



Otorohanga District Council

MINUTES

15 July 2014

OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

15 July 2014

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held in the Council Chambers, Maniapoto St, Otorohanga on Tuesday 15 July 2014 commencing at 10.00am.

MINUTES

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

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PRESENT

Mr MM Baxter (Mayor), Crs, RA Klos, RM Johnson, KC Phillips, DM Pilkington (Deputy Mayor), RJ Prescott, PD Tindle and AJ Williams.

IN ATTENDANCE

Messrs DC Clibbery (Chief Executive & Engineering Manager), GD Bunn (Finance & Administration Manager) and CA Tutty (Governance Supervisor).

His Worship declared the meeting open and welcomed those present.

OPENING PRAYER

Cr Williams read the Opening Prayer.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 17 JUNE 2014

Cr Phillips pointed out that the adjournment for luncheon commenced at 12.45pm not 1.45pm, as recorded in the minutes.

Cr Williams referred to Item 84 – Request to Waive Infringement Fee and requested that additional discussion be included to establish why Council resolved to waive the Infringement Notice fee. Accordingly, it was agreed that the third sentence in the discussion be amended to read 'The Environmental Services Manager further advised that Mr Diack had an exemplarily record in respect of dog ownership and has now paid all outstanding fees'.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held on 17 June 2014, as amended, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Cr Phillips / Cr Johnson

REPORTS

Item 88 OTOROHANGA COMMUNITY BOARD MINUTES 19 JUNE 2014

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga Community Board held on 19 June 2014 be received

Cr Prescott / Cr Tindle

Item 89 MINUTES OF WAIKATO CDEM JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – 9 JUNE 2014

Discussion

The Chief Executive advised that the minutes of the Waikato Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group Joint Committee meeting held on 9 June 2014 have been circulated for Members information. His Worship advised that the Joint Committee is getting systems in place to ensure that the Waikato Region is a safe place in a Civil Defence emergency. He said the Region has come up considerably in being able to respond to Civil Defence emergencies compared to where it was a few years ago. In reply to Cr Williams' query whether an all hazards centre site has been identified, His Worship replied that to date there has been no feedback on this matter.

Resolved

That the minutes of the Waikato Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group Joint Committee meeting held on 9 June 2014 be received.

Cr Prescott / Cr Tindle

Item 90 DISTRICT BUILDING CONTROL OFFICERS REPORT FOR APRIL TO JUNE 2014

Discussion

The District Building Control Officer Mr Gavin Phillips attended the meeting and presented the quarterly report for the period 1 April to 30 June 2014.

The District Building Control Officer reported that all Councils in the greater Waikato have seen substantial building growth as predicted and that the Hamilton City, Waikato and Waipa Districts have been given approval to advertise for additional staff to help with the increase in consents and inspections.

ACCREDITATION

The District Building Control Officer reported that the Waikato Building Consent Group has been informed that if a small Council does not meet the requirements as set by the Regulations, then they are in danger of failing Accreditation. He said, at the present time, Wanganui District has been placed on notice. In reply to Cr Prescott's query should this Council fail in obtaining its Accreditation, the District Building Control Officer replied that Council would no longer be able to issue Consents and accordingly no income would be received by Council in respect to this activity. The Chief Executive expressed the opinion that there is an extremely low chance of this occurring. In reply to His Worship the District Building Control Officer advised that all Inspectors will be required to obtain a Diploma/Qualification however, this has not been passed by Law therefore legally could not be enforced.

SEISMIC STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENT

The Chief Executive reported that there will be a requirement that a percentage of Code will have to be achieved in respect to some buildings. The District Building Control Officer confirmed that Council's administration building is a public building. Cr Prescott felt that a Seismic Structural Assessment on Council's administration building should be carried out. Cr Williams said that Council should obtain clarification of what the Engineer's Assessment is going to provide. She referred to a building in Otorohanga and reported that initially an indication of what would be required was received, but it was not a full and final assessment. Cr Williams further reported that in this particular case, it did not include the front verandah of the building. She stressed that clarity on what will be provided is essential. Cr Klos queried the proposed assessment being provided by a small local company and its ability to back this up. The Chief Executive replied that he had no concerns in this regard. The Chief Executive reported that it would be desirable to wait for the outcome of the final Legislation however, insurance companies should not be able to determine the required percentage of Code. In reply to Cr Johnson regarding the proposed timeframe of the Legislation, the District Building Control Officer replied that this is estimated at 5 years, with 2 years already passed. Cr Tindle said he is in favour of the formation of a core group of people to arrange structural assessments for the Business Community.

His Worship highlighted the fact that the Building Control/Environmental Staff have carried out a considerable amount of work and acknowledged their dedication to the activity.

Resolved

That the District Building Control Officers report for the quarterly period 1 April to 30 June 2014 and Annual Summary, be received.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Phillips

Item 91 DISTRICT LIBRARIANS REPORT FOR APRIL TO JUNE 2014

Discussion

The District Librarian attended the meeting and presented her quarterly report.

In respect to the Volunteer Computer Mentoring service, the District Librarian reported that approximately a dozen people have taken advantage of this service. Cr Phillips referred to the press display in particular, that two Otorohanga users can simultaneously access this database. He queried whether this would be improved under the Kotui Proposal. The District Librarian replied that in respect to the purchase of the database, this would be a separate issue however, access could be incorporated into the Library system.

His Worship thanked the District Librarian for her comprehensive report.

Resolved

That the District Librarians quarterly report for the period April to June 2014 be received.

Cr Johnson / Cr Phillips

Item 92 COMMITMENT TO WAIKATO CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR ROADING ASSET MANAGEMENT (ROAD ASSET TECHNICAL ALLIANCE - RATA)

Discussion

Councils Roothing Manager Mr Martin Gould attended the meeting and presented his report on the proposal to establish a Waikato Centre of Excellence (Road Asset Technical Alliance - RATA) in Road Asset Management.

The Roothing Manger reported that the Forum has started to move from the investigation stage to the tender stage for data collection and therefore the Mayoral Forum is looking for a formal commitment for funding through LASS. He said at this stage the Business Plan is not complete therefore costs are not known and until tenders are called and closed it is unclear what the values will be.

The Roothing Manager advised that the work tendered is what Council currently tendered for, independently. It is therefore likely as we are tendering larger parcels of work that the costs will be less than we are currently paying for. There are compulsory tenders required by NZTA.

The Roothing Manager reported that the Business Unit has put considerable effort into getting the RAMM database back to a good standard and getting good information. He said staff are starting to run the Road Maintenance Contract through RAMM as well. The Roothing Manager advised that this Council lacks someone with the relevant experience to extract the information. Under this proposal a single person will provide the information for everyone.

The Roothing Manager reported that NZTA are pressuring Councils for better Asset Management Plans and a better evidence based for applications for funding assistance.

The Roothing Manager informed Members that there will be no additional costs, this will be funded from existing budgets. He further advised that this Council will stay with RAMM work at the lower level.

Cr Klos queried, in relation to being part of a collective and being a small Council, will this affect our priority of work and therefore take longer to get work through. The Roothing Manager reported this shouldn't happen, considerable discussion has already been held with the various Road Managers.

In reply to Cr Phillips whether any particular trends have been highlighted, the Roothing Manager replied that there is insufficient information available however, there is just a general slow rate of increase in road users. He said there does not appear to be an issue with heavy vehicle users.

Resolved

That -

1. The Otorohanga District Council resolves to make a commitment in principle to RATA.
2. That the Mayor and Chief Executive be given delegated authority to enter into a multi-party funding agreement with LASS for the operational costs associated with RATA.

Cr Prescott / Cr Phillips

Item 93 WAIKATO TRIENNIAL AGREEMENT

Discussion

The Chief Executive referred Members to a revised Waikato Triennial Agreement, for consideration.

Resolved

That His Worship the Mayor be authorised to confirm Councils agreement to the 2013/2016 Waikato Triennial Agreement, as attached to the report.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Klos

Item 94 ODC MATTERS REFERRED FROM 17 JUNE 2014

Discussion

The Governance Supervisor took Members through the Matters Referred.

WORKSHOP – COMMUNITIES OF KAWHIA AND AOTEA

Cr Pilkington reported that there has not been a meeting of the Kawhia Community Board since Council heard the submissions to the Annual Plan. She said this matter will be discussed at the next Kawhia Community Board meeting to be held on 25 July 2014.

The Finance and Administration Manager informed Members it is proposed that the Funding Review will be held during August 2014. It was agreed that the Finance and Administration Manager include in the next Kawhia Community Board Agenda a report to explore the suggestion of funding within the two Communities of Kawhia and Aotea.

GENERAL

OTEWA ROAD

Cr Johnson reported on the significant improvement to a section of Otewa Road.

OTOROHANGA DISTRICT & COMMUNITY CHARITABLE TRUST INC.

Cr Johnson expressed his thanks to the Chief Executive for the preparation and inclusion of a flyer within Council's 6 monthly newsletter, regarding the Otorohanga District Community Charitable Trust.

DISTRICT LICENSING COMMITTEE

Cr Johnson reported on his attendance at a recent District Licensing Committee Hearing which went through the due process.

MAKING GOOD DECISIONS

Cr Johnson reported he has passed the 'Making Good Decisions', training seminar and assignment.

TELECOM 'HOT SPOT'

In reply to Cr Prescott the Chief Executive advised that a preferred location has been identified however, Council has not heard anything further.

In reply to Cr Prescott regarding the recent Wahanui Crescent upgrade, the Chief Executive replied that due to the Contractor commencing this work later than envisaged, the roadway will not be sealed until around October 2014.

SPORT WAIKATO

Cr Prescott reported that the Sports Waikato Coordinator based in Te Kuiti has a holiday program in place and queried why this has not happened in Otorohanga.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Cr Prescott referred to last weeks' Community refuse collection and reported that some rubbish/recyclables were not collected until 7.00pm that day. He said this is not good enough, property owners have to have their rubbish out on the roadside at 7.00am. The Chief Executive replied that Council has not received any complaints however, the Contractor should have the necessary resources available to carry out the collection in a timely manner.

MANIAPOTO STREET

Cr Tindle reported that he had been asked whether any decision has been made on the surface of Maniapoto Street. He said when travelling north, there is tracking particularly at the two major intersections which is of safety concern. Members were informed that this is a NZTA matter.

LOCAL FUN RUN

Cr Phillips congratulated the organisers of a recent Fun Run and said he was impressed to see the Chief Executive placed third in the event and several other Council staff members participating.

MAIHIIHI ROAD

Cr Phillips reported on the huge improvement of a section of Maihihi Road.

MAIHIIHI RECYCLING

Cr Phillips reported that the Maihihi Recycling depot does not appear to have had the items collected. He said the area is full but very tidy.

STANDARD ORDERS

Cr Phillips reported that when a District Councillor attends a Community Board meeting the Councillor does not automatically have any speaking rights. He said this also appears to relate to the Mayor. Cr Phillips advised that the Chair of the Board can allow them speaking rights however, he is surprised that His Worship does not automatically have this. Cr Phillips queried whether Council could make a change to the existing Standard Order. Members were advised that as the position of Mayor is elected at large over the whole of the District that he should be allowed speaking rights. His Worship said it would be a good idea if he is allowed speaking rights however, up to now this has been allowed by both Community Boards.

OTOROHANGA DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT BOARD WORKSHOP

Cr Pilkington expressed her thanks to Councillors Klos, Phillips and Tindle for their attendance at a recent Development Board workshop. She said that the Board is establishing a Focus Group to form an economic strategy. Cr Pilkington acknowledged everyone's contribution to the workshop.

OTOROHANGA SPEECH COMPETITION

Cr Pilkington reported how she enjoyed being a judge of the Year 7 and 8 local schools Speech Competition held recently. She said there is considerable talent within the District and that the winners would be attending the Hamilton Regional finals.

KAWHIA KAI FESTIVAL

Cr Pilkington reported that the Kawhia Community Board is attempting to set up a meeting with the Kawhia Kai Festival Committee.

IWI LIAISON GROUP

Cr Klos requested that the creation of a Iwi Liaison Group within Council be placed on Matters Referred.

OTOROHANGA DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Cr Klos reported on her attendance at a recent meeting of the Otorohanga District Development Board and advised that Council has a big role to play in being supportive to new businesses coming into the District. She felt Council should look at itself to see how welcoming it is in these situations. Cr Klos said she is disappointed that this Council does not have a District Business Strategy around new business in the District.

Cr Pilkington referred to the formation of a Strategic Focus Group and said this will cover the whole of the District strategically, not exclusively within the Community boundaries.

AROHENA CAMPING GROUND

Cr Klos referred to the Arohena Camping Ground administered by the Department of Conservation and reported that apparently there is no water available there. She said the area is being used by a number of campervans. Cr Klos queried whether it is just a question of the Camping Ground connecting to the District Scheme. The Chief Executive advised Members that a problem had been encountered with a local property owner regarding unaccounted water. Members were informed that apparently the water supply has been disconnected. The Engineering Manager undertook to follow the matter up.

Cr Klos also suggested that signage be erected informing campervans to leave the area via Waipapa Road rather than Huirimu Road.

WAIPAPA ROAD

Cr Klos referred to a previous slip on Waipapa Road and reported that Poplars have been planted on the slip face. Cr Klos further reported that those involved with the remedial work said it is not desirable to plant the slip face with these trees. The Engineering Manager undertook to look into the matter.

WHAREPUHUNGA ROAD

Cr Klos referred to an area on Wharepuhunga Road where it is proposed to carry out some upgrade work. She said there is quite a big slumping in the roadway. The Engineering Manager reported that staff are currently finalizing the design for the proposed works.

REGIONAL TRANSPORT MEETING

His Worship reported on his attendance at a recent Regional Transport meeting where submissions were presented on 'where the Waikato sits' in regards to the future of roads from 2014/15 through to 2024/25 years.

LINES COMPANY

His Worship reported on a recent public meeting of the Lines Company which he chaired. He said several attendees voiced their frustrations which the representatives endeavored to address. It was agreed that the lines of communication be kept open however, the situation would be a lot better if people understood the Company's methodology in charging. He said if this matter had been addressed by the Lines Company years ago, the charging would now be better understood.

OTOROHANGA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

His Worship reported on his attendance at the recent AGM of the Otorohanga Business Association whereat a new chairperson was elected, Mrs Kylie Mouat.

HEALTHY RIVERS

His Worship reported that the Healthy Rivers Project is run by Dairy NZ and that the Regional Council is working with local Iwi. He said there is 25 people on the Board with only two dairy representatives, considering they will be mostly affected you would think they would have better representation. His Worship said the farmers were given an update on where the project is heading.

HIGH SPEED BROADBAND

His Worship informed Members that feedback on this project is being obtained from Gen-I at a higher level than previously. He said more feedback is expected in a couple of weeks.

OTOROHANGA COLLEGE

His Worship reported on his recent attendance at a College Matariki event where the four College Houses competed. He said the event was won by the House that has not won such event for a long time and it was encouraging to see the support they received.

WAIKATO SHARED SERVICES.

The Chief Executive reported that Ms Sally Davis has been appointed the new Waikato LASS Chief Executive.

MEETING CLOSED

The meeting concluded at 11.55am

MAYOR:

DATE: