

Northland Regional Council meeting – 21st February 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.

The meeting hadn't even started and after explaining that the meeting was being recorded, with a technician present through-out the meeting, it was noticeable that Cr John Bain has already hit the off button. Obviously still suffering from microphone phobia or don't you want us to hear your comments? What have you really got to hide? Keep us in suspense.

1.0 APOLOGIES

Item No.1.0 and there were no apologies.

Chairman Craig Brown advised that there were additional amendments to Items No. 4.7 and Item No. 7.1 and these were available.

It was now straight into Item **3.0 PRESENTATIONS**

3.1 Northland Sailor of the Year 2011(1300hrs)

Regional Harbourmaster & Maritime Senior Programme Manager, Jim Lyle introduced today's recipients of the Northland Sailor of the Year 2011 award; Andrew Murdoch and Blair Tuke were both jointly awarded this award. Both of these sailors started sailing at very young ages and now are about to represent New Zealand at the London Olympics this year. Congratulations to you both; the fine trophy will stand proud at the Kerikeri Cruising Club.

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.

4.0 COUNCIL AND CEO'S OFFICE

Item No. 4.1 Confirmation of Minutes – 13 December 2011 (1307hrs)

Cr Joe Carr queried Item No. 8.3 (Page 15) re the update on Joint Venture between KiwiRail and Council and whether it had yet gone public.

It was advised that the CEO's of NRC and KiwiRail were to meet in approximately two weeks time to discuss this.

There was no further discussion on this item.

Item No.4.2 Chairman's Report to Council (1310hrs)

Cr Graeme Ramsey had a query re 'L W Nelson Trust meeting' (Page 17) and Craig Brown gave some information on this.

Time still at 1310 hrs. Item No.4.3 Chief Executive Officer's Report to Council.

A question was raised re the Airborne Geophysical survey that had been conducted (page 21) CEO Malcolm Nicholson advised that as discussed at the Mayoral forum, Enterprise Northland was developing a marketing plan and would take a business plan out to the public. Mayor Wayne Brown (FNDC) is the spokesperson for this. The NRC was the chosen suitable vehicle to control expenses. Vaughan Cooper, Growth and Infrastructure Manager advised that the Geotechnical data was to be available on May 17th and would be released in Paihia then.

Cr Graeme Ramsey had some concerns with the consultation process.

Vaughan Cooper, in response, gave some details on this.

Cr Bronwyn Hunt had queries regarding the cost of fares for Mayor Wayne Brown in the trip to Canada to attend the Mineral Conference. *As mayor Brown has publicly said, he will take the message....Northland is open for business.*

CEO Malcolm Nicholson advised that there had been a \$40,000-00 fund budgeted, with \$17,000-00 from both the Far North District Council and Northland Regional Council plus \$6,000-00 from the crown. Further funding had been requested but they were waiting for more details before any action was to be taken.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley had queries re the 'marketing' of the project. *You are probably not the only one Tony.*

Craig Brown confirmed that at the Mayoral forum they had decided on a central place to have control and that was the NRC. Any funding would be examined very closely; Malcolm can approve under delegated authority, but it will come before council.

Cr Bronwyn Hunt had concerns if they were getting value for money; should the dollars be being spent best locally, informing our constituents. *You are so right Bronwyn, sometimes constituents don't even appear on the radar for some councilors till its voting time.*

Craig Brown informed that the person going to Canada has been invited as he had spoken well on this subject. *Pretty good deal, speak well and get an expense paid trip for one of the boys. Didn't some of our parliamentarians get exposed for this?*

Cr Joe Carr showed concern that 'we haven't had an open process as yet'.

Craig Brown, quick in response, 'when the question has been asked, the process will start. There had been approval at the Mayoral Forum to control the funding'. *Strange, I thought it was said the Mayoral Forum was not an Official meeting. Are there minutes, Graham Ramsey, you will know?* Craig continued that Mayor Brown was invited by government agencies to attend. *Is that because he will undertake what is their agenda?*

Cr Ian Walker expressed his concern and hoped Enterprise Northland had the appropriate expertise to drive this project. *Ian, I think from many comments received, that others too have those concerns.*

Cr Bronwyn Hunt had some queries (Page 45) in regards to Community Response Plans particularly in the Far North.

Cr Joe Carr, in response, gave details on this issue.

Cr Bronwyn Hunt also had a question in regards to funding for the Cobham Road Bridge. (Page 49)

Cr Tony Davies-Colley made comment regards the poplar poles (Page 47) and believed that it should be from local suppliers and that they should promote business being grown in Northland.

Cr Graeme Ramsey

Regional Policy Senior Programme Manager, Kathryn Ross

Cr Graeme Ramsey had some queries in relation to the National marine park proposal (Page 30)

Regional Policy Senior Programme Manager, Kathryn Ross gave some of the details on this proposal; in short there didn't seem to be a lot of support for it.

Cr Graeme Ramsey (Page 47) hoped that with the wetlands they needed to look at a process with a better rate of return to their wetland management feedback.

Cr Bronwyn Hunt was asking 'where to from here?' in regards to settlements in Northland and they needed to meet with Malcolm to follow it up.

Kathryn Ross gave an update on some of the settlement processes.

Cr John Bain (Page 44) the issue on Road safety; he wished to compliment the police on safety issues in regards to the low number of road deaths last year. Sadly in the first two months of this year they had nearly equaled last years road death total.

Item No.4.4 Meetings Calendar 2012 Update (1351hrs)

No discussion was entered into on this item.

Item No.4.5 Bay of Islands Airport - Funding Contribution (1352hrs)

Cr Joe Carr suggested that they pause on this item. The developments in place will make the airport functional for 20 years; it will not make it an international airport.

Cr Ian Walker informed that up till last night when he attended a Far North Holdings meeting no one had made contact with the owners of the airport (Far North Holdings) in regards to this funding.

Cr John Bain gave detail of the Transport Committee forming of a sub-committee for this project of Airport discussion. He felt what Ian Walker had said could damage the whole perspective of this item. *Well then maybe communication to the owners should have been better from all those involved; Ian can only tell it, as he has heard it.*

Craig Brown suggested that with the support of councillors, that this item then lie on the table, as all issues raised needed to be discussed before the next council meeting in the interests of the betterment of it for Northland.

Item No.4.6 Navigation Safety Bylaw Update (1402hrs)

There was quite a bit of discussion on this particular item as Conflicts of Interest seemed to be a hot topic. Because a number of Councillors either own or lease either marinas, pile moorings or swing moorings there were potential conflicts. *I didn't hear any of them that they were involved in kite boarding, so don't think that was an issue.* This is an issue that should be closely watched as 514 submissions had been received so these are very sensitive issues.

I want to add it was very pleasing to see how openly the potential conflicts of interest in this issue were discussed.

Item No.4.7 Te Uri o Hau and Northland Regional Council Draft Memorandum of Understanding (1416hrs)

Cr Bronwyn Hunt queried (Page 78) why has the Treaty of Waitangi only been mentioned. Te Tiriti o Waitangi is often referred to and acknowledged by many Maori, as the Treaty.

Rachael Ropiha, Iwi Liaison Officer gave some clarification to this.

5.0 FINANCE AND IT

Item No.5.1 Financial Report - 31 January 2012 (1432hrs) (Page 85)

No discussion was entered into on this item.

Item No.5.2 Council Bank Accounts - Cheque Signatories Delegations (1433hrs)

Cr Graeme Ramsey asked for a couple of alterations to clause 3 and 4 on this item to change it to two signatories.

Lisa Aubrey, General Manager Finance and IT clarified some of the reasons for and against the changes and this was dealt with accordingly.

6.0 OPERATIONS

Item No.6.1 Receipt of Regional Transport Committee Minutes – 1 February 2012 (1435hrs)

No discussion was entered into on this item.

Item No.6.2 Consents Decisions and Progress on Notified Applications in Process, Objections and Appeals (1436hrs)

No discussion was entered into on this item.

7.0 PLANNING AND POLICY

Item No.7.1 Receipt of Regional Policy Committee Minutes – 13 February 2012 (1436hrs)

Cr Ian Walker commented that by going through all the submissions everything appeared to be 'on track'. There was an issue with consultants that they needed to work through. If they needed further clarification they will come back to council for it.

Cr Joe Carr wanted some clarification on 'coast line'.

Craig Brown explained there was 'coast line' but there were some areas of coast line that were 'outstanding' and that was where the difference was and these were to be treated carefully.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley advised that he was of the opinion that they needed to look at 'case law' to get clarification in some instances. *Good call Tony.*

The meeting duly finished at 1440hrs, 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 – 13 December 2011

Item No.8.2 Ports Update