



Otorohanga District Council

MINUTES

16 September 2014

OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

16 September 2014

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held in the Council Chambers, Maniapoto St, Otorohanga on Tuesday 16 September 2014 commencing at 10.04am.

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, and AJ Williams.

IN ATTENDANCE

Messrs DC Clibbery (Chief Executive & Engineering Manager), GD Bunn (Finance & Administration Manager), AR Loe (Environmental Services Manager) and Mrs A Burdon (Executive Assistant).

OPENING PRAYER

Cr Johnson read the Opening Prayer.

APOLOGY

Resolved that the apology received from Cr PD Tindle be sustained.

Cr Johnson / Cr Prescott

ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN GENERAL BUSINESS

Resolved

That the Chief Executive's report on Additional Delegation to Otorohanga Community Board be considered in General Business which will require a resolution.

Cr Prescott / Cr Johnson

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 19 AUGUST 2014

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held on 19 August 2014, as amended, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Phillips

MATTERS ARISING

Cr Phillips referred to page 4 Item 104, Upgrading the Street Light Network to LED Lanterns, and said fundamentally he supports LED lights as they are very good but he queried a wholesale change when there is still so much life left in the current bulbs. He asked for the following changes to be made -

- Line 11 – 'Cr Phillips suggested that LED lanterns dim over time' to 'Cr Phillips advised his electrician said LED lights dim over time'.
- Line 15 – 'Cr Phillips suggested that monthly inspections be carried out immediately' – remove 'immediately'. Cr Phillips advised he suggested changing from fortnightly inspections to monthly inspections as this would immediately save money upon implementation.
- Line 18 – 'Cr Phillips suggested that staff rely on the public to notify of any lighting malfunctioning rather than the Contractor. Delete this sentence as he said he only suggested that Council needed to hear from the public also and not just rely on the Contractor inspections. He advised that a light has been out for months on Turongo St by the Baptist Church and queried why this has not been picked up in inspections.

Cr Phillips advised that the report suggested a trial in McKenzie Ave, and he only suggested Turongo Street as a more central location to trial. The Chief Executive reported a small trial will go ahead but this was more to identify likely pricing when the LED's are installed.

His Worship advised that Council has categorised its roading for the One Roding Network. This work is still to be completed by a number of other Councils.

Cr Pilkington referred to page 1, City/Community Sister Relationship, and advised that the Otorohanga District Development Board had declined to be involved as this was considered a social rather than economic outcome.

Cr Phillips referred to page 9, General Item – Leave of Absence and queried whether the next Council meeting could be put back one week to 29 October. It was agreed to discuss the matter further with Cr Tindle, and subject to Cr Johnson being able to change an appointment, before a decision is made.

In reply to Cr Jonson's query about the Dog Control year on year report, the Environmental Services Manager replied this has not been put together yet.

REPORTS

Item 113 PROPOSED DISTRICT PLAN FINAL CONSIDERATION & APPROVAL

Discussion

The Environmental Services Manager presented his report and advised that the final appeal on the Proposed District Plan has been resolved. He said this project commenced in 2009 and has been one of the largest projects Council has undertaken in the last decade. He advised that no appeals went to the Environment Court but were resolved in mediation.

His Worship congratulated the Environmental Services Manager and team and the last two terms of Councillors who have put a number of years into this project, for the Plan to now be at the operative stage. It is commendable to be able to get this up and going.

Cr Klos queried with the Environmental Services Manager if there was anything different that he would do next time or if any lessons had been learned. She said it was worrying to see ratepayers resorting to getting legal advice and paying for this personally to change something they believed was incorrect. The Environmental Services Manager said he felt Council took a 'middle ground' position having taken advice from consultants whom they believed were the 'experts' in the field and because of this were drawn down a particular philosophical path, which was not agreed by all. He said that there were those on either end of the spectrum who sought legal advice who believed Council either went too far or didn't go far enough. Cr Pilkington reported that national lobby groups get funding from the government whereas locals have to fund their own legal costs. Cr Klos said she felt it was sad for ratepayers to be out of pocket. She queried if Council had done enough homework on who Council choose as their 'experts'. His Worship said the homework on the 'expert' Council chose was well done and the expert's resume was outstanding. He said it could mean Council paying to appeal against national lobby groups which meant every ratepayer is paying the cost not just individuals. He said irregardless who you choose as your expert, there is always a risk of going down a tangential path.

The Environmental Services Manager said that other Councils are now benefitting from the work this Council has done. He said that landscape planning is still evolving and that other appeals and settlements are now being based on our case. He said it is part of the evolution of the RMA which is a very subjective document.

In reply to Cr Phillips query as to how the judge gave direction on the plan even though the plan was not judged by the Environment Court, the Environmental Services Manager said the Environment Court directed the parties to mediation, with strict timelines. In reply to Cr Phillips' query on who gave way to allow agreement, the Environmental Services Manager advised that everyone gave something to get to the final decision. Cr Phillips expressed his congratulations to everyone involved, especially Peter Skilton and the group.

Resolved

That Council approve its Proposed District Plan and make the Proposed District Plan operative pursuant to Clause 20 of the First Schedule to the Resource Management Act 1991 as at 30 October 2014.

Mayor / Cr Pilkington

Item 114 SIGNIFICANCE & ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Discussion

The Chief Executive presented his report on the Significance & Engagement Policy. He said its purpose is to identify matters that are of significant importance and to engage the community in decision making where appropriate. The Finance & Administration Manager advised that the 2014 amendment to the Local Government Act outlines the requirements and that Council is required to adopt this policy which replaces the old Significance Policy. The Chief Executive advised that because each Council is required to adopt a policy, the Mayoral Forum had suggested drafting a template that each Council can then individualise. He advised that the document being adopted today is a template and the template will then be used to create a specific policy for this Council. He said the template is flexible and not prescriptive as it is trying to satisfy 12 Councils and their different needs. The Chief Executive advised that suggested changes for an ODC Policy are highlighted in red in the separate memo.

Resolved

That the Significance and Engagement Policy template be adopted.

Cr Phillips / Cr Klos

Item 112 DRAFT MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS TO 30 JUNE 2014

Discussion

District Accountant attended the meeting and took Members through the Draft Management Accounts to 30 June 2014.

Resolved

That the Draft Management Accounts for the year ended 30 June 2014 be received.

Cr Phillips / Cr Johnson

Item 115 ODC MATTERS REFERRED FROM 19 AUGUST 2014

Discussion

IWI LIAISON GROUP

The Chief Executive advised this will be covered in a workshop discussion following today's meeting.

GENERAL

**Item 116 ADDITIONAL DELEGATION TO OTOROHANGA COMMUNITY BOARD
(TABLED ITEM)**

Discussion

The Chief Executive tabled a report which suggested making a small modification to the Otorohanga Community Board's (OCB) delegated authority. He advised Members that the Zoological Society has raised some concerns about the location of the mountain bike track. The Community Board at its meeting last week resolved to put further development of the track on hold until a meeting between OCB and the Zoological Society can be arranged to discuss this matter further. The Chief Executive advised that Council has not formally delegated control of parks and reserves to the Community Boards however, informally this has always been the case.

Resolved

1. Council grants authority to the Otorohanga Community Board to make decisions regarding the establishment and development of tracks and paths within Reserves inside the

Otorohanga Community, subject to the same general conditions as were applicable to other delegations to the Board.

2. Council supports the resolution made at the Otorohanga Community Board meeting of 11 September 2014 'That work on the extension of the mountain bike track be placed on hold until a meeting between the Otorohanga Community Board and the Otorohanga Zoological society is held.

Cr Prescott / Cr Pilkington

WAIPA CATCHMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

Cr Johnson reported he had attended the recent meeting of the Waipa Catchment Sub-committee, advising two new members, Mrs Rosemary Davison and Mr Bill Galand had joined the sub-committee. He advised the Sub-committee Chair, Mr Graeme Mc Bride, had retired. He had been a very dedicated Chair. Cr Johnson reported the 3 year plan was about to be signed off. Areas of recent involvement for the sub-committee were – education on contaminants in waterways, areas of risk land restricted, regional pest management including tutson and Red-eared slider turtles (being released into waterways, not in this catchment but in other areas. They are an extremely invasive species.)

AUCKLAND WATER TAKE APPLICATION

In reply to Cr Johnson's query regarding whether or not this Council should be concerned about an application from Auckland City to take water from the Waikato River, His Worship advised this Council should be concerned and would make a submission on such an application but to his knowledge no application has been lodged to-date. As it would considerably affect other Councils, this matter would have been raised at various meetings including the Waikato Mayoral Forum, but it hasn't. His Worship advised if an application is made, and there is an opportunity to make a submission, this Council would certainly do so. The Chief Executive is to investigate the matter further

RURAL BROADBAND

Cr Phillips reported it is pleasing to see the progress being made by rural broadband with a tower being erected on Rangiatea Road for the Maihihi Area, another at Maihihi and one on Wherepuhunga Road as well. He advised a new company is coming from Waitomo will increase the competition and drive prices down for locals. Cr Klos reported that it is frustrating for Arohena to have had a high speed cable go right past their gateways which they cannot access.

OTOROHANGA COMMUNITY BOARD - WATER

Cr Phillips requested Board Agenda/Minutes be received earlier. He was advised that they had been sent electronically in good time. He said he would have liked to have attended the recent OCB meeting on the water discussion. Cr Phillips expressed the opinion that water matters should be discussed at Council not just at Board level as it affects not just the Community but wider into the District. The Chief Executive advised that the Otorohanga Community Board has delegated authority to administer the Water Treatment Plant and that the District therefore doesn't have any claim on the water from the plant. Cr Phillips said he believed Council should have a voice in the discussion. Cr Pilkington advised that Council ultimately approves OCB minutes so is able to have a voice at that stage. The Chief Executive said it is very complicated, but if a property taking water is outside the Community boundary then it is understandable that Council may have an interest in it. He said it is helpful that there is a good working relationship between Council and the Board with good open communication.

TE AWAMUTU REINFORCEMENT PROJECT

In reply to Cr Phillips' query as to how Council was involved, the Environmental Services Manager advised that Waitomo, Otorohanga and Waipa have decided to combine to jointly

consider this application. A Commissioner has been appointed to hear submissions and make a recommendation on their behalf. Submissions have now closed and Waipa Networks have time to consider submissions before the date set for the hearing. Waipa Networks and the submitters need to work on solutions to any objections raised. ODC does not receive submissions.

ZONE 2

Cr Pilkington reported she had attended one day of the recent two day Zone 2 meeting held in Hamilton on 11 & 12 September. She said it was well worth attending, and was very informative with a wide range of topics being presented. She said she would recommend it to other Councillors to attend. Cr Pilkington reported she had met Daniel Henderson, the new Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Coordinator. She said the Taskforce is still receiving government funding but from next year will not be reliant on this. LGNZ now has a greater say on expenditure. Cr Pilkington encouraged Members to attend the forthcoming Youth Initiative Tour on 8 October, 9.00am if they have not attended one previously, to advise Council's Executive Assistant.

LOCAL ALCOHOL POLICY

In reply to Cr Pilkington regarding an update on the Local Alcohol Policy (LAP), the Environmental Services Manager advised that an appeal had been lodged with the Alcohol Licencing Authority (ALA) on the Wellington LAP. The ALA judge has stated that no further appeals will be considered until the decisions on the Tasman and Wellington appeals were notified.

WEST COAST ZONE SUBCOMMITTEE

Cr Pilkington reported on her recent attendance at a West Coast Zone Sub-committee. She advised two new representative had joined the sub-committee, Messrs Rob Jolly and Bill Thompson. Cr Pilkington advised the Zone plan is currently being written.

KAWHIA TOURISM TRUST

Cr Pilkington reported that the Kawhia Tourism Trust, at its recent meeting, had made the decision it was not going to organise any further Kai Festivals. She advised that there is definitely community interest & enthusiasm to get something else off the ground which will be discussed at a public meeting to be held on 21 September.

OTOROHANGA STREET LIGHTING – LED LANTERNS

Cr Klos reported she had received comment from a rate payer who said that a positive return on the LED lanterns was more likely over 10 years not six years.

WAIKATO SPATIAL PLAN

Cr Klos reported she had attended the recent Waikato Spatial Plan meeting with His Worship. She said she queried its purpose, is it a tool for Council or business/community members, who is going to benefit, and what Community engagement or consultation will there be. She expressed the opinion that the community at large needs to have an opportunity to have input before the plan is signed off.

MEMORIAL POOL

Cr Klos raised the matter of why do rural ratepayers have to pay for this facility when 60 percent do not use it.

WAIPA RIVER ACCESS

Cr Williams said it was excellent to have the new access to the Waipa River at Otorohanga.

REGIONAL TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

His Worship reported on his attendance at a recent Regional Transport Committee meeting. He advised one of the reports given indicated that motorcyclists have a 22 percent greater chance of having a serious or fatal on Waikato roads than other drivers; this increases to over 40 percent on the Coromandel. His Worship said there are a lot of inconsistencies in roading surfaces on these networks which are now attracting a lot of attention to create safer journeys for riders.

CIVIL DEFENCE

His Worship reported on his attendance at a recent Civil Defence Emergency Management meeting where information on 'king tides' was presented. The report indicated that in our lifetime tides will increase by 36cm above current levels and in our children's lifetimes, tides will increase by 66cm with significant effect on many communities.

WINTEC TRADE TRAINING CENTRE WAIKATO CAMPUS

His Worship advised he had attended the recent official opening of the new Wintec Waikato Campus Trade Training Centre which was opened by Hon John Key.

NATIONAL MP

His Worship reported he had recently hosted, along with Kylie Mouat of ODDB, MP Craig Foss (Minister for Commerce, Consumer Affairs and Broadcasting) and National candidate Barbara Kuriger. His Worship had arranged visits to OTC Timber and Mc Donalds Lime, examples of successful big businesses in rural NZ. He said it was a very worthwhile visit.

ZONE 2

His Worship advised he had attended the recent two day Zone 2 meeting in Hamilton. He reported the new Chair of the Zone is Mayor John Tregidga of Hauraki District Council. He said a notable speaker at the event was Professor Iain White of the University of Waikato who spoke on issues relating to spatial planning.

WAITOMO CAVES 125 YEAR CELEBRATION

His Worship reported on his attendance at the Waitomo Caves 125 year celebration last Saturday. He said it was a privilege to be a part of this wonderful celebration.

SPATIAL PLAN GROUP MEETING

His Worship reported he had attended the recent Spatial Plan Group meeting along with Cr Klos. It was agreed that non Local Government representatives join the group. These were Bev Gattenby (Trust Waikato), Margaret Devlin (Professional Director), Michael Spaans (Fonterra Director & other interests), Iain White (University of Waikato) and Tipene (Stephen) Wilson as Iwi representative.

MEETING CLOSED

The meeting concluded at 12.15pm.

MAYOR:

DATE: 21 October 2014