



**Ōtorohanga**

*District Council*

*Ōtorohanga - where kiwi can fly  
A dynamic, inclusive and unique district*

## Ōtorohanga Community Board

# MINUTES

8 September 2022

4pm

### Members of the Ōtorohanga Community Board

Board Member N Gadd (Chair)  
Board Member K Brown-Merrin  
Board Member P Coventry

Councillor K Christison  
Councillor R Dow

For all meeting queries, please contact Council's Manager Governance ([governance@otodc.govt.nz](mailto:governance@otodc.govt.nz))

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# Ōtorohanga Community Board

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Ōtorohanga Community Board held in the St David's Community Hall, corner of Ranfurly & Turongo Streets, Ōtorohanga on Thursday, 8 September 2022 commencing at 4.04pm.

Tanya Winter  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

16 September 2022

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

APOLOGIES	3
DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST	3
PUBLIC FORUM	3
CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES — 2 JUNE 2022	3
CHAIRPERSON'S VERBAL REPORT	3
ITEM 89: ŌTOROHANGA TOWN CONCEPT PLAN – PROJECT UPDATE	5
BOARD MEMBER'S UPDATES	5

**PRESENT**

Present: Chairperson N Gadd, Board Members P Coventry, K Brown-Merrin, Councillors K Christison and R Dow.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Mark Lewis (Group Manager Engineering & Assets), B O’Callaghan (Finance Manager), R McNeil (Chief Advisor), and K King (Manager Governance).

**COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING**

Chairperson Gadd declared the meeting open at 4.04pm

**APOLOGIES**

No apologies were received.

**DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

No conflicts were declared.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

No members of the public requested to be heard.

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES — 2 JUNE 2022**

**RESOLVED:** That the open minutes of the Ōtorohanga Community Board meeting held on 2 June 2022, having been circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Board Member Coventry | Board Member Merrin-Brown

**CHAIRPERSON’S VERBAL REPORT**

The Chairperson, N Gadd provided the following speech:

*“As there is an election happening, I would like to remind everyone that this is an official meeting and no campaigning is allowed. In saying that, although we do have one extra-ordinary meeting to finalise the Ōtorohanga town concept plan, this is our last normal meeting of this triennium.*

*So, what a triennium. With our first meeting in November 2019, then four months later in March COVID descended upon us. Two and a half years later we are still at an orange setting. This has certainly made*

*life interesting, and while we may not have quite achieved everything we had wished we could have, I personally hold the opinion that the Council, its staff and this Board have done remarkably well regardless.*

*Completing the most intensive long term plan ever carried out in Ōtorohanga was certainly a massive undertaking that was somehow pulled off under all the restrictions, and the town concept plan which is due to be finalised has set out a blueprint for the Ōtorohanga town and district that can be utilised and implemented in this next triennium.*

*I would like to end this term by saying a massive thank you to all our Council staff, in particular Roger Brady and Dave Clibbery who may have ditched us but their assistance and input over the years were highly valuable. Thank you to Mark Lewis and Jared le Fleming who have always worked closely with the Board, assisting and enabling things to get done. Thank you to Natasha Eynon for putting up with my fidgeting and pen clicking and Ross McNeil for his enormous effort on the town concept plan. Thank you to the new staff who have slotted into the team seamlessly, in particular Kaia King and Nardia Gower who have really streamlined both the governance and community consultation. Massive thanks to Waikato Regional Council, and in particular Keri and James for their input and assistance on Te ara a Waiwai.*

*CouncilMARK last year did leave me with a sour taste in my mouth, the grading was low, but when you read the full report it is easy to see standout quotes like “The Council is largely meeting the core infrastructure needs of the district” and “An austere internal culture founded on prudence is noticeable” ... “The reward of prudent management is low levels of debt” ... “A strong commitment to serve the community, and to work with Māori, is apparent”.*

*When you add those comments to the recent ratepayers report from the Taxpayers Union, this is actually a pretty darn good little council, and I have to give credit and say thank you to those at the top: Chief Executive Tanya Winter and Mayor Max Baxter.*

*Last, but not least, I would like to say thank you to this team, the Board. A collection of strong individuals with a massive passion for this town. I thank you all for your effort and input into making Ōtorohanga a bit better, and I thank you for your support during a very tricky triennium.*

*So, lets load up the staff with some work to get prepared for the first meeting of the next Board to get started on.*

*I would like to put forward a motion that the gym equipment project that Katrina has put an immense amount of effort into is tabled, and that staff prepare a report in regard to planning, location, costs and funding sources.”*

**RESOLVED:** That the Ōtorohanga Community Board request the Chief Executive prepare a report for the incoming Board on the gym equipment project outlining planning, location, costs, and funding sources.

Chairperson Gadd | Councillor Christison

**RESOLVED:** That the Ōtorohanga Community Board receive the verbal update from Chairperson, N Gadd.

Councillor Christison | Board Member Coventry

**ITEM 89: ŌTOROHANGA TOWN CONCEPT PLAN – PROJECT UPDATE**

Council’s Chief Advisor, R McNeil spoke on the engagement undertaken with key stakeholders and the wider community. He noted Ōtorohanga District Council signed off the draft town concept plan for community engagement in mid-July.

During the engagement process, a hui was held with mana whenua who expressed concern on the growth-related information presented in the plan. This was a key learning for staff on the importance of clarifying the status of the plan as the first stage in a series with not statutory status or power. The plan will be a living document and re-visited every 5-6 years in alignment with the long term planning processes. This will be clarified in the final document.

Due to the concerns raised by mana whenua, the consultation period was extended until 16 September.

**RESOLVED:** That the Ōtorohanga Community Board:

- a Receive the report titled ‘Ōtorohanga town concept plan – project update’ (document number 649829) from Ross McNeil, Chief Advisor.
- b Confirm that a joint meeting of the Ōtorohanga Community Board and Ōtorohanga District Council, including the Nehenehenui RMC Ōtorohanga Town Concept Plan project group, be held on Tuesday 27 September 2022 for the purpose of hearing, considering, and determining submissions lodged in respect of the draft Ōtorohanga Town Concept Plan.
- c Confirm that an extra-ordinary meeting of the Ōtorohanga Community Board be held on Tuesday 4 October 2022, commencing at 4pm, for the purpose of considering the amended draft Ōtorohanga Town Concept Plan and recommending its adoption to the Ōtorohanga District Council, subject to any further amendments.

Chairperson Gadd | Councillor Christison

**BOARD MEMBERS’ UPDATE**

- Board Member Coventry noted a community meeting would be held on 26 September at the Ōtorohanga Harvest Centre with the local Member of Parliament attending. Harvest Centre staff will present an update on achievements over the previous two years under pandemic conditions.

Mr Coventry was approached by members of the community regarding the fire hydrant relocation into the pavement underneath store verandas. Council’s Group Manager Engineering and Assets, M Lewis advised the service corridor was under pressure regarding space and the two options were to move further into the carriageway or bring into the footpath. Mr Lewis noted there were fire hydrants on both sides of the street so if one was unable to be used due to fire, the firefighters would utilise the opposite hydrant.

- Councillor Christison had been in discussions around the possibility to replicating the Te Awamutu Food Forest in Ōtorohanga. She attended the Kiwiana meeting noting a drive to get youth involved. A cross-organisation meeting will be arranged to discuss options.

- Board Member Merrin-Brown attended the iSite Cluster meeting and was encouraged by the changes made by the Ōtorohanga Development Board. She noted tourism was starting to come back into Ōtorohanga with Hamilton Waikato Tourism seeking to assist local tourism. She also attended the Kiwiana meeting.
- Councillor Dow had participated in the Regional Connections Committee hearings and noted the intent to expand public transport services into rural areas.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.39pm.

UNCONFIRMED