

## Northland Regional Council meeting – 27th March 2012 (Extra-Ordinary meeting)

[LINK to appropriate Agenda.](#)

The drive up to Kaikohe for this month's meeting to Far North District Council chambers on 20<sup>th</sup> March was cancelled due to a bad weather system hitting Northland hence this meeting one week later.

It was 0900hrs and Chairman Craig Brown welcomed all to the meeting and explains the emergency exits and position of rest room facilities.

### **1.0 APOLOGIES**

Item No.1.0 and there was only one apology from Cr Graeme Ramsey  
*It was noted that both Cr Joe Carr and Cr Bronwyn Hunt were absent.*

### **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.

It was now onto Item No. **3.0 UPDATES**

Item No. 3.1 Extraordinary Council Meeting.

This meeting was being held as the meeting from last week had to be postponed due to bad weather in Northland

### **4.0 COUNCIL AND CEO'S OFFICE**

Item No. 4.1 Confirmation of Minutes – 21 February 2012 (0902hrs)

There was no discussion on this item.

Item No.4.2 Confirmation of Minutes of Special Council Meeting – 6 March 2012 (0903hrs)

There was no discussion on this item.

Time still at 0903hrs. Item No.4.3 Chairman's Report to Council and Item No.4.4 Chief Executive Officer's Report to Council were taken as read and there was no discussion needed on these items. A previously asked question had already been addressed.

Time now at 0904hrs. Item No.4.5 Update - Bay of Islands Airport Funding Needs  
Cr Ian Walker advised that he had a Conflict Of Interest but wished to make comment. He believed if Council is genuine in this issue they needed to widen their scope as a prerequisite. If they go by the recommendation, it might make 'good press' but possibly not go ahead with government saying no.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley explained that they needed to look at all airports in Northland. He felt this was an organization lobbying for money and they needed to do the work before the application to government was undertaken.

Cr Ian Walker advised there was no lobbying; it had been instigated by the Far North District Council not Far North Holdings. *(Ian is a director of Far North Holdings)*

Cr John Bain agreed that what Ian had stated was right and it would be slim for government to fund any airport in Northland.

Cr Ian Walker explained that the runway at Bay of Islands airport has a life span of less than twenty years but some taxiways required more urgent maintenance.

Chairman Craig Brown believed there needed to be an additional bullet point in the recommendation.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley believed it was all about return on investment. *Isn't it good to hear councillors talking about 'return on investment'; that's what they are there to look after for the investors....the ratepayers.*

Another bullet point was added to the recommendation and it was duly adopted.

Item No.4.6 Update on Joint Venture between KiwiRail and Council (0910hrs)  
CEO Malcolm Nicholson gave a brief summary on this topic.

## **5.0 FINANCE AND IT**

Item No.5.1 Receipt of Audit and Finance Committee Minutes –28 February 2012 (0911hrs)

No discussion was entered into on this item.

Item No.5.2 Financial Report – 29 February 2012 (0912hrs)

No discussion was entered into on this item.

## 6.0 OPERATIONS

Item No.6.1 Confirmation of Environmental Management Committee Minutes – 28 February (0913hrs)

Cr Bill Rossiter commented that it was good to see the publicity got out about Kiwi Fruit. *Yes Bill we also spread the information out on my website and facebook 'Matters Political' group page on 29<sup>th</sup> February with the NRC Environment meeting report that I do. We also shared the NRC facebook page on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2012 in our 'Matters Political' group*

Cr Ian Walker advised that they needed to take more action about waterways as the real story is not out there.

Chairman Craig Brown agreed that they needed to get it on the front foot and react better more than against it.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley commented that after what he had said about dairy effluent at an earlier meeting he felt that staff were not in sync with what he was explaining.

Chairman Craig Brown agreed that they have to fix it.

Item No.6.2 Receipt of Northland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Minutes – 6 March 2012 (0915hrs)

No discussion was entered into on this item.

Time still at 0915hrs. Item No. 6.3 Consents Decisions and Progress on Notified Applications in Process, Objections and Appeals (hrs)

Cr Ian Walker advised that he had a conflict with an item on page 97 (Far North Holdings- consents)

Time now at 0916hrs Item No. 6.4 Report on Environmental Monitoring for the period 1-29 February 2012

Cr Bill Rossiter wanted to compliment the staff in regards to how comprehensive the notes were; they were the best they had had in twelve years especially with dates on them now.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley brought to the meetings attention the item on page 109. In regards to how WDC started the 'bridge construction' without correct procedures in place which incurred an abatement notice. *And I thought they would lead by example? Different rule books eh?*

Cr Ian Walker was concerned that this was a symptom of some with a big cheque book. *Sadly Ian, Is it the ratepayers cheque book that WDC is using?* Ian continued that it may be 'because it was an arduous process'.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley had raised this as it was in the CMA. (Coastal marine Area)

Tony Phipps gave a brief explanation; it was a substantial project with some requirements that should be carried out before work started. Staff had agreed if they

submitted the requirements quickly they could start. They (WDC) didn't stick to it; that's why they got the abatement notice.

Item No. 6.5 Warrants of Appointment: Resource Management Act 1991; Local Government Act 2002  
(0921hrs)

No discussion was entered into on this item.

Time still at 0921hrs Item No. 6.6 Mangrove Management Support Programme Update - Mangawhai Harbour Restoration Society Application  
No discussion was entered into on this item.

It was now 0922hrs and Chairman Craig Brown was about to go into the confidential section but invited me (Warren) up, as I had last evening asked him if I would be able to briefly speak to the council.

Cr Joe Carr arrived as I was about to commence my brief:-

1/ I explained how I had been contacted last week by the NRC consents department in regards to a WDC resource application at Whareora Road pump station. It appeared that there were now only two submitters (my wife Pat and myself) still hard-nosed about zero discharge of sewage into our waterways, streams and harbour. Not wanting to be the reason for a hearing to be held because of us two and this cost, of a hearing, again to fall on the already overburdened ratepayers, we agreed to go with the majority and the consents recommendations, but still wanted our strong objections duly noted.

2/ I wanted to thank the staff that had made contact in regards to this meeting being cancelled last week and the notification by them of the new date by phone calls and email. The communication had been great and very much appreciated avoiding an unnecessary trip to Kaikohe. *Some other organizations should take heed of how NRC communicates well with its constituents.*

3/ Craig Brown was totally unaware about what I had requested to speak on, other than it was 'consent' based.

After hearing the 'old carrot and stick' terminology for numerous years I made my presentation.

[Link to 'Ode to Craig Brown'](#).

At the appropriate time during the reading I presented a 'stick' to Craig and then at the end presented a squeaking 'carrot' advising him that if it squeaks and if it is used instead of the stick, we will hear.

The reading appeared to be taken in good faith, as it was intended.

One thing that is very good; is to ask to speak at short notice and the request being actioned with no fuss. This has to be the sign of a competent and good chair person; one that is most capable to shut it down if the request and address had been out of order. I thank you Craig for taking the comments made in good faith.

The meeting duly finished at 0926hrs, Chairman Craig Brown thanking those who attended and then the Councilors went into business with the public excluded.

## **7.0 BUSINESS WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED**

Item No. 7.1 Confirmation of Confidential Minutes – 21 February 2012

Item No. 7.2 Confirmation of Confidential Audit and Finance Committee Minutes – 28 February 2012