

Ōtorohanga District Council  
Extraordinary Meeting

# MINUTES

14 May 2020

10.00AM

**ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL**

14 May 2020

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of the Ōtorohanga District Council held via Zoom on 14 May 2020.

Tanya Winter  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**MINUTES**

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## **PRESENT**

His Worship the Mayor MM Baxter, Councillors K Christison, B Ferguson, R Johnson, K Jeffries, RA Klos and A Williams

## **IN ATTENDANCE**

Ms. T. Winter (Chief Executive), Messrs., A Loe (Group Manager Environment), G Bunn (Group Manager Corporate), R Brady (Group Manager Engineering), B O'Callaghan (Finance Manager) and CA Tutty (Governance Supervisor).

His Worship declared the meeting open and welcomed those present. He extended a special welcome to Mr. Robert Ingham who will be speaking in the Public Forum section of the meeting.

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

Mr. Robert Ingham thanked Council for the opportunity to speak at today's meeting. He offered his professional opinion as an independent Chartered Accountant, on the Kiwi House Charitable Trust's financial position, and the proposed redevelopment of the Kiwi House.

Mr. Ingham provided his advice on the following issues –

- a) Performance to date.
- b) Projected performance
- c) Long term performance after the re-development.

Mr. Ingham reported that the Kiwi House was not originally a business operating for profit but provided a service to the Community by covering its costs. He said it has now become a medium sized business which requires solid management. Mr. Ingham advised that strong management has been demonstrated and that the next 3 years will be a difficult time following the impact of COVID-19. He advised that due to the future of tourism turnover could be halved however, the Kiwi House will have enough profit to meet its payments.

Mr. Ingham thanked Council and asked whether members had any questions.

His Worship thanked Mr. Ingham for his independent advice which members will find very useful.

## **DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.**

His Worship asked members whether they had any declarations of conflicts of interest.

No declarations of conflicts of interest were received.

## **WORDS OF WISDOM**

Councillor Christison recited words of wisdom from Helen Keller – “Alone we can do so little, together we can so much”.

## **ITEM 63 DECISION-MAKING FRAMEWORK FOR A LOAN TO THE OTOROHANGA KIWI HOUSE.**

The Chief Executive referred members to her report the purpose of which is to provide Council with some options for making a decision as to whether to approve a loan of \$2m to the Otorohanga Zoological Society (Kiwi House) for the purpose of the Kiwi House redevelopment. The Chief Executive informed members that her role of Chief Executive is to be Council's chief advisor and implementer not the decision maker.

She said she is responsible for the decisions that Council makes to ensure they can be lawfully implemented.

The Chief Executive referred to page 3 of the Agenda and asked for the word “potential” to be inserted in the fourth paragraph, second to last sentence. She then asked members whether they had any questions on her report.

His Worship expressed thanks to the Chief Executive and Group Manager – Corporate on the preparation of a very detailed report. He reported that every member has expressed their support for the project and that the COVID-19 pandemic has not changed this.

***His Worship referred to the three proposed options and advised that Option 1 does not fit within the timeframe, Option 2 fits the timeframe and legal requirements, Option 3 is unlawful. He asked the Chief Executive what resolutions would look like under Option 2.***

The Chief Executive presented the details of potential new resolutions should Option 2 be selected. This was supported by Council and details of these resolutions are below.

When asked Councillors provided the following questions/comments –

- a) If adopted at meeting on 26 May 2020 will consultation commence straight away. The Chief Executive said yes, as per the timeline in the report.
- b) Endorsement of Chief Executives advice.
- c) Will Council have the resources available? The Chief Executive said that other priorities may have to be moved so that she and the Group Manager Corporate can focus on this.
- d) Will need support of all parties involved.
- e) Presentation by Robert Ingham much appreciated.
- f) Will the process be completed by 30 June 2020? – The Chief Executive said this was dependent on the number and detail of submissions received.

**Resolved** that Council adopt Option 2, as the process it will use to make a decision on a \$2m loan to the Otorohanga Zoological Society for the purpose of the Kiwi House re-development . This option is described as ‘a decision based on the information Council has now using a shorter consultation process’.

This process includes –

- 2019 business case pre- COVID-19
- Current financial statements produced by the Kiwi House
- Current information from other potential funders provided by the Kiwi House
- Council formally adopting the Statement of Proposal and consultation information at its ordinary meeting to be held on 26 May 2020.
- A shorter consultation period of 2 weeks as per s.82 of the LGA
- Conclude this process by 30 June 2020.

#### **COUNCILLOR CHRISTISON / COUNCILLOR JEFFRIES**

When put the motion was carried unanimously.

#### **MEETING CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 10.27am