

Northland Regional Council meeting - 21st June 2011

[LINK to appropriate Agenda.](#)

[Link to Additional item 1.OA](#)

It was 1300hrs, when Chairman Craig Brown welcomes all and begins the meeting with some house-keeping, explaining the location of comfort stations to visitors and 'emergency evacuation procedures' and exits.

There were no apologies received for Item No.1.0. as there was a full muster.

Interesting after Dean Alderton, Building and Facilities Manager had systematically placed all the microphones in place and switched them on, that the two by Cr John Bain and Cr Bill Rossiter were turned off and one pointed well away. *Suffering from microphone phobia or didn't you want us to hear your comments or snoring? Normally its only Bain that fears the microphone, who noticeably turns it off at all meetings.*

It was now 1301hrs 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 and decide any action to be taken.

Item No. 3.0. There was to be no presentations at today's meeting.

4.0 COUNCIL AND CEO'S OFFICE

It was now Item No. 4.1 Confirmation of Minutes – 17 May 2011 (1301hrs) No discussion was necessary but Cr Bronwyn Hunt wished to announce that she had been elected (Unopposed) for the Maori Committee - Te Maruata. (see page 13)

Item No. 4.2 Confirmation of Minutes of Annual Plan Deliberations – 24 May 2011
Cr Ian Walker and Cr Graeme Ramsey wanted some reasoning added to their votes against the proposal (page 17)

Cr Ian Walker also had concerns about the Investment Funds.

Cr Graeme Ramsey insisted on the changes to his vote as above.

Chairman Craig Brown after it was passed, cheerfully claimed 'with no one against it, it was now 1 nil (1-0)'

The Chairman's Report to Council, Item No. 4.3 at 1306hrs. required no discussion.

Item No. 4.4 Deputy Chairman's Report to Council (1307hrs)

Cr John Bain gave a brief on the report.

Cr Bronwyn Hunt had a query, re the 2nd part on page 25.

Cr Graeme Ramsey had a query, re the 2nd item on page 26 re the nomination and this was clarified by John Bain.

Cr Bronwyn Hunt was pleased about the Remuneration Authority meeting and John's comments about not accepting an honorarium for the position, (her tongue in cheek) saying it could have gone into a slush fund. *Love it, you are on to it Bronwyn.*

But John Bain made a comment about "You know I wouldn't have anything to do with a Slush Fund". *Yeah Right ! How naïve do you think we are? Is this the real Mr Tui?*

Item No. 4.5 Chief Executive Officer's Report to the Council at 1312hrs. This item entered into no discussion.

It was now Item No. 4.6 Northland Events Centre – Handover to Whangarei District Council. (1313hrs) Mr Brown felt there needed to be a change to the recommendations re nominations and it could come back to the July meeting.

Cr Ian Walker had concerns about the secret assets; are they lights and not able to be used for a rock concert?

Chairman Craig Brown asked if this was a competition to try to make this meeting longer than Joes one did.

Ian Walker wants some clarity about a 15 year debt.

Craig Brown felt it should lie till the confidential section, *when some of the queries were perhaps getting a bit touchy*

Cr Graeme Ramsey insisted it was public money and this document must be clear and reflect that.

Ian Walker questioned "if the public are going to know?"

Craig Brown confirmed that councilors will know the extent of the details.

So off it was to the 'secret squirrel' section of the meeting at the end of play today. You would think this sort of information should be freely available to the paying community, but no we are dealing with something a little bit sensitive here; oh, it's only a \$16million debt that you, previous councilors, have incurred on us and now don't want us to know anything about the assets we purchased.

Item No. 4.7 Future Structure of Northland Regional Council Community Trust (1323hrs)

Cr Tony Davies-Colley was not happy with the governance structure and would have liked to discuss it further in a workshop especially about dual roles of the CEO.

Cr Graeme Ramsey feels it should be left sitting on the table.

Cr Ian Walker commented it might as well; as it's been 7 years already.

Tony Davies-Colley wanted to seek advice as it's not a good structure.

Cr Ian Walker was of the opinion that if economic wellbeing was part of it, the CEO should be in; if not then there was no need.

CEO Ken Patterson claimed it had been through the committee and now was back at council.

Graeme Ramsey was certain there were issues of governance that needs full exploration; they should obtain further advice about good governance.

Tony Davies-Colley believed the issues were dual CEO, Reporting mechanisms and TLA representation.

Ian Walker wanted it to get some action. Is economic wellbeing of this business? Do we farm it out to an organization who for years have done a wonderful job..... of doing nothing? I want to get some rubber on the road. *He doesn't want to be a boy racer; he just obviously wants it to gain some traction.*

Craig Brown queried if Tony Davies-Colley was going with the amendment.

Cr Bronwyn Hunt wanted assurance it was to come back to council for finalising.

Craig Brown wants it to come back quickly from the CEO as they need to discuss it with the consultants employing his (CEO) replacement.

Craig Brown asks will it lie on the table.

Bronwyn Hunt wanted to acknowledge what Ian Walker had said but they needed the model to be sustainable.

Craig Brown suggested let it lie on the table and workshop it as soon as possible.

Ken Patterson confirmed 8th July was his last day, Enterprise Northland say the structure is good and the trust say it's good. It could be a three month time delay and it needs to be done now.

Ian Walker claims he wishes it be put to the vote.

Graeme Ramsey claims he's against it

Cr Joe Carr, commenting to Craig, says he think he's missed an opportunity.

Item No. 4.8 Update on Northland Emergency Services Trust (NEST) at 1339hrs.

There was no discussion on this item and it was passed as read.

Interesting that Cr John Bain didn't leave the room for this item. Strange I thought he may have possibly had a Conflict of Interest with this item. *Does drawing a large salary from it, or supplying night vision goggles, make one exempt from it being a conflict?*

Bill Rossiter wanted to go back to the item on page 65 until it was pointed out that was an attachment to the previous Item 4.7. *You all right there Willy?*

Item No. 4.9 Elected Members' Allowances and Expenses Policy (1340hrs)

Cr John Bain needed to write a letter to the Remuneration Authority about Northland Councillors who are doing more mileages than others "on a honorarium that is relatively small" *Broadcast that comment in one of you next 1/3 page ads, disguised with the helicopter, but promoting yourself coming up to an election about what you get paid as a councilor to a person on a fixed income. You need to face the real facts that many survive on \$20,000-00 a year while being milked by the big boys who make decisions on boards and councils that affect them financially. One day hopefully, reality might just kick in.*

Craig Brown claims "he doesn't approve of it and the principle of the more you use the less you get. Only a fool and his mates could make a rule like that and I will say that to anybody."

Cr Ian Walker believed some councilors clock up the mileage, especially having lots of workshops like we seem to be having. *Just having a little dig at the extra workshops that are becoming common because of some slow decision making eh, Ian?*

Item No. 4.10 Regional Council Representation on the Cultural, Heritage, Arts and Resource Trust (CHART) Board.

Time is now at 1343 hrs. and Cr John Bain felt this was not the normal way to request a member to be on a board.

Cr Ian Walker claims he is opposed to this; what appointing a politician to an industry group. He didn't see it as a CCO. (Council Controlled Organisation) One starts to wonder what this organization is about, fundamentally there is a problem.

Cr Bronwyn Hunt queried Ian Walkers involvement with Northport.

Ian Walker replied that Northport was a company.

Craig Brown quipped a comment; that Northport sends logs out of the country; while this organization (CHART) paints pictures of them.

Cr Walker sates he 'is worried that it's about to be a slush fund'.

Craig Brown, seeking some control of the meeting, claims ORDER! "At District Council there is a gavel to wack on the desk when people behave like children. I am the Chair.

One person will speak at a time and I will say who it is."

With the meeting back under some orderly fashion, Cr Hunt informs that in the Far North there is a budding industry, selling art.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley claiming he was disappointed he wasn't asked, but supports it as they want to go out further in the region..

I think Tony was jokingly taking the 'mick' out of Graeme who was asked.

Cr Bill Rossiter said it's about promoting art in Northland, not just Whangarei.

Cr Joe Carr asked if they were obliged for the appointment because they thought they were going to get \$50K from council.

Cr Graeme Ramsey is happy to do it.

Craig Brown thought it was a Go Northland team with the connection between Graeme Ramsey, Bronwyn Hunt and Tony Davies-Colley and Andy, so Tony you only had yourself to blame for not being in it. Laughter filled the chamber.

5.0 ADOPTION OF DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2011/2012

Item No. 5.1 Annual Financial Plan 2011/2012. (1351hrs)

Cr Ian Walker said he didn't support it for a community that is already in the crap. There was a lack of strategic direction.

Cr Ian Walker voted against it and Cr Joe Carr abstained. Ian Walker changed his stance to abstaining also.

Item No. 5.2 Charging Policy 2011/2012 (1355hrs) This item required no discussion.

Item No. 5.3 Annual Plan 2011/2012 Adoption

Cr Graeme Ramsey insisted that they must get criteria and processes in place. We strike rates, collect funds but don't allocate the funds.

Cr Bill Rossiter believed when they hold funds in this they should be listed.

Graeme Ramsey had concerns that in 'operating expenses', 'other' needs to be broken down in expenditures to clarify the situation better. *Interesting comment there Graeme, maybe J.B. could take note and do a breakdown in accounts to show salaries and not*

just as a lump sum, especially when relying on targeted rates; shouldn't transparency be paramount?

Item No. 5.4 Navigation Safety Bylaw 201. (1403hrs) This item required no discussion.

Item No. 5.5 Bylaw Charges Made Pursuant to Section 684B of the Local Government Act 1974. This item required no discussion

Item No. 5.6 Rates for Year 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012. (1405hrs)

Cr Joe Carr, *trying to miss this item*, claimed he had a vested interest in this item. LOL. Craig Brown asked those present if they could raise their hand if they had a conflict of interest. No one did and this item had no further discussion.

So people I hope you are all going to be happy with the rate rise of approximately 15% in most cases that you have all just landed and all the elected officers were for it. This increase is for the Northland Regional Council section of your rates. Tomorrow it is WDC's turn to up theirs.

(I have had it reported to me that both Cr Joe Carr & Cr Graeme Ramsey had voted against this at an earlier meeting, which is recorded in minutes; hence there was little debate at this meeting.) *Obviously they realised they were out numbered!!!!*

6.0 FINANCE AND IT

Item No. 6.1 Financial Report – 31 May 2011. (1406hrs) Lisa Aubrey, General manager Finance and IT gave an update on this item.

Cr Bronwyn Hunt had a query on which transport payments were not proceeding (page 116)

Deputy CEO/Operations Director Tony Phipps confirmed he would get this information to Bronwyn.

Item No. 6.2 Investment Schedule and Performance – Financial Report to 31 May 2011. This item required no discussion

Item No. 6.3 Paid Accounts for Approval – May 2011 (pg139) also was over in a couple of seconds also requiring no discussion. *(All must be in order in the accounts department, just a formality)*

Item No. 6.4 Lease Transactions – May 2011. (1410hrs) This item also required no discussion.

7.0 OPERATIONS

Item No. 7.1 Receipt of Northland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Minutes – 7 June 2011 (1411hrs)

Cr Graeme Ramsey requested an update on the tsunami sirens.

[Link especially for Graeme](#) or if that doesn't work try this one [LINK to File](#)

Deputy CEO/Operations Director Tony Phipps confirmed it was a joint project. The trial went well. There was a fault on Friday night with a software failure which set off the alarms and they were well heard.

Craig Brown liked the flavor of the report, Tony had given.

Cr Joe Carr emphasized that North Power had contributed the cost and council needed to write to them thanking for their support.

Item No. 7.2 Receipt and Adoption of Minutes of the Regional Transport Committee – 8 June 2011. (1414hrs) This item also required no discussion.

Item No. 7.3 Consents Decisions and Progress on Notified Applications in Process, Objections and Appeals. This item also required no discussion.

Item No. 7.4 Submission on Draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport Funding (1415hrs)

Cr John Bain informed they were calling a meeting with T/A representatives (Territorial Authorities) regarding the maintenance on rural roads as the funding had changed.

Cr Joe Carr was extremely concerned as the network of unsealed roads was important. Craig Brown confirmed there had been much debate at the Mayoral Forum at Kaipara about Transport agencies etc.

CEO Ken Patterson gave a brief update on the Mayoral forum issues.

Cr Bronwyn Hunt questioned the robustness of the communication between the Transport Committee members and the Far north District Council.

Craig Brown confirmed that Environmental and Transport Committee agendas and minutes are to be forwarded to Councils. This way you can't get the fact of they 'don't know'.

Joe Carr wants copies of Mayoral forum minutes forwarded as sometimes viewpoints are singular. eg. Transport committee funding is favoring Whangarei and not the Far North, but this could be because of government direction.

Cr Ian Walker felt they needed to look at 'external people' making decisions for our districts.

Craig Brown believes it is good to supply those minutes so mayors and councilors can be well informed. He continued that this was a simple issue of approving minutes from a meeting so they must move on.

Item No. 7.5 Warrants of Appointment: Resource Management Act 1991. (1428hrs) This item also required no discussion.

8.0 PLANNING AND POLICY

Item No. 8.1 Management of Moorings
Cr Bill Rossiter believes this policy is well written.

Item No. 8.2 Proposed Kaipara District Plan: Variation 1 Landscapes – Further Submission. (1430hrs) This item also required no discussion.

Item 8.3 of New Business was introduced regarding submissions wanted for a National Park in Waipoua Forest. They needed two nominations to represent council on this item.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley believes this must be addressed from a regulatory and economic viewpoint.

Cr Joe Carr and Cr Graeme Ramsey were initially chosen but as Graeme Ramsey was going to be unavailable it was decided that Cr Joe Carr and Cr Bronwyn Hunt would be the representatives.

Chairman Craig Brown, jokingly asked if there was any show of an extended delay on Graemes return.

The meeting finished at 1434hrs, the Councillors then going into business with the public excluded.

Secret Squirrel stuff and all that. We thought it was confidential only if it was commercially sensitive. How could the nominations be commercially sensitive? And if they are.... is something wrong?

9.0 BUSINESS WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED

Item No. 9.1 Confirmation of Confidential Minutes – 17 May 2011

Item No. 9.2 Kaeo Flood Scheme – Acquiring Rights to Construct Works

Item No. 9.3 Te Whāroa Oneroa a Tōhe/Ninety Mile Beach Treaty Settlement Update