

Whangarei District Council Extra-ordinary meeting - 11th May 2011.

With Deputy Mayor Cr Phil Halse in the chair this meeting is underway promptly at 1130hrs.

An apology is received from Mayor Morris (180°) Cutforth.

Phil Halse said there was one item on the agenda and he called on the CEO Mark Simpson to give a brief.

It was about Mayor Morris Cutforth seeking 4 months leave of absence since he suffered a mild stroke in January and requested immediate leave from 18th May till 24th August. The deputy mayor was to fill in and to appoint people to meetings he was unable to attend to. It was self explanatory.

Strange, immediate would have been today's date '11th May' not 18th and 4 months would be till '11th September', not 24 August.

The recommendation is moved by Cr Greg Martin and seconded by Cr Shelley Deeming.

Cr Greg Martin felt it was common sense that Deputy, Phil Halse takes the mayors place.

CEO Simpson confirms it's a statutory requirement.

Cr Kahu Sutherland thinks it was good that he is taking the leave, the proper way for his recovery and wished him well. How I stand on this whole thing, that he had been critical of him continually and knew it's not possible to take on the role of mayoralty demands to recover from such an illness, but applauded his move to take leave of absence and looked forward to his return.

Cr Sue Glen believed this decision will satisfy the community.

Cr Warwick Syers said Mr Chairman, 'It's unfortunate but hindsight is a wonderful thing but he should have had leave at the beginning'. *Surely Warwick didn't mean beginning, as in November 2010.*

Cr Merv Williams also believed it was very logical, looking back over the last 6 years he himself had had to take time off for a bypass and Kahu Sutherland had also had time off

for a similar situation with some heart problems. Also other councilors had had time off for various medical reasons. It was common sense and similar to a good employer situation.

Cr Sue Glen had noticed the dates asked for, only covered 3 months and one week.

CEO Mark Simpson was happy to acknowledge this error and it was amended to read 18th May to 24th September 2011.

So it looks like Phil will be at the 'footie' on 14th September and 21st September so they may have to shorten the chains to stop them dragging on the ground. The million dollar questions, will Morris be there or doing weddings and funerals or a bit of part time auctioneering?

With no further discussion it was agreed upon and the meeting was over by 1135hrs.