

Northland Regional Council meeting – 11th July 2013

[LINK to appropriate Agenda.](#)

It was 1300hrs and Chairman Craig Brown welcomed all to the meeting.

Craig continued and explained the 'house rules', explaining the emergency exits and position of rest room facilities.

1.0. APOLOGIES

Item No.1.0 and there was an apology for Cr Ian Walker and this was duly moved by Cr John Bain, seconded by Cr Bronwyn Hunt.

It was noted that before the meeting all microphones were turned on but Cr John Bain is obviously still suffering from 'microphone phobia', or is it that he doesn't want to be heard; with his microphone turned off after suffering a dose of Viagra, standing erect and reaching out for the ceiling. During the meeting it was only Cr Bronwyn Hunt, Cr Graeme Ramsey and CEO Malcolm Nicholson whose microphones were on for the meeting. It is nice to hear what is going on, but do some prefer they are not heard?

2.0. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Craig Brown reminds them that any '**Declarations of Conflicts of Interest**' were to be advised item by item as they progressed through the agenda and they would be dealt with accordingly and then decided what, if any action is to be taken case by case.

Item No. 3.0. PRESENTATIONS

The agenda claimed there will be no presentations at today's meeting, but a presentation was made at 1303hrs by Gary Wood of Richardson Stevens, Consulting Engineers. This was giving details of the Seismic review of NRC's Water Street building. (See page 29&29) Gary clarified a number of issues, where questions were asked.

OPERATIONAL REPORTS

4.0 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO COUNCIL (Page 1-2) (1310hrs)

Moved by Craig Brown, seconded by Cr Bill Rossiter.

There was no discussion on this item.

5.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL (Pages 3-44)

Item No. 5.1. Community Representation and Engagement (Page 3)

Item No. 5.2. Economic Development (Page 4)

Item No. 5.3. Resource Management (Page 7)

Item No. 5.4. River Management (Page 14)

Item No. 5.5. Hazard Management (Page 17)

Item No. 5.6. Transport (Page 19)

Item No. 5.7. Support Services (Page 23)

These reports were moved by Cr Bill Rossiter, seconded by Cr John Bain with the time now at 1311hrs.

Discussion in relation to the reports above was entered into.

A question was fielded about the number of Marine farms in Northland in reference to Abatement Notices (Page 11)

In answer there are 100 Marine Farms in Northland.

Cr Graeme Ramsey had several questions; He wanted to know if there was an update on the Local Government reform (Page 3) from the Commissioners.

CEO Malcolm Nicholson advised there was no update at present.

Cr Graeme Ramsey queried the Governance review (Page 4)

Cr Joe Carr suggested it would be good if there was a similar process for reviewing management.

Craig Brown was quick to reassure the meeting that process was presently already there.

Cr Graeme Ramsey claimed they should be looking at Management and Governance.

Cr Graeme Ramsey continued with a query on minerals and exploration. (Page 6)

Cr Graeme Ramsey also asked about the issues with Mediterranean Fan Worm. (Page 13)

Cr Tony Davies-Colley, in response, gave some details of his experiences and the processes the NRC had initiated toward this pest. *(I believe there had been some issues with this on a vessel at Port Nikau, which TDC has interest in as released in the media)*

The reports were duly received.

GOVERNANCE MATTERS

6.0 CONFIRMATION/RECEIPT OF MINUTES

Time now at 1325hrs. Item No. 6.1. Minutes of the Council Meeting – 18 June 2013 (Page 45-66)

Moved by Cr Bill Rossiter, seconded by Cr John Bain.

No discussion was entered into on this item.

Time still at 1325hrs. Item No.6.2. Minutes of the Regional Transport Committee – 5 June 2013 (Page 67-72)

Moved by Cr John Bain, seconded by Cr Joe Carr.

Cr Joe Carr advised this was the last of the Regional Transport Committee meetings in their present state.

Cr John Bain gave details of the structure of future meetings. (Page 20)

There was no further discussion was had on this item.

7.0 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Time now at 1328hrs. Item No. 7.1. Proposed Changes to Community Investment Fund Statement of Investment Policies and Objectives (Page 73-94)

Moved Cr Bronwyn Hunt, seconded by Cr Graeme Ramsey.

No discussion was entered into on this item.

Time now at 1329hrs. Item No. 7.2. Schedule of Bad Debt Write Offs for Approval (Page 95-98)

Moved Cr Joe Carr, seconded by Cr Graeme Ramsey.

Cr John Bain had a question on resource consents for mooring sites.

Craig Brown clarified this issue.

There was no further discussion on this item.

Time now at 1331hrs. Item No. 7.3. Council Bank Accounts - Cheque Signatory Delegations (Page 99-100)

Moved Cr Bill Rossiter, seconded by Cr Tony Davies-Colley.

No discussion was entered into on this item

Time still at 1331hrs. Item No. 7.4. Insurance Policy Renewals for the 2013-2014 Financial Year (Page 101-106)

Moved Cr Bronwyn Hunt, seconded by Cr Bill Rossiter.

Cr Bill Rossiter commented that he thought the staff had done a good job.

There was no further discussion on this item.

8.0 DECISION MAKING MATTERS

Time now at 1332hrs. Item No. 8.1 Northland Inc. 2013/14 - 2015/16 Statement of Intent (Page 107-124)

Moved by Craig Brown, seconded by Cr Bronwyn Hunt.

It was recommended by the chair to go through the items on page 109 one by one.

2.1 A to E passed all in favour.

There was debate on 2.1 F and Cr Tony Davies-Colley gave an example of the Mediterranean Fan-worm Disaster where he felt things could well have been prevented on this issue with better communication.

Items 2.1 G to J all passed with little discussion.

Item 2.2 A was duly passed but there was division on 2.2 B and it was initially decided it lay on the table pending more work to be done.

Cr Joe Carr suggested that B should have the first line removed and read 'Review the benefits etc'

Moved by Cr Joe Carr, seconded by Cr Bronwyn Hunt.

The recommendation was carried.

Time now at 14052hrs. Item No. 8.2 Northland Port Corporation (NZ) Ltd – Appointment of

Directors (Page 125-126)

Moved by Cr John Bain, seconded by Craig Brown.

There was general discussion about reducing the number of directors to six and not the seven as per the recommendation.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley wanted it amended to six directors.

Moved by Cr Joe Carr, seconded by Cr Graeme Ramsey.

Cr Joe Carr claimed it could be done with six competent directors.

Craig Brown wanted it to read 'reduce to seven' as per the recommendation.

After a bit of 'argy-bargy' and comments being made Chair Craig Brown advised the meeting 'If you want council standing orders out, we will; and we will abide by them all the time'. That comment settled it all down. *I must say Craig chairs a meeting well, in a fairly relaxed and open manner; but push the boundaries with him and he is more than capable of restoring it and maintaining high standards. It is most enjoyable to experience Craig's normal relaxed efficient atmosphere in his meetings.*

Craig Brown continued giving the reasons why he believed keeping competent directors on board after advice he had gathered.

Cr John Bain wished to reiterate exactly what had been said by Craig Brown.

Cr Joe Carr and Cr Graeme Ramsey advised that they wanted their amendment to be withdrawn after hearing Craig's reasoning.

Craig Brown thanked them and the item was voted on and the recommendation was carried.

Time now at 1415hrs. Item No. 8.3 Kaipara Harbour Joint Political Committee – Update of Activities; Terms of Reference (Page 127-136)

Moved by Craig Brown, seconded by Cr Bill Rossiter.

Cr Graeme Ramsey paid compliments how well this committee was going.

Cr John Bain asked why there were two Whangarei District Councillors on this committee.

Cr Graeme Ramsey explained to Cr Bain that the large catchment area of Hikurangi was in the Whangarei District Council area of responsibility.

Yes Graeme that area and the area of Puhipuhi that enters the Hikurangi swamp area, is what government wants to mine for toxic minerals. The aquifers of the Puhipuhi hills will from the effects of mining, leach toxic mercury, cyanide and arsenic into the complex of rivers and streams into the Kaipara Harbor which is recognised for being producer of 93% of New Zealand's West coast Schnapper stock from these breeding grounds. Now you know why people of Whakapara and Puhipuhi, along with many others who recognize our environment for its true value, are getting upset about governments drive to destroy that area for a smidgen of gold. Its time they wake up before it's too late.

Cr Joe Carr had concerns that there were not more general public people at the table.

Cr Graeme Ramsey felt it could get too big and out of control but those present should be bring those others voices to the table.

The recommendations were received.

The meeting duly finished at 1421hrs, Chairman Craig Brown thanking those of us who attended and then the Councilors went into business with the public excluded.

This exclusion was moved by Cr Bill Rossiter, seconded by Cr Bronwyn Hunt.

9.0 BUSINESS WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED (Pages137-158)

9.1 Confidential Minutes of the Council Meeting – 18 June 2013 (Page 139-144)

9.2. Potential Investment Opportunity (Page 145-148)

9.3 Proposed Property Acquisition of Leasehold Property (Page 149-152)

9.4 Proposed Changes to Community Investment Fund Statement of Investment Policies and Objectives (Page 153-158)

All information in regards to this meeting's agenda and others are available on the Northland Regional Council website by clicking on this [link](#).