

Northland Regional Council meeting - 13th December 2011

[LINK to appropriate Agenda.](#)

It was 1300hrs and Chairman Craig Brown welcomed all to the meeting and explains the emergency exits and position of rest room facilities.

1.0 APOLOGIES

Item No.1.0 and there were no apologies.

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.

Craig advised there were two more detailed items available and these were distributed

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

The presentations were to be held with the order changed

Item No.3.2 Presentation by Business Paihia Inc – Cruise Ship Ambassador Programme (1302hrs)

There was a presentation by Sarah Greener, General Manager at Bay of Islands Rock Cruises Ltd. with support from Daniel Rode, InterCity Group's Online Sales and Marketing General Manager. Since January 2009 Destination Northland had received complaints about the attitude in Paihia and this needed to change to encourage visitors to the area, hence the program was initiated. Now ships with 500 plus passengers were being greeted by ambassadors. Ship numbers had increased over the last three years from 26 to 36 and now to 52. Daniel advised these figures did not relate to the 'world cup' as figures were still on the increase.

Item No.3.1 Kaipara Harbour Joint Study (1324hrs)

Dr Malcolm Green from NIWA gave a presentation and Dr Jarrod Walker from Auckland Council supported with comments on the subject. Sediment was an issue in the Kaipara Harbour and they were taking a whole harbour approach to the situation.

Cr Graeme Ramsey queried what the most important thing councils can do for the health of the harbour.

Dr Malcolm Green answered with a simple 'stop sediment runoff' and gave some details to substantiate that.

4.0 COUNCIL AND CEO'S OFFICE

Item No.4.1 Confirmation of Minutes – 15 November 2011(1358hrs) there was no debate and this item required no discussion.

Item No.4.2 Chairman's Report to Council (1359hrs)

Cr Bronwyn Hunt had a question regarding the correspondence from Mr Frank Newman regarding Maori representation. (Page 16)

Cr Graeme Ramsey asked if there was to be an induction program for the new CEO.

Acting Chief Executive Tony Phipps confirmed there was and a staff member had been allocated to assist the new CEO.

Cr Graeme Ramsey reminded that the "Code of Conduct" still needed to be addressed.

Item No.4.3 Chief Executive Officer's Report to Council (1405hrs)

Cr Joe Carr queried the General Manager Community Relations appointment advertisement and believed the new CEO should be involved with this appointment.

Linda Stansfield, General Manager - CEO and Projects confirmed that 'he is'.

Acting Chief Executive Tony Phipps confirmed the new CEO is involved with this issue.

Cr Joe Carr queried the item on Ninety Mile Beach and were details publically available yet. (page27)

Cr Bill Rossiter had a concern about the Consent applications that were showing as 'received more than 12 months ago'. (page27)

Cr Tony Davies-Colley queried the contract for smoke nuisance and was it tendered out for.

Riaan Elliot, Monitoring Senior Programme Manager informed it was under \$10,000-00 and they were lucky to get another applicant for it.

Cr Ian Walker had a couple of concerns about the RPS (Regional Policy Statement) and submissions. (page25)

Item No.4.4 Representation Arrangements Review (1416hrs)

No discussion was entered into on this item.

Item No.4.5 Northland Emergency Services Trust (NEST) Update (1417hrs)

Cr John Bain advised he had a Conflict of Interest and would leave the table, not leaving the gallery but taking up a seat in the rear of the gallery able to observe the proceedings. He sat with two associates from NEST, the 3rd having to leave earlier as the meeting was behind time.

Cr Joe Carr had concerns and called for an amendment to the recommendation No A.

Cr Graeme Ramsey informed it was a question about 'public funding', the minutes of the meeting of 6th December which he was unable to be present at, he was uncomfortable at the lack of information received. The service was good and not disputed but it was

funded by residents and ratepayers and the 'figures' had not been distributed that were in question. *I think what they are saying, but don't like to, is how much is John Bain getting out of it, as they don't believe he is just a volunteer? Volunteers don't get paid; I was a volunteer for Auckland Coastguard for approx 18 years, volunteered on the Police Launch Deodar 2, Volunteered at the OBC boat club & didn't get a cent, but I did gain a wealth of experience in these roles.*

Linda Stansfield confirmed she had received the figures re the funding requirements this morning.

Cr Ian Walker believed at the workshop they had received a 'verbal request' for similar funding and the Trust would provide a business plan and budget.

Linda Stansfield informed they were unable to provide these as there were too many variables. *Oh come on; who in their right mind takes on a business venture without a business plan and a budget? Yes you are right, the helicopter as it's not their money; it all comes from donations, sponsors and targeted rates.*

Cr Tony Davies-Colley advised there was definitely information that could be provided. Their capital growth was good because of the exchange rate. The PWC (PriceWaterhouse Cooper) report was what they had asked for. It was public money; this organization had a transparency issue, information had not been received and there were concerns about governance. The service they provided was 2nd to none.

Cr Joe Carr insisted the amendment should provide for receipt of a 'satisfactory' business plan and budget.

Chairman Craig Brown wanted to point out that the meeting was informal but quite open. There was only one question that was not answered, that was the remuneration of a councillor who sits on the trust. He decided that because some councillors were not prepared to keep it 'confidential', he was not prepared to give it. There was an option to fund it for the next LTP (long term plan) period. \$600,000-00 was the fund and what was returned by rates was to be paid. He was happy with the status quo and for it to go out for public consultation.

Cr Bill Rossiter felt it was a personal attack on another councillor and he would not support the questioning of integrity on another councillor.

Cr Joe Carr read out the amendment which had two parts; 1/ the remuneration of the councillor and 2/ the Trust to provide a satisfactory business plan and budget.

The motion was carried with the amendment, 4 votes to 3 being; Cr Bronwyn Hunt, Cr Joe Carr, Cr Graeme Ramsey and Cr Tony Davies-Colley for the recommendation with amendment and with Cr Bill Rossiter, Cr Ian Walker and Chairman Craig Brown going against the recommendation.

You have to ask 'What is so important for 'the councillor' that must be kept secret, to the point of risking funding, by not wishing to just show how much he receives from the trust?' Show and tell, or go without! This is all about transparency, so what are you

hiding? Could we see it with night vision goggles? Some are being dragged into a new era.....of accountability.

Item No.4.6 Meetings Calendar 2012 (1435hrs)

No discussion was entered into on this item.

5.0 FINANCE AND IT

Item No.5.1 Financial Report to 30 November 2011(1435hrs)

No discussion was entered into on this item.

Item No.5.2 Audit New Zealand – Draft Management Report for the Year Ending 30 June 2011(1436hrs)

Cr Bill Rossiter commented that it was a good audit report.

Item No.5.3 Approval to make Quarter One Grant Payment to Northland Emergency Services Trust (NEST) (1441hrs)

Cr John Bain advised he had a Conflict of Interest and would leave the table. *The pressure of Item 4.5 must have made him tired as he only 'just' pushed his chair back from the table.*

It was all over in a few seconds and required no further discussion.

Item No.5.4 Computer Desktop Hardware Replacement Programme (1441hrs)

Cr Bill Rossiter queried what was a 'Thin Client' (page 90)

This was explained; *but specially for Willy a [Link](#). Not like the thin slates you were used too eh?*

Cr John Bain asked why this was on the agenda as it was just like buying pencils. *John didn't you know; this is accountability by a 'Regional Council' not just a 'helicopter Service' that decides whether they want to advise its funders or not?*

6.0 OPERATIONS

Item No.6.1 Receipt of Northland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Minutes – 6 December 2011(1444hrs)

No discussion was entered into on this item.

Item No.6.2 Receipt of Regional Transport Committee Minutes – 7 December 2011(1444hrs)

Cr Joe Carr made comment from the Regional Transport Committee meeting of December 7 about the hassles some were expected to do for drivers licence

applications. He believed it will have a reverse effect and have less compliant drivers insisting a letter needs to go to government from council.

Item No.6.3 Consents Decisions and Progress on Notified Applications in Process, Objections and Appeals (1454hrs)

No discussion was entered into on this item.

Item No.6.4 Report on Environmental Monitoring for the period 1-30 November 2011(1455hrs)

No discussion was entered into on this item.

Item No.6.5 Northland Sailor of the Year 2011(1455hrs)

A brief discussion from Craig Brown who knew a lady sailor. *Ok, sounds like an interesting story? Do we get to hear it one day?*

Item No.6.6 Warrants of Appointment: Resource Management Act 1991 and Biosecurity Act 1993(1455hrs)

No discussion was entered into on this item.

Item No.6.7 Appointment of Honorary Enforcement Officers (1456hrs)

Cr Joe Carr asked if health and safety checks are carried out on the appointment of these people. eg fitness checks etc.

Cr Graeme Ramsey asked if some may have a disadvantage with age as there was no becoming a new generation of people.

It was suggested that if there were any queries by councilors regarding some of the appointments, to take it up with the CEO and appropriate staff.

Item No.6.8 Update Rainfall and Water Resources – Dry Spring (1502hrs)

Cr Bill Rossiter questioned if copies of the rainfall data were available for some interested parties like farmers.

He was advised that it was all available online on the web. *There's a challenge for you Bill that will be easier than scribing it out on your slate and tucking it under the wing on your pigeon to send it on its way. You might even be lucky and get to experience a 'thin client'.*

7.0 PLANNING AND POLICY

Item No.7.1 Proposed Amendments to Regional Policy and Development Committee Delegations/Functions (1503hrs)

Cr Ian Walker believed this was about the state of the economy.

Chairman Craig Brown had queries about Commissioners on Plan Changes.
Cr Joe Carr had some concerns.
Craig Brown claimed 'council owns the plan changes' and must get the experience it needs, from outside if necessary.

Item No.7.2 Plan Change 4 (Aquaculture) – Resolution of Appeals (1515hrs)
It was recommended that Chairman Craig Brown, Cr Bronwyn Hunt and Cr Ian Walker Be delegated the authority to resolve appeals as per recommendation 2 (page162)

With the time now at 1517hrs Cr Joe Carr asked why Item 8.3 in the confidential section had to be held out of the public open section of the meeting.

We hesitated in anticipation.....but

Tony Phipps explained they hadn't had the meeting described with Kiwi Rail to date.

Cr John Bain suggested it was a matter of timing.

Tony Phipps claimed they would report to the public after the discussion with Kiwi Rail.

Cr John Bain claimed you will probably be able to read about it in the paper tomorrow.

You might be wrong John, the reporter bailed out earlier.

NB. If there are any miss-quotes I have to apologise as some of the councilors now have their backs to the public galley, with the current set up and it's a tad hard to lip read. (And you probably don't want me to decipher the ones with their backs to me) ALSO only 2 Councilors had on their lovely microphones today, but sadly the sound system wasn't even turned on.

The meeting duly finished at 1521hrs, Chairman Craig Brown thanking those who attended and then the Councilors had a short break before going into business with the public excluded.

8.0 BUSINESS WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED

Item No.8.1 Confirmation of Confidential Minutes – 15 November 2011

Item No.8.2 Ports Update

Item No.8.3 Update on Joint Venture between Kiwi Rail and Council