



Otorohanga District Council

# MINUTES

22 November 2017

10.02am

**Members of the Otorohanga District Council**

Mr M Baxter (Mayor)  
Mrs K Christison  
Mr R Johnson  
Mrs RA Klos  
Mr P McConnell  
Mr K Phillips  
Mrs D Pilkington (Deputy Mayor)  
Mrs A Williams

Meeting Secretary: Mr CA Tutty (Governance Supervisor)

# OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

22 November 2017

The minutes of the Meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held in the Council Chambers, 17 Maniapoto Street, Otorohanga on Tuesday 22 November 2017 commencing at 10am.

## MINUTES

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## **PRESENT**

Mr MM Baxter (Mayor), DM Pilkington (Deputy Mayor), Crs, RA Klos, RM Johnson, K Christison, P McConnell (attended 10.03am), AJ Williams, KC Phillips

## **IN ATTENDANCE**

Messrs DC Clibbery (Chief Executive), R Brady (Engineering Manager), and CA Tutty (Governance Supervisor)

His Worship declared the meeting open and welcomed those present.

## **APOLOGY**

**Resolved** that the apology received from Councillor P McConnell for lateness, be sustained.

### **His Worship / Councillor Phillips**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Councillor Phillips read the Opening Prayer

## **PUBLIC FORUM (30 MINUTES)**

His Worship welcomed members of the Press and Mr Bill Millar to the meeting.

Mr Millar advised that he was present at the meeting to hear the presentation on behalf of Hamilton and Waikato Tourism.

## **ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Resolved** that the Chief Executive's report seeking approval for the conduct and funding for road improvement works on Waikeria Road to accommodate the Waikeria Prison development be considered in general business which may require a resolution.

### **His Worship / Councillor Pilkington**

## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL – 24 OCTOBER 2017**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held on 24 October 2017 as amended, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting and the resolutions contained therein be adopted.

### **Councillor Phillips / Councillor Williams**

## **MATTERS ARISING**

Councillor McConnell referred to page 5, the fourth paragraph from the bottom of the page in particular to the comment from His Worship and requested this be amended to read "there is a need for any problems to be addressed by the parent should this be happening within their own home".

Councillor Pilkington referred to page 7 under the heading 'General' and reported that she had attended the Chinese Consol Generals reception celebrating 45 years of Diplomatic relations with New Zealand.

## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – OTOROHANGA COMMUNITY BOARD – 26 OCTOBER 2017**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga Community Board held on 26 October 2017 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

### **Councillor McConnell / Councillor Christison**

## **MATTERS ARISING**

Councillor Pilkington referred to page 1 in particular the item regarding the Bob Horsfall Reserve Mountain Bike Track and queried whether any decision has been made on the request for the Board to provide \$15,000 in next years budget to complete the Mountain Bike Track project.

Councillor Pilkington was advised that to date no decision has been made.

Members were referred to page 2, Confirmation of Minutes – 28 September 2017 and requested Mrs Christison's title be corrected.

His Worship referred to the suggestion made by Mrs Cowan that in future members receive copies of Council contracts such as the mowing and gardening contract to give them an insight as to what is contained within. He queried with the Chief Executive if this was normal practice.

The Chief Executive replied that in his opinion this practice would be stepping over the line between Governance and Management.

Councillor McConnell referred to the item on the former Girl Guide Hall in particular to the dismantling of this hall to enable a Dentist facility to be erected in its place. He wished to remind members that this hall was brought for a particular purpose and therefore should remain in place.

His Worship advised that there are other facilities available for those who currently use the Girl Guides Hall.

Councillor Pilkington expressed disappointment that the Waikato River Authority fund application had been rejected and reported that apparently the River Authority does not provide funding for capital construction.

#### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – KAWHIA COMMUNITY BOARD – 13 OCTOBER 2017**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Kawhia Community Board held on 13 October 2017 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

#### **Councillor Pilkington / Councillor Phillips**

#### **MATTERS ARISING**

Councillor McConnell referred to the postponement of a movie event in Kawhia due to bad weather and the unavailability of the Kawhia Community Hall. He said this was disappointing when such events are for the good of the Community.

His Worship replied that arrangements are now in place to cater for such situations.

Councillor Pilkington referred to page 1 – Tainui Kawhia Incorporated and reported she was surprised to read that the road and carpark would need to be closed to the public while the harvesting is underway. She said this was not her understanding of the situation and that the carpark would only be closed for one or two days when the harvesting is being undertaken.

The Chief Executive advised that he was of the same opinion.

Councillor Pilkington further reported that no Road Closure application for this purpose has been submitted to Council.

#### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Councillor Phillips referred to the Public Forum section of the meeting and expressed the opinion that it was a good idea to note in the minutes the actual time the forum concluded and the Board meeting commenced. He said it is great to see people participating however at times the forum runs too long.

Councillor Pilkington referred to page 4 regarding her advice on recent heavy rain and advised that this event did cause massive damage to areas west of Pirongia.

#### **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

His Worship asked members whether they were aware of any circumstances where they could stand to make personal and or monetary gains in any particular matter to be discussed at this meeting.

Councillor Johnson, being a Trustee of the Otorohanga Community Trust said he would declare an interest in any items to be discussed relating to the proposed Otorohanga Medical Centre.

### **WAIKERIA ROAD WORKS**

The Chief Executive presented a report informing members that approval is required for the conduct and funding for road improvement works on Waikeria Road to accommodate the Waikeria prison development.

He reported that the construction of a new concrete road bridge over the Waikeria Stream and safety and structural improvements to a 1.7km length of Waikeria Prison has been driven by the proposed prison extension.

The Chief Executive reported it appears that Councils overall share of the costs may be in the order of 1.2 to 1.3 million dollars, for which NZTA subsidy could be applicable at the normal rate of 58 percent. He said if this was correct the 'local share' of this cost to Council would be around \$500,000 but there was some uncertainty as to whether subsidy would be applicable to all of the works. The Chief Executive advised that the components of the works that are proposed to be funded by the Otorohanga District Council are considered to be well justified, both in terms of existing needs and in relation to the other benefits associated with the prison, including employment opportunities and growth of the rating base.

Councillor Pilkington queried where Council sits in regards to confirmation of the extension of the prison facility by the new Labour Government.

She was advised that a final decision is expected in early December 2017. Members were advised that the Department of Corrections are very positive that the extension will proceed.

The Engineering Manager informed members that Council would be required to spend money on Waikeria Road sometime in the near future anyway.

The Chief Executive advised this is an unforeseen expenditure and that the Roading account will be over budget this year.

In reply to Councillor Phillips the Engineering Manager advised that the proposed widening of the road is attributed to the prison extension.

Councillor Pilkington queried whether NZTA would subsidise this widening.

The Engineering Manager replied that should the work have been of a renewal nature then they may of considered some subsidy however, the road is also being made stronger.

In reply to Councillor Williams regarding the Asset Management Plan the Chief Executive replied that some other projects may need to be deferred should this work proceed.

**Resolved** that the improvement works to Waikeria Road, the role of the Otorohanga District Council in the delivery of these works and the associated approximate costs to Council as described in the Chief Executives Report dated 21 November 2017, are approved.

### **His Worship / Councillor Christison**

#### **HAMILTON AND WAIKATO TOURISM**

Mr Jason Dawson (Chief Executive Officer) of Hamilton and Waikato Tourism Limited attended the meeting and presented the Annual Report for the 2016 – 2017 year.

Mr Dawson reported that there has been a large increase of international arrivals from Canada, India and Malaysia.

Mr Dawson highlighted the organisations performance targets being –

- Visitor nights – 5% increase of total visitor guest nights vs (national) - result 6.3%.
- Visitor spend – 5% increase in visitor spend across the region – result 8%.
- Conventions and Business Events – growth market share from 9% - 10% - result 10%.
- Visitor awareness and perceptions – improve by 3 points including Waikato Residents – result 1 point.
- Website – www.hamiltonwaikato.com – 20% increase in visits to website from previous year – result 8.28%.

-Industry investment \$400,000 of industry contributions towards activities – result \$453,338.  
-Return on investment – total visitor spend per dollar of HWT spend – result \$1092 per dollar of Council funding.

Councillor Pilkington said she would like to see greater investment from the industry itself.  
She reported on a Maori Tourism Symposium where all Maraes throughout the region were invited to attend.

Councillor Johnson referred to the increasing number of Motorhomes and Air Bed & Breakfast facilities and asked whether these help.

Mr Dawson replied that the Bed & Breakfasts are filling a need and that the good thing arising from the increase in motorhomes is that these people do spend money throughout the region.

In reply to Councillor Pilkington regarding the situation with the Hamilton Airport Mr Dawson replied that it is the intention to get the airport back to deliver a better financial return.

In conclusion Mr Dawson outlined the organisation's five game changes being –

- 1) Waikato River – activate the Waikato River across the region.
- 2) Brand strategy – create a strong positioning for Hamilton and Waikato to focus and underpin creative delivery and campaigns to target markets.
- 3) Hamilton City Waterfront – implement plans to revitalise the Waikato River to create a vibrant visitor hub in Hamilton.
- 4) Home of Kiingitanga – create a region-wide plan and support for a range of Maori visitor experiences that tell the distinctive story of Kiingitanga.
- 5) Regional Events strategy – develop regional events strategy that further secures, develops, promotes and encourages events that generate financial and social benefits to Hamilton and the Waikato Region.

His Worship thanked Mr Dawson for his presentation.

**Resolved** that the presentation from Hamilton and Waikato Tourism 2016 – 2017 Annual Report be received.

**Councillor Phillips / Councillor Pilkington**

**ITEM 222 ENGINEERING REPORT – AUGUST TO OCTOBER 2017**

The Engineering Manager presented a routine report on engineering matters for the period August to October 2017.

With regard to significant damage being caused to some roads Councillor Pilkington said she would like to acknowledge the contribution of Council Staff in particular the Roading Department and Executive Assistants role with residents on Moerangi Road. She said it was a great effort by everyone.

In respect to the assessment of compliance of drinking-water suppliers under the Health Act 1956 the Engineering Manager reported that the Otorohanga Water supply was the only one which was deemed not to be in compliance with Section 69Z of the Act as Otorohanga does not have an approved and implemented WSP.

Councillor Klos queried who has the authority over the water supply schemes and who actually owns them as initially the farmers paid for the scheme and gave the management of these to the Otorohanga District Council. She asked who has the authority to close any particular scheme down.

The Chief Executive advised that the assets of the Scheme have been vested in Council therefore, ownership is with Council.

Councillor Klos raised the point that the supplies are on private land.

The Chief Executive advised that the Schemes consist of a collection of individuals who have not formed any single entity. He said they could set up an entity and take over the Scheme but certain standards would still need to be met.

Councillor Klos referred to the impact on small Rural Water Supply Schemes for water supplied to meet their needs and queried what is the outcome / point in complying with the Drinking Water Standards.

Councillor Klos was advised that it is the Law.

With regard to the Kawhia Water Supply Scheme Councillor Pilkington requested that the unbudgeted cost of \$45,000 to replace the aging clarifier be reported to the next meeting of the Kawhia Community Board.

#### PROPOSED WAIPAPA RESERVE TOILETS

Discussion was held on the provision of a mural on the exterior of the proposed Waipapa toilets.

Councillor Klos referred to the mural on the Bennydale toilets and suggested that this same artist be asked to provide a mural on the Waipapa toilets. She said it is the intention to paint the whole building rather than just one wall.

#### DEFERRED PROJECTS

Councillor McConnell referred to projects which are deferred and queried whether these are discussed with the relevant Boards before coming to Council. He asked whether the Board gets input in the decision made.

Councillor McConnell was advised that any possible or proposed deferments will be discussed prior with the relevant Board. Members were informed that meetings will be held tomorrow with representatives from Services South East regarding their Contract with Council.

Councillor Pilkington reported that there is a huge amount of concern out in the District regarding this particular contractor.

#### OTOROHANGA POOL COMPLEX

The matter of providing assistance for the elderly to enter into the pool at the Otorohanga Pool Complex was noted by the Engineering Manager.

#### KAWHIA CEMETRY

In reply to Councillor Pilkington regarding the Kawhia Cemetery the Engineering Manager advised that the initial screen planting has been replaced with different plants more suitable for the area.

#### KAWHIA PLAYGROUND

Councillor Pilkington raised the matter of the Kawhia Playground in particular to the replacement of the slide and queried whether this had been revisited.

The Chief Executive replied he understood a Kawhia Community Group was interested in helping with this issue.

**Resolved** that the Engineering Managers Routine Report for the period August to October 2017 be received.

**His Worship / Councillor Klos**

**ITEM 223****MATTERS REFERRED – 24 OCTOBER 2017**

The Governance Supervisor took members through Matters Referred.

**LOW COST HOUSING**

Discussion was held on the provision of low cost housing within the District. Councillor Klos expressing support of the formation of small clusters of houses throughout the District. She outlined the benefits and the cost sharing for the owners for services such as water and power supply.

His Worship reported that Council does not have the capacity under the existing District Plan to promote the idea. He said however, individuals could still subdivide their own properties. He said he struggled to see how land owners are not aware of the potential of their own properties.

Councillor Klos reported that there is an increasing number of people coming to live in small rural areas. She said this supports the local schools and provides a casual workforce.

The Chief Executive advised that this matter could be considered further at a District Plan review discussion.

**LUNCHEON ADJOURNMENT**

Council adjourned for lunch at 12.35pm and resumed at 1.05pm.

**NEW ZEALAND TRANSPORT AUTHORITY PRESENTATION**

Ms Desiree Wehre, Community Engagement Manager for NZTA attended the meeting along with Councils Asset Strategy Manager Mr Martin Gould.

Ms Wehre reported that due to the high road toll the Agency is delivering a programme of work to make roads safer. She said 75 percent of serious crashes are due to vehicles running off the road or colliding head on. She said regionally the Waikato has the highest statistics.

Ms Wehre outlined the following initiatives in order to make roads safer, these being –

- 1) Wider centrelines.
- 2) Side and medium barriers.
- 3) Shoulder widening.
- 4) Rumble strips.
- 5) Flexible barriers.
- 6) More signs and road markings.

The Asset Strategy Manager in reply to a query regarding the change of Government advised that funding has already been committed for these projects, therefore it will be business as usual. The Chief Executive outlined a concept regarding a change in direction for road safety to be considered in discussion with the Long Term Plan and budgets.

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

The Meeting adjourned at 1.57pm and resumed at 2.52pm

**GENERAL****BEATTIE HOME**

Councillor Johnson referred to the recent Annual General Meeting of Beattie Home and reported that the facility is in pretty good shape.

He expressed thanks to Council's Road Safety Officer Rachel Stubbs for her assistance with matters relating to the safety of the residents.

Councillor Johnson raised the matter of visibility being obstructed at the nearby intersection due to trucks and trailers parking outside McDonalds Restaurant and Advantage Tyres.

Councillor Williams reported that the Subway outlet identifies parking for cars only.

The Chief Executive reported that similar instances occur at all of the intersections with Maniapoto Street.

He queried whether it would be worthwhile to break the area up into parking spaces.

His Worship suggested whether yellow lines be installed.

Following further discussion it was agreed that this matter be referred to the Engineering Manager.

Councillor McConnell reported he also attended the Beattie Home Annual General Meeting and congratulated those involved with the facility on a job well done.

### **LIQUOR LICENCING LAWS**

Councillor McConnell referred to the existing Liquor Licencing Laws and expressed the opinion that these are very restrictive. He referred to issues over the past three weeks where organisations have been unable to apply for a Liquor Licence to hold a function as they are unable to meet the twenty working days requirement. He said Otorohanga is a small town and there must be a way to get around this.

Councillor Johnson said that the main reason for these laws is to prevent harm to persons from alcohol related activities.

The Chief Executive advised that the law is the law.

### **OTOROHANGA SPORTS AWARDS**

Councillor Phillips reported he attended the recent Otorohanga Sports Awards which he said was a very good night and excellently run. He congratulated all those involved in organising the event.

### **OTOROHANGA TENNIS CLUB**

Councillor Phillips asked whether one or two signs off State Highway 39 and State Highway 3 could be erected pointing to the Tennis Club.

### **WAIPA CATCHMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

Councillor Phillips reported on his attendance at a recent Waipa Catchment Committee Meeting and informed members that it costs twenty five thousand dollars to run such a meeting, with four being held per year.

Councillor Phillips reported that there is a claim for Rangitoto to be made pest free. He said representatives of the Waikato Regional Council were shocked at hearing this claim.

### **PROPOSED COMMUNITY GARDEN**

Councillor Phillips said he had been approached by a local person regarding the establishment of a Community Garden in front of their section on State Highway 3. His Worship suggested that the person have discussions with the Otorohanga Support House.

### **STAFF MATTER**

Councillor Christison requested that her appreciation be forwarded to the Project and Design Engineer Ms Sharlene McGaughran for all the good work she has carried out on behalf of the Board. Ms McGaughran will be leaving Council this Friday.

### **BEATTIE HOME ROSE SHOW**

Councillor McConnell congratulated Councillor Christison on her input in the recent Beattie Home Rose Show.

### **COUNCILLOR PILKINGTON**

Councillor Pilkington reported on the following.

- Her attendance along with Councillor Klos at the Waikeria Prison Long Service Awards.
- Nga Wai O Waipa Co Governance Forum where she reported on various Council activities.
- Regional Transport Committee Workshop – developing prioritisation of significant activities in relation to State Highway network.
- Beattie Home Melbourne Cup – Hat Competition Judging.
- Sports Awards – Councillor Pilkington extended congratulations to Councils Finance and Administration Manager Graham Bunn and his helpers for organising the event and to all the nominees and winners.

### **HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY – OTOROHANGA**

The Governance Supervisor informed members that Council currently has a waiting list of approximately ten persons for Housing for the Elderly Accommodation in Otorohanga.

### **HIS WORSHIP**

His Worship outlined the following activities:

- Rural Provincial Meeting – He reported that the new Labour Government engaged well with Local Government representatives in particular on the subject of youth development.
- His Worship expressed thanks to Stuart Crosby of the National Council for their visit to Otorohanga.
- His Worship presented an award to the Otorohanga Volunteer Fire Brigade last Saturday evening and reported that the transition period to the new Fire and Emergency organisation could take up to ten years.

-A presentation from the Mayor of the Kapiti Coast on flood protection. His Worship referred to the Otorohanga Stopbanks built some fifty years ago and queried whether these are adequate for the events that may occur today. He said if Council takes no maintenance work it could open itself up to liability.

-His Worship reported that the ex-Mayor of Wellington has expressed the opinion that there are not enough gaming machines in Otorohanga, therefore the area is missing out on funding opportunities.

-His Worship advised that issues in relation to rural health, social housing and excellence programme were discussed.

-His Worship reported that he had met with the CEO of Sports Waikato, Mr Matthew Cooper who is looking for further engagement with Council.

-His Worship reported that there is no truth in the rumour that the Otorohanga Police Station could be closing. He said the Police department is attempting to encourage people to report crimes. Furthermore the department is interested in employing local people.

-His Worship referred to the food drive promoted within Council.

-His Worship reported he will be attending the Chinese Mayoral Forum in Wellington on 3<sup>rd</sup> of December.

-His Worship referred to the 'Maths for Lifetime' programme and advised that five students had been put through this, which has opened up their opportunities.

-His Worship reported that the Hearing in respect to the Happy Valley Milk Factory is to be held in the Council Chambers commencing tomorrow.

-His Worship referred to Mayors Taskforce for Jobs and reported that driver licencing should be funded by Central Government. He said the question has been asked why are local authorities carrying this out. His Worship referred to a remit to Central Government on this issue. He referred to a universal driver training programme within schools and expressed the hope that the Otorohanga College will be part of this programme.

#### **COUNCILLOR KLOS**

-Councillor Klos expressed her appreciation for the support of His Worship and Councillor McConnell at the Arohena Community Dinner. She also expressed thanks to Councillor Johnson for the funding received from the Otorohanga Community Trust.

-Councillor Klos informed members that she has been asked a question from a ratepayer as to whether Council pays a lease to provide parking in Kawhia. She was advised that this is not correct.

-Councillor Klos reported on her attendance at a recent Tourism Symposium and expressed concern that there was no representation from the Otorohanga District Development Board.

-Councillor Klos suggested that Council buy into the New Zealand Business Excellence project which could be of benefit to Council and staff.

-Councillor Klos reported that Otorohanga has not been mentioned in recent Waitomo News publications.

#### **ROAD SEALING AND INTERSECTION LIGHTING**

Members were informed that a workshop on new sealing and intersection lighting will be undertaken in a future Long Term Plan workshop.

The meeting closed at 3.58pm

