

Northland Regional Council meeting – 18th December 2012

[LINK to appropriate Agenda.](#)

It was 1300hrs and Chairman Craig Brown welcomed all to the meeting to a 'not too long' meeting. This was Craig's comment in regards to a huge agenda of some 430 pages. *I know our postie was filing in an ACC claim for having to lift such a heavy letter into our mail box. LOL.*

1.0. APOLOGIES

Item No.1.0 and there was an apology for Cr Graeme Ramsey and this was duly moved by Craig Brown, seconded by Cr John Bain.

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

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 claims there will be no presentations at today's meeting.....but Colin Mitten, Executive Chairman, Northland Inc. was to give a brief presentation, to an item, later in the meeting.

OPERATIONAL REPORTS

4.0 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO COUNCIL (Pages 1-2)

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 3-38)

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

Item No. 5.2. Economic Development (Page 4)

Item No. 5.3. Resource Management (Pages 4)

Item No. 5.4. River Management (Pages 17)

Item No. 5.5. Hazard Management (Pages 21)

Item No. 5.6. Transport (Pages 22)

Item No. 5.7. Support Services (Pages 26)

These reports were moved by Cr Ian Walker, seconded by Cr John Bain with the time now at 1302hrs.

There was some discussion in relation to the reports above.

Cr John Bain had a query (Page 24 bullet point 4) about work being undertaken on Sundays as delays are costly to commerce.

Cr Bronwyn Hunt had a query (1st paragraph Page 25) if CEBEC had taken up the offer made to them.

GOVERNANCE MATTERS

6.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Time now at 1306hrs. Item No. 6.1. Minutes of the Council Meeting – 20 November 2012. (Pages 39-48)

Moved by Cr Bill Rossiter, seconded by Cr Bronwyn Hunt.

No discussion was entered into on this item.

Time still at 1306hrs. Item No.6.2. Minutes of the Audit and Finance Committee Meeting – 27 November 2012. (Pages 49-58)

Moved by Cr Bronwyn Hunt, seconded by Cr Bill Rossiter.

There was no further discussion was had on this item.

Time still at 1306hrs. Item No.6.3. Minutes of the Northland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group – 4 December 2012. (Pages 59-66)

Moved by Cr Joe Carr, seconded Cr John Bain.

There was no added discussion into on this item.

Time now at 1307hrs. Item No.6.4. Minutes of the Hearings Committee – 5 December 2012. (Pages 67-70)

Moved by Cr Bronwyn Hunt, seconded by Cr Bill Rossiter.

There was no further discussion was had on this item.

Time still at 1307hrs. Item No.6.5. Minutes of the Environmental Management Committee – 5 December 2012. (Pages 71-80)

Moved by Cr Joe Carr, seconded by Cr Bill Rossiter.

There was no further discussion was had on this item.

Time still at 1307hrs. Item No.6.6. Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting – 6 December 2012. (Pages 81-86)

Moved by Cr Bronwyn Hunt, seconded by Cr Bill Rossiter.

There was no further discussion was had on this item.

7.0 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Time now at 1308hrs. Item No. 7.1. Financial Report – 30 November 2012 (Pages 87-96)

Moved Cr Bill Rossiter, seconded by Cr John Bain.

No discussion was entered into on this item.

8.0 DECISION MAKING MATTERS

Time still at 1308hrs. Item No. 8.1. Northland Inc. Constitution Change/Amendment Shareholder Resolution. (Pages 97-100)

Moved by Cr Ian Walker, seconded by Cr Tony Davies-Colley.

Cr John Bain had a couple of queries regarding the liability of holiday pay for staff.

Regional Policy Senior Programme Manager, Kathryn Ross advised that Northland Inc. took on all liabilities to move Destination Northland into the new organisation.

Cr Ian Walker asked if that meant employment contracts were all being renewed.

Colin Mitten, Executive Chairman, Northland Inc. advised that employment contracts were being done at the moment.

Cr John Bain reiterates that he wanted to know about liabilities as he didn't want any surprises coming.

Time now at 1312hrs. Item No. 8.2. Northland Inc. Draft Statement of Intent. 2012-13 (2012-15) (Pages 101-126)

Moved by Cr Tony Davies-Colley, seconded by Cr John Bain.

Colin Mitten, Executive Chairman, Northland Inc. was to give a very brief presentation about the 'statement of Intent'. (See Page 113)

Cr Bronwyn Hunt queried why the largest iwi group wasn't in the list of stakeholders.

Cr Ian Walker informed that he had concerns about 'cluster groups' as "We need to do more than talk".

Cr Joe Carr had a query re the Deprivation Profile (Page 172) and what can the agriculture sector do to create employment.

Colin Mitten, Executive Chairman of Northland Inc. gave some comments.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley claimed it was a very aspirational presentation and had a couple of comments for future consideration; there was the issue of tourism and 'risk' should be recognised.

Craig Brown reiterated the recommendations on page 103.

Cr Ian Walker wants an amendment to receive only recommendation 1, 3 and 4 which was seconded by Cr Joe Carr.

This amendment was lost with Cr Carr & Walker voting against it.

The original recommendation was carried but Cr Ian Walker asked that his vote be recorded.

Time now at 1335hrs. Item No.8.3. Northland Inc. Quarter 2 Report and Quarter 3 Funding Request. (Pages 127-130)

Moved by Craig Brown, seconded by Cr Bill Rossiter.

Cr Bronwyn Hunt had a query about the website; and was it designed by a company outside of Northland. *Surely not, this new fabulous organisation was all about 'Making Northland Happen'.*

Colin Mitten, Executive Chairman of Northland Inc replied with a "Yes" *(that it was designed by agencies out of Northland.) WHOOPS!!!!!!!!!!!!*

Cr Bronwyn Hunt, *alarmed*, it was completely out of order to go outside of Northland for items as such. *I have to agree with Bronwyn, here we are paying this organisation with money from Northland ratepayers and where do they go shopping with Northland's money? Out of the region.....not acceptable.*

Cr Ian Walker gave some details of an organisation in Kaikohe that had developed a software package and offered to this organisation, at no cost, which had not been accepted. He wanted Colin to take this issue back to his board for consideration.

Time now at 1341hrs. Item No. 8.4. Environmental Management Committee – Confirmation of Appointment. (Pages 131-132)

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

There was no discussion on this item.

Time still at 1341hrs. Item No. 8.5. Environmental Management Committee – Formal Adoption of Whāngārei Harbour Water Quality Action Plan. (Pages 133-148)

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

Cr John Bain advised that there had been some improvements, due to public demands, that WDC had made on the Whangarei harbor and they should be congratulated. *John it only happened because of immense public pressure; nothing would have happened without that. The WDC were quite happy pumping raw untreated sewage into the waterways, streams and Whangarei harbour until people jumped up and down and protested through the streets and made submissions against them. I am bloody proud that I was one of those that took those actions; and I am still watching what they are up to.*

There was no added discussion on this item.

Cr Graeme Ramsey joined the meeting at 1342hrs.

Time now at 1343hrs. Item No. 8.6. Local Government Reform and Reorganisation – Options for Council. (Pages 149-270)

Moved by Craig Brown, seconded by Cr John Bain.

Cr Ian Walker made a number of comments that he was not comfortable with this process what so ever. It had been massive cost and there needed to be a much more comprehensive and business approach to this document.

Cr John Bain advised that he was happy to 2nd the recommendation because of No 5 in the recommendation. (Page 151)

Cr Tony Davies-Colley advised that he would like to leave out No 4 in the recommendation. (Page 151)

Craig Brown and Cr John Bain agreed they were happy to leave out No \$.

Cr Ian Walker advised that he had asked a question 'What is its objective?'

Kathryn Ross gave some details to clarify Ian's query.

Cr Joe Carr claimed that No 2 in the recommendation must be comprehensive.

Cr Graeme Ramsey commented that this was the worst report he had seen since being on this council. Here is a project we should be charged with and you want to put it out to consultants. I can't support this as we are not doing the job we were put there to do. I also have real issues about the methodology. I am not going to support this at all.

Cr Bronwyn Hunt advised that after listening to Cr Ramsey it had changed the report in her mind and she had concerns about independent consultants. *Might be o.k. if they get them from out of Northland. Only winding you up Bronny!*

Cr Tony Davies-Colley wished to thank Cr Ramsey for his political speech; suggesting he had only read some pages in the agenda, not all of them.

Craig Brown was to take advantage of his right of reply, claiming there had been moves in the North to change things; there is no duty that having 2 unitary authorities would be better.

Craig believed the biggest problem is a lack of willingness to work together and had been like that for some time. *Yep you are right; they all want to be King Pin.*

Cr Bronwyn Hunt was determined to have her say and insisted that Craig let her exercise her right to respond to comments made. Bronwyn continued "Don't make an assumption that all councilors believe that one unitary authority is right". *Ye Hah! Go Bronwyn.*

Time now at 1402hrs. Item No. 8.7. Northland Regional Council Navigation, Water Transport and Maritime Bylaw Charges 2013. (Pages 271-276)

Moved by?, seconded by?

Sorry I missed these ones as the big fat agenda fell apart and I wasn't really in the mood to scour the floor for 400 odd pages so wisely chose to repair the straining clips and missed who moved and seconded this item. Sometimes __ it happens.

There was no discussion on this item.

Time now at 1404hrs. Item No. 8.8. Draft Annual Plan 2013-2014 Approval to Consult. (Pages 277-284)

Moved by Cr Bronwyn Hunt, seconded by Cr Tony Davies-Colley.

There was some discussion over whose statement it was in the Draft Annual Plan. There has been some tension today since earlier Cr Walker claimed he had no confidence in Chairman Browns chairing and hadn't had for some time. *I would not be running to the either's letter box looking for Xmas cards from each other in anticipation.*

Cr Ian Walker claimed it was not Craig's wording in the Annual Plan.

Craig Brown conceded that it was a joint effort.

Cr Joe Carr had a query on page 281 bullet point 2 regards personnel costs for recruitment of staff for water quality improvement plans.

Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Operations Director, Tony Phipps gave details and clarification of how Dairy NZ and Fonterra were working on Land management and water quality management.

Time now at 1414hrs. Item No. 8.9. Variation 2 to Plan Change 1 (Moorings and Marinas) – Hearings Commissioner Recommendations to Council. (Pages 285-378)

Moved by Cr Bronwyn Hunt, seconded by Craig Brown.

Cr Ian Walker declared he had a conflict of interest on this item.

There was no discussion on this item.

Time still at 1410hrs. Item No. 8.10. Meetings Calendar 2013. (Pages 379-382)

Moved by Cr Bill Rossiter, seconded by Craig Brown.

There was no further discussion on this item.

Time now at 1415hrs. Item No. 8.11. Appointment of Back-up Regional On-Scene Commander for Northland. (Pages 383-384)

Moved by Cr Joe Carr, seconded by Cr Tony Davies-Colley.

There was no further discussion on this item.

Time still at 1415hrs. Item No. 8.12. Appointment of Honorary Enforcement Officer for Mangonui Harbour / Doubtless Bay.

(Pages 385-386)

Moved by Cr Bronwyn Hunt, seconded by Cr John Bain.

There was no further discussion on this item.

Time still at 1415hrs. Item No. 8.13. Northland Sailor of the Year 2012. (Pages 387-388)

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

Cr Bill Rossiter wished to nominate Cr Tony Davies-Colley as NRC's representative. Amidst comments that Tony didn't sail this nomination was because he had a boat.

Cr Graeme Ramsey commented that Tony sails very close to the wind.

Some weren't sure whether he had tack or no tack.

Time now at 1417hrs. Item No. 8.14. Awanui River Scheme Urgent Repair Works. (Pages 389-396)

Moved by Cr Bronwyn Hunt, seconded by Cr Graeme Ramsey.

Cr Joe Carr made some brief comment about costs on this project.

There was no further discussion on this item.

Time now at 1418hrs. Item No.8.15. New Zealand Oyster Industry Association Oyster Farm Proposed Alternative to Consent Bonds. (Pages 397-422)

Moved by Cr John Bain, seconded by Cr Tony Davies-Colley.

Craig Brown believed they should have consideration for this group as they had a bad year and they wanted some more time to attempt a better solution.

Cr John Bain wanted to move that this lie on the table till March 2013 for oyster farmers to come back to them with a way to move forward.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley claimed it had been going on for a long time and Northland Inc was working with them on it. *Maybe they (Northland Inc) can bring up some Bluff Oysters? They wouldn't want anything local would they?*

Tony Phipps gave some clarification and suggestions.

Regional Policy Senior Programme Manager, Kathryn Ross suggested that the cut off date would need to be 10 days in advance of a council meeting.

Time now at 1439hrs. Item No. 8.16. Waste Hazardous Chemical Collection and Disposal Service - Options to Completely Ending the Service. (Pages 423-428)

Moved by Cr Joe Carr, seconded by Craig Brown.

Cr Ian Walker thought TLA's (Territorial Local Authorities) weren't going to fund this and now we are going back to them.

Cr Joe Carr thought this was quite reasonable.

There was no further discussion on this item.

The meeting duly finished at 1442hrs, 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

It was exchanges of Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and we left them behind under a 'cone of silence'.

**We wish all staff and Councilors at the Northland
Regional Council a great Christmas and a safe and
enjoyable New Year.**

All the best for 2013. The year for change!

9.0 BUSINESS WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED (Pages 429-430)

9.1 Confidential Chief Executive Officer's Report to (Page 431-432)

9.2. Confirmation of Confidential Minutes

9.2.1 Confidential Minutes of the Council Meeting – 20 November 2012.
(Pages 433-438)

9.2.2 Confidential Minutes of the Audit and Finance Committee - 27 November 2012.
(Pages 439-448)

9.3 Approval to Incur Unbudgeted Expenditure (Pages 449-450)

9.4 Potential Commercial Property Investment (Pages 451-460)

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