

Northland Regional Council meeting - 18th October 2011

[LINK to appropriate Agenda.](#)

It was 1300hrs and it was off to a quick start as Chairman Craig Brown welcomed all to the meeting.

We had sat early before the meeting and watched as Dean Alderton, Building and Facilities Manager had systematically set all the tables up and placed all the microphones in place and switched them all on preceding the meeting. *It was interesting that the tables were placed across the chamber today, with some of the Councilors, with their backs to the public / media gallery. Wish we could have selected the ones to back us as some backs are better than fronts. We will just have to see if John Bain is still suffering from microphone phobia, or is it that he doesn't want to be heard?*

Item No.1.0 and apologies were received for Cr Graeme Ramsey.

Craig Brown begins the meeting reminding them that Item No. 2.0 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.

He continues in his own terminology "in an emergency out the door and down the stairs....or out the door and across the passage for other emergencies"
Don't you just love it; as this covers some general house-keeping, explaining the location of comfort stations to visitors and 'emergency evacuation procedures' and exits.

It had only taken 2 minutes and John 'microphone phobia' Bain had already disconnected from the sound network. Gee has he just knocked the switch by accident?

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

Presentation on Aquaculture Settlement Areas by the Aquaculture Unit (1.00pm) (1302hrs) Mat Bartholomew, Senior Aquaculture Analyst, for the Aquaculture Unit (ministry of Fisheries) gave a detailed presentation covering the process and core components of Settlement reform.

Many questions were fielded until Chairman Craig Brown, after his phone had rung, (*Choky Fish Craigy !!!!*) suggested 'let's have the presentation and ask questions after'.

Item No. 3.2 Representation from the Te Taitokerau Iwi Chairs Forum (3.00 pm with afternoon tea to follow) This item did not appear today.

Cr Joe Carr must have been socialising with JB as he appears to have caught the dreaded 'microphone phobia' lurgy as his light extinguishes at 1335hrs.

4.0 COUNCIL AND CEO'S OFFICE

It was now Item No. 4.1 Confirmation of Minutes – 20 September 2011 (1337hrs) there was no debate and this item required no discussion.

Item No. 4.2 Chairman's Report to Council still at 1338hrs.
No discussion was entered into on this item.

Item No. 4.3 Chief Executive Officer's Report to the Council at 1338hrs.

Cr Bronwyn Hunt had a query in regards to the NEST Update.

Cr John Bain informed that everything was in place; he was told it would be ready within the next week and it would be sent to council.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley had some comments (page 36) and believed council was getting into management issues. They needed to support the industry (*dairy & farming*) but needed to place the onus back on the industry to give them the opportunity to get their act together. (*Different sort of ACT than the 'cannabis supporter Brash', I think?*)

Chairman Craig Brown claimed 'there were arrogant players in an arrogant industry'.

Cr Joe Carr was concerned of the comments about the industry as there are some great working groups involved trying to make improvements.

Chairman Craig Brown informed he didn't mean to be offensive but there were problems.

Cr Ian Walker asked the Chair, Craig Brown, "Would you say the same about Local Government? Farming is a big contributor to the region"

Chairman Craig Brown claimed he would say it to anyone and continued that 33% need to pull their socks up.

[Link to Radio New Zealand 'Checkpoint' 19th October 2011](#) regarding this item.

5.0 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Item No 5.1 Oyster Shell Project (1352hrs)

Cr Ian Walker declared a 'conflict of interest', *something fishy?*

There was no discussion and it was on to the next item.

6.0 FINANCE AND IT

Item No. 6.1 Financial Report - 30 September 2011 (1353hrs) No discussion was entered into on this item.

Item No. 6.2 Adoption of the 2010-2011 Annual Report (1354hrs)

Cr Bill Rossiter informed that the outstanding liability for the Multi-Events-Centre Rugby Stadium had nine years to run. *What about all the profit from the two 'BIG' games in September; isn't that going to reduce the debt????? Read this item on pages 57 to 60 of the agenda to keep informed.*

Item No. 6.3 CHART Quarterly Report Against Key Performance Indicators and Funding (1355hrs) No discussion was entered into on this item.

Item No. 6.4 Awanui and Kaeo-Whangaroa Flood Schemes – Request for Variations to Approved Budgets (1355hrs)

Cr Bill Rossiter said he was shocked to see that the insurance figure had gone from \$8,000 to \$18,000. Oh, *are we earth-quake prone?*

Cr Bronwyn Hunt queried re the cost to collect rates.

Lisa Aubrey, General Manager Finance and IT, gave some detail on the collection costs.

Chairman Craig Brown clarified that every line that gets put on a rates bill incurs another charge to Regional Council from The District Councils. *Why doesn't Regional Council collect the rates for all district councils? Couldn't that be seen as sharing services?*

7.0 OPERATIONS

Item No. 7.1 Confirmation of Regional Transport Committee Minutes – 5 October 2011 (1400hrs)

Cr John Bain gave some details about discussions taking place regards Bay of Islands airport at Kerikeri.

Cr Joe Carr complimented the effort that Ken Rintoul had done on this issue and that he appeared to be making some progress.

Cr John Bain advised that there had been a very recent with Kiwi Rail and it looked like there may be light at the end of the tunnel. *Let's hope it's a train and not some 'gold digger' from the trucking industry looking after their own agenda, torch in hand.* He continued that some result could eventuate. *You are right John, some result will eventuate; let's just ensure it is the right result.*

John complimented the extremely good work, Vaughan Cooper, Growth and Infrastructure Manager had accomplished, working with Kiwi Rail's Development Manager. (Iain Hill, Kiwi Rail General Manager Freight, spoke on the [Turnaround Plan, High Cube Containers on Low Rider wagons to get through these tunnels](#) at last Tuesdays 'Save Our Rail Northland' meeting held at Forum North.)

Cr Tony Davies-Colley complemented the Regional Transport Committee on the Stock Effluent facilities, but asked what had happened to the Whangarei one?

Cr John Bain explained that the sub-committee was confident it will be built within the next quarter. *Do you think you can hang on till January, for a down load Tony?*

Cr Joe Carr complimented Cr John Bain (*told you they must have socialized*) and Steve Westgate who has worked on the Stock Effluent committee.

Cr Ian Walker was concerned that Kaitaia airport was at risk, through Treaty settlements. This could be an extreme cost on the Far North community. He believed this organisation (NRC) needs to place a stake in the ground regarding the protection of infrastructure such as airports. He recalled how Prime Minister John Key had visited Kaitaia before the last elections and as a business owner in Kaitaia he was asked by Mr Key what Kaitaia needed; His reply was 'infrastructure'. And here, now in election year, look what is happening with the airport? *I guess that can have an effect on how one votes?*

Cr John Bain advised that Far North Mayor Wayne Brown was taking concerns back to government.

Cr Joe Carr insisted that the airport, at Kaitaia, needs further investment.

Cr John Bain advised that \$35million would be required for development of an airport at Kaikohe, so it was best to concentrate on the Bay of Islands airport at Kerikeri.

Cr Ian Walker, making his point, claims 'we have a responsibility to defend the Kaitaia airport'. *Maybe they could sell a supermarket to fund it, Eh, Ian?*

Cr Bronwyn Hunt advised that she had learnt that Kerikeri flights were primarily 'business flights'.

Item No. 7.2 Consents Decisions and Progress on Notified Applications in Process, Objections and Appeals (1417 hrs) and this item required no discussion.

Item No. 7.3 Extension of Mangrove Management Support Programme (1417hrs)

A new item was tabled and it was Cr Ian Walker who claimed it was a very messy expensive business.

Cr John Bain had been given Cr Graeme Ramsey's 'proxy' vote for this item.

8.0 PLANNING AND POLICY

Item No 8.1 Confirmation of Regional Policy and Development Committee Minutes – 3 October 2011(1421hrs) No discussion was entered into on this item.

Item No 8.2 Draft New Regional Policy Statement (1422hrs)

Cr Ian Walker informed that the process was vigorous and we did some different things. We went through section 32 and did cost/analysis benefits.

Cr Joe Carr wanted to acknowledge the work done by many for this 'draft document'. The staff and district councils had created this document with harmony and consideration.

Chairman Craig Brown also complimented the staff for the good work and for being a 'little brave'.

Item No 8.3 Auckland Spatial Plan (1425hrs)

It was decided for the recommendation on page 112 that Deputy CEO/Operations Director Tony Phipps and Cr Tony Davies-Colley be the two delegated to approve the draft Auckland plan.

Cr Ian Walker commented "that Auckland churns wealth, it doesn't create it".

Sadly both Cr John Bain and Cr Joe Carr succumbed to the dreaded microphone phobia for the duration of this meeting rendering the lovely sound and visual system obsolete.

The meeting finished at 1429hrs, Chairman Craig Brown thanking those who attended and then the Councilors go into business with the public excluded.

9.0 BUSINESS WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED

9.1 Confirmation of Confidential Minutes – 20 September 2011

9.2 Northland Port Corporation (NZ) Ltd – Annual General Meeting

9.3 Request to Purchase Freehold Property

9.4 CHART Quarterly Report Against Key Performance Indicators and Funding