



Otorohanga Community Board

# MINUTES

24 August 2017

4.00pm

**OTOROHANGA COMMUNITY BOARD**

24 August 2017

Minutes of an Ordinary meeting of the Otorohanga Community Board held in the Council Chambers,  
17 Maniapoto Street, Otorohanga on 24 August 2017 commencing at 4.00pm

***MINUTES***

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

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

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## **PRESENT**

Mr P McConnell (Chair), Mrs. K Christison, Mrs. EM Cowan, Mr A Buckman, Mr N Gadd,

## **IN ATTENDANCE**

His Worship The Mayor M Baxter, Messrs DC Clibbery (Chief Executive), M Lewis (Community Facilities Officer) and CA Tutty (Governance Supervisor)

The Chair declared the meeting open and welcomed those present.

## **APOLOGY**

**Resolved** that the apology received from Mr P Coventry be sustained.

## **Chair / Mrs Christison**

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

No members of the Public were present.

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

**Resolved** that the Chief Executives report on a proposed Stopbank Walkway be considered in General Business which may require a resolution.

## **Mrs Cowan / Mr Gadd**

### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 27 JULY 2017**

#### **Storm Water Drains**

Mrs Cowan referred to page 2 of the Minutes and advised that the resolution recorded is not complete and should read “– Resolved that Council withdraws its policy on contributions to stormwater works and that in future no Council contributions are made to the piping of open stormwater drains running through a private property.”

Mrs Cowan then referred to her comments regarding the process when the Otorohanga Kiwi House made application to the Board, and requested it be recorded that back in 2013 the Otorohanga Kiwi House wrote a letter to the Board regarding the open drain on Council land causing concerns in respect to flooding in the Kiwi House and safety issues in the area. Mrs Cowan further reported that in 2016 the Otorohanga Kiwi House came back to the Board regarding this matter and the Board did fund the piping of this drain to the sum of \$27,500.

She said the drain is still on Council Reserve land however, in December 2016 when the fence was moved the drain is now within the Kiwi House area.

Mrs Christison referred to page 5 in particular to the item regarding “AlwaysConnected” and advised that she had highlighted some “double ups” in the expenditure rather than querying it.

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting of the Otorohanga Community Board held on 27 July 2017, as amended, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.

## **Mrs Cowan / Mrs Christison**

### **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

The Chair asked members whether they were aware of any situations where they could stand to make personal and/or monetary gains in any particular matter to be discussed at this meeting.

No such declarations were received.

### **MATTERS REFERRED FROM 27 JULY 2017**

#### **Community Communication Document**

Mrs Christison reported she had contacted a representative of the Otorohanga College regarding the possibility of the College taking over the production of the Village Banter. She advised that the college felt they would be doubling up should they take over another Community Communication Document.

Mrs Christison queried whether it was something the Board would be interesting in producing.

Mrs Cowan referred to the current rates newsletter however, this is only produced twice a year.

The Chair undertook to explore this matter further as many people are interested in what is happening in the Community.

### **Proposed Stopbank Walkway**

The Chief Executive summarised his report on the construction of a concrete surface walkway along the full length of the flood protection stop banks on the 'town' side of the Waipa River in Otorohanga.

The Chief Executive confirmed that an application is being made to the Waikato River Authority for just over one third of the proposed project cost. He said this application has been accompanied by a letter of support from the Nehenehenui Regional Management Committee which represents local Marae.

The Chief Executive informed members that this project has not been previously reflected in Council planning documents and associated budget estimates and as such has not been subject to public consultation. He said such consultation on this proposal needs to be undertaken before any formal commitment can be made to the project. He suggested that this consultation is conducted in accordance with the requirements of section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

In reply to Mr Buckman the Chief Executive advised that such consultation will commence immediately, using his report as a statement of the proposal and inviting written submissions within a period of 21 days. He said such consultation will be carried out by advertisements and social media.

Mr Buckman referred to sponsorship of the proposed walkway however, the Chief Executive suggested that the Board wait until a reply is received from the Waikato River Authority before exploring further sponsorships.

Mrs Cowan suggested that the project could be staged or partial loan funding obtained. She expressed the opinion that she would not like to think that the project is entirely dependent on the outcome from the application to the Waikato River Authority.

The Chair felt that Board Members need to meet and establish timelines for the proposed project. He said that the Board can consider the project further during the consultation period.

Mrs Christison referred to the matter of willow planting along the Waipa River embankments and queried who maintains these.

She was advised that these were planted and maintained by the Regional Council.

Mrs Christison reported that the Willows concerned are hosts to aphids and bring wasps into the Community. She queried if there is anything the Board could do about this situation.

It was agreed that Mrs Christison discusses the matter with Mrs Rosemary Davison who could then take it up with the Regional Council.

**Resolved** that consultation is conducted with the Community in respect of potential full or partial Council funding of the construction of a fenced concrete surfaced walkway along the full length of the "town side" stop banks from Phillips Avenue to Waipa Esplanade.

### **Mrs Cowan / Mrs Christison**

## **GENERAL**

### **Windsor Park**

Following concerns expressed by Board Member Mr Gadd in regards to the condition of Windsor Park the Community Facilities Officer advised that an audit of all Council Parks has been undertaken. He said items have been highlighted which staff are working through.

The Community Facilities Officer reported that it has been recommended that some equipment be removed rather than repaired and consideration be given to fall protection.

The Community Facilities Officer informed members that the audit carried out in respect to the Skateboarding Park is very good with only minor work being required. He further reported that the situation is similar in Kawhia and this matter is being worked through with the Kawhia Community Board.

In reply to Mrs Cowan regarding how often an audit is undertaken the Community Facilities Officer replied that this will be checked monthly as repairs take place.

Mr Gadd asked whether such reports could be emailed out to members to enable them to answer queries from the Public.

Mrs Cowan agreed and suggested that these be included in the Otorohanga Community Boards Agenda, together with items such as the Engineering Managers Report presented to Council.

Discussion was also held on the condition of the crusher-dust path through Windsor Park.

#### **Otorohanga Museum**

Mrs Christison reported she had received an approach from a Committee member of the Otorohanga Museum reporting that they are running out of storage space and querying whether a shipping container could be brought in.

The Chair suggested that the Museum write to the Board on this matter.

#### **Promotion**

Mrs Christison referred to a recent meeting conducted by the Waipa District Council in Kihikihi regarding future growth of the area due to the extension of the Waikera Prison facility. She said information was available to the public regarding the subdivision of land and future residential land earmarked for development. Mrs Christison queried whether this Board could carry out a similar promotion.

Mr Gadd advised that Otorohanga does have a housing shortage and asked if it would be possible for this Board to carry out a similar event.

His Worship referred to development in Te Awamutu and reported that a large amount of this has been undertaken by developers and is being staged.

The Chief Executive informed members that this Council does not have planning zones, subdivision is considered on an effect based basis. He said the problem with Otorohanga is that the Community is surrounded by flood plains.

The Chair expressed the opinion that there is a need for the Board and Council to have a Workshop on this matter in order to progress this to the next step.

#### **LIGHT ON POWER POLE**

Mrs Christison reported that a light on a power pole situated at the back of the Otorohanga Museum is not working.

The Community Facilities Officer agreed to look at this.

#### **BROKEN PIPE**

Mrs Christison highlighted a pipe which has broken out of the ground along the side of the old Courthouse.

#### **STEAMFEST**

Mrs Christison expressed her thanks to Mr Leigh Peglar and Council's Executive Assistant Mr Day Dowd on the fantastic job they had done in creating an awesome Steamfest Event for Otorohanga.

#### **WAITOMO VALLEY ROAD**

Mrs Cowan reported in reference to Google directions from Auckland and Hamilton to the Waitomo Caves people are being sent via Waitomo Valley Road. She referred to what has been put in place to encourage travellers to keep to the left hand side of the road, in the Waitomo District.

Mr Gadd agreed that far too many tourists are using Waitomo Valley Road off State Highway 31.

Mrs Christison queried whether the Board could erect its own signage.

The Chief Executive replied that State Highway 31 is NZTA's responsibility and Waitomo Valley Road is Council's responsibility.

His Worship reported following attendance at NZTA meetings that based on statistics NZTA receive additional safety signage is not on their radar in the near future.

The Roading Manager Martin Gould who was in attendance at this part of the meeting informed members that some signage is being installed and consideration being given to speed management. He said however, Council has to go through a By-law process and any results regarding speed management will not be available within the next 12 months.

The Roading Manager confirmed that Waitomo Valley Road does not show up on the Risk Analysis.

The Chair suggested that farmers be encouraged to report any accidents which occur on Waitomo Valley Road.

#### **COUNCIL AGENDA**

Mrs Cowan referred to Council Agendas in particular the Engineering Managers Report and other items such as Water Metering, Waipa Rural Water Supply, Stop banks etc. and requested that these reports be included within the OCB Agenda. She said this will enable Board Members to be aware of what is happening.

The Chief Executive replied that Board Members should be receiving the ODC Agenda which could be used for reference at Board Meetings.

Following further discussion it was agreed that such items be included in the Board Agendas.

### **OTOROHANGA STOP BANKS**

Mrs Cowan reported that there is a log jammed under the Waipa River Bridge which should be removed incase other debris comes down the river.

The Chief Executive replied that this log is only resting against one support and will be knocked away should a flood come down the river.

### **HAWTHORNE TREE**

Mrs Cowan referred to a Hawthorne Tree growing on the Stop Bank adjacent to the Otorohanga South School and requested this be removed.

### **TROUGHS**

Mrs Cowan referred to troughs located on the Stop Banks in particular two troughs which have broken ballcocks and others where tracking is occurring around the troughs. She requested that these be repaired and the tracking covered with base course metal.

### **TARGETED WATER RATES**

Mrs Cowan expressed concern in regards to the Targeted Water Rates Uniform Annual General Charge in the Community. She referred to the UAGC and outlined the increases which have occurred since 2013 these being,

- 1 July 2013 – 30 June 2014 \$296.56
- 1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015 \$327.37 10.39% increase.
- 1 July 2015 – 30 June 2016 \$354.34 8.24% increase.
- 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017 \$382.06 7.82% increase.
- 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018 \$443.56 16.10% increase.

Mrs Cowan asked the following questions of staff-

- 1) Why was the UAGC increase so significant this year.
- 2) Who proposed this increase,
- 3) Why was there no discussion or signal to the Board during the Estimates process that Targeted Water Rates would increase by \$61.50 per household.
- 4) Can the Board expect the Uniform Water Rate to drop to \$253 Inc GST as proposed in 2015 and 2016.

Mrs Cowan expressed concern that no discussion has been held with the Board on this issue.

Mrs Cowan reported that it was brought to the Boards attention on 25 August 2016 that the number of meters needing to be installed was higher than initially calculated and at about 80 business premises have not been included in the planned meter installations. At that stage 1200 meters have been installed, but an extra 150 needed to be provided at an estimated cost of \$110,000. She said it was suggested by the Chief Executive that the additional work would be funded from "budget allocated for increasing water storage which is also in the water supply account, which looks to be underspend by at least \$300,000."

The Chief Executive advised that these increases in water supply costs were signaled in the budget estimates. He agreed that the increase needs to be investigated therefore it was agreed that the item be placed on Matters Referred under the Engineering Manager.

Members also requested a final cost of the Water Metering installation.

### **PROPOSED FUNDING WORKSHOP**

Mrs Cowan referred in particular to new members of the Board and requested that a funding Workshop be held.

The Chief Executive replied that this will be undertaken prior to the next LTP.

### **MANIAPOTO TRUST BOARD**

Mrs Cowan referred to discussion with Mr Derek Wooster of the Maniapoto Trust Board in particular to the settlement received by the Trust and their desire that this remains within the District. Mrs Cowan suggested that lines of communication and networking be developed with the Trust.

### **OTOROHANGA SECURITY**

Mr Buckman referred to the provision of the Otorohanga Community Security patrol and said he understood that Council is funding this to the sum of \$90,000 per annum.

The Chief Executive replied that Council collects the funds as a special charge on rates and passes this onto the Otorohanga Business Association.

Mr Buckman expressed the opinion that there is a better way for the town to be monitored.

### **WAIKERIA PRISON**

His Worship referred to a recent meeting with representatives from the Department of Corrections regarding the Waikeria Prison extensions. He said Board Members must accept that to date they have been proactive and referred

to the proposed Westridge subdivision extension development. He said there is potential for property owners to subdivide their properties as a result of the Waikeria Prison extension taking place.

#### **ACCESS TO COUNCIL STAFF**

His Worship reported that Councillors and Board Members are very fortunate to be able to access Council staff for assistance. He said however, he believed that the number of items which are raised at Board meetings need to be referred to staff initially, before bringing these matters up at a meeting.

The Chair referred to new members of the Board and reinforced the need wherever possible to have discussions with Council staff should they have any queries.

#### **MANIAPOTO STREET VERANDAHS**

The Chair referred to Maniapoto Street verandah work that is currently been undertaken by a Property Owner and reported that a significant amount of this work involves replacement of the existing structure.

The Chair advised that in the near future the Board will be requesting the property owner to invest additional funds into the verandah upgrade proposal. He said this is a prime opportunity to advise the property owner of what Council is considering undertaking.

Members were informed that Councils Building Staff should be aware of what is being undertaken at the present time and whether this could be used as an example to other property owners.

#### **DOMAIN TOILET BLOCK**

Mr Gadd referred to the Toilet Block situated adjacent to the Otorohanga Kiwi House and queried who is responsible for this?

The Chief Executive said he believed that the facility is owned by the Otorohanga Kiwi House with Council making a contribution to its maintenance.

Mrs Cowan reported that she is of the opinion the facility belongs to Council with Kiwi House Staff maintaining it.

Mr Gadd reported that at the present time the facility is locked up.

The Chair advised that apparently the facility requires a new roof however, the interior is clean and tidy. He suggested the area surrounding this facility be opened up by the removal of trees and shrubs.

It was agreed that this item be placed on Matters Referred under Council's Community Facilities Officer to investigate the matter further in particular as to who actually owns the building.

The meeting closed at 5.08pm.