

Whangarei District Council meeting – 22nd February 2012.

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)

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

At 1000hrs he remained standing and reminds us that today is the first anniversary of the Christchurch earthquake. Just think of the suffering and coping that people had to go through.

Morris also gave recognition to the open day that was held at Jeremy Busck's Dragon Fly Springs on 19th February. *Pat & I went to the open day also and would like to acknowledge the huge amount of work Jeremy, Pam and their supporters have done on this project to immensely improve the ecology of the local area.*

Morris continued by quoting an item from a letter sent to him –
"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter" – Martin Luther King Jr.
Coincidentally this letter was sent to the Mayor by Mr Owen Lewis who is one of the 'Integrity Action' group, which watches due process at council and patiently longing for some improvements.

Morris advises 'as per the earlier meeting there was an apology received for Cr Jeroen Jongejans'.

Morris continues and informs of the first speaker in the Public Forum.

On to item No.1, the 'Public Forum' (Page 1) (1007hrs)

Ben Smith spoke on Hikurangi Swamp Targeted Rates and the effect it is having on the local community. The time ticked by and at three minutes Morris started to look a little uncomfortable, but decided to ask councilors if more time should be made available. It was agreed another 3 minutes should suffice. Ben continued his speech until the end amidst some concerned looks by people named in the article.

At the completion, Cr Phil Halse asked who he represented. Ben replied, as printed on the bottom of all the pages that had been circulated, himself, Ben Smith, JV Farms Limited. *Who did Phil think he was going to say? The Queen, the crown or who or was this Phil's attempt to try and humiliate someone prepared to stand up and say it as it was.*

Next it was CEO Mark Simpson, trying to disassociate himself from a couple of the comments made, claiming he hadn't signed anything off without all council knowing. *These documents I understand are available for verification of the claim.*

Cr Shelley Deeming objected to the personal attacks. *Personal attacks or telling it as it is? Depends where on the fence you sit perhaps?*

Morris Cutforth claims "it's all new to me". *Morris should you then try to find the impersonator who sat in a meeting, as you, shortly after you were elected with three farmers from Hikurangi Swamp to discuss this issue? Can't always "just plead ignorant", like you told us before the election in 2010. There comes a time for a reality check.*

Cr Merv Williams claims we have set parameters for public forums; if we are going to change standing orders, please advise us.

Ben Smith left the speakers desk amid some applause from the public gallery.

The second speaker up at 1017hrs was Zelka Linda Grammer Genetic Engineering – GMO Land use threat to our district/region.

Zelka spent her time congratulating the Whangarei District Council for their support on her quest for good GE policies. Zelka gave some details of other councils and how in her opinion they have not handled this issue responsibly.

Morris Cutforth commented "We might be doing something right". *Yes Morris, 'Might' may be the operative word.*

Speaker No 3. at 1021hrs, Michael Joseph Wedge – Ruakaka South Sewer Extension.

Michael spoke on how he understood the meeting to see if the scheme was to go ahead was nothing but a farce. He claimed voting was not done correctly; a number of property owners didn't get to vote and an example was that the Bream Bay Club that owns 4 properties only got one vote. Michael went over his time and commented that he could discuss this for a lot longer than time permitted. He had had his say and returned amid applause to the public gallery. *It looks like a score today of 1 for council and 2 to citizens. Let's hope there are some lessons learned and genuine consultation processes are looked at in the future. Some of these people aren't just going, to go away.*

It was now 1023hrs. Item No. 2, Minutes of a Meeting of the Whangarei District Council held 21 December 2011 (Page 2)

Cr Aaron Edwards asked if there had been any follow up with Rhett Brown from last month's public forum. He was advised this was not the time for discussion of the previous minutes but was assured there had been a follow up.

With time 1025hrs it was Item No.3, Police Report (Page 7) [Link to Police Report](#)

Inspector Paul Dimery, Area Commander for Whangarei/Kaipara, gave an update on police activities since the last report. He explained that with some of the large events in the region police resources are pushed to the limit. Since last year's low road fatality record, it was disturbing to see that the first two months of this year had nearly equaled last year's road death total. Gangs were ruining Whangarei and it was unacceptable; they bring nothing to the community and offer nothing for the community. There was a group S F C's, of youths between 12 and 15 years of age responsible for approximately 130 crimes. Children must be the responsibility of parents, not the police.

Paul wanted to thank the City Safe and Summer Safe programs which had resulted in a large drop in theft ex cars by their presence in Whangarei. *Great results.*

Morris Cutforth said "Thank you, Chief Inspector". *Morris its actually Inspector Paul Dimery, Area Commander for Whangarei/Kaipara, which you may find on the bottom of the police report.*

Cr John Williamson spoke of how gangs were dealt with in the 60's, with vigilantes rounding them up and throwing them in the harbor. *John have you wondered what they would have done to people who used their influence and position to have their wife's parking tickets squashed?*

Paul Dimery commented that the community puts its head in the sand. *We know what you mean, we have a mayor that does the same; just looking for a way to get the sand out of his ears.*

Cr Kahu Sutherland asked Paul to relay to his and other rescue staff that attended the double fatal at Hukerenui recently that he had the misfortune to come across. Kahu claimed the staff attending did all their appropriate organisations proud in the professional manner they went about their jobs on scene. Paul advised he would certainly pass on the comments.

With time at 1038hrs it was Item No. 4, Policy on Significance (Page 8)

CEO Mark Simpson gave a brief on this item but no further discussion was required.

The time now at 1039hrs. Item No 5, Water Supply Bylaw Review (Page 21)

Morris advised that this item to be procedurally correct it had to be taken in two parts.

CEO Mark Simpson advised this was a legal process to be taken every five years for inclusion in the LTP. (Long Term Plan)

Parts 2 & 3 were taken and the recommendations were received.

The time now at 1040hrs. Item No. 6, Sanitary Assessments for Cemeteries and Crematoria (Page 83)

Morris Cutforth comments "This is interesting". *Strange comment for an item on Cemeteries and Crematoria, but who knows what spins his cogs?*

CEO Mark Simpson informs this is a requirement of the LGA (Local Government Act) and a draft proposal for the LTP. He then continues "people are dying for this" and "we don't want to be seen digging a hole".

Do we have a clown for a CEO? I have a sense of humour, but perhaps it's time to remind our 'leaders' of their responsibilities. The four well-beings: Cultural, Economic, Environmental and Social. Do you think those comments may just fall outside sensitivity of cultural and social expectations? Don't you remember, at the start of this meeting Morris was paying respect for those that perished in the Christchurch earthquake?

Cr Kahu Sutherland insisted that he wanted to see protection of the cemeteries mentioned in the item.

With time at 1046hrs it was Item No.7, Recommendation for Increase in Contract Value – North Area (Page115)

CEO Simpson advised that this was one of our accounting protocols and had already been allocated for in the budget for storm damage; we do this on a very regular basis.

The meeting was about to finish at 1047hrs but Cr Brian McLachlan rises to his feet and asks that Item C1 in the confidential agenda be discussed in the open meeting as we need to be open and transparent. Cr Warwick Syers comments that when issues are in the development stage they are not ready to go into the public; it's just ridiculous, it should be in confidential. When it's appropriate to move it the CEO and Mayor will move it.

Cr Shelley Deeming claimed it was not appropriate to discuss private information of the organizations. *Is this a bit different Shelley, from when you sent a 'confidential complaint' with the complainant's details to an organisation, an original complaint was made about?*

Cr Phil Halse wanted to move that they go into confidential. *Sounds like this may be something to do with rugby?*

Cr John Williamson wished to support Cr McLachlan.

Cr Crichton Christie advised that the issue was about what is allowed to be in confidential under the LGA (Local Government Act); does this pass the test? No it doesn't pass the test.

Cr Sue Glen advises that it will end up on the front page of the newspaper; so 'do what is right'. *Shouldn't you always do what is right?*

Cr Kahu Sutherland thought it should stay in confidential.

Cr Greg Martin didn't think moving it into the public arena is not the right thing to do; they should be work shopping it.

Cr Sharon Morgan insisted it should stay in confidential. *Is it really smelling of rugby; look at the supporters of it staying in confidential?*

Cr Brian McLachlan in his right of reply added that under the LGA they are required to look at all options. It was decided to go to the vote with a division called for.

The vote for it to move into the public section of the meeting;
Cr Aaron Edward, Cr John Williamson, Cr Brian McLachlan and Cr Crichton Christie.
For it to remain in confidential; Cr Phil Halse, Cr Shelley Deeming, Cr Greg Martin, Cr Kahu Sutherland,
Cr Sharon Morgan, Cr Warwick Syers and Mayor Morris Cutforth. *NB All big rugby supporters.*

The meeting concluded at 1057hrs, the public excluded before going into the **confidential** section of the meeting.

Didn't Morris campaign that he wanted open and transparent council? And he always votes for it to go into confidential. Ha, ha, said the clown.

CONFIDENTIAL INDEX

C.1 Strategic Plan - Facilities (Page 1)

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