



Otorohanga District Council

MINUTES

16 August 2016

10.02am

Members of the Otorohanga District Council

Mr MM Baxter (Mayor)
Mr RM Johnson
Mrs RA Klos
Mr KM Phillips
Mrs DM Pilkington (Deputy Mayor)
Mr R Prescott
Mr PD Tindle
Mrs AJ Williams

Meeting Secretary: David Dowd (Executive Assistant)

OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

16 August 2016

MINUTES

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PRESENT

Mr MM Baxter (Mayor), Councilors Mr RM Johnson, Mrs RA Klos, Mr KM Phillips, Mr R Prescott, Mrs DM Pilkington (Deputy Mayor), Mr PD Tindle, Mrs AJ Williams (attended at 10.05am)

IN ATTENDANCE

Messrs DC Clibbery (Chief Executive), GD Bunn (Finance & Administration Manager), A Loe (Environmental Services Manager) and D Dowd (Executive Assistant)

His Worship declared the meeting open and welcomed those present.

OPENING PRAYER

Councilor Johnson read the Opening Prayer.

ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN GENERAL BUSINESS

His worship called for any Item that may require a resolution in general business. No items were tabled.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 19 July 2016

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held on 19 July 2016 as previously circulated, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Cr Johnson / Cr Pilkington

Resolved that the minutes of the Confidential meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held on 19 July 2016 as previously circulated, be approved as a true and correct record of those meetings.

Cr Prescott / Cr Pilkington

MATTERS ARISING

Councilor Pilkington drew attention to the spelling of Hauturu Road and wanted to discuss with the Engineering manager an issue on Harbour Road. Councilor Pilkington felt the need for clarification in case those present were unaware of where those roads were located.

Councilor Phillips drew members attention to the item in regards to Targa Rally and requested clarification on the wording "the right to not sign off".

The Chief Executive replied that it means in terms of process that if there are a number of residents who object to the Targa Rally, then this would be taken back to Council where a decision will be made.

Councilor Phillips referred to Page 6 pertaining to the fact that Council is unable to obtain a subsidy from Central Government in regards to new sealing of roads. Councilor Phillips asked what the percentage of subsidy was previously.

The Chief Executive replied that it would have been the normal capital percentage, which he believed was around 47%

Councilor Phillips asked members if they were aware of the percentage of subsidy that Northland was receiving for sealing works.

The Chief Executive replied that they would be higher than ours however it is a national policy that no seal extensions are receiving subsidy.

The Engineering Manager informed members that it is a separate issue in that Northland was lagging far behind the average so the sealing works was in fact a catch up driven by Central Government under special circumstances.

His Worship stated that Northland was taking part in an initiative from Central Government rather than a routine subsidy.

The Engineering Manager further informed members that it was his understanding that Central Government funding for Northland was tagged to tourism and the number of unsealed roads leading to active tourist destinations. He did not believe that any roads in the Otorohanga District would qualify for such funding.

Resolved that the matters arising be recorded:

Cr Johnson / Cr Pilkington

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

His Worship read the request for Declarations of Interest in matters to be discussed.

No such Declarations of Interest were noted.

ITEM 328 ROUTINE ENGINEERING REPORT MAY-JULY 2016

The Engineering Manager took members through the Routine Engineering report. .

The Project and Design Engineer Sharlene McGaughran entered the meeting at 10:23am and took members through the reports at hand.

The Engineer reported that Contract 997 (Harbour Road Sealed Smoothing) had encountered some problems at the end of last year with the Contractors electing to close the company. The works are being held at an unsealed stage with the possibility of including this in the area wide contract this year with the Inframax to finish this project.

There has been some positive feedback from residents in the area and past engineering staff that the road is settling very well.

Councilor Pilkington stated that this is fortuitous as it will provide time for the fill to settle and compact and requested an indication of time for this project to be completed.

The Project and Design Engineer responded that works would be completed before Christmas.

It was reported that Contract 1002 on Ouruwhero Road is complete however due to inclement weather there have been number of issues that need resolving. These will be addressed once the weather improves. The Engineering Manager informed His Worship that a few potholes have been filled and that a post construction safety audit on this section of Ouruwhero Road has indicated that guardrails may need to be considered in the future.

The Project and Design Engineer left the meeting and the Services Manager attended the meeting.

The Services Manager greeted those presented and undertook to take questions.

Councilor Pilkington requested clarification in regards to the Kawhia Community Water Supply regarding why a Cumulative Log 3 credit is a less stringent requirement under the new Drinking Water Standards because of the source of the water.

The Services Manager informed Councilors that this is due to the intake spring area being fenced off to prevent stock from entering.

Councilor Pilkington sought clarification regarding the effect that this reduced requirement will have on the necessary treatment processes.

The Engineering Manager informed members that no treatment processes had yet been stopped, but a review will be undertaken.

His Worship asked how Otorohanga District Council stood in respect of water safety issues such as those encountered at Havelock North.

The Services Manager informed members that Water Safety Plans are being finalised and that as we do not draw untreated water from any bores, there is much less risk.

The Engineering Manager informed members that the Otorohanga Water Treatment facility is monitored on a daily basis and rural schemes are monitored two to three times each week.

The Chief Executive replied that Havelock North had no disinfection whatsoever so our water supply is inherently safer considering that we are continually disinfecting water. Havelock North have now started using chlorine, which immediately addressed their contamination issue.

Councilor Johnson raised member's attention to the fact that there are a number of rural schools within the district that draw water from bores. He queried whether there was a need for them to meet the same standards as Council and is this monitored by the District Health Board.

The Environmental Services Manager responded that facilities and institutions that are run by Government Departments are overseen by the District Health Board and that it is also a statutory requirement for them to look after places such as Waikeria prison and schools. Environmental Health Officers are employed by the District Health Board for this purpose.

The Chief Executive said that he believed that any building or facility that has more than 25 people occupying that for more than 60 days of the year has to meet the New Zealand Drinking Water Standards with further information being available online.

Councilor Johnson informed members that the Board of Trustees at Kio Kio school had been informed that they do not have to meet these standards by a District Health Board person. Councilor Johnson informed the Board that he believed this was not the case.

Resolved that the Routine Engineering Report for the period 1 May to 31 July 2016 be received.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Tindle

ITEM 329 – APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE – HAMILTON CAR CLUB – CLUBMAN RALLY

The Engineering Manager informed members that previously there were issues with this road closure last year.

The directive from the Engineering Manager is for the event to go ahead however he will inspect the road prior to the Rally and then again at the conclusion. The Engineering Manager drew members attention to the fact there is a new fee structure in place for charges in relation to the rally.

The Engineering Manger informed members that there is now a \$5000 bond each day for the event and there is recourse for costs incurred as a result of use of these roads to be recovered.

Councilor Pilkington requested clarification that the Engineering Manager would inspect the road immediately after the event as last time the corners of the road experienced massive rutting and this resulted in vehicles traveling this section after the event ending up on the wrong side of the road as a result.

Councilor Pilkington asked that a grader be on standby and for this cost to be covered by the Hamilton Car Club.

Councilor Pilkington expressed her thanks that there is a more robust system in place for this year's rally.

Councilor Johnson further queried that this event is subject to all residents giving authority.

The Engineering Manager referred Councilor Johnson to the previous comment by the Chief Executive.

Councilor Tindle requested clarification as previously some residents had not received notification and that Council was going to play more of a role in the mail-out to ensure that total coverage of all residents happened.

The Engineering Manager stated that Council would work with the organisers in the interest of residents.

Councilor Klos informed members that signage is erected on each road a month prior to the event stating the nature, times and dates in addition to the residents of the surrounding area receiving a flyer in the mail.

Councilor Johnson requested that the report be amended to reflect the \$4000 application fee and the \$5000 bond.

Resolved that the application for temporary road closure of sections of Kaimango and Hauturu Roads on Saturday, 1 October 2016; be granted with the following conditions imposed: Details of Closure: KAIMANGO ROAD – From number 42 Kaimango Road to its intersection with Hauturu Road

Subject to the following amendments:

- Notification fee for Road Closure and Damage Assessment \$2000
- Bond of \$5000 per day
- External advertising costs to be covered
- Reimbursement of actual costs in relation to road maintenance which may or may not be less than the Bond amount of \$5000 per day.

HAUTURU ROAD – From its intersection with Kaimango Road to the district boundary. Period of Proposed Closure: 10:30am to 15:30pm

1. Emergency services have complete rite of passage during closure.
2. Hamilton Car Club is to pay an application fee of \$4000.00 towards the administration of the road closure to Otorohanga District Council.
3. Hamilton Car Club is to pay for all advertising costs to the appropriate newspapers. Public notice advertisements are to be published in the Waitomo News.
4. 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 the property or persons as a result of rally activities during the road closure period.
5. Hamilton Car Club is to comply with the objection provisions contained in the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965.
6. Hamilton Car Club is to liaise, and provide evidence of liaison with all operators, businesses and residents that may be affected by the road closures.
7. Hamilton Car Club is to consult with all residents of all properties on the roads intending to be closed and also the residents on roads connecting with roads intending to be closed, including any, no exit roads. Two notifications via mail drop to residents are to be carried out. All initial notification mail drops to residents are to be approved by Council staff before distribution commences. The subsequent notification is to be completed no later than ten full days before the proposed closures.
8. Hamilton Car Club is solely responsible for signposting and policing of 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 to ensure its removal thereafter.
9. Signs advising of the road closures are to be erected at the start and end of the closed portions of the 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

His Worship / Cr Phillips

The Health and Safety Advisor joined the meeting.

ITEM 330 HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT – FEBRUARY – JULY 2016

The Health and Safety Advisor invited questions in relation to the tabled reports.

Councilor Johnson drew members attention to the item of auditing of flood protection systems at the bottom of the report. He recently attended a meeting with the Waipa Catchment subcommittee and it was mentioned that the Waikato Regional Council was to facilitate the auditing process.

The Engineering Manager responded that the Waikato Regional Council paid for such works however the ongoing funding to fix assets will be part of the ongoing maintenance for which Otorohanga District Council is responsible as part of the Service Level Agreement in place.

Councilor Johnson queried what the Five Star rating was in relation to the purchase of new Council Vehicles. The Health and Safety Officer reported that it was a collision safety rating of the vehicles.

Councilor Klos thanked the Health and Safety Officer for such a comprehensive report that is far more informative than previous.

Councilor Prescott referred to the new Sign In/Sign Out procedures and drew member's attention to those who have not followed procedure including the designated Visitors Pass.

Councilor Klos queried in relation to workplace safety whether the stairwell in the Council Building was a significant hazard.

Councilor Klos expressed her concern that she felt the stairs were of a significant barrier and has raised this issue before. Councilor Klos has acknowledged that she has been prior informed that staff who are unable to climb the staircase can be accommodated downstairs however expressed an opinion that as this is the main building of the Otorohanga District Council, at some stage a lift needs to be installed. She said that in today's world this is not really acceptable.

Councilor Klos asked what the level of staff take-up of flu injections was. The Health and Safety Advisor informed members that the uptake was approximately 9 staff or 20% of the total staff numbers.

His Worship thanked the Health and Safety Advisor for her comprehensive report and informed members that there is no provision in the Long Term Plan for the installation of a lift and that if public facing staff are accessible downstairs then this should be sufficient..

Councilor Klos informed His Worship that those people with a disability would not agree with his perspective and that lifts are not that expensive to install.

Resolved that the Health and Safety Report for the period of 1 February – 31 July be received.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Prescott

ITEM 331 REVIEW OF GAMBLING VENUE POLICIES

The Environmental Services Manager took members through the report making note that in 2007 the implementation of the sinking lid policy went into effect. During 2010 a new venue opened in town thus the take from gambling machines in the district had increased considerably.

Over the proceeding 6 years two of these venues have closed leaving two active in the community.

The Environmental Services Manager informed members that of the total take of the machines, 37% is meant to be returned to Community equating to a figure spend of \$250,000.

The legislation in regards to this matter is that money does not need to be spent within the district at large and can be used for community functions New Zealand wide.

Approaches have been made to reopen another class 4 venue with gambling machines in Otorohanga, albeit in a previously approved location.

Councilor Klos sought clarification in relation to the spend in the district and is Council privy to those applications being made to those trusts for funds. Councilor Klos furthered the point that having personally completed multiple applications for projects, it is a requirement that there be an outlet in the area so as to be eligible for the funds.

Councilor Pilkington confirmed that in Kawhia many groups are submitting regular applications to Pub Charity.

Councilor Johnson confirmed that schools and sport clubs are also applying though with little success.

Councilor Klos informed members that there should be a way to validate this spend.

His Worship informed members that the Otorohanga Club work under a totally different set of rules as they own the Machines.

Councilor Tindle stated that a summarised report should be available.

The Environmental Services Manager informed members that machines are electronically monitored and takings are recorded and relayed to the Department of Internal Affairs. This ensures that accurate records are kept.

The only way to see the percentage of take spent in the community is to look at the businesses annual reports.

His Worship informed members that in the report there is provision for public consultation and from this anyone who is looking at adding gaming machines to their venue can lodge a submission at that time.

His Worship asked what the annual trend was. The Environmental Services Manager replied that the trend was on a decline and that the number of venues continues to fall. He was unsure if this was due to a downwards trend or a lack of availability.

Councilor Klos informed members that there are ways to manage facilities for gambling and by having a sinking lid policy we may not be allowing for higher end facilities that require certain standards to enable it happen. Councilor Klos said it is desirable to capture people travelling through Otorohanga and there has to be a reason to stay there.

His Worship commented that the proposed consultation gives our community a chance to provide further feedback and opinion on the decision that was made from in 2010.

Councilor Tindle was of the opinion that he would like an open book policy where funding of Community initiatives from the proceeds of gaming machines is clearly demonstrated.

Resolved that

1. The report from the Environmental Services Manager be received, and
2. The report be approved for public consultation.

Cr Phillips / Cr Pilkington

ITEM 332 MINUTES OF RAUKAWA CHARITABLE TRUST AND THE JOINT MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT COUNCILS GOVERNANCE FORUM

The Environmental Services Manager took members through the minutes of the Raukawa Charitable Trust and The Joint Management Agreement Councils Governance Forum held recently.

The Environmental Services Manager drew the attention of members to the fact that these minutes are unconfirmed and would not be confirmed for a period of 12 months.

His Worship informed members that a lot of work has been completed between South Waikato and Taupo councils in partnership with Raukawa however since we have already traversed our District Plan prior to the Joint Management Agreement, the period between now and then is to keep the lines of communication open between all parties.

Councilor Klos noted that she was not advised or invited to the meeting even though she attended the same meeting last year. Further to this point she sought clarification on what Raukawa wanted from Otorohanga District Council.

The Chief Executive further added that though there are relatively few matters that Council has to do that directly involved Raukawa, it is important to maintain good and positive relationships with them.

His Worship informed members that a lot of information sharing between all of the councils falling under Raukawa area is happening however our district is on the periphery of the Raukawa rohe..

Councilor Pilkington stated that there was a very successful liaison with Ngati Hikairo over sites of significance, which could be a model for engagement with other iwi.

His Worship informed members that the lines of communication are open and that at the hui a number of reports were verbally delivered.

Resolved that the unconfirmed Minutes of Raukawa Charitable Trust and the Joint Management Agreement Councils Governance Forum meeting held at the Parawera Marae, 811 Arapuni Road, Te Awamutu on 13 July 2016 be received

His Worship / Cr Johnson

ITEM 333 ODC MATTERS REFERRED FROM 19 JULY 2016

CHIEF EXECUTIVE – 19 July 2016

The Chief Executive distributed the unconfirmed minutes of the District Sports Committee first meeting to members. Issues that had been discussed included possible sharing of a sports coordinator between the College and other interested parties. Caution was also expressed to the Otorohanga Tennis Club about resurfacing the Tennis Courts that is currently on lease land.

Possible development of former financial assistance in respect to fixed operating costs had been suggested by the Otorohanga Sports Club. Some small ongoing assistance from Council would be of great assistance however a rollout of this would need to be done on a fair and equitable basis with differences factored into the equation.

Another point of note was a view that greater exposure of clubs and events to the media could be of value, perhaps using Council's Website and Facebook Page.

The Committee now needs to give consideration to its role and constitution. The next meeting is set down for the 29th of September.

His Worship queried as to who is leading the Sports Awards. The Chief Executive responded that Graham Bunn is the lead with the majority of information coming from the Sports Waikato Website. Nominations will close on the 23rd of September. More information can be found on the Sports Waikato Website.

ENGINEERING MANAGER 19 July 2016 To follow up on the suggestion that yellow dotted lines be installed on a narrow section of Karaka Road to discourage vehicles from parking there.

The Engineering Manager has visited the site and confirmed that this is a good idea. This will be actioned in November when line markers return to the District.

Councilor Prescott sought clarification as to why there are dotted lines along Phillips Avenue through to the Otorohanga Primary school. The Engineering Manager will undertake to investigate this.

Councilor Prescott also raised the matter of road surface issues along Main North road in front of Freight Lines yard caused by heavy vehicles.

OTOROHANGA COMMUNITY BOARD 19 July 2016 To consider a suggestion from Councilor Phillips that coin operated / free dumping stations be installed on Tourist routes around the Community to cater for Caravans and Campers. Councilor Prescott informed members that this was investigated a few years ago however advice was given to the Otorohanga Community Board that such a facility could not be provided.

Councilor Pilkington suggested this matter be raised with the new Otorohanga Community Board.

The Chief Executive suggested that if there was to be such a facility this needs to be away from the central area of Otorohanga as having it in such areas could cause issues of odour and the potential for a spill.

GENERAL

WIFI LAUNCH

Councilor Phillips said he had been unable to connect to the Otorohanga CBD WiFi and that the service is slow and does not work well. He noted that people are struggling to use the system.

His Worship informed members that staff are aware of some issues in regards to the WiFi and that the issue is being addressed.

The Executive Assistant informed members that Wireless Nation staff will be spending considerable time in Otorohanga within the coming days to mitigate any issues and to make the end user experience more enjoyable.

The Chief Executive informed members that Wireless Nation were proactive in approaching Council and presented a cost effective system for public WiFi. He said Wireless Nation are motivated to perform and that their reputation is on the line in relation to providing this public service. He informed members that the WiFi signal is not able to traverse concrete structures.

Councilor Prescott thanked the many volunteers who worked tirelessly for the launch of #Alwaysconnected and the Community WiFi. He said how good it was to see Council so engaged in the associated events. He drew members attention to how many adults attended the Pokemon Walk on the Village Green.

He said that the Movie Day was also a great success with the Harvest Centre filled to capacity. He also made mention that the outdoor movie night went well even though it was one of the coldest nights of the year. Collectively it was a massively successful event for the Otorohanga Community.

His Worship conveyed his thanks to the many volunteers who worked to make the week's events and said it was positive to see the community so engaged and active.

Councilor Prescott requested that the advert on the landing page be revisited having Wireless Nation removed and the Council or other community initiatives placed in this spot.

Councilor Annette Williams thanked the organisers of the WiFi and stated that she enjoyed being involved in the launch.

Councilor Pilkington referred to the WiFi launch and expressed how happy she was to see it embraced by the community and congratulated the Council staff and helpers who made it a spectacular event. She made mention that the Movie Night is looking at being taken to Kawhia in the warmer months later this year.

Councilor Tindle congratulated the volunteers for the hard work that lead to the success of the event. He expressed how good it was to have the movies run at the Harvest Centre and Village Green as Otorohanga has been without a picture theatre for many years.

LGNZ ANNUAL CONFERENCE - DUNEDIN

Councilor Williams had travelled with His Worship to Dunedin to attend the Local Government New Zealand Annual Conference. She reported that the positive engagement between rural and provincial councils is great to see.

She drew reference to Councilors making connection with the community and drew similarities with what is already happening in our community. Councilor Williams stated that we are already trendsetting, leading the way in many areas. She informed members of an idea that was implemented in other towns where icons are placed in different locations drawing visitors to different areas to find them. Councilor Williams travelled on the recently built Dunedin Cycle way and rode with a number of other representatives from other districts and acquiring ideas to apply to future projects in the Otorohanga District.

His Worship commented that the annual conference provided great networking opportunities and also had a good variety of speakers.

NORTH KING COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Councilor Phillips informed members that the North King Country Development Trust has employed a person on contract for a period of 6 months. This person is Yvette Ronaldson who has a background in marketing. Yvette will act as a first point of contact and handle North King Country Developments marketing.

IWI LEADERS FORUM

His Worship attended the Iwi Leaders Forum at Hopuhopu and presented to those assembled about the Rangitahi Tuia Program and Mayors Taskforce for Jobs. This was an opportunity to make Iwi Leaders aware of the achievements and work in the district in this field. It was heartening to see the signing of a memorandum in support of the reduction of Family Violence.

CIVIL DEFENCE NATIONAL EXERCISE

The Environmental Services Manager advised members that there will be a national Civil Defence exercise on 31 August and that the Waipa, Waitomo and Otorohanga Councils will come together and operate a Civil Defence Centre in Te Kuiti. This national exercise is held every three years.

Martin Berryman is preparing a Civil Defence information workshop for all Councilors and Board members informing them of any changes to the Civil Defence structure.

RAUKAWA

Councilor Klos would like Raukawa Trust representatives to make a formal presentation to Council to better understand the relationship between both parties. She would like to better understand what Raukawa is seeking from Council.

MATTERS REFERRED

Councilor Klos would like the Waipapa Reserve toilets placed back onto the Matters Referred to facilitate investigation and encourage discussion on the issue.

DEFIBRILLATOR

Councilor Tindle spoke about a recent engagement with a person who had used a Defibrillator and queried whether Council had one. He spoke about the value of such equipment and made reference to the fact that an App has been created showing the location of these within communities and said that it would be great to have one of these located at the Council building.

Councilor Williams informed members that the Defibrillator is not only about delivering a shock but it informs the user on what the correct procedure is for the patient.

POLICY IN REGARDS TO LIGHTS AT RURAL INTERSECTIONS

Councilor Klos would like the development of a policy in regards to lighting at the rural intersections to be placed back on the Matters Referred.

DECOMMISSIONED TELEPHONE EXCHANGE AT KIO KIO HALL

The Environmental Services Manager said that the Telephone Exchange at KioKio Hall is to be made redundant and that there could be potential for Council to acquire it.

The Chief Executive informed members that an approach had previously been made to him by a representative of Chorus regarding Council's interest in acquiring this very small piece of land, but he had advised that there was no value for Council in doing so.

HEALTHY RIVERS PLAN CHANGE

Councilor Pilkington conveyed that she has received concerns with regards to the Healthy Rivers Plan Change and the implications this will have on many of the ratepayers particularly dry stock farmers in the District. Councilor Pilkington called for a presentation from the Waikato Regional Council to further better inform Councilors on this issue as to what the proposed rules are. She felt that there is concern that what may eventuate here may be used as a template extending to other parts of the Waikato and that severe economic impact could result from this.

The Chief Executive stated that good information on the proposed Plan Change is available, and that the process that had produced this was a collaborative one that had involved a broad range of parties, and that the Regional Council, whilst overseeing the process, was just responding to a direction that had been set by central government through its settlements with iwi. The Chief Executive said that he believed that the process had been well managed by the Regional Council and that and it would not be reasonable to put blame on that organisation for the outcome, as it was just giving effect to a directive that had been imposed on it from above.

Councilor Klos enquired where the Healthy Rivers initiative received the mandate from.

The Environmental Services Manager stated that it came from Central Government and the associated Iwi, and that the overarching legislation has pushed forward for some time.

Councilor Pilkington enquired on the make up of the Collaborative Stakeholders Group.

In reply His Worship stated that the Collaborative Stakeholders Group consists of representatives urban, Farming, Federated Farmers, Fonterra, Beef and Lamb, Market Gardeners and many more.

Councilor Pilkington stated that some of the representatives on the Collaborative Stakeholders Group are finding it impossible to get reasons for decisions made. Councilor Pilkington said the change had significant ramifications for ratepayers of the Otorohanga District, with further flow-on effects, and therefore requested that our Council needs to be more proactive in this area for our ratepayers.

Councilor Pilkington asked members if they knew of the process for submissions and would this be a panel made of independent representatives from the Collaborative Stakeholders Group.

It was the understanding of the Engineering Manager that it will be a Regional Council hearing panel comprised of independent commissioners.

Councilor Pilkington further stated that Council needs to be aware of the process, protocols and timeframes for the submission process for the benefit of our ratepayers and to understand fully the ramifications of the change for ratepayers. Speaking in regards to her Ward of Kawhia, Councilor Pilkington stated that it will marginalise most farmers.

His Worship made mention to the fact that much physical work has to be completed and that the current plan is of an 80 year duration.

Councilor Klos expressed her opinion that the plan works against everything that Council is working towards by way of economic development. It appears as though the two parties are working against one another.

The Environmental Services Manager said that at a political level much of the direction for central government came from the urban centres through weight of population numbers, and these urban residents were attracted to the idea of there being cleaner water, hence the overarching direction.

Councilor Pilkington requested that as a Council who represents a large portion of rural ratepayers that are looking at substantially changing their livelihoods needs to begin advocating to the higher power.

The Chief Executive suggested that representatives of the Regional Council could be invited to attend to further explain the details of the proposed plan change, but it would be unfair to use such attendance as an opportunity to criticize the plan as those representatives were just giving effect to a direction that had been set by central government. The Chief Executive said that any influencing needs to be done through the submission process.

Councilor Johnson raised the schedule for the Draft Proposed Plan Change guide online and noted that it will be open for submissions and viewing by public members on 5th of September.

Councilor Williams said that the work required for monitoring and farm plans will be substantial and the level of monitoring that is going to be required will take considerable time and skills.

Councilor Pilkington made mention to the fact that the plan puts more demands on the producer whilst reducing productivity.

His Worship said that various elements of the proposal are already being given effect by farmers and progress is being made however there is still a long way to go. We need to be the advocate for our ratepayers.

His worship recommended that the Waikato Regional Council be requested to make a presentation on the proposed Plan Change to ODC in the near future.

ELECTION

Cr Tindle expressed his opinion that it was good to see so many candidates standing for election in Otorohanga at the upcoming local body election.

The meeting concluded at 12.33pm