

Northland Regional Council meeting – 20th November 2012

[LINK to appropriate Agenda.](#)

It was 1300hrs and Chairman Craig Brown welcomed to the meeting, members of the public and interested parties.

Craig asked that they allowed the meeting to progress in an orderly manner.

1.0. APOLOGIES

Item No.1.0 and there were no apologies and these were duly moved.

Craig continued and explained the ‘house rules’, explaining the emergency exits and position of rest room facilities. He added that in an emergency to follow the fastest exiting; that would probably be Joe (Carr) and Graeme (Ramsey). The room was subjected to a few laughs to this comment. *What about Joe? Didn’t he do the ½ marathon? We all might not keep up with him.*

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

Item No. 3.1 Economic Impact of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Sector in the Northland Region – Christopher Carey – CEO Chart North (Page1-2)

Craig advised this presentation had been postponed to a later date and hence removed from today’s agenda.

Time now at 1301hrs. Item No. 3.2 Update from New Zealand Petroleum and Minerals (Page 3-4)

Mr David Crawford, ([Link to David Crawford on LinkedIn](#)) from New Zealand Petroleum and Minerals gave a brief on what has been happening to date to a chamber filled with a number of placard wielding citizens whose signs portrayed the messages of deep concern about ‘Toxic Mining’ and the possible effects to our precious environment. These people took a number of photographs, some with flashes of the presenter and councilors as some pertinent statements were made and questions asked. None of the Northland Regional Councillors or their staff were alarmed at the taking of photographs. *A total contrast to the reaction that occurred last week over the fence at a Whangarei District Council Infrastructure meeting when members in the public gallery were told that had to seek permission prior to taking photographs as per ‘meeting protocol’ which does not appear to be readily available. Strange isn’t it, a public meeting, in a public place, in a building owned by the public, of people elected by the public, discussing public business, on behalf of the public and you*

have to obtain permission? Maybe the NRC has nothing to hide and their members don't doze off and fear of being captured on record?

David explained the process to date; the last day for bidding was 19th November and there was to be a bid evaluation period and then a release for tenders. He advised there had been a marketing program where opportunities had been promoted for companies who may wish to be involved. The interest had been accepted with approximately 150 sets of papers being distributed to interested parties.

Questions were fielded from Cr Joe Carr, Cr Bronwyn Hunt and Cr Graeme Ramsey. Cr Graeme Ramsey wanted to know what financial liability process would be in place for example to protect the environment from leaking mercury into the environment.

Craig Brown wanted clarification on private and crown land access for mining.

Cr Ian Walker queried how the resource consent processes would be undertaken.

Cr John Bain had questions on the time frames.

David Crawford gave answers to all the questions and advised that it would be a long term process and unlikely to see anything start before 10 years.

Craig Brown thanked David for his presentation adding that it would be nice for Council to be kept informed of progress, especially after the tenders close in April next year.

It was interesting that one of the people who had come along for this item made comment about not being able to hear the proceedings and questions and if the microphones were in fact, working? *Good point! Regularly Cr Bain turns his microphone off and attempts to wring the microphones neck by steering it in any direction but toward himself, but he may of course suffer from microphone phobia? Others appear to be following his stance, maybe if they don't want to be heard they should not have stood for election?*

Another interesting observation was how Chair Craig Brown thanked those who had attended to view their opinions on Toxic Mining and how well they had behaved being responsible and respectful to the running of the meeting. Many of this group left after this item. Some stayed to watch further items being discussed.

OPERATIONAL REPORTS

4.0 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO COUNCIL (Pages 5-6) (1324hrs)

Moved by Craig Brown, seconded by Cr Graeme Ramsey.

No discussion was entered into on this item.

5.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL (Pages 7-60)

Item No. 5.1. 5.1 Community Representation and Engagement (Page 7)

Item No. 5.2. 5.2 Economic Development (Page 9)

Item No. 5.3. 5.3 Resource Management (Page 10)

Item No. 5.4. River Management (Page 21)

Item No. 5.5. Hazard Management (Page 24)

Item No. 5.6. Transport (Page 26)

Item No. 5.7. Support Services (Page 30)

These reports were moved by Craig Brown, seconded by Cr Bill Rossiter with the time still at 1324hrs.

Discussion in relation to the reports above commenced.

CEO Malcolm Nicholson gave some details about the 'Efficiency Taskforce' (Page 7)

He also commented on Abatement Notices (Page17) then invited a guest forward to give a presentation, with councilor's approval, on Enviroschools Northland Expo 2012 "Christmas in the Bush" production.

[Link to](#) video. (Check out the lovely Cr Bronwyn Hunt who *co-stars at 2.21 and 3.22 minutes in video.*) Thanks to Magic Playhouse website for the link.

Questions and comments were made by Cr Bronwyn Hunt and Cr Graeme Ramsey.

Back to the Item and Cr Bronwyn Hunt wanted some clarification on Kaimaumau Swamp (Page 17) and the costs of the project to date.

Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Operations Director, Tony Phipps gave some details with more to follow.

It was 1339 hrs and it was the cellphone of Cr Carr that interrupted the meeting; *was it a call asking why he wasn't in the marathon?*

Cr Bronwyn Hunt wished to clarify the comments in Para 4 (Page34) believing some information was not accurate. (*And she will know*)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=TLozgcDNsOg had a query on Resource Management Act item (Page 10, Para 1)

CEO Malcolm Nicholson gave some clarification.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley added that he had concerns about the use of 'due course' in the wording and wanted more definite time frames.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley continued giving some clarification to Whangarei District Draft Rural development Strategy (Page 12) and how he and Cr Carr had not agreed on all points of the submission.

Chair Craig Brown gave some added details to this process.

There was quite a robust discussion between Cr Joe Carr, Cr Tony Davies-Colley, Craig Brown and Cr Ian Walker on this subject.

This was duly quelled by the chair advising it had been submitted and councilors need to be accountable for the undertakings they offer their services to. *End of Story, let's move on.*

Cr Graeme Ramsey had a query on the appointment of a staff member D.J. and had this added to the staff count? Graeme tends to closely watch budgets and hence this query was about where the funding was coming from and what affect it had on other departments.

CEO Malcolm Nicholson gave some clarification.

Cr Graeme Ramsey wanted more details on the video conferencing facilities they had been investigating.

Cr John Bain interrupted claiming there were some concerns over legalities. *Gee John, will you be looking for a step ladder to turn the projector away from your direction? I don't know why you have a fear of being clearly seen or heard as you make many very valid comments and can be a valuable member of council. Just a shame we can't hear everything.*

Lisa Aubrey, General Manager Finance and IT, gave details of the investigation into its cost efficiency. *NB. The Far North District Council has a brilliant set up and can video conference to its Community Board/ and or Councillors out of the confines of the chamber. Yes it can be done.*

[Link to Taupo District Council](#) video links of meetings. Seems they have nothing to hide.

Link to Taupo District Council Live Webcam [news release](#). Been doing this since September 2010.

GOVERNANCE MATTERS

6.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Time now at 1403hrs. Item No. 6.1. 6.1 Minutes of the Council Meeting – 16 October 2012
(Pages 61-74)

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

No discussion was entered into on this item.

Time still at 1403hrs. Item No. 6.2 6.2 Minutes of the Environmental Management Committee – 16 October 2012 (Pages 75-82)

Moved by Cr Graeme Ramsey, seconded by Cr Joe Carr.

Cr Joe Carr advised that they Environment Committee had had their trip to the Waikato region.

There was no further discussion was had on this item.

Time now at 1404hrs. Item No. 6.3. 6.3 Minutes of the Special Council Meeting – 30 October 2012 (Pages 83-94)

Moved by Craig Brown, seconded Cr John Bain.

Cr Bill Rossiter claimed that there was an error on the minutes from Confidential Supplementary Item (16 October 2012) (page 86) as he was not present at that meeting and had not seconded the item. *There is some integrity for you.*

That's most interesting. over the fence (the Mayor), moved the following at WDC District Living Committee meeting on 14th November 2012, "That the minutes of the meeting of the District Living Committee held on Wednesday 10 October 2012 having been circulated, be taken as read and now confirmed and adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings of that meeting." That someone, 'Morris Cutforth' was not present at that meeting as the minutes clearly state so how can they state what they have, honestly? Now you know why they wouldn't want webcasting.....the 'silent majority' would get to see how d_p_y h_ r_a_ly i_.

There was no added discussion into on this item.

7.0 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Time at 1406hrs. Item No.7.1. 7.1 Financial Report – 31 October 2012 (Pages 95-106)

Moved Cr Bill Rossiter, seconded by Cr Ian Walker.

No discussion was entered into on this item.

Time still at 1406hrs. Item No. 7.2 Council Bank Accounts – Cheque Signatory Delegations (Pages 107-108)

Moved Craig Brown, seconded by?

Couldn't hear, maybe it was someone with their microphone off?

No discussion was entered into on this item.

8.0 DECISION MAKING MATTERS

Time now at 1406hrs. Item No. 8.1 Appointment of Regional On-Scene Commander for Northland (Pages 109-110)

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

No discussion was entered into on this item.

Time now at 1407hrs. Item No 8.2. 8.2 Warrants of Appointment: Resource Management Act 1991 (Pages 111-112)

Moved by Cr Bill Rossiter, seconded by Craig Brown.

Cr Bill Rossiter commented that he trusted that staff were being adequately trained before going on farms as to the dangers that bulls and cows can be at certain times of the year and that they had the added precautions that were needed.

Cr John Bain asked “what added precautions?” *Maybe some good running shoes and not ‘gay’ Red shirts as the Prime Minister would expect his opposition to wear.*

There was no further discussion on this item.

Time at 1409hrs. Item No. 8.3. 8.3 Proposed Trial Mangawhai Public Passenger Transport Service (Pages 113-116)

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

Chris Powell, Transport Operations Senior Programme Manager advised he was more than happy to answer any questions to the report and gave details of the meeting that was held at Mangawhai.

Cr Graeme Ramsey claims he was surprised at seeing this item and asked where did the route go?.

Chris Powell gave details of the planned route for this service.

Craig Brown queried the ‘rate returns’ from the Kaipara to the NRC

Cr Ian Walker advised that the rates from Kaipara were still under discussion even though rates had been struck. You have a group that doesn’t want all these increased costs in Mangawhai and now we are putting in increased services that ‘someone’ will have to pay for. Chris Powell advised that this trial was for the Christmas period. *Will the bus look like a sleigh?*

CEO Malcolm Nicholson gave more clarification to this project.

Craig Brown asked the CEO what his recommendation was. *Was this tongue in cheek?* Malcolm Nicholson responded that he believed it was unbudgeted spending on core services.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley asked if this was ‘spending on tourism’ as *it was catering for holiday makers more than locals*, because if that was the case he was not happy with that.

He ended this item.

Time now at 1420hrs. Item No. 8.4 Kaipara Harbour Joint Political Committee (Pages 117-118)

Moved by Craig Brown, seconded by Cr John Bain.

Craig advised this was formalizing this item.

There was no further discussion on this item.

The meeting duly finished at 1422hrs, 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 Graeme Ramsey.

- 9.0 BUSINESS WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED** (Pages 119-120)
- 9.1 Chief Executive Officer's Confidential Report to Council (Pages 121-124)
- 9.2. Confirmation of Confidential Minutes
- 9.2.1 Confidential Minutes of the Council Meeting – 16 October 2012 (Pages 125-130)
- 9.3 Update on Property Purchase for Whāngārei Detention Dam Site (Pages 131-134)
- 9.4 Kaeo Flood Scheme Acquiring Land Use Rights Update (Pages 135-138)
- 9.5 Kotuku Street Flood Detention Dam – Acquiring Land for Essential Works
(Page 139-141)

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