

Northland Regional Council meeting - 16th August 2011

[LINK to appropriate Agenda.](#)

It was 1300hrs and all were not seated, so it was another 4 minutes when Chairman Craig Brown welcomed all to the meeting.

Item No.1.0. and there were no apologies received.

Craig Brown begins the meeting reminding them that Item No. 2.0 that any '**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 decides if any action is to be taken.

He continues by covering some general house-keeping, explaining the location of comfort stations to visitors and 'emergency evacuation procedures' and exits.

Item No. 3.0. There was to be no presentations at today's meeting.

4.0 COUNCIL AND CEO'S OFFICE

It was now Item No. 4.1 Confirmation of Minutes – 19 July 2011 (1304hrs)

Cr Graeme Ramsey (in reference to page 4) wished for clarification that 'council funding be reduced over time' on pest control in the minutes

Cr Tony Davies-Colley in reference to the Mayoral Forum; asked why the Houhora wetland was not raised. (Page 4)

Riaan Elliot, Monitoring Senior Programme Manager gave some clarification.

Acting Chief Executive Tony Phipps also gave some detail on consents for wetland.

Chairman Craig Brown explained that it wasn't raised at the Mayoral Forum but he will raise it. He continued 'that he was remiss at not raising it and will come back to them on it'.

Cr Bill Rossiter required some clarification also.

Cr Joe Carr claiming 'that as he was not a clinician on Norovirus, he wished for the staff to look into this issue. (Page 4, Hokianga harbour)

Cr Bronwyn Hunt wished to acknowledge the work that had been put in by Susan Botting, Environmental Education Officer, working with youth. Attending one of the meetings she was humbled by the work undertaken and also wished to also acknowledge the schools that had participated.

Item No. 4.2 Chairman's Report to Council at 1312hrs. This item required no discussion.

Item No. 4.3 Chief Executive Officer's Report to the Council at 1313hrs.

This item nearly snuck through with no discussion and it wasn't until after Chair Craig Brown had announced the next item that Cr John Bain wanted to go back to page 36. *John it's normally Willy that's behind the eight ball wanting to go back to earlier items; you may have to stop sitting next to him.....is it catchy?*

Cr Bain wanted to know more about the situation with kauri in Kaiwaka, having phytophthora taxon agathis (PTA), also known as kauri dieback, present in the soil. 'What is the best outcome for this problem' was what he asked.

Acting Chief Executive Tony Phipps explained that it was a concern because of the value of kauri found in Northland.

Cr Bronwyn Hunt confirmed it was suspected that there was more PTA in Northland.

Tony Phipps informed that he would ask Don McKenzie, Bio security Senior Programme Manager, to do an update.

Cr Ian Walker queried whether they were just going to watch it; or would they instigate a program for it?

Cr Joe Carr suggested that there needs to be a vigilant control of pigs and even humans transporting the disease.

John Bain wanted to ensure the process was right. 'Would they remove the trees and clean the soil to stop the spread. They must stop it spreading or it could go through the region like a hurricane'. *This PTA could well have an impact on our kauri so it's pleasing this item did not get lost in the mix.*

Craig Brown concluded, 'points have been made; Tony (Tony Phipps - Acting Chief Executive) was to look at it and get back. *Watch this space.*

It was now Item No. 4.4 Update on Upper North Island Strategic Alliance (UNISA) 1320hrs.

Chairman Craig Brown comments 'this was discussed this morning, was discussed at the Mayoral Forum; do we need to go it again, unless someone needs clarification'.

Really you can all read all about it in the 'Mayoral Forum' minutes anyway. Gosh who said that? They should change the Mayoral Forum minutes to read Mayoral Forum Months cause isn't this how long they have been waiting?

It was now Item No. 4.5 2013 Election Decisions 1321hrs.

Cr Graeme Ramsey felt that STV (Single Transferable Vote) makes voting more flexible. Graeme didn't feel it took people a lot to get their head around the process and it improves democracy. *Wake up Graeme; 'democracy' is a word some don't really want to hear.*

Cr John Bain had noted in the Health Board election there had been many, actually thousands, of illegible votes recorded. He was loathed to vote for a change; just make it simple.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley, as the highest polling candidate, was qualified to comment on this subject. *Who are you trying to get up Tony?* He believed FPP, (First Past the Post) was fairer to Whangarei. [FPP explained](#) and [STV explained](#)

Cr Graeme Ramsey felt an issue was asking people to vote on different systems on the same paper making it confusing. Standardising is certainly better.

Cr Bill Rossiter states 'he supports FPP'.

Craig Brown quips 'you will get that chance in a moment'. *So there Willy!*

Tony Phipps informs that any changes must be made before November.

Chairman Craig Brown puts the vote up and it's carried, a majority for FPP, with only Cr Ramsey voting against it. *There you go FPP in action.*

5.0 FINANCE AND IT

Item No. 5.1 Receipt and Confirmation of the Audit and Finance Committee Minutes – 26 July 2011 (1328hrs) this item required no discussion.

Item No. 5.2 Paid Accounts for Approval – July 2011 (1328hrs) No discussion entered into.

Item No. 5.3 Lease Transactions – July 2011 this item also required no discussion at 1329hrs.

6.0 OPERATIONS

Item No. 6.1 Confirmation of Regional Transport Committee Minutes – 3 August 2011 (1329hrs)

Acting Chief Executive Tony Phipps explained, at the chairs request to the item on page 69, that there had been a proposal, at the Mayoral Forum to have no Regional Council representation on the committee. The reason being Regional Councils don't own roads. *Interesting comment indeed do you suppose they think District Councils do? Well they are wrong it's the Ratepayers and Taxpayers of New Zealand that do; Government and District Councils are 'entrusted' to manage "assets" for the owners, being the Ratepayers and taxpayers of New Zealand.*

Cr Joe Carr believes that Regional Council has a moderating influence. He also felt the only 'contentious issue' that had faced the committee had been the Lower Harbour crossing. *Did they think it was a wish list item rather than a necessity?*

Cr John Bain confirmed that the position on the committee was made up by rules and it puts it into a regional context.

Chairman Craig Brown, giving some sound advice, advised them to 'make sure there are adequate opportunities for the political wings to have their input'.

Cr Joe Carr was quite clear in his next comment. 'If they put up representatives that can't represent their districts; they need to put up representatives that can'. *What I think he means is.... there is no room for 'seat warmers'; they need action people that will voice their issues.*

Item No. 6.2 Consents Decisions and Progress on Notified Applications in Process, Objections and Appeals (1337 hrs) this item required no discussion.
Cr Bill Rossiter queried an item on page 81. - Far North District Council Replacement consents for Rawene Waste Water Treatment Plant.
He was advised this was before the courts and it was inappropriate to make comment.

Item No. 6.3 Appointment of Harbourmaster at 1339hrs.
This item required no discussion

Item No. 6.4 Warrants of Appointment: Resource Management Act 1991, Local Government Act 2002 and Local Government Act 1974 (1339hrs)
No discussion entered into on this item.

7.0 PLANNING AND POLICY

Item No 7.1 Receipt of the Regional Policy and Development Committee Minutes – 1 August 2011 (1340hrs) this item also required no discussion.

The meeting finished at 1340hrs, Chairman Craig Brown thanking those who attended and then the Councilors go into business with the public excluded.

Congratulations must go to Cr John Bain who managed to withstand 40 minutes without falling victim to his long term phobia of microphones by not either turning it off, or redirecting it towards helicopter heaven.

8.0 BUSINESS WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED

8.1 Confirmation of Confidential Minutes – 19 July 2011

8.2 Receipt and Confirmation of Audit and Finance Committee Confidential Minutes – 26 July 2011

8.3 Ports Update

.....These notes are coming soon - Just joking, but got your attention.....