

Northland Regional Council meeting – 19th June 2012

[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.

Cr Shelley Deeming and Deputy Mayor Cr Phil Halse were today in the public gallery. *Not being regular attendees here, you have to wonder if they had come to see a fine example of how a meeting is run or how ratepayers are treated by the NRC elected. No they are there to watch an item on the agenda (Item No. 4.4) regarding land that just so happens to be across the road from Phil's property.*

Chairman Craig Brown asks that we all pay our respect and stand for a moments silence as an acknowledgement of the recent bereavement of Ex CEO Ken Paterson who passed away on Sunday evening in his sleep. All present rose to their feet and stood for a period of silence, as a mark of respect in remembrance of Ken.

[Link to Northern Advocate Ken Patterson article.](#) 19th June 2012.

Our regards go to Kens family and friends. Ken was a CEO who always had the time to give a smile and say a hello when we attended council meetings at the NRC. May he rest in peace.

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 case by case.

Item No. 3.0 PRESENTATIONS

There are no presentations scheduled for this meeting

4.0 COUNCIL AND CEO'S OFFICE

Item No. 4.1 Confirmation of Minutes – 15 May 2012 (1302hrs)

Moved by Cr Joe Carr, seconded by Cr Bill Rossiter.
No discussion was entered into on this item.

Item No. 4.2 Chairman's Report to Council (1303hrs)

Moved by Craig Brown, seconded by Cr John Bain.

Cr Graeme Ramsey wanted to know more about Craig's meeting with Steve Ruru and John Bain re Kaipara District Council issues (Page 11)

Craig Brown advised they had offered assistance to Kaipara as a gesture from the NRC in being able to give advice etc., if it was wanted. *It's about working together.*

I just noticed that both Cr John Bain and Cr Bill Rossiter have their microphones turned off. It was always John with micro phobia having his microphone turned off; one has to wonder if Bill has contracted the same problem. Is it really contagious?

Time at 1304hrs. Item No.4.3 Chief Executive Officer's Report to Council

Moved by Craig Brown, seconded by Cr Ian Walker.

Cr Ian Walker had a question (Page 14) regarding mangroves. He felt these people were doing fantastic things with the harbour at Mangawhai; and he felt they were being given the run around.

Chairman Craig Brown gave some details to the issue confirming the process was ongoing.

Cr Ian Walker confirmed 'it was arduous, ongoing and long going'.

Craig Brown explained that they were given advice but failed to take heed of that advice.

Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Operations Director, Tony Phipps advised that the statutory documents are there about mangrove management. They are legal documents that all parties are faced with.

Cr Ian Walker insisted 'that they must put a line in the sand'. *They did Ian, but you possibly can't see it for mangroves.*

Cr Joe Carr queried the Ministry for the Environment Regulations, page 24 & 25, where it claimed Regional Councils are not involved with this issue.

Regional Policy Senior Programme Manager, Kathryn Ross, gave some clarification Cr Bronwyn Hunt in reference to the Meetings on page 19. She complimented CEO Malcolm Nicholson in the way he made a presentation to the Human Rights Commission.

Cr Ian Walker, in regards to Farm dairy effluent (FDE) had concerns if monitoring is even and consistent. He insisted that 'they compare apples with apples and not apples with vegetables when reporting to central government so they are treated fairly'.

CEO Malcolm Nicholson advised that they must focus on achieving the correct outcomes, equating across the region.

Tony Phipps explained that the national audit was to improve consistency.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley felt that the image of the industry is at stake; it must be reported fairly and the way we portray the industry is very important as this industry is important to our economy.

Cr Joe Carr claimed that most dairy farms have a 90 day storage capacity for effluent; we don't require that for human effluent. *You are so right Joe, many councils don't have sewerage systems that cope with their demand but continue to waste money on far less important projects while continuing to discharge into our precious environment. Eg. Streams, rivers and harbours. Don' get me started.*

Cr Graeme Ramsey wanted to make a comment to staff; that a request was to supply slimmer agendas and he believed they had failed. He also commented on how Auckland had slipped behind in supporting the Kaipara Harbour group and asked that Whangarei District Council also support NRC trying to get Auckland to move it on. *Send Morris down, he's a real mover and shaker.....Yeah right, best you don't rely on them.* Graeme also questioned the low response to the Wetland project (Page 36) with only six out of eighty replying.

Tony Phipps gave some details on how those figures could differ.

Cr John Bain had a question on aquaculture and was duly answered by Craig Brown.

Item No. 4.4 Flyger Road Development Options (1325hrs)

Moved by Cr Ian Walker, seconded by Cr Bill Rossiter

Cr Ramsey had a query re the submissions requesting this property for a shooting range.

CEO Malcolm Nicholson gave some details.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley claimed there was not enough information available at present to make any decisions.

CEO Malcolm Nicholson confirmed that was correct, they don't have the information and need to see all interested parties who must come to council with expressions of interest.

Craig Brown reminds them that they have been through a LTP (Long Term Plan) process, a hearing process and a decision process. The decision was not to proceed at this stage but continue to work with the interested parties. They had a responsibility with public owned property in a responsible manner. When disposing of land we must make people aware of the options.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley queried if the 'poplar tree nursery' will complicate this block? Craig Brown confirmed they must protect the public ownership and he intends to do this.

Cr Ian Walker interjects 'Let's cut to the chase; we want expressions of interest'.

Time now at 1335hrs. Item No. 4.5 Vehicle Policy

Cr Bill Rossiter advises that there needs to be some changes to the replacement of vehicles clause and also suppliers should read 'approved outlets and suppliers' as things can change depending on supply and price.

Tony Phipps informed that he had received information from Fleet Smart in regards to items in this policy.

CEO Malcolm Nicholson confirmed that longer terms for replacement were desirable for specialised vehicles being set up hence it was more viable and better value.

Cr Joe Carr felt there should be some changes to the Chairman's and CEO's vehicle clauses. *Don't think a Fiat 500 would really be that great for CB, or a Ducati for MN.*

Item No. 4.6 Document Executed Under Council Seal (1343hrs)

No discussion was entered into on this item

5.0 FINANCE AND IT

Time still at 1343hrs. Item No.5.1 Financial Report – 31 May 2012

Cr Ian Walker queried about the tracking ahead of budget on page 63.

CEO Malcolm Nicholson explained it was a trend towards the end of the financial year.

Time at 1344hrs. Item No.5.2 Schedule of Credit Notes for Approval

No discussion was entered into on this item

Item No.5.3 (1345hrs) Schedule of Bad Debt Write Offs for Approval

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

There was brief discussion about a car in a stream (Page 77)

Time still at 1345hrs. Item No.5.4 Invitation for Council to Become a Shareholder in Civic Assurance

Moved by Cr Graeme Ramsey, seconded by Cr Ian Walker

No discussion was entered into on this item.

6.0 OPERATIONS

Time still at 1345hrs. Item No.6.1 Northland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Minutes – 5 June 2012

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

Cr Joe Carr informed the meeting that it was great how all councils in Northland can work together in the Northland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.

Time still at 1349hrs. Item No.6.2 Regional Transport Committee Minutes – 6 June 2012

Moved by Cr John Bain, seconded by Cr Joe Carr.

It was discussed how well the informal forum at the end of the last Regional Transport Committee meeting had gone with Mr Stephen Town, NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) representative discussing some very good information. Stephen is working extremely well with this group.

Craig Brown confirmed the forum was a great initiative and was to be commended. Cr John Bain advised that NZTA had been very helpful in regards to the new highways to the North.

Item No.6.3 Consents Decisions and Progress on Notified Applications in Process, Objections and Appeals (1354hrs)

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

No discussion was entered into on this item.

Time now at 1355hrs. Item No.6.4 Waikare Inlet Oyster Farm Clean-up – Lifting Lease Forfeiture Notices and Delaying Imposing Bond Requirement

Moved by Craig Brown, seconded by Cr Joe Carr.

Cr Joe Carr suggested that they be very careful with this one and watch our budget. CEO Malcolm Nicholson gave some details as to the funding available.

Item No.6.5 (1400hrs) Northland Regional Land Transport Programme 2012-2015

Cr Joe Carr informed that it was a unanimous consensus that all councils involved agreed that the Portland / Loop Road / State Highway 1/ Maungakaramea intersection was of the utmost concern and was to be a main project. He confirmed the \$40million had been spent on the Mangakahia route and the intersection on to State Highway 1 must be kept safe.

Cr John Bain wanted to congratulate the NRC staff in the roading department as they worked well with NZTA. (NZ Transport Agency)

Cr Graeme Ramsey queried that there was nothing in the funding regards walkways and cycle ways after the numerous submissions received on this.

Cr John Bain advised that Government was reviewing walkways and cycle ways.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley thought that had to allocate some budget to it.

Cr Joe Carr advised that it was up to the T/A's (Territorial Authorities / District Councils) to apply for funding from government, we can't make them apply or allocate funding.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley wanted confirmation that it wasn't in the Regional council Plan because T/A's haven't got it in their plan. *Tony was shaking his head in a disapproval / can't believe it manner, obviously disappointed in this result.*

Craig Brown gave some clarification on the process of funding and subsidies.

Cr Graeme Ramsey queried rural roading funding. *It is a bit like Old Mother Hubbard's cupboard; the funding cupboard is bare.*

Cr John Bain gave some explanation.

Item No.6.6 Navigation Safety Bylaw Review – Committee Recommendations to Council (1412hrs)

No discussion was entered into on this item.

Item No.6.7 Warrants of Appointment: Resource Management Act 1991 (1413hrs)

Moved by Cr Ian Walker, seconded by Cr Bronwyn Hunt.

No discussion was entered into on this item.

7.0 PLANNING AND POLICY

Item No. 7.1 Receipt of Regional Policy Committee Minutes – 14 May 2012 (1414hrs)

Moved by Cr Ian Walker, seconded by Cr Bill Rossiter.

No discussion was entered into on this item

Time still at 1414hrs. Item No. 7.2 Variation 2 to Plan Change 1 (Moorings and Marinas) to the Regional Coastal Plan and Moorings and Marinas Strategy

Moved by Cr Bronwyn Hunt, seconded by Craig Brown

No discussion was entered into on this item.

The meeting was about to go into business with the public excluded but there was to be an interruption to the proceedings.

Cr Joe Carr felt that all items excluding 8.4 and 8.5 could be confidential.

Regional Policy Senior Programme Manager, Kathryn Ross explained that as there was the potential to discuss a price on the items there was a change putting it into the public arena may cause issues.

Tony Phipps advised that both of those items contained the same figures and should be treated in the same way.

Cr Joe Carr insisted that it should be done to show the public that they will do some services in capital infrastructure.

Tony Phipps advised that the purchase process will be a public process.

Cr Joe Carr informed, under caution from the chair, that there were two professional services here and they could get a more competitive amount by going public.

Cr Graeme Ramsey supported going confidential by saying he thought Kathy's argument was valid.

Kathryn Ross gave some details to satisfy Joe's concerns.

It was subsequently moved by Cr Tony Davies-Colley and seconded by Cr Bill Rossiter to go into confidential.

The meeting duly finished at 1419hrs, Chairman Craig Brown thanking those who attended and then the Councilors went into business with the public excluded.

8.0 BUSINESS WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED

Item No. 8.1 Confirmation of Confidential Minutes – 15 May 2012

Item No. 8.2 KiwiRail Update

Item No. 8.3 Initial Proposal – Opuia Marina Stage 2 Development

Item No. 8.4 CAPEX Requirement for Project Oyster Shell

Item No. 8.5 Project Oyster Shell – Update – Approval of Further Expenditure

Item No. 8.6 Council Endowment Land