



Otorohanga District Council

MINUTES

18 February 2015

OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

18 February 2015

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held in the Council Chambers, Maniapoto St, Otorohanga on Wednesday 18 February 2015 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, PD Tindle and AJ Williams.

IN ATTENDANCE

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

OPENING PRAYER

Cr Tindle read the Opening Prayer.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 20 JANUARY 2015

Cr Williams referred to page 3, Item 162, Organisational Risk Management, last paragraph, first line, and advised that the word 'suggested' is incorrectly spelt.

Cr Pilkington referred to page 4, Item 163, Tourism Promotion Funding and advised this matter will now be discussed at the Council meeting on 17 March 2015.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held on 20 January 2015 as previously circulated, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Cr Phillips / Cr Tindle

REPORTS

Item 166 OTOROHANGA COMMUNITY BOARD MINUTES 29 JANUARY 2015

Discussion

Cr Klos queried with the Engineering Manager his intention in preparing a report on proposed further river access improvements. The Engineering Manager replied his intention is to encourage greater use of a recreational area close to town and available free to the public. He referred to the recent development of the area at the State Highway 3 bridge and the success this has been. Cr Phillips reported that this area is now highly regarded. The Engineering Manager advised that the Board's decision was in part due to financial caution. Cr Pilkington felt that if funding is the issue, could the proposal not be substituted with something else within the Parks and Reserves account. The Engineering Manager advised that it was proposed that the proposal be funded from the Board's Special Fund account and Board Members were of the opinion that perhaps too much money is being spent out of this account.

Cr Prescott reported that it is proposed to carry out some work below the Weir by the adjacent Marae in conjunction with the Waikato River Cleanup Trust. He said it is the intention to make this area more accessible with public access being created through Council land.

Cr Phillips reported on the current access situation at Staples Pit and advised that this requires fencing on one side. The Engineering Manager advised that when Staples Pit was sold, it was the intention to ensure public pedestrian access be provided.

Cr Pilkington referred to the proposed State Highway 31/39 area and suggested that the Board reconsider its decision. She said Council considers this would be a huge benefit to the Community and good reason for consideration to be given to perhaps funding the costs incurred jointly with the Board. Cr Tindle reported that only a small percentage of the Community actually use the areas however, it is not to say that further development will not be carried out in the future. Cr Klos felt that the proposal would be a wonderful asset for the Community and there may be people out there who would prefer to utilise areas where there are not so many other people. Cr Williams reported that she has received only positive feedback on the new area.

The Engineering Manager confirmed that this matter could be reconsidered as part of the Estimate process.

Resolved

The minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga Community Board held on 29 January 2015 be received.

Cr Prescott / Cr Tindle

Item 167 KAWHIA COMMUNITY BOARD MINUTES 23 JANUARY 2015

Discussion

Cr Pilkington referred to General item – D Morrison – Aotea Subdivision, the final paragraph and advised that the National Coastal Plan should read 'National Coastal Policy Statement.

Resolved

The minutes of the meeting of the Kawhia Community Board held on 23 February 2015 be received.

Cr Pilkington / Mayor

Item 168 DISTRICT LIBRARIANS QUARTERLY REPORT FOR OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2014

Discussion

The District Librarian attended the meeting and presented a report for the period October to December 2014.

KOTUI SYSTEM

The District Librarian reported that the installation of the Kotui system is being well managed with five days training made available to staff. She said it is the intention to close both the Otorohanga and Kawhia Libraries for two days prior to the 'go live' date of 12 March 2015. She said this closure will be advertised.

Cr Pilkington referred to the Kawhia Library volunteers lunch and felt this was a nice gesture and acknowledged the work undertaken by the volunteers. She suggested this could be an annual event. Cr Pilkington referred to the proposed advertisement that the libraries will be closed, and suggested notices be placed in appropriate areas and also in the Kawhia Connection.

Cr Klos referred to the quarterly usage statistics and queried with the District Librarian whether there are any libraries which are bucking the usual trend of declining book issues. The District Librarian replied that yes there are one or two, mainly those libraries which have perhaps just been built or where there is a population growth within the area.

His Worship referred to the Kotui system installation and suggested that the press be invited as this is a big investment by Council and an indication of its commitment to libraries.

Resolved

That the District Librarian's Quarterly Report for the period October to December 2014 be received.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Phillips

Item 169 ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS REPORT FOR OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2014

Discussion

The Chief Executive presented the Environmental Services Manager's report on Dog and Animal Control for October to December 2014. He advised that there has been few issues during this

period however, issues that have arisen have been effectively resolved by the Animal Control Officer.

Resolved

The Environmental Services Manager's report on Dog and Animal Control for October to December 2014 be received.

Mayor / Cr Tindle

Item 170 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER/LIQUOR LICENSING INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2014

Discussion

The Chief Executive presented the Environmental Services Manager's report for October to December 2014.

Reference was made to the Liquor Liaison Committee and it was agreed that Cr Johnson should be made aware of these meetings being held.

Resolved

That the Environmental Health Officer / Liquor Licensing Inspector's report for 1 October to 31 December 2014 be received.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Prescott

Item 171 AMENDMENT OF THE KEEPING OF STOCK, POULTRY AND BEES BYLAW 2009

Discussion

The Chief Executive presented the Environmental Services Manager's report informing Members that following a review of the current Bylaw in November 2014, it was proposed that the scope of the Bylaw be extended to cover bee hives located on or adjacent to rural roads. He advised that if a nuisance is created from bee hives, then Council will have the power to deal with the matter.

Reference was made to the Agenda page 10, Amendment of the Keeping of Stock, Poultry and Bees Bylaw, the commencement of the fourth line, the year 2104, be corrected to read 2014.

Resolved

1. The report by the Environmental Services Manager be received, and
2. The proposed amendment of the Keeping of Stock, Poultry and Bees Bylaw be notified for public consultation in accordance with the provisions of the special consultative process of the Local Government Act 2002

Cr Johnson / Cr Phillips

Item 172 REQUEST TO WAIVE INFRINGEMENT FEE

Discussion

The Chief Executive referred Members to the Environmental Services Manager's report advising that G Higgins has appealed a dog control Infringement Notice issued for not registering his dog. Mr Higgins states that he did not receive sufficient notification and that the infringement fee will be a financial burden.

The Chief Executive reported that the Animal Control Contractor usually contacts the dog owner and has discussions with them. He said the Contractor usually allows a period of two to three months before taking the matter further. The Chief Executive advised that as the owner had not registered the dog by 8 October 2014 an Infringement Notice was issued on that day. His

Worship reported that the Dog Control Contractor had spoken to Mr Higgins and discussed the matter with him. He said Mr Higgins had ample time to register the dog and that the public are well aware that dogs are registered nationally as at 1 August each year. Cr Klos queried whether this strong approach by Council tends to make dog owners pay the registration fees on time. His Worships replied that it makes a number of families consider whether it is desirable to own a dog(s).

Cr Klos abstained from voting on the recommendation.

Resolved

1. The report be received
2. The request to waive the Infringement Fee be declined.

Cr Johnson / Cr Prescott

Item 173 APPROVAL OF THE DELEGATION & POLICY MANUAL 2014

Discussion

Hard copies of the proposed Delegation & Policy Manual 2014 were circulated to Members as electronic copies had not been received by them.

Resolved

That

1. The Environmental Services Manager's report be received
2. A decision on the approval of the Delegation & Policy Manual 2014 be deferred until the next meeting of Council on 17 March 2015.

Cr Pilkington / Mayor

Item 174 DRAFT RATES REMISSION POLICY & DRAFT POLICY FOR REMISSION AND POSTPONEMENT OF RATES ON MAORI FREEHOLD LAND

Discussion

The Finance & Administration Manager presented a report on Rate Remission Policies.

Reference was made to a Rates Remission for a rating unit affected by calamity. Cr Klos suggested that the word 'calamity' should be defined as this could cause an issue. The Finance & Administration Manager advised that the wording does say that Council **may** remit the rates not that it **will** remit the rates. The Chief Executive referred to Clause 6.2 and suggested that the word 'land' be changed to 'property'.

Cr Klos referred to clause 13. Care for the Elderly and Disadvantaged Persons and queried if a property is leased to an organisation, do they receive the remission. The Finance & Administration Manager replied that this would depend on the conditions of the Lease Agreement.

Cr Pilkington queried the consultation period of just two weeks. The Finance & Administration Manager replied that the legislation has changed and reduced the consultation period. He said however, the public have two opportunities to comment on the proposal.

Resolved

That the Draft Rates Remission Policy with the word 'property' be substituted for the word 'land' and Draft Policy for Remission and Postponement of Rates on Maori Freehold Land be adopted and included in the Long Term Plan 2015-2025 subject to consultation as required by Section 82 of the Local Government Act

Cr Pilkington / Cr Prescott

Item 177 DISTRICT SPORTS COORDINATORS REPORT FOR JULY TO DECEMBER 2014

Discussion

The District Sports Coordinator attended the meeting and reported on the District Sports Awards, advising that the new sponsor is The Lines Company. She reported that the Otorohanga and Waitomo Districts are quite different however, this fits in with The Lines Company being involved in both Communities. The Coordinator advised that the Sports Awards allow the Otorohanga College the opportunity to acknowledge its students. Cr Phillips said that the Sports Awards was an excellent event and that Sarah Olmer was a superb MC and Hamish Bond an excellent guest speaker.

Cr Klos queried what could be done to encourage people in the outer areas to contact the District Sports Coordinator for assistance. She felt that they should be able to engage with the Coordinator. The Coordinator agreed to follow the matter up.

Reference was made to the investigation of opportunities for collaboration between Otorohanga and Waitomo Districts in the development of events and/or facilities. The Coordinator advised that Michelle Holland has been tasked to explore models that have worked in the creation of a community hub facility. She said Ms Holland will be working with both Communities.

Resolved

The Otorohanga District Sports Coordinator's report for the period July to December 2014 be received.

Cr Phillips / Cr Johnson

Item 175 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2014

Discussion

The District Accountant attended the meeting and presented the Management Accounts for the period ending 31 December 2014. He answered and noted Members queries during the presentation of the accounts.

Resolved

That the Draft Management Accounts for the period ended 31 December 2014 be received.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Phillips

Item 176 ROUTINE ENGINEERING REPORT

Discussion

The Engineering Officer (Road Maintenance/Rural Fire Officer) attended the meeting and presented section 1 of the Routine Engineering Report – Road Maintenance

The Officer reported that Council will be ceasing the issuing of Fire Permits until some rain is received.

The Projects & Design Engineer attended the meeting and presented Section 2 of the Routine Engineering Report – Other roading activities.

The Services Manager also attended the meeting and presented Section 3 of the Routine Engineering Report – Water Services and Section 4, Parks, Reserves and Facilities.

AROHENA & RANGINUI RURAL WATER SUPPLY SCHEME

Cr Klos reported that the Arohena and Ranginui Rural Water Supply Schemes were developed in 1980 as simple schemes however, they have become more costly to operate. She said farmers are failing to see the future for these schemes. She referred in particular to the Ranginui Rural Water Supply Scheme and expressed the opinion it would be a shame to see this Scheme discontinue. She said individuals are making decisions which could affect the future of the Scheme.

KAWHIA CEMETERY

Cr Pilkington raised the matter of the existing road through the Kawhia Cemetery berm extension area. The Engineering Manager replied that it is the intention to leave the roadway there, in particular for use by the hearse. He said when the extended area is full, utilisation could be then made of the road for future graves.

Resolved

That the Routine Engineering report be received.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Phillips

Item 178 ODC MATTERS REFERRED FROM 20 JANUARY 2015

Discussion

The Governance Supervisor took Members through Matters Referred.

PROPOSED IWI LIAISON GROUP

His Worship reported that next Monday 23 February 2015 a meeting has been arranged with Mr Rahui Papa regarding the proposal for Council to establish an Iwi Liaison Group. He said during discussion the expectations of such a group will be considered and also how Mr Papa would see his role.

50KM SIGN ON STATE HIGHWAY/HUIPUTEA DRIVE

The Engineering Manager reported that discussion had been held with the Roading Manager regarding the 50km sign on Huiputea Drive. He was advised that should this be moved, it would require a Traffic Bylaw change. It had been suggested that the sign could be made larger. Mr Tindle referred in particular to the 50km sign on State Highway 3 and felt that the situation would be improved if this was moved further up the road. He said drivers coming off Huiputea Drive do not actually see this sign. The Engineering Manager undertook to do further investigation into the matter.

COUNCIL GUARANTOR

The Finance & Administration Manager reported that there are two situations where Council has acted as a guarantor, these being the Otorohanga Sports Club (OSC) and Otorohanga Zoological Society (OZS). He said in these situations Council actually owns or administers the land involved. The Finance & Administration Manager further advised that both organisations had projects that they wished to complete. By Council acting as a guarantor it was more around the matter of security required by the bank. He said the liability of Council is limited, in the case of the OSC up to \$70,000 and the OZS \$350,000. The Finance & Administration Manager reported that the only way a guarantee can cease is that it has to be cancelled. He said it is not in any way linked to the loan being repaid by the organisations. The Finance & Administration Manager advised that the Otorohanga Zoological Society has the opportunity to borrow additional funds without informing Council.

The Finance & Administration Manager informed Members that a stronger relationship is required with these organisations as Council is still liable. No reporting back on the projects has been

required. It was agreed that the Finance & Administration Manager contact representatives of both the OSC and OZS for report back to Council. Members agreed that a Memorandum of Understanding is required with both parties.

LUNCHEON ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned for lunch at 12.50pm and resumed at 1.14pm.

GENERAL

DOG EXERCISE AREA

Cr Prescott reported that users are unable to get to the Dog Exercise Area due to piles of metal being dumped adjacent to the area.

RANGIATEA ROAD

Cr Phillips referred to a section of Rangiatea Road from P Wolvers property to J Pease where the carriageway is narrower with a dropoff. The Engineering Manager undertook to investigate the matter.

KAWHIA MOANA KAI FESTIVAL

Cr Pilkington reported that the recent Kawhia Moana Kai Festival was a hugely successful day and the new Committee did a great job. She extended congratulations to all those involved.

WAIPAPA RESERVE

Cr Klos expressed pleasure to hear that planning is underway for the cleanup of the Waipapa Reserve. The Engineering Manager confirmed there is a budget of \$10,000 for this. Cr Klos expressed the opinion that a substantial amount of funding will go towards cleaning up debris from the old toilet facility.

WAIKATO SPATIAL PLAN MEETING

Cr Klos reported on her attendance at a recent Waikato Spatial Plan meeting. She said approval was given to an extended timeframe for projects and a new budget. The matter of a Communication Plan has been held over. Cr Klos reported that the Hamilton City Council voted against the motion.

Cr Klos referred to a presentation by Professor Ian White and following workshop. Highlights from the presentation being –

1. Forget current planning processes – go back to the old way
2. Plan integration of key elements
3. Economic growth – agriculture (Cr Klos expressed the opinion that the hinterland is in a stronger position than the city)
4. Appropriate capital available - private
5. Region made of sub-regions – flexible, each district has a special character.
6. Cannot dictate growth – comes from private capital
7. Waikato has space unlike Auckland
8. Create a sense of place
9. Big picture, visionary
10. New budget to come in for 2015/16 financial year from J Bevan.

Workshop comments include

- Need common significant engagement Policy
- Plan a sum of parts / commonalities and enhance differences
- View of region that highlights where / how areas can flourish
- Need to break down parochial issues / barriers

- Technical solutions for issues, ie education
- Place where residents can live, work and play
- How can we shape our place
- Includes social issues, health, education
- Build on mana whenua commitments, ie environmental
- Think regionally, act locally
- How to welcome new migrants – skilled workforce
- What is compelling about the Waikato
- Consumer (global) demand good environmental standards
- Natural habitats – treasures
- Protect key industries.

PUBLIC TOILETS

Cr Klos expressed her opinion that the Otorohanga District has a key role in providing tourist facilities, such as public toilets. She said there appears to be a lack of facilities to unload campervan waste.

DISTRICT VISIT

Cr Klos referred to the Council tour of the western side of the District and queried when a similar tour will be undertaken on the eastern side of the District. She said it would be desirable for Members to see the reality of the eastern side. It was agreed that this be arranged during this year.

OTOROHANGA COLLEGE

Cr Pilkington reported that the roll of the Otorohanga College has increased and is at capacity. She said the College has exceeded national standards. Cr Pilkington advised that it is part of the trend for pupils to move to Colleges north of where they reside.

REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT HEARINGS

His Worship reported on his attendance at recent Regional Land Transport Hearings and said this is all a part of learning what the major transport issues are in our region.

MAYORS TASKFORCE FOR JOBS

His Worship said discussion with the various ministers has been held concerning the establishment of Youth Programmes and potential funding for these. He said it is necessary to obtain relevant information so that there is a clear idea of what is required for Youth within this District.

PIRONGIA SPORTS CLUB

The Finance & Administration Manager reported that approximately 3.5 years ago the Pirongia Sports Club approached Council regarding the collection of a targeted rate on those properties which receive benefits, and undertook a petition at this time with an approximate 55 percent return. Nothing proceeded at this stage but now the Pirongia Sports Club wishes to levy the targeted rate of \$10 per property in 2015/16.

The Finance & Administration Manager undertook to get back to the Pirongia Sports Club advising them that Council is not prepared to introduce such a rate.

MEETING CLOSED

The meeting concluded at 1.32pm.

MAYOR:

DATE: 17 March 2015