

Whangarei District Council meeting - 21 December 2011.

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)

We are asked to all stand for 'His Worship, the Mayor', but some didn't rise to the occasion.

At 1000hrs he remained standing and reads out "Thank you everyone; before we begin today I just want to say a few words to my councilors. I want to acknowledge some of the things they have done. I've spent a whole year shutting up which is not me at all; shutting up and listening, observing and looking at the way council has run; but at the same time what I have tried to bring into this chamber is openness and transparency. I want to thank you all for sharing your views which are out there in the community. Everybody knows where we stand and oh, everybody knows where we stand and I think that is very, very important. But, more so, councilors thank you for being you. Thank you for feeling free to express your views. And lastly I'd like to wish you and our staff and public here a very merry Christmas. I'll sit down now; I've had enough."

"I declare the public meeting of 21December, open".

The meeting was certainly open. There were placard holding, disgruntled farmers from the Hikurangi Swamp area, proudly holding their message bearing signs to enlighten the councilors to what has been occurring in their patch. *Was this a great Christmas message to the perpetrators of their ongoing problems? If so, was it well timed; it may take the sweet taste out of the turkey and hams?*

There was an apology received for Cr Brian McLachlan

Morris tried to go straight to Item No 2, but the watchful eye and guidance by Carolyn, had him back on track and refocused that there were indeed people waiting to speak in the public forum.

Item No.1, the 'Public Forum' (Page 1) (1004hrs)

Carl Jackson spoke on Youth Suicide Prevention. Carl is a staff member at Whangarei District Council. There had been 22 youth suicides last year; the same number of road deaths in Northland. Millions get spent on improving road safety and there was a need to prevent youth suicides. There was a lack of awareness and the community needs to work on this.

Mayor Morris Cutforth advised he had been in the front line with suicides as a funeral celebrant. People who have suicide have made a bad decision.

Cr Greg Martin claims he was proud of Carl. He had been a foundation member of Tornado Youth and a Team Leader.

The second speaker up at 10.07hrs was Rhett Brown who spoke about footpath hazards and wheel chair users. (Morris advises that Rhett was an old school college of his) Rhett was concerned at the state of the footpaths; there were bad footpaths and bad shop entrances. They were not helpful for disabled users. Council is and should be involved with good footpath access. He offered to be a free consultant to council to access the situation and quoted "Walk a mile in another man's shoes". *You are so right Rhett, 20% of the population has a disability of some sort and they often get overlooked in the planning stages of developments. This has got to be rectified; I raise my hat to you for coming along to make this point.*

Cr Crichton Christie insisted they should take his offer up.

Cr Merv Williams offered to go on a tour with Mr Brown. *Merv you should attempt to get the whole team of councilors to take up Rhett's offer.*

Group Manager Infrastructure and Services Simon Weston advised he will arrange a meeting.

It was now 1012hrs. Item No. 2, Minutes of a Meeting of the Whangarei District Council held 23 November 2011 (Page 2)

With just a small alteration to amend the fact that Kahu Sutherland being present and also absent leaving the apology in no further discussion was required for this item.

Cr Kahu Sutherland seconded the adoption of the minutes. *Strange move....he wasn't there to confirm they were correct?????*

With time 1013hrs it was Item No.3, Police Report (Page 5) [Link to Police Report](#)
Inspector Paul Dimery, Area Commander for Whangarei/Kaipara, started by wishing all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He also wanted to support Carl Jackson's earlier speech on youth suicide and wondered what council would do. He was not going to apologise to anyone that may be stopped during drink driving operations. Alcohol was causing most problems with domestic violence and also aggravated robberies. Paul warned parents and communities to be aware of gang's charading with boxing events attempting to recruit young people to the gangs.

Cr Sue Glen queried there was no mention of the volunteers that help the police. Paul Dimery admitted there was no way he should have ignored the volunteers; it was an oversight. The volunteers are brilliant and fantastic, with the older people having some outstanding skills.

Cr Sharon Morgan asked how they go about recruiting volunteers.

Paul Dimery explained a lot was self perpetuation with volunteers bringing their friends in. It was all about supporting the police, not replacing them.

Cr John Williamson had a query on the trends showing for motor vehicles.

Cr Merv Williams asked, as chair of the District Licencing Council, were they doing our thing.

Paul Dimery had made the observation that alcohol was a major factor of many crimes.

* Read the report, some very interesting statistics there to make one ponder over what is happening in our society while you are tucked up safely in bed.

With time 1033hrs it was Item No. 4, Financial Delegation – Temporary Increase Chief Executive Officer (Page 6)

CEO Mark Simpson explained that some tenders may come up as this was the construction season or there could be a cyclonic event.

Cr Merv Williams confirmed that Mark was not going outside of the budget on anything.

The comment was made that Mark when questioned, was not going to jeopardize his job in any way with this item.

The time now at 1036hrs. Item No 5, Civic Assurance – Proposed Capital Raising (Page 7)

Cr Warwick Syers confirmed this was an opportunity that he was sure they had taken absolutely.

Group Manager Support Services Alan Adcock confirmed this was a body owned by Local Government.

The time now at 1038hrs. Item No. 6, Review of Council Policy on Dangerous, Insanitary and Earthquake Prone Buildings (Page 10)

Cr Shelley Deeming confirmed the process had been fulfilled and maybe Paul Dell could explain the differences,

Group Manager District Living Paul Dell gave some clarity. *Or did he?*

Cr John Williamson had some troubles with the extent of liability.

Paul Dell advised they were meeting the legal requests with the review.

Cr Crichton Christie believed that they had to review it every five years. Nothing had convinced him it has to change. It was an extra cost to council and building owners.

There were better things council could spend its money on. He wanted to have it amended to the 'status quo'.

Cr Kahu Sutherland agreed with Crichton, this amendment has come out of the submission process. *Great call Kahu; does this means they listen to submissions?*

Cr Shelley Deeming believed that this policy was less onerous than the other and this council has a responsibility.

The amendment was lost with only Cr Kahu Sutherland and Cr Crichton Christie voting for it, so the original recommendation was passed with the same two councilors voting against it. *See Kahu, the don't take notice of submissions.*

Item No 7, at 1051hrs. Draft Solid Waste Management Plan (Page 44)

Cr Aaron Edwards queried the pie charts on pages 71 and 96 as being the same. This needed to be checked.

Cr John Williamson informed that they must be clear that this is not the final adoption.

Item No 8, at 1054hrs. Council Designations – District Plan (Page 126)

Cr Merv Williams advised this was just a tidy up.

Morris Cutforth claimed there was a large list of works to do and if they were not done in 5 years they would drop off the list.

Cr Sharon Morgan queried if there was the ability to extend any that weren't done in 5 years

Cr John Williamson had queries in relation to the 'service lanes' in Kamo (page136) and what affect that will have on future plans.

The time now at 1058hrs. Item No. 9, International Rally of Whangarei 2012 (Page 151)

No discussion was required for this item either.

Cr Crichton Christie and Cr Jeroen Jongejans moved and seconded this item.

Not a boo out of Cr Greg Martin. Does this rally not go past his house? Do you remember him tossing his toys out of the cot, over the Targa Rally because it inconvenienced him?

Item No 10, at 1059hrs. Temporary Road Closure – International Rally of Whangarei 2012 (Page 162)

With just a small alteration to amend the date on Page 163 to read Sunday 1 April 2012 not 2013. This was not an April fool's joke.

Cr Phil Halse claimed this was a positive move with the attendance of local and international media, to move north.

Cr Merv Williams reminded that the WRC Rally was coming in June 2012 and Rally New Zealand was happy with the association with council.

Morris Cutforth informed that he had a ride in a Targa Rally car and was told the drivers love coming to the area because of the state of our roads. You might have miss- read the comment Morris as rally drivers like rough, challenging roads.

Morris thanked all for attending and made comment that he “didn’t understand all the signs” that were held in the public gallery by disgruntled farmers from the Hikurangi Swamp area. Maybe Morris it’s just easy for you to plead ‘ignorant’; like you told us you would before the election because you were not up with the play?

The meeting concluded at 1102hrs, There was no motion while the public was present to move into confidential, but as there was an item on the agenda let’s hope they stuck to the rules. Would they can change the minutes if they didn’t follow process.

CONFIDENTIAL INDEX

C.1 Confidential Minutes of a Meeting of the Whangarei District Council held 23 November 2011 (Page 1)

Didn’t Morris campaign that he wanted open and transparent council? (Why do they always want a confidential section then?)

Yeah right and he quoted that again at the start of the meeting today. I don’t think I can trust him as he does an about turn on everything he promises.

All information in regards to this meeting’s agenda and others are available on the Whangarei District Council website by clicking on this [link](#).