

## Northland Regional Council meeting – 24th July 2012

[LINK to appropriate Agenda.](#)

It was a tad before the 1300hrs kick off and Chairman Craig Brown welcomed all to the meeting in the Council Chambers, Far North District Council, Memorial Avenue, Kaikohe explaining the emergency exits and position of rest room facilities.

### 1.0 APOLOGIES

Item No.1.0 and there were apologies received for Cr Bronwyn Hunt and Cr John Bain.

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

### 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 – 19 June 2012 (Page 1-14) (1255hrs)

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

No discussion was entered into on this item.

Time still at 1255hrs, Item No. 4.2 Confirmation of Minutes – 26 June 2012 (Page 15-26)

Moved by Craig Brown, seconded by Cr Ian Walker.

There was no discussion on this item.

Item No. 4.3 Chairman's Report to Council (Page 27-28) (1256hrs)

Moved by Craig Brown, seconded Cr Bill Rossiter.

Cr Graeme Ramsey had a query re Mr David Carter. Was there any news to report back or to inform us of from the correspondence with him?

Craig Brown advised that he was interested in 'our thinking'. They were not going to force any changes but requested that we submit and talk to the Select Committee.

There was an almighty crack at 1259hrs and the lights flickered and extinguished momentarily. *T'is alright Craig, this was the official meeting start time, was them in*

*Wellington watching over your shoulder? It was Graeme Ramsey who was clutching his chest as the lights dimmed nearly uttering a naughty word. The look on your face revealed the impact the large crack of thunder interfering with the power supply had on you. Your time hasn't come yet, GR. Keep smiling.*

Cr Bill Rossiter asked if there was anything interesting that came out of the LGNZ conference.

Craig Brown advised there was one unanimous decision voted on, which appeared to be a surprise to senior government ministers.

Cr Graeme Ramsey wanted to know more on the letter from Deputy Mayor Phil Halse on the GE issue as it hadn't appeared in the correspondence.

Craig informed that a letter was going the Mayor Morris Cutforth with copies to other councilors advising that they also wanted updates on the Whangarei District Council's progress on this issue. *Does it appear that it may all be talk on GE from the WDC at the present time?*

Time at 1305hrs. Item No.4.4 Chief Executive Officer's Report to Council. (Page 29-60)

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

CEO Malcolm Nicholson advised of a possible 'conflict of interest' in an item.

Chairman Brown was aware and saw it as not being an issue thanking Malcolm for his mentioning of it to councillors.

Cr Bill Rossiter had a queries re North Auckland Rail Line Review (Page 30)

Malcolm Nicholson informed he was arranging meetings with Jim Quinn from Kiwi Rail and NZTA to discuss this project.

Cr Graeme Ramsey advised that he wanted a copy of the Northland Inter-sectoral Forum (NIF) assessment and felt all councilors would benefit from one also. (Page 30)

Cr Tony Davies-Colley in reference to Weed Workshops (Page 54) questioned what were the responsibilities of NZTA and TLA's in regards to weeds?

Cr Bill Rossiter advised that the dredging of the Hatea River had been completed and was within budget.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley queried the nursery planned for Flyger Road and it being done 2012-13. Was there any serious reason what it wasn't being done now?

Cr Joe Carr advised that he was in support of what Tony had raised.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley informed that they had plenty of lead time and here we are putting it off and loosing another year if we miss the growing season.

Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Operations Director, Tony Phipps advised that there had been some issues identified. To set it up for a long term commercial nursery some of the issues hadn't been addressed yet.

Malcolm Nicholson reminded councilors that they had requested them to come back with a comprehensive business plan which they were working on. You wanted to see a business plan but if there is a change of direction he is more than happy to take those instructions from council. *Now that is a really good answer, Malcolm.*

Cr Graeme Ramsey believed the objective is we shouldn't lose this year on the project.

Craig Brown advised it would be good to set it up correctly to have a saleable asset if they choose to not stay in the poplar business. *That's not silly either, Craig. Set it up to make it work efficiently and effectively to benefit the district.*

Time now at 1321hrs. Item No. 4.5 Northland Port Corporation (NZ) Ltd – Appointment of Directors (Page 61-62)

Moved by Craig Brown, seconded by Cr Bill Rossiter.

Initially it was decided set up a committee for this appointing Cr John Bain as chair and Cr Graeme Ramsey as deputy.

Craig Brown suggested that they keep the directors as it currently was extending the term for another year.

Linda Stansfield, General Manager - CEO and Projects, advised that they needed to be named as nominations for a vote at the AGM.

Cr Joe Carr suggested that it was a big board at present and were there any double ups with similar skill sets.

Cr Ian Walker, as one of the directors, advised that they were going through a period of analysis. There is a lot of experience there presently with both skills and networking contacts.

All were in favour of the three being nominated with Cr Walker abstaining as he was on the board.

## 5.0 FINANCE AND IT

Time now at 1333hrs. Item No.5.1 Financial Report – 30 June 2012 (Page 63-74)

Moved by Cr Graeme Ramsey, seconded by Cr Bill Rossiter.

Cr Bill Rossiter asked about the surplus of \$1.9million.

Lisa Aubrey, General Manager Finance and IT gave some details explaining that some of it was because of a payment received for their involvement with the cleanup of the “Rena”. The issue now was where was this money to be spent?

There was much debate with the most interesting opinion being raised by Cr Joe Carr, that councilors should have been aware of this surplus when setting rates during the latest round of LTP (long Term Plan) deliberations.

This item received some serious debate with some fairly harsh comments being made and Chair Craig Brown keeping a tight rein on the progress of the item.

There was to be some details to come back to council at the next meeting to answer some of the questions fired at staff.

Time at 1349hrs. Item No.5.2 Tax Refund \$1,018,623.12 (Page 75-78)

Moved by Craig Brown, seconded by Cr Ian Walker.

Cr Joe Carr believed that the recommendation as tabled will not have an effect on ratepayers until many years from now. As a follow on from the previous item, he claimed there had been no discussion of this within the recent LTP deliberation process. This could be helping the rates now. *What he was saying is that ratepayers could presently be benefiting from this \$1.018million tax refund if they had been made aware with the recent rate increase being lower than it has been set at.* He continued that other options should be looked at a later date.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley supported Joe Carr as there could well be other options than what is recommended on Page 78.

Cr Bill Rossiter suggested that ½ could have gone into reserves and ½ could have been used to lower rates and this needed to be discussed more fully.

Cr Graeme Ramsey suggested that Joe 'had nailed it on the head'. It was all about how we use this refund that we were notified about in March last year and should have been made aware during the LTP of it.

Lisa Aubrey gave some details of the process over the time span.

Craig Brown insisted that the advantage should be to the ratepayers that funded the Stadium. *OOPs shouldn't that be the 'Multi Events Centre'? No you are right Craig, wasn't it always going to be a rugby stadium?*

It was to the vote and it was three all. Craig had a casting vote and could have made it happen either way.

Cr Graeme Ramsey suggested that it lie on the table until all councilors were present.

Craig Brown made some comments and endorsed that it lay on the table until all councilors can have a say on the issue. *A good choice I must say, like you commented Craig, it is a "Moral issue".*

## 6.0 OPERATIONS

Time now at 1411hrs. Item No.6.1 Confirmation of Environmental Management Committee Minutes – 26 June 2012 (Page 79-86)

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

No discussion was entered into on this item.

Time still at 1411hrs. Item No.6.2 Consents Decisions and Progress on Notified Applications in Process, Objections and Appeals (Page 87-94)

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

No discussion was entered into on this item.

It's still 1411hrs. Item No.6.3 Environmental Monitoring for the period 1 June-30 June 2012 (Page 95-104)

Moved by Cr Graeme Ramsey, seconded by Cr Bill Rossiter.

Cr Bill Rossiter asked if the stream water readings were taken outside tidal areas.

Tony Phipps advised them of the procedures followed in water sampling.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley questioned the relationships between staff and clients to the CEO.

Malcolm Nicholson replied that they were constantly working on this.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley was happy with Malcolm's reply stating that the NRC must be perceived to be fair and equal and it was great to see the CEO monitoring such issues.

Time now at 1416hrs. Item No.6.4 Warrants of Appointment: Resource Management Act 1991, Local Government Act 2002 (Page 105-108)

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

Tony Phipps introduced Colin Dall (Page105) as a Senior Programme Manager (monitoring) and gave details of his history. *It was noted Colin has experience in 'mining and snails'.*

## **7.0 PLANNING AND POLICY**

Item No. 7.1 (1419hrs) Late Submissions Policy (Page 109-114)

Moved by Craig Brown, seconded by Cr Graeme Ramsey.

No discussion was entered into on this item

The meeting duly finished at 1420hrs, Chairman Craig Brown thanking those of us who attended and then the Councilors went into business with the public excluded. So it was on the road back to Whangarei.

## **8.0 BUSINESS WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED (Pages 115-116)**

Item No. 8.1 Confirmation of Confidential Minutes – 19 June 2012 (Page 117-122)

Item No. 8.2 Confirmation of Confidential Minutes – 26 June 2012 (Page 123-126)

Item No. 8.3 Ports Update (Page 127-128)

Item No. 8.4 8.4 Potential Purchase of Investment Property (Page 129-138)

Item No. 8.5 Update on Lease Negotiations and Potential Alternative Options on Council Investment Property (Page 139-146)

Item No. 8.6 Draft Submission Local Government Act 2002 Amendment Bill – Confidential Draft (Page 139-146)

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