment of a disability parking space in Maniapoto Street in the central area of town. The Engineering Manager advised that it is not good practice for a disabled person to be exiting from their vehicle in Maniapoto Street, it is not safe. The Chair queried whether such a parking space could be installed on the Noel Aymes Corner. Mrs Laws expressed the opinion that should such a space be provided there, then the disabled person would have to get themselves to the relative pedestrian crossings, some distance away.

BOB HORSFALL RESERVE - MOUNTAIN BIKE TRACK

Mr Williams extended an invitation to Members to look at the new mountain bike track in the Bob Horsfall Reserve. He said that the track will be opened shortly and that it is a wonderful easy

walk for anyone interested. The Chair suggested that a walkthrough be arranged to be undertaken by Members.

RUBBISH DISPOSAL BINS

Mr Chetty referred to rubbish disposal bins in Maniapoto Street and said a number of these are very stained and dirty. The Chair reported also that he has found on occasion these bins to be over flowing with rubbish and in particular, this occurred on the last craft day. The Engineering Manager informed Members that this is not a regular cleaning job undertaken by Enviro Waste however, they have been requested to carry out a 'one off' cleaning of the bins.

WAHANUI CRESCENT TOILET FACILITY GRAFFITI

Mr Chetty raised the matter of graffiti on the Men's door at the Wahanui Crescent toilet facilities. Mr Williams advised that this has been there for a considerable time and several attempts have been made unsuccessfully to remove it.

IDEA SERVICES

The Chair reported on his attendance at a recent open day of Idea Services Facility (formerly IHC). He made reference to the great work undertaken by those involved, in particular building the confidence of the pupils.

The Chair said he had been approached by a local resident requesting that a couple of persons undertake a mobility scooter trip around town. The Engineering Manager advised that this was undertaken quite recently by a group of relevant people and they were very impressed with what is being provided. Mrs Cowan agreed at that time all possibilities were checked out. The Chair undertook to inform the local resident concerned.

OTOROHANGA DOMAIN – UNAUTHORISED BOOT CAMP EXERCISE

The Chair referred to a letter from a local Health and Fitness facility bringing to the Councils attention that a person from Te Kuiti is operating a Boot Camp Exercise program at the Otorohanga Domain. The Chair then read Councils response to this concern.

FORMER CROQUET GROUNDS

Members queried whether the business proposal for the former Croquet grounds is actually happening. The Chief Executive replied that the applicants have not yet returned the signed copy of the Lease. Members suggested that it be conveyed to the applicants that another party could be interested in utilising this area.

OTOROHANGA MEMORIAL OUTDOOR POOL

Mr Tindle raised the matter of the opening hours of the Outdoor Pool. The Chief Executive replied that the contract with the operator states that it is required to open the cold pool around mid-December of each year. He said if this should not happen then the contractor will be in breach of the contract. Discussion was held on the level of service provided by the contractor and the matter of staffing and safety.

MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting concluded at 5.33pm.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: 13 February 2014