



Otorohanga Community Board

MINUTES

10 March 2016

OTOROHANGA COMMUNITY BOARD

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Minutes of an Ordinary meeting of the Otorohanga Community Board held in the Council Chambers, Maniapoto Street, Otorohanga on Thursday 10 March 2016 commencing at 4.04pm.

MINUTES

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

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PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Cr K Phillips, Messrs DC Clibbery (Chief Executive), CA Tutty (Governance Supervisor), David Dowd (Executive Assistant).

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES -

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga Community Board held on 28 January 2016 as circulated, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Mrs Cowan / Mr Chetty

REPORTS

Item 78 PEST CONTROL IN ROTARY PARK AND BOB HORSFALL RESERVE

The Chief Executive presented a report informing members that the current programme of pest control in Rotary Park and the Bob Horsfall Reserve is relatively expensive and apparently not very effective, therefore it is suggested that this should not be continued.

Mr Williams queried why EcoFX Limited was allowed to continue with the campaign as he understood it was only for an initial one year contract.

Mrs Cowan advised that Rodent control is an on-going issue and that rodents will never completely go away. Mrs Cowan referred to the Reserve Management Plan and expressed the opinion that Pest Control needs to be identified in the Management Plan as an ongoing issue.

Mrs Cowan felt that the community could be educated in rodent control and become more involved in this issue.

Mr Williams reported that since poisoning has been undertaken there has been an increase in wildlife and plant life within the reserve. It was suggested that perhaps every five years, a blitz is carried out, then this is reduced for the following years. Mr Williams said he would like to see more funding made available on the management of the area. The Chief Executive advised that there are other ways to control pests in the area.

Mrs Cowan suggested that staff have discussions with the current contractor and to consider a longer term contract and how this will be managed. Mrs Cowan also suggested that discussion be held with the Department of Conservation. She further advised that there is valuable and interesting data available on their website.

The Chair expressed the opinion that the 'bush area' is looking the best it has been for years and would like to see baiting continue. Mrs Laws agreed and expressed concern if baiting is not continued.

The Chief Executive informed members that this activity is District funded and questioned how Council members may feel when such a large amount is being spent on a very small area.

Mrs Cowan suggested that Professor Bruce Clarkson be contacted for advice.

The Chair felt that baiting should be continued until such time as the management of the reserve is reviewed. Mrs Cowan further reported that it is predicted there will be a surge of rodents and for Council to utilise people who are experts in the field.

Mr Williams referred to the annual cost of between \$10 - \$11 thousand dollars which he said has not been budgeted for. He said there has to be another way of controlling rodents. Mrs Laws suggested that the current situation continue for another few months until further information is obtained. Mr Tindle felt that funding for this purpose should cease and that the management plan be reviewed.

The Chief Executive advised that the current contractor is paid on a month by month basis.

Mr Chetty expressed the opinion that it would be unwise to cease the current baiting without another option being in place.

Mrs Cowan referred to a letter from the General Manager of the Otorohanga Kiwi House, addressed to the Chairperson of the Otorohanga Community Board on the matter of Pest Control in Rotary Park / Bob Horsfall Reserve. Mrs Cowan quoted from this letter "that the benefits to the community in maintaining the current programme is:

- 1) Public Health Benefits – Reducing rodents as a vector of disease.
- 2) Reducing the nuisance factor of rodents for neighbours.
- 3) Attracting and establishing more native wildlife within the reserves increasing the community's and visitors enjoyment of these spaces.
- 4) Providing a buffer zone of protection for the Otorohanga Kiwi House, Kiwi Breeding enclosures leased within Rotary Park."

Mrs Cowan suggested that the Board should go out into the community for assistance and to provide education to obtain a buy-in from the community to ensure the standard of facilities meets the community's requirements.

Mr Tindle suggested a new arrangement / plan be prepared based on the need to control rodents and frequencies of baiting then go to the market for costings. The Board does not have the authority for such expenditure however the matter needs to be treated with some urgency.

Mrs Cowan again suggested that staff have discussions with EcoFX and the Department of Conservation to explore alternative rodent control options.

Resolved from the Chief Executive's Report be received and that poisoning within the Bob Horsfall Reserve and Rotary Park be discontinued until an exploration of alternative rodent control options has been completed within a two month period.

Mr Prescott / Mr Tindle

Item 79 DRAFT MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2015

The District Accountant attended the meeting and presented the Draft Management accounts for the period ending 31 December 2015.

Otewa Road Pump station

The Chief Executive advised Mr Williams that staff are currently obtaining quotes for the work required and that other pipes connecting pump stations to the river have been checked out.

Otorohanga Cemetery

It was agreed that staff investigated the identified cost of \$1000 to erect signage at the Otorohanga Cemetery.

The Chief Executive reported that there is only three areas, Water Treatment, Parks and Reserves and Community Property that have been highlighted as being over budget, all the rest of the activities are under budget.

Resolved that the draft Management Accounts for the period ended 31 December 2015 be received.

Mr Williams / Mr Tindle

Item 80 OTOROHANGA KIWI HOUSE

Representatives of the Otorohanga Kiwi House and local organisations attended the meeting, these being –
Jo Russell (General Manager – Otorohanga Kiwi House)
Tim Jones – (Treasurer – Otorohanga Kiwi House)
Heather Hammond (Otorohanga Kiwi House Representative)
Jock Gollan – (Otorohanga Kiwi House Representative)
Bob Strawbridge –(Otorohanga Lions Club)
Lindsay Chitty (Otorohanga Rotary Club)

Mr Jones informed members that the purpose of their attendance is to give the Board an overview as to where the Kiwi House is at and to request funding from the Board for predator proof fencing. He said there are two questions that need to be answered, these being how vital is the Kiwi House to the community and how committed is the community to the Kiwi House.

Mr Jones reported that the Kiwi House is in good shape financially and of good heart. He said there has been no increase in the price of tickets and that visitor numbers are up 12.5% on the previous year. Members were informed that recently the Kiwi House has found itself in a difficult situation due to the failure of the perimeter fence and being the worst year for rodent invasion. Mr Jones referred to a tight timeframe for this matter to be resolved and requested that the Board give consideration to giving a grant of \$100,000 to the Kiwi House from the Community special fund.

Mrs Russell referred to the proposed Predator Proof fencing and expressed the hope that the Kiwi House receives some sponsorship towards this. She advised that the committee has \$20,000 pledged from the community and some funds in their Bank Account, however there is a shortfall of approximately \$200,000 It was reported that the Kiwi House does have a Bank Facility of around \$112,000.

The Chief Executive referred to the comments made by Mr Jones that the Kiwi House is in good heart and that it is seeking \$100,000 from the Community Board. He queried whether the Kiwi House would consider approaching the Board in the future, for further funding. In reply, Mrs Russell said that the Kiwi House requires a hand-up in order to function. In the future it may need a commitment from the community however it is a question of what the community want's the Kiwi House to be. The Chair referred to the proposed Strategic Plan and expressed concern that after erecting a \$300,000 fence, a report comes back to say that the Kiwi House is not a viable option. Mrs Russell replied at the present time, there is a timing issue however; there are other

ways / range of options of resolving this issue. The Kiwi House income stream is growing however it does rely heavily on volunteer support.

Mrs Cowan reported that the Kiwi House staff are absolutely terrific and provide that very 'Kiwi' personal input however, the building itself is somewhat outdated.

Mr Williams referred to the proposed Strategic plan which he advised was being funded by the Otorohanga District Development Board. Mr Williams queried as to when this report would be available. The Chief Executive replied that the target date is the end of April 2016. Members were informed that the plan would contain a financial review based on the belief that there could be a need for Council to make a substantial donation.

Mr Tindle expressed the opinion that the Kiwi House is a huge identity for the town and does have potential for growth. He referred to today's presentation which he said "is really enlightening" however the Kiwi House is planning for something that is required now. He expressed concern around the future lease of the facility and the reliance on volunteer workers. Should an investment of \$100,000 by Council be made, he hoped that the lease agreement would be extended.

Mrs Cowan reported that there is huge volunteer input into the Kiwi House and that the current volunteers are happy to continue as long as there is support from the community. She advised that the committee has turned the facility around, however it is going to require assistance from time to time. She said the Kiwi House has done a lot for the community and that it is now time for the community to get involved.

Mr Lindsay Chitty circulated and presented a written submission advising that the Rotary Club of Otorohanga Incorporated is pleased to support the application by the Otorohanga Kiwi House and Native Bird Park for funds from the Otorohanga Community Board as part of the funding required towards the completion of the vermin proof fence.

Mr Chitty reported that Rotary recognises the iconic place that the Kiwi House has in the Otorohanga Districts economy. Not only do local people regularly visit the Kiwi House but Tours from within New Zealand and overseas visit. Mr Chitty further reported that the provision of the vermin free environment is an essential part of the well-being of the Kiwi House. Mr Chitty advised that Rotary has been a major supporter of the Kiwi House, not only in cash, but with providing the voluntary help on an ongoing basis, helping to complete the Tuatara room conference / classroom facility and other manual work required to assist with the various improvements that have happened recently. He said a working bee supported by Rotary has been happening almost on a weekly basis.

In conclusion, Mr Chitty confirmed that Rotary supports the Kiwi House application for funding.

Bob Strawbridge, President of the Otorohanga Lions Club referred to a recent presentation by the Kiwi House at their meeting and advised that this was positively received though no final decision would be made until next week. He said It is the intention that Lions will assist with the Predator Proof fencing.

Mr Stawbridge from a personal point of view, expressed the personal opinion that the Kiwi House is the 'Jewel in the Crown' and that to date, the community has not provided the required support.

Mrs Hammond reported that rats enjoy killing and that the Kiwi House will lose its credibility should this issue not be curtailed: Mrs Hammond also advised that the Kiwi House could lose its Department of Conservation license and once this is lost, it would be difficult to obtain again in the future. Mrs Hammond expressed the opinion that a Predator Proof Fence should not be delayed.

Mr Jock Gollan expressed the opinion that Otorohanga would be nothing without the existence of the Kiwi House. He stated that there are a number of people out in the community that are of the opinion that the Kiwi House is Councils responsibility.

The Chair thanked the representatives of the Otorohanga Kiwi House and local organisations for their attendance.

MATTERS REFERRED

The Governance Supervisor took members through the Matters Referred.

COMMUNITY INSPECTION

Following discussion, it was agreed that individual members email each other to arrive at a suitable date/time to carry out an inspection of the community.

RAILWAY STATION AREA

Members agreed that it would be desirable for the existing fence to be removed and a new one erected. Mr Tindle referred to a panel-type fence with Kiwi's being Laser cut into the panels.

WI-FI

The Chief Executive referred to the Board's request for Council's IT manager to explore how other communities use Wi Fi as a promotional tool and advised that it has been difficult to find such a community. Mrs Cowan reported on the various towns that she had identified and agreed to give these to the Chief Executive

ED HILLARY WALKWAY

The Chief Executive informed members that the Engineering Manager is in the process of obtaining prices for a steel roof and the other option of a steel roof with clear panels.

GENERAL

COMMUNITY BOARDS

Mr Tindle referred to a proposed workshop on the future of the Otorohanga Community Board and also the 2017 Representation Review. He said he would like to see this workshop held in the future to gain members thoughts.

COUNCIL YOUTH POLICY

Mr Chetty referred to his email regarding proposing a 'Youth Policy' for Otorohanga something which this Council does not currently have. Mr Chetty referred to the documentation he had forwarded to members for feedback. Mr Chetty said he had received a call from Mr Jeffries, Kawhia Community Board Chairperson advising he would like to see the Kawhia area included in such a policy.

COMMUNITY WATER METERING

Mr Chetty said he had some concerns raised with him on at what point was consultation held to introduce water metering within the Community, with Iwi. The Chief Executive replied it was the opinion this proposal was not of any special significance to Iwi, it was a full community proposal. The Chief Executive referred to Councils newly appointed Executive Assistance David Dowd and advised that he has communication strengths to assist people to engage with Council

BOARD APOLOGY

Mrs Cowan referred to a request from a Caren Campbell and suggested that the Board needs to forward a written apology to her. She said the Board was not aware of the request.

BROADBAND STRATEGY

Members were advised that Council is still waiting for a central government decision on the availability of funding for local Broadband.

COMMUNITY STOPBANKS

Mrs Cowan requested a written report be prepared for member's information on the state of the Community Stop-Banks and the items highlighted for attention.

PROPOSED ICONS – GILTRAP BANK

Mrs Cowan referred to the proposed Icons for erection on the bank on State Highway 3 opposite Giltrap Engineering. Mrs Cowan reported that she had spoken to Peter Skilton, planning consultant to Council and advised that Marayn Hurley is now taking up the project. It has been suggested that an approach be made to NZTA and Mr David Walmsley

DOMAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN.

Mrs Cowan made the request that the Otorohanga Domain Reserve Management plan be reviewed. The Chief Executive in reply stated that Council would probably have to engage the services of an external consultant for this purpose.

MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting concluded at 6.12pm

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: