

Northland Regional Council meeting - 19th April 2011

There had been a morning workshop and lunch was still being finished off at 1300hrs by the attendees.

It was 1304hrs, when Chairman Craig Brown begins the meeting explaining the location of comfort stations to visitors and 'emergency evacuation procedures' and exits.

Apologies were received, Item No.1.0, for Cr Tony Davies-Colley and Cr Ian Walker.

There was mention by the meeting secretary of additional items for the confidential section of today's meeting.

A presentation on the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, Item No. 3.0 was covered well by Andrew Riddell, Community Relations Supervisor for the Department of Conservation. With DOC Conservator for Northland, Mr Chris Jenkin, present Andrew went through the changes the new Coastal Policy Statement included. These changes needed to be carried out "as soon as possible". There was an element of priority over some work. Mr Jenkin emphasized that the Coastal Marine area needed to be defined.

As Northland is such a coastal region the policy was more relevant to Northland than any other area.

Cr John Bain hoped that Policy 20 - Vehicle Access, was discussed with Territorial Authorities such as Far North District Council and Kaipara District Council.

Cr Joe Carr hoped Section 32 was used in the analysis. E.g. as costs to meet requirements as these could affect operational budgets.

In summing up Andrew believed fundamentally it was 'good Resource Management Practice' Cr Bronwyn Hunt commended Andrew on his presentation (*in good plain English and understandable by many*)

[LINK To New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010](#) - courtesy Department of Conservation.

It was now 1330hrs and Chairman Craig Brown reminds for 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.

It was now Item No. 4.1 (1330hrs) Confirmation of the previous minutes which required no discussion.

The Chairman's report, Item No. 4.2. At 1331hrs the chair was asked by Cr Graeme Ramsey 'How the mayoral forum went and was anything interesting discussed the previous day'. His response was 'it was very amicable and all were speaking on friendly terms'. In Craig's 'tongue in cheek manner' he commented it was a 'chat feist'.

Cr Graeme Ramsey asked but was there anything important and could the agenda/minutes be circulated.

Item No. 4.3, Chief Executive Report at 1332hrs

Cr Bill Rossiter was sure the major increase in Bus service usage (page 36) was due to fuel increases.

Cr Bronwyn Hunt a wider spread of regional examples to include the Far North and had an approach been made to other district councils for EnviroSchools (pg 23) funding.

Cr Graeme Ramsey wanted statistics on staff turnovers (pg 18)

Graeme Ramsey also had a query regarding the Regional Policy Statement (pg 25) and insisted that they 'take our community with us'. He also believed more information was required on the ETS Review (pg28). He continued in regards the Mangrove Management Support Programme (pg 39) and it was briefly mentioned.

Chair Craig Brown, snidely commented, that he would leave Cr John Bain to deal with the item on page 42 later. *Good call Craig, regarding the blank page mentioned. Could we possibly envisage helicopters doodled all over it?*

With time now at 1344hrs and Item No. 4.4 Code of Conduct

Cr Ramsey confirmed it was something that had been work-shopped but wished to thank the staff for the work that had gone into it.

Section 3.3 page 55 is interesting about democracy. Shame it wasn't in effect last term when some were asked not to compete in elections? Eh, JB?

It was now Item No. 4.5 Councillor Remuneration (1346hrs)

Cr Bill Rossiter believed the 15 kilometer travel was unfair on rural councilors and it would be a cost to them. *(Oh is it different when it hits your pocket, rather than the ratepayers?)*

In future, Mr Bain thought, maybe the Remuneration Authority would introduce exemptions and allow councilors to claim for time.

Craig suggested that it be left to Local Government.

Lisa Aubrey, General Manager Finance & IT, confirmed it was set by the Remuneration Authority.

Item No. 4.6 Signing of Property Deeds Under the Property Law Act 2007 at 1352hrs required no discussion and the recommendation duly accepted.

Still at 1352hrs Item No. 5.1 Financial Dashboard - 31 March 2011. This is a new item on the agenda and it was Cr Ramsey who wants more detailed information. He believed they need to come back to it. It is 'work in progress' and he is more than happy to contribute to it and felt they need to work on it a bit further.

Item No. 5.2 Financial Report - 31 March 2011.

Now at 1354hrs and Cr Ramsey shows interest in the capital expenditure on page 88.

Lisa Aubrey explained about the IT expenditure and how it had not been all spent to date and normally results in less expenditure. *(Good to see some careful budgeting and spending going on here Lisa)*

CEO Ken Patterson informed that the Audit and Finance Committee will do a spread sheet about IT expenditure, to clarify the situation. *(That's it Ken, sort it out. Sadly Ken is off to Tauranga shortly and we believe your services will be greatly missed. All, the best Ken on your new appointment)*

Item No. 5.3 Investment Schedule and Performance (pg 104) was all over and out at 1400hrs requiring no discussion.

Item No. 5.4 Paid Accounts for Approval March 2011 (pg109) also was over in a couple of seconds also requiring no discussion. *(All must be in order in the accounts department, just a formality)*

Schedule of Credit Notes for Approval, Item No. 5.5 at 1401hrs.

Cr Bill Rossiter, *thinks he's found a clanger believing there is a big mistake in the figures*, but Lisa Aubrey calmly explains how the figure was arrived at. *All clarified Bill? You can sleep now.*

Only a minute has ticked by and now it's Item No. 5.6 Lease transactions - March 2011 (pg 113) requires no discussion.

Item No. 6.1 Submission on Draft State Highway Classification on page 115.

Cr Joe Carr acknowledges Vaughan Cooper, Growth and Infrastructure Manager, for his help to the Transport Committee. *(Good on you Joe, we too have seen Vaughan Cooper at many meetings over the years representing the NRC on numerous issues and he has always been very professional with his comments and opinions. He maintains an extremely high standard and represents NRC competently. Sometimes it is easy to lose sight of or not notice good staff with the rate that everything happens.)*

Time now at 1403hrs, Item No 6.2 Receipt and Adoption of Minutes of Regional Transport Committee - 6 April 2011. (pg 119)

An amendment was required to the minutes. A query had been asked at the Mayoral Forum about the Donald Road Bridge being described as either a 'Limousine or Rolls Royce' project. It had been muted that it was being done for a flood mitigation purpose rather than a transport issue and this needed to be clarified. The Far North Mayor (Wayne Brown) required an answer to his assumptions.

Cr Joe Carr, more than happy to qualify, claimed it was originally proposed as a single lane bridge but now FNDC wanted a two-lane bridge with footpaths. Another frivolous claim was Brownie wanted it relocated near his subdivision? Don't know much but could this be feasible? Chairman Craig Brown insists that a factual answer is needed for the Far North District Council. Cr Bronwyn Hunt querying was there a time frame on the report for item No 3 on page 124 in relation to Bay of Islands Airport review.

It was both Councillor's Bain and Carr that clarified some of the issues that the Bay of Islands airport review was all about with the airport and the finances of it in regards to landing charges being needed to be charged to make it viable. There has been a change of directors of Far North Holdings.

Chair Craig Brown felt it best to wait for more information before making a decision and that there was continuing work being done.

Item 6.3 Consents Decisions and Progress on Notified Applications in Process, Objections and Appeals. (1415hrs)

Cr Bill Rossiter commented that 1/2 of the notified applications were from local bodies.

No discussion was required for Item No. 6.4 Appointment of Regional On-Scene Controller for Northland Region at 1415hrs.

On to Item No. 6.5 Warrants of Appointment: Resource Management Act 1991.

Cr Joe Carr expressed how good it was to see sensible people in these roles.

Cr John Bain made mention that he was happy to support this item as he knows two of the 3 people. *Is that a recommendation, or what, knowing John?*

Item No. 7.1 Annual Plan Meeting Schedule 2011-2012. (1417hrs)

Chairman Craig Brown confirmed it was no problem travelling to outer areas for hearings on the Annual Plan.

Cr Bill Rossiter, in his normal wealth of knowledge, states "that the Kaeo hall is quite warm". *Does he know this from his younger days as a traffic Officer and having to bunk down somewhere? Don't know if you realise Bill, but it can also get quite wet at times, so hang on to that for your next contribution.,*

Emissions Trading Scheme Review, Item No. 7.2 (page141) time now at 1419hrs.

Cr Joe Carr believed they had missed an opportunity, but had failed to recognize 'carbon cycles'. The production of Methane and CO2 was basically the same as the process of photosynthesis.

Cr Graeme Ramsey stated the Scheme relies upon Market Forces. There was a fundamental problem with the scheme and the approach. *(How right you are Graeme, It's just another plan to make those in the right circles a little fatter at the expense of the real people. It's possibly the closest thing to 'Heifer Dust' that you will ever find)*

Cr John Bain claimed he was an avid watcher of the Australian situation and it was going to be fought with difficulty. *(And I thought you only read 'Australian Aircraft for Sale Magazines')*

Item No.7.3 New Regional Policy Statement for Northland (@1423hrs)

Cr Joe Carr had some concerns about this project.

Cr Graeme Ramsey felt after today's presentation by the Department of Conservation on the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement that they (NRC) may have to visit this plan.

Kathryn Ross, GM Planning and Policy clarified some of the details and agreed that staff need to take on the political desires and technical aspects of the plan during its revision.

National Policy Statement for Biodiversity, Item No.7.4 (page 155)

Cr Joe Carr believed the word "immediately" needed to be removed from top of page 184 and there were a couple of other minor changes.

Cr Ramsey confirmed there were a couple of 'typo errors'

CEO Ken Patterson suggested that the group of four could meet and discuss the needed changes.

Kathryn Ross, again so willingly to remedy issues, suggests they get together straight after the meeting.

Ken Patterson claims that is what he said. *(Gosh is that how an accent can change the meanings and we thought we had got used to it and he is about to go?)*

Item No. 8.1, 1434hrs, Northland Regional Council 2011 Environmental Curriculum Awards and it was over as quick as you could say it with no discussion required.

Chairman Craig Brown is about to close the meeting when Mr Bain explains a 'black tie ' event for the Mayoral Benefit Concert that he felt some councilors should be seen to be supporting. *With only black ties it sure could be interesting and will the Mayor be there as he is only on two hours a day?*

The meeting finished at 1437hrs, the councilors then going into business with the public excluded.

[LINK to appropriate Agenda.](#)