



Otorohanga District Council

# MINUTES

15 September 2015

# OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

15 September 2015

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held in the Council Chambers, Maniapoto St, Otorohanga on Tuesday 15 September 2015 commencing at 10.03am.

## 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), GD Bunn (Finance & Administration Manager), AR Loe (Environmental Services Manager), RH Brady (Engineering Manager), B O'Callaghan (District Accountant) and Mrs A Burdon (Executive Assistant).

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Cr Phillips read the Opening Prayer.

## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 18 AUGUST 2015**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held on 18 August 2015, as previously circulated, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.

### **Cr Klos / Cr Pilkington**

## **MATTERS ARISING**

### **KAWHIA COMMUNITY BOARD MINUTES**

Item 229, page 2, Cr Pilkington advised that the Kawhia Community Board Chairperson requested the following change, 'ODC acknowledges and applauds the Kawhia Primary School in appealing its decile review rating by the Ministry of Education with support from the community. This has achieved a much better outcome for the school with the new decile rating resulting in more funding'.

### **WIFI HOTSPOT**

His Worship advised that he has spoken to the Community Facilities Officer, Ms Dianne Hooker, who is following this matter up on a regular basis.

### **AROHENA SCHOOL**

Cr Klos advised that the School has now been connected to the Ultra-fast Broadband so all has been sorted. His Worship advised he had spoken to local MP Barbara Kruiger regarding this matter.

## **REPORTS**

### **Item 240 OTOROHANGA COMMUNITY BOARD MINUTES 27 AUGUST 2015**

#### **Discussion**

### **GARDEN COMPETITION**

Cr Klos queried whether any canvassing had taken place before the competition was cancelled. Cr Prescott advised that no canvassing occurred. He said this was because, from an organisational point of view, there were less and less gardens being presented with the same people winning each year. Cr Prescott advised that a new category was included last time 'Invited to View' but no one entered despite this being advertised.

### **RD 1**

Cr Klos queried whether RD 1 could perceive that Council is picking on them. Cr Tindle advised that the situation is now resolved. Cr Phillips advised that RD 1 have completely changed their loading/unloading system which appears to be working very well. It is a good result and far safer.

## **OTOROHANGA COMBINED CHURCHES LIGHT PARTY**

Cr Phillips queried whether this group needed to request permission to use Windsor Park. The Chief Executive advised that if they wanted to have exclusive occupation, this was advisable. He said it does no harm to ask and Council would almost always give permission. Cr Pilkington said they were just covering their bases.

## **LAKE HUIPUTEA AREA**

Cr Phillips queried whether the improvements were continuing. The Chief Executive advised that Council has developed positive relationships with the land owners and developments are moving forward.

## **MAIR STREET**

Cr Phillips queried whether the sale of Mair St had been completed. The Chief Executive advised that the sale was completed and Council has now received its share of the funds.

## **COMMUNITY ROAD CLOSURE**

Cr Johnson queried whether it was worth having a regular road closure of an area in the Otorohanga CBD in place so that any group could use part of the road without seeking permission. Cr Prescott advised that groups use the area between the Otorohanga Club and McKenzie Strawbridge Accountants so a road closure is not needed.

### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga Community Board held on 27 August 2015 be received.

### **Cr Prescott / Cr Tindle**

## **Item 241            DRAFT MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 JUNE 2015**

### **Discussion**

Crs Klos, Tindle and Johnson advise they had not received hard copies of the Draft Management Accounts. Cr Pilkington advised that previously it was requested that Councillors receive hard copies of all large documents, and in a timely manner. Cr Philips advised that the accounts in the portal were very easy to read, but were difficult to download or print.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGER**

The Environmental Services Manager left the meeting at 10.36am and returned at 12noon.

## **SOCIAL HOUSING**

The Chief Executive reported that Whakatane had recently relinquished their Housing for the Elderly units to a private Social Housing provider. He said this is something that Council might consider in the future.

### **Resolved**

That the Draft Management Accounts for the period ended 30 June 2015 be received.

### **His Worship / Cr Pilkington**

**Discussion**

Hamilton & Waikato Tourism (HWT) Chief Executive, Ms Kiri Goulter, HWT Director Mr Don Scarlett, and Mrs Liz Cowan attended the meeting. Mr Scarlett thanked Council for in the past including HWT in their Long Term Plan (LTP), and for the increased funding for the new Tourism Strategy. He said the partnership collaboration is very effective. It is great for Otorohanga and for Waikato as a region. His Worship advised that there had been considerable discussion before a decision was made but Council was confident HWT would make good use of the additional funding.

Ms Goulter advised that the tourism sector is currently in very good heart. It has been seen in the general media that the industry has had strong growth over the past 6 – 18 mths after a previous difficult five years; now having 3 million international visitors per year. It is good to see this increased growth.

Ms Goulter advised that the public/private sector partnership is working very well. It is pleasing that all seven Councils included increased funding for HWT in their LTP's.

Ms Goulter reported that the website platform has had a major update and as from July can now be maintained in house. It is encouraging to see this now being widely viewed.

Ms Goulter advised that Hamilton does not have a lot of experiences for visitors in the city to spend their money on due to most activities being free. There is a lot of shopping and eating experiences but not a lot of anything else. She said that HWT are working on this with them. Statistics show that visitors are spending their first and last nights in Hamilton but not those night between. Ms Goulter also advised that it has been identified that growth to visitor nights to Hamilton is restricted because of the lack of hotels. If there were one or two more hotels, this would increase numbers significantly.

Ms Goulter then presented the HWT District Activity Report for July 2014 to June 2015.

His Worship queried whether there were any statistics on numbers using the cycle trails. Ms Goulter advised that no stats are currently kept.

In reply to Cr Klos's query regarding where Chinese visitors stay, Ms Goulter advised that generally Rotorua and Auckland but this is now being extended to Matamata. They like to shop so would go to bigger centres.

In reply to Cr Phillips' query regarding how much of the growth has been because of the drop in the kiwi dollar, Ms Goulter advised that because the dollar is weaker visitors will spend more.

Cr Pilkington advised that the Kawhia Community Board are very keen to develop further tourism experiences in their area. Cr Klos also queried how to enthuse people to develop more tourist opportunities and also to promote further what opportunities are already there. Ms Goulter advised that this is definitely something she sees as necessary and this will happen when the new product development person is employed, hopefully in the new future.

His Worship queried if there are any new hotels proposed for Hamilton? Ms Goulter advised that there are a couple of options currently being considered. She said this is critical to growth for this to happen.

In reply to Cr Prescott's query regarding 'Hairy Feet' in PioPio, Ms Goulter advised that this is doing very well for a new product. She also advised that other activities in the southern part of the district, such as the Timber trail, are also doing well.

Cr Klos queried whether campervan movements were recorded as considerable growth was happening in this area. Ms Goulter advised that unfortunately no statistics were available and that campervan companies see this information as very commercially sensitive. She advised that a new product in mobile phones is now able to track movements, where visitors are staying over, where they move onto, etc. Mrs Cowan advised that she was contacted earlier in the year by campervan operators who wanted information on tourism operators and experiences in each

region to put on tablets in each campervan. She said although this was a massive task she provided this information, with accompanying GIS coordinates.

Cr Pilkington acknowledged the huge task Mrs Cowan had undertaken for this and thanked her for undertaking this task.

His Worship thanked Ms Goulter and Mr Scarlett for attending the meeting and presenting their report.

**Resolved**

That the Hamilton & Waikato Tourism report be received.

**Cr Pilkington / Cr Johnson**

**LUNCHEON ADJOURNMENT**

Council adjourned for lunch at 12.55pm and reconvened at 1.26pm.

**Item 242 BUILDING (EARTHQUAKE PRONE BUILDINGS) AMENDMENT BILL**

**Discussion**

The Environmental Services Manager presented his report on the Building (Earthquake Prone Buildings) Amendment Bill.

His Worship queried whether Otorohanga would be low or medium risk. The Environmental Services Manager advised that on preliminary discussions it was expected to be low risk. He reported that Council has an Earthquake Prone Building Policy in place which will have to be rescinded once this Bill comes into effect. Buildings that fall into the 'At Risk' assessment category, especially Council owned or public buildings, will require a Building Assessment.

Cr Pilkington queried whether Council can introduce policy that has tighter timeframes than National policy. The Environmental Services Manager advised that Council could state less time if it chose but the policy would be subject to the Special Consultative Policy.

His Worship expressed the opinion that if with 35-plus years to have work completed in, it is more likely necessary work will be completed as part of normal maintenance. He said new legislation is not as onerous as was initially expected.

Cr Klos asked if Council would introduce a register of buildings and would put aside funds to assist with upgrades. The Environmental Services Manager advised that it is likely there would be annual reporting to the Minister. If after two years a Council did not have any buildings listed on the National Register, questions will be asked.

In reply to Cr Pilkington's query whether there is any value in doing assessments when the methodology criteria has not yet to been set, the Environmental Services Manager reported that the basis of the assessment methodology is already in place however, it will be necessary to wait until the final detail is confirmed by regulation.

In reply to Cr Tindle's query regarding providing an update of the legislation in layman's terms to the community, the Environmental Services Manager advised that it is only days away from the final reading of the Bill, Council will then circulate any relevant press release or other information from the Minister for Housing.

**Resolved**

That the report on the Building (Earthquake prone buildings) Amendment Bill from the Environmental Services Manager be received.

**Cr Prescott / Cr Tindle**

**Item 244                    APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE – HAMILTON CAR CLUB – KAIMANGO ROAD RALLY SPRINT**

**Discussion**

Cr Pilkington queried whether consultation would be undertaken with the whole of Kaimango Rd and not just the affected section as the closure would also affect those trying to travel north. It was agreed that Cr Pilkington and the Engineering Manager would determine the area to be consulted.

**Resolved**

That approval be granted for the following road closure:

Purpose:                    Kaimango Road Rally Sprint  
Date:                      Saturday, 21 November 2015  
Details of Closure:    **Kaimango Road** – Start at 91 Kaimango Road and travels approximately 6.9 Kilometres to 810 Kaimango Road and the intersection of Honikiwi Road  
**Period of Proposed Closure:**        8.30am to 5.00pm (or earlier opening)

With the following conditions imposed:

1. Persons will be allowed through in the event of an emergency.
2. Hamilton Car Club is to pay an application fee of \$2,000.00 towards administration of the road closure and damage assessment to Otorohanga District Council.
3. Hamilton Car Club is to provide a bond or bank guarantee of \$2,000 no later than 10 working days prior to the event. The bond is based on \$2,000 per road per day and is applicable to unsealed roads only.
4. Hamilton Car Club is to pay for all advertising costs in appropriate newspapers. Public notice advertisements are to be published in the Waitomo News.
5. Hamilton Car Club is responsible for obtaining public liability insurance (and paying the cost thereof) to a minimum value of \$2,000,000. This is required to indemnify Council against any damage to property or persons as a result of rally activities during the road closure period.
6. Hamilton Car Club is to comply with the objection provisions contained in the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965.
7. Hamilton Car Club is to liaise, and provide evidence of liaison with all operators and businesses that may be affected by the road closures.
8. Hamilton Car Club is to consult with all residents of all properties on the roads intending to be closed and also residents on roads connecting with the roads intending to be closed, including any no exit roads. Two mail drops to residents are also to be carried out. All initial mail drops to residents are to be approved by Council staff before distribution commences. The subsequent mail drop is to be completed no later than ten full days before the proposed closures.
9. Hamilton Car Club is solely responsible for signposting and policing of the roads to be closed, to ensure that only vehicles connected with the event have access to the road closure areas. This includes arranging the delivery, erection and staffing of all road closure barriers and the removal thereof after closures. All gates and entranceways are to be taped and tape is to be removed thereafter.
10. Signs advising of the road closures are to be erected at the start and end of the closed portions of roads and on each intersecting road two weeks prior to the road closure. All signs are to be removed immediately after the closure. A Hamilton Car Club representative

is to meet with Council Engineering staff regarding the required signs format, size, location and quantity of signs for approval before they are manufactured and erected.

### **Cr Johnson / Cr Prescott**

#### **Item 245 ODC MATTERS REFERRED FROM 18 AUGUST 2015**

##### **Discussion**

##### **RURAL HEALTH ALLIANCE**

Cr Prescott advised he still hasn't been able to follow this information up.

##### **AROHENA SCHOOL – ULTRA FAST BROADBAND**

Cr Klos reported that this is now completed. His Worship advised he raised this with local MP Barbara Kuriger.

##### **BEE AWARE MONTH**

The Chief Executive advised that a garden was created last week and a sign advertising this garden is currently being made.

##### **MERRIN AVE BUILDING**

The Chief Executive reported that he is holding a meeting this Thursday evening to gauge interest in a MENZSHED operating from this building.

##### **RANGINUI RURAL WATER SUPPLY COMMITTEE – FUTURE OPTIONS FOR THE SCHEME**

The Engineering Manager advised it was a very complex situation with a lot of work involved to prepare this information but a meeting has now been scheduled with those involved in the Scheme.

##### **FOOD ACT 2014 IMPLEMENTATION - TRANSLATION SERVICES**

The Environmental Services Manager reported that it was unlikely translation services will be available outside the main centres and the onus goes back to the applicant. He said however, Council would do whatever it can to assist applicants. Food Control Templates and other language versions will be available.

##### **GENERAL**

##### **WAIPA CATCHMENT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

Cr Johnson reported he had attended a recent meeting. He advised that he is unable to attend the Waikato/Waipā River Restoration Strategy Waipa Hui on Friday 18 September at the Te Awamutu Bible Chapel, 12.30-3.30pm and asked if someone was available to attend on his behalf.

##### **BEATTIE HOME**

Cr Johnson reported that an application had been made to Trust Waikato for \$100,000 for the Beattie Home extension project however, a \$300,000 grant was received. This has made a substantial impact on fundraising and less will now have to be borrowed. Cr Johnson reported that a sod turning ceremony took place last week and building has now commenced, with completion expected early in 2016.

Cr Pilkington advised the ceremony was a wonderful acknowledgement of the volunteers involved with the project.

## **FLOODING – OTEWA ROAD PUMP STATION**

In reply to Cr Prescott's query regarding a safety fenced off area by the Otewa Road Pump Station on the Stopbank, the Engineering Manager advised a sink hole has appeared. He said it is believed that when the river level rises that water is flowing back up the pipe. The Engineering Manager said he believed the pipe had non-return valves installed which may not be working. He reported that when the pipe was opened, water could be seen flowing in the opposite direction. The Chief Executive said it appeared the pipe joints have failed, and that water from the pump station is jetting out quite strongly from the pipe causing the surrounding area to erode. He reported one of the problems could be that the outlet has collapsed. He said the pipe has two non-return valves with one at the pump station so there is no risk to the town of back flow into the pump station. The Chief Executive reported that it had already been identified that remedial work was needed and money has been budgeted for this. In reply to Cr Phillips' query regarding what type of pipes they are, the Engineering Manager advised they were concrete pipes and it appears no rubber rings may have been installed or they had perished. The Environmental Services Manager advised that it is located on old river bed and is over 60 years old. The Chief Executive advised it is the least critical of the pump stations.

## **CIVIL DEFENCE**

Cr Prescott reported he had attended a recent Civil Defence training meeting from 10.30am to 4.00pm.

## **RATEPAYER COMMENTS**

Cr Prescott advised that a ratepayer had recently contacted him and wanted to attend a Council meeting to raise a number of matters including Council's vehicle fleet, private use of Council vehicles, and the current number of staff. He advised that, after discussion with various Council staff, the ratepayer decided he now did not need to attend a Council meeting.

## **OTOROHANGA POUND**

Cr Prescott queried why the proposed improvements at the Pound had not been completed. The Environmental Services Manager advised that Council is in negotiations with land owners behind Pound which need to be completed before improvements can be undertaken.

## **FORMER STAFF MEMBER – MR HUGH BUTTON**

Cr Tindle reported that former staff member Mr Hugh 'Tuffy' Button had passed away last weekend. He requested that Council acknowledge Mr Button. The Chief Executive advised that Mr Button had been employed by Council for 43 years and was a well respected member of staff. He said that flowers and a card would be sent to Mr Button's family.

## **WAIPA RIVER IMPROVEMENTS**

Cr Phillips reported that improvements to the Waipa river from above the weir to Toa's Bridge are continuing to take place with crack willows being removed and replaced. He advised that Mrs Rosemary Davidson challenged the Waikato Regional Council regarding replacement species and received \$300,000 for native plantings. He requested that Mrs Davidson be acknowledged for her effort.

## **HEALTH & SAFETY LEGISLATION CHANGES**

In reply to Cr Phillips' query on Health & Safety Legislation changes, the Chief Executive reported that Council is currently taking steps to put new process in place.

## **SUPPORT HOUSE**

Cr Phillips reported that the Support House groups have software and computers that are over nine years old and that the various groups are all operating different systems which are not

compatible. He queried whether Council could offer any assistance. The Chief Executive advised that when Council upgrades its computers they could look at donating these to the Support House groups.

### **WAIKATO REGIONAL AIRPORT**

Cr Pilkington reported on her attendance, along with the Chief Executive, at a Shareholders Update meeting on 2 September where it was reported that the airport is currently in a good position. It was reported that there is ongoing dialogue with Jet Star despite the recent announcement and that Kiwi Regional Airlines took delivery of their first plane last week and have good forward reservations.

### **SOUTH WAIKATO REGIONAL SPEECH FINALS**

Cr Pilkington reported that she had helped judge the recent finals held at the Otorohanga South School. She said it was very heartening to see our youth performing so well.

Council's Engineering Manager, who was also a judge, echoed Cr Pilkington's comments this this was a great event.

### **WEST COAST ZONE SUB-COMMITTEE**

Cr Pilkington advised she had recently attended a meeting. She reported there are issues they are attempting to resolve.

### **DISTRICT ENTRY SIGNS**

Cr Klos thanked staff for erecting the signs in her ward.

### **TYRE STORAGE**

Cr Klos advised that the tyre storage land is currently covered in bright yellow gorse. The Chief Executive undertook to communicate with the landowner.

### **COUNCIL CHAMBER CHAIRS**

Cr Klos queried when the chairs were to be replaced. The Chief Executive advised that the Governance Supervisor had been working on this and a budget allocation was in place for the current year.

### **TE AWAMUTU BIRTHING CENTRE**

Cr Williams advised that the centre opened last Saturday and was now in full use. She expressed the opinion that this is a great asset for the region.

### **DISTRICT SPORTS COORDINATOR**

Cr Williams queried where it was at appointing a new Coordinator. His Worship advised that the Chief Executive is holding a meeting next week with local sporting groups to ascertain their needs before he can go back to Sport Waikato which more of a proposal for the role.

### **SPORTS AWARDS**

In reply to Cr Williams' query regarding whether or not the Awards will be going ahead this year, His Worship said he was uncertain about this but it was unlikely due to not having a Coordinator.

### **WAIPA NETWORKS POWERLINES**

Cr Williams said that she understood that some of the photos of the proposed power lines were quite misleading. The Environmental Services Manager said that Waipa Networks were building exactly what they have applied for based on the evidence they provided at the hearing.

## WANGANUI FLOODS

The Environmental Services Manager reported that Wanganui has declared a state emergency six times since the 1980's so they are very experienced in flooding emergencies. However, in this instance, he said they only had half the time they would normally have to issue warnings because of the intensity of the rainfall and the rain didn't fall in the headwaters but half way down the river on what was already saturated land. He further advised that Wanganui would be a good example for our Council to learn from.

In reply to Cr Phillips query regarding installation of manual monitoring points on the Waipa River, the Chief Executive advised that this matter has not been advanced.

His Worship reported on the following -

- **Civil Defence Media Training** – attended on 25 August.
- **North King Country Development Trust** – attended on Cr Phillips' behalf. His Worship advised it was good to see how applications are put together.
- **Otorohanga CAB AGM** – attended on 20 August. His Worship said he applauded the volunteers as they do a very admirable job and reported he put in his Mayoral Column that more volunteers are needed.
- **Mayors Taskforce for Jobs** – His Worship advised that there are many different youth initiative happening around the country and that a lot of young people are shifting between districts to where there are more job opportunities, ie Kawerau to Tauranga, Dunedin to Clutha.
- **Otorohanga College Hostel**. His Worship reported that he met with local MP's Barbara Kuriger and Nanaia Mahuta on 28 August to discuss the College's need for more hostel space and the urgent need for funding. His Worship reported that he is wanting to meet with the College as it appears that due to the amount of funding needed the hostel extension has been put in the too hard basket.
- **Bee Friendly Gardens** – His Worship advised he visited two schools on 9 September, Kio Kio Primary and Hopscotch Pre-school, to speak to the pupils about the importance of bees and to deliver packets of seeds so they can grow their own Bee Friendly Garden.
- **Connect Waikato** – attended a meeting on 10 September. His Worship advised it was good to see groups of businesses collaborating.
- **Spatial Plan** – attended yesterday. His Worship reported that finally progress is being made. He advised that the committee is now being chaired by Ken Tremain and is now working with the National Infrastructure Plan
- **Tihiroa Café** - His Worship reported that this new café is opening tomorrow.

## HEALTH & SAFETY NEW RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chief Executive advised that Waikato LASS are providing training opportunities for Council's to better understand their new Health & Safety responsibilities. He said both elected members and staff will be encouraged to attend. The Chief Executive said he would forward information to elected members and requested elected members to advise Council's Executive Assistant if they wished to attend.

## SIGN IN BOOK

The Chief Executive advised, following the recent fire alarm, elected members are now being asked to sign in at the front counter when they attend meetings so that a proper attendance register is available.

**MEETING CLOSED**

The meeting concluded at 3.36pm.

**MAYOR:**

**DATE:** 20 October 2015