



Otorohanga District Council

MINUTES

2 April 2013

OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

2 April 2013

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held in the Council Chambers, Maniapoto St, Otorohanga on Tuesday 2 April 2013 commencing at 10.06am.

MINUTES

Minutes are unconfirmed and subject to amendment at the next meeting of Council.

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PRESENT

Mr DF Williams (Mayor), Crs MM Baxter, S Blackler, RM Johnson, AG Ormsby, DM Pilkington and RJ Prescott.

IN ATTENDANCE

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

OPENING PRAYER

Cr Pilkington read the Opening Prayer.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 12 MARCH 2013

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga District Council held on 12 March 2013, as previously circulated, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Cr Pilkington/ Cr Baxter

MATTERS ARISING

Cr Blackler referred item on page 5, Regional Transport Committee & Civil Defence Committee, the last sentence, ... 'with other Local Authorities...' and advised that this would be Waipa & Waitomo now that Hamilton City Council and Waikato District Council have pulled out of the Waikato Valley Group.

STAFF

Council's Projects Engineer introduced Mr Charlie Banks, Engineering Assistant, who commenced with Council on 21 January. She advised that he will be working with the different teams within the Engineering Department.

REPORTS

Item 333 REVIEW OF GAMBLING VENUE POLICIES

Discussion

The Environmental Services Manager presented his report. He advised the Policy was last reviewed in 2010, with a three yearly review required. The Manager reported that at the last review the policy was changed to a 'sinking lid' policy. He further advised that since the last review the Otorohanga Hotel has closed.

The Environmental Services Manager advised that the amount of money coming into the District in terms of grants is extremely small in comparison to what goes out as per his report. His Worship expressed the opinion that Community Grants are not what they seem as in some cases Clubs support their own activities not necessarily 'Community' activities. Cr Pilkington advised that the Kawhia Ward was supportive of the Sinking Lid Policy.

The Environmental Services Manager advised that the process moving forward will be for the Review to go out to public consultation with submissions being received and around the end of May for a hearing process to hear these submissions.

Resolved

That

1. The report from the Environmental Services Manager be received, and

2. The report be approved for public consultation.

Cr Pilkington / Cr Blackler

Item 334 MAYORAL FORUM INITIATIVES

Discussion

The Chief Executive reported that at a Mayoral Forum meeting for all elected members held on 25 March various inter-council collaboration and shared service opportunities for the Waikato region were presented. He said four work streams were identified, these being Rooding, Water and Wastewater, Economic Development and Planning & Governance. Workflows for each work stream along with costs for each for next three years were presented, with the most costly being Planning & Governance.

The Chief Executive advised that the proposed cost allocation for Otorohanga for the current year was \$6,150. He said that Thames Coromandel District Council have advised they will not be approving some of their proposed funding so the individual allocations per Council may slightly increase. The Chief Executive advised he was not sure if tangible benefits would be achieved from the proposed shared services but preliminary indications show that significant benefits could be achieved overall. Cr Baxter expressed the opinion that there may not be a lot of direct benefit to our District but at this stage it is important for this Council to be seen by central government to be a part of the shared services discussion. Cr Johnson agreed that it is a discussion that this Council needs to be a part of with potential advantages especially in water and wastewater areas. His Worship commented that for this Council change is inevitable, so we need to be a part of it and in this case it is not expensive to be a part. Cr Blackler said she had reservation about working with some of the larger Councils who seem to be involved for their own benefit. His Worship said that a benefit for Otorohanga would be if Hamilton becomes a more attractive place to live/work and visit, then that is a benefit for the greater Waikato also. The Chief Executive expressed the opinion that there has been massive growth for Auckland and if Hamilton's image is boosted then that has a flow on effect for us. Cr Johnson said a Council's role is to support the ratepayers of their own district, so it is hard for each Council to think regionally when they are focusing on what is best for their own ratepayers. His Worship said this District might not be financially better off but it might be socially. Cr Johnson advised that economic development is important for this District so we need to make Otorohanga a place to do business. Cr Blackler expressed the opinion it is important to make sure there is no loss of service to our District.

Resolved

That

1. Council supports the integrated work program proposed by the Waikato Mayoral Forum, as described in the Chief Executive's report.
2. Council agrees to provide the associated funding for progress of the above work program, through budget allocations of approximately \$7,000, \$17,000 and \$7,000 (all GST exclusive) in the 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15 financial years respectively.

Cr Johnson / Cr Baxter

Item 335 ODC MATTERS REFERRED FROM 12 MARCH 2013

Discussion

The Chief Executive presented Matters Referred.

Potential Flooding Event

The Chief Executive advised he has now prepared a presentation, with the next step being to advertise when the presentation will be made to the Community.

Review of Funding Assistance Rate

The Chief Executive advised that staff are preparing a submission regarding the review of the Funding Assistance Rate (FAR) to NZTA. He advised that Council has indicated that they support the status quo. The Chief Executive advised that Council will delay their submission until elected members & staff have attended the workshops this week. The Environmental Services Manager said it would be best to delay the decision until the next Council meeting.

The Executive Assistant undertook to send out details to all Councillors of the FAR workshops being held this week.

GENERAL

OTOROHANGA WATER

In reply to Cr Ormsby's query regarding the Community water reservoir levels, the Engineering Manager advised they are 'fine', stating that a request had been issued for water not to be used for non-essential purposes. Cr Ormsby queried whether Otorohanga required an extra reservoir, especially when the river water levels were low. The Engineering Manager advised that an extra reservoir was in the budget however, this would only give emergency storage for a few days but would not be of assistance in a lengthy drought.

SHARED SERVICES

Cr Baxter queried whether shared services had been investigated for the library with Waitomo and Waipa Libraries. The Finance & Administration Manager advised that this matter could be raised with District Librarian when she attends the next meeting of Council.

STAFF

The Environmental Services Manager advised that Council's Environmental Administration Officer Ms Gillian Oakley was still in hospital making steady progress. He further advised that Council's District Building Control Officer, Mr Gavin Phillips' father had died on Friday with Gavin & Julian being away over the next few days.

DISTRICT PLAN

The Environmental Services Manager advised the House Movers section of the Heavy Haulage Association have requested that a hearing date with the Environment Court be set to decide the matter of Council's position requiring a \$5000 bond. The appellant wants no bond provision in the Plan. He circulated information to Councillors to discuss this further before making a decision.

STOP BANKS TRAIL

His Worship advised he had recently met the Chair of the Waikato River Authority, Mr Bob Penter. He said Mr Penter advised they have not committed any funding to Otorohanga and would be keen to have a meeting to see where they could be involved. His Worship said he had mentioned that the Otorohanga Community Board was possibly looking at a walking trail along the stop banks.

POLICING MATTERS

His Worship advised he had met with Win Van Der Velde, Waikato District Policing Commander and Paul Carpenter to discuss police services for Otorohanga. He advised changes will be made with the Detectives from Huntly, Te Awamutu & Te Kuiti being reduced to Huntly & Te Awamutu

only. He was advised that with such a generally low crime rate in Kawhia, even with the odd spike, there is no possibility of a second policeman. His Worship advised that at a recent Kawhia leaders forum, a number of 'soft' initiatives were identified. He said local people had put their names forward to follow through with these initiatives. A further meeting is proposed in the near future where each group is to present back where they are at. His Worship advised these are progressing well.

WALKER ROAD

The Engineering Manager advised that Walker Road landowners have decided to proceed with road construction works. The Roding Manager estimated completion would be in 2-3 weeks.

LAPP FUND

The Finance & Administration Manager advised that Council is still currently a member of the LAPP Fund, insuring underground assets. He reported that after the Christchurch earthquake the Fund was exhausted, with this Council's contribution going from \$16,000 pa to \$64,000 pa in 2011/12. In 2012/13 the premium for the LAPP Fund was reduced to \$32,000 but the Fund was changed to a Mutual Fund where the premium was effectively just a deposit and up to five times the amount of the premium could be called up in the event of a disaster anywhere in New Zealand. The Manager advised that in 2012 Council gave notice of their intention to withdraw from the Fund on 30 June 2013.

The Finance & Administration Manager advised that Council has been approached by new insurers AON, who have investigated a Waikato option where an earthquake risk is much less. He advised the premium is based on Council's assets, with the cost to this Council being \$7,000 pa. The Manager advised that at the next meeting of Council he will present a report to revoke a previous resolution for Council to self-assure, and instead to join the Waikato LAPP Fund. Cr Baxter queried what will happen with the premiums for those in the National LAPP fund. The Finance & Administration Manager advised that there are many Councils who wish to look after themselves. The Manager advised that the Engineering Manager had undertaken a risk assessment for this Council which resulted in a derived premium very similar to that being sought by the proposed Waikato LAPP Fund. He advised that Hamilton City Council had never been a part of the LAPP Fund. His Worship expressed the opinion that the Otorohanga CBD & Community are very spread out and an earthquake would affect a lot less than it would in the centre of Hamilton.

MEETING CLOSED

The meeting concluded at 11.08am.

MAYOR:

DATE: 23 April 2013