

Whangarei District Council meeting - 22nd June 2011.

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)

[Link to Supplementary item 4 - Police Report](#)

With Deputy Mayor Cr Phil-*in* Halse in the chair this meeting is underway promptly at 1000hrs. Phil welcomes Councillors, staff and members of the public.

An apology is received for Cr Kahu Sutherland

Item No.1.the 'Public Forum' Council had not received any applications to speak at Public Forum at the time the agenda closed

At 1001hrs it was Item No. 2, the Minutes of a Meeting of the Whangarei District Council held 25 May 2011. No discussion was required for this item.

Item No. 3. Minutes; Extra-ordinary Whangarei District Council, Monday 2nd June 2011. This was a report on the hearings for the Draft 2011 2012 Annual Plan. As there was no need for discussion at 1001hrs, this was all over in seconds.

Cr Crichton Christie arrived for the meeting.

With time still at 1001hrs it was Item No. 4. Police Report and Area Commander Inspector Paul Dimery, was here to present his report. Youths should be at school getting the education they need; there would be a focus on truancy. There were problems with Ecstasy and Kronic with a major issue of those dealing drugs to children of 13, 14, 15 and 16 year olds. Ecstasy was being sold for \$50-00 to \$60-00, but offered for nothing to ladies. We will get the dealers; the parasites should get out, he said. Kronic had the same effect and youths were going to school like zombies. We all have to let retailers that we don't approve of them selling this product. There have been organized crime issues; the Rebels (real good citizens) were dealing meth and the Head hunters were behind gang fights, mostly of girls at high schools.

On a far more positive note the volunteer base has been outstanding. The reality is we are winning; an example is the mall is a far better place to visit.

Cr Sue Glen asked if the Rebels were still in the same property.

Paul Dimery claimed they had moved and any information on their movements would be appreciated. *They are fairly transient so any up to date info is always a help to the authorities.*

Cr Aaron Edwards questioned the legalities about minimum age for Kronic.

Paul Dimery replied it is 18 but being legal, there were no requirements.

Cr John Williamson claimed the Tikipunga Liquor ban application meeting he had attended recently had asked if there was to be better policing presence of the area.

Gosh John I thought for a moment you were trying to get a 'yellow line parking free pass' or 'Get out of Jail' card off Paul. This is Paul Dimery, John, not Paul Dell you are talking to.

Paul Dimery explained there was mixed reaction to police presence.

Cr John Williamson also queried about running red lights and community groups set up to monitor it. *Stick to yellow lines John; you will get into a heap of trouble trying to run red lights. The ones I have seen all seem to be stationary; so leave it to the experts.*

Paul Dimery suggested it could have issues if it went to court but they had looked at red light cameras.

Cr Merv Williams said Paul need not apologise for bringing bad things to council as without the information they did not know; so thank you for telling us what is going on.

Paul Dimery explained that there was peer pressure on being a nark. What youth have to be aware of is if they wish to be heard, they have to stand up and be strong.

Cr Jeroen Jongejans had concerns about youth drinking problems.

Paul Dimery claimed we can only work together for better values.

Cr Sharon Morgan, who is involved in alcohol licensing, claimed there had been positive reports but now they were advised of intoxicated issues on licensed premises. Was this correct?

Paul Dimery informed there would be controlled purchase operations; but it was only two or three that were the problem.

Paul was thanked for his report.

The time now at 1017hrs. Item No. 5. 2011-2012 Annual Plan

Cr Warwick Syers in his address claimed it was a 'Document of Democracy' set up for the following year. *Who knew they understood that word, didn't most think they just liked ticking the boxes, as per the rules?* He continued debt was \$150 million and there was a section on why we need debt. He asked the councilors to support the Annual Plan.

Cr Sue Glen had a query about it costing \$83mil for a return of \$49 mil on operating expenses.

A couple tried to explain but it was Group Manager Infrastructure and Services Simon Weston who appeared to have the success. *Simon has the ability to talk in a calm, soothing manner without talking down to people that happens on some occasions in this environment. Keep at it Simon, your style exceeds some others.*

Cr John Williamson wants to support the Annual Plan but sees Whangarei as being business unfriendly. An example is, (pg14 Annual Plan) Link not available at present, where rating differentials is 5x for commercial properties.

Cr Aaron Edwards had reasonable support for the plan but had concerns with a couple of capital items.

Cr Brian McLachlan supported the adoption of the plan but had serious concerns about selling more properties. *You are so right Brian, selling off the silver instead of ceasing wasteful spending.*

Cr Crichton Christie, rising to his feet, states parts of the plan are good but wastewater and the harbour crossing are poor. They advertised a 4% increase and it has now gone to 4.5%. Some issues have been ignored. Property sales and how we deal with them are ignoring our policy. Selling \$14mil and doing it and not treating it as the policy said. I support the policy, but it is being ignored. We are getting to our debt limits. We shouldn't use the property sales to pay for the groceries. He again repeated they are ignoring the policy. *Crichton, you have finally found some spunk in those old boots. Good on you tell it as it is.*

Cr Phil Halse claims it was 'full agreement' on property sales. *One has to ask was it full agreement or a majority agreement? There is a difference. Being a witness to mistruths (or lies if you want) by Cr Halse in the past, I find it hard to believe anything he says.*

Group Manager Support Services Alan Adcock, *obviously feeling the need to dampen the cinders*, gives an explanation about the dividends as the year has not finished yet. *Another attempt to settle the dust*, Alan continues; 'To say we walked away from the policy is not correct.'

Cr Merv Williams is pleased to support the Annual plan as it has gone through a good process. We have to face reality. We sat back and didn't increase rates years ago and now it's catch up. He had been to the Statistics Department and apart from "finding there were 145 babies born on Mother's day in 2008" had come up with some interesting stats. No one wants to see rates go up. *No one has come up with the idea to STOP SPENDING on unnecessary projects.* He is looking forward to the rates review, we can't compare with other TLA's (Territorial local Authorities). We must do the study properly and have good science behind it.

Cr Sharon Morgan supported this Annual Plan; we have listened to the people, spent \$7mil on waste water which should please some people, *(this is when they really need to spend about \$50mil to fix it)* and the new funding vehicle could save \$500,000-00 per annum. *(Notice the word 'could', let's just wait and see how much is saved)*

Cr Phil Halse claims he is relatively pleased with the submission process and wanted to thank Stepie Munday, *(contact me if that's not correct)* for the work on the plan. He also had praise for Alan Adcock and his staff for their efforts also. *(I have said it before and will say it again; our councils do have some very professional staff readily willing to give good sound advice. On the other hand we also hear of some that don't fit into that category.)*

Cr Warwick Syers, in his right of reply, said he was pleased to present the Annual Plan and asked councilors to support it.

A division was called for and Cr Crichton Christie voted against the recommendation. *Good on you Crichton, you have taken a stance on something you feel strong about. Have the courage to stand up for what you believe in even if you sometimes have to stand alone.*

Item No. 6. Rates Resolution 2011/2012. (1045hrs)

Cr Aaron Edwards wanted clarification that it was the status quo at 4.5%.

This was confirmed and the rate increase was passed in less than a minute unanimously and none of those that promised 'no rate increases' hearts skipped a beat. *Lucky 180 was away, eh?*

2011 Amendment to the 2099-2019 Long Term Council Community Plan Item No. 7.

It's still now 1045hrs and Cr Brian McLachlan queried when this arrangement would go ahead.

Group Manager Support Services Alan Adcock confirmed it would be in November.

It's now 1047hrs, Item No. 8. Environment Group Fees and Charges.

Cr Shelley Deeming quoted she hates having to put up fees; it's either user pays or the community pay and the fees had to be at a reasonable level.

Cr Sharon Morgan had a query re signage (pg 29) charges for confiscation

Group Manager Environment Paul Dell explained that with signs that had been an issue for a long time, they would have to pay a contractor to remove them. *Is this the sign issue the one of the sign written vehicles?* Paul continued saying "that signs spring up like garden gnomes". *Well Paul, from where you sit, would you be the most qualified to know about gnomes?*

Cr Aaron Edwards had a query about advance fees.

Cr John Williamson also queried advance fees on page 24.

Paul Dell explained that advance fees never cover the full cost.

Cr Greg Martin claimed the costs were too high when we should be showing an effort to promote the district.

It's now 1051hrs, Item No. 9. Whangarei District Council Councillor Manifesto.

Cr Warwick Syers suggested many would ask 'what is a manifesto?' It is a councilor's strategic plan of what councilors want to achieve in their 3 year term. If we don't do these things we will not grow. It is the collective vision of Council. *Hey Warwick what about the people who end up paying, what about their collective vision?*

Cr Aaron Edwards felt a lot was positive but there was some rubbish also. Promoting the 4 lane highway was one. Why not lobby for rail; as we have a council decision on that. *You are right Aaron, tell it as it is.*

Cr Sharon Morgan is pleased to see the new seal strategy, being a rural resident.

Cr Shelley Deeming claims she is supportive of putting the ideas out there; see the thoughts and direction of council. The public must understand these are not cast in stone. *Shelley I would like to believe you but.....heard it all before. What about the thoughts, ideas and direction of the community. Oh you haven't listened to them yet; sorry I forgot you will do that after the plans are finalised.*

Cr Sue Glen does not remember a process like this previously so will be supporting it.

Cr Jeroen Jongejans wants to reiterate that the presentation is very good. It was nice to see them start with Economic Development at the top of the page. He also was a strong lobbyist for the 4 lane highway to Auckland. *He is just trying to get up you Aaron; keep on track. Like the pun.*

Cr Greg Martin also agrees with Jeroen about the 4 lane highway, He agrees with the Auckland Spatial Plan and they needed to do it vigorously with the whole of Northland.

Cr Brian McLachlan claims he will be voting against this; he disagreed as their ideas should be put in the Annual Plan and Long Term Plans for the community to vote on them. The list itself was just playing 'lip service' for the environment.

Cr Crichton Christie was fully supportive of this; it was user friendly, not set in stone and people can own it.

Cr Merv Williams is also happy with the document; it is clear and concise and has business friendly policies. He was also pleased to see WDC staff on one site. *I think that point about 'one site' is probably a very big issue that needs addressing.*

Cr Warwick Syers feels that everyone is fairly supportive, with odd exception, but each to his own.

A division was called for and Cr Brian McLachlan and Cr Aaron Edwards voted against the recommendation.

It's now 1106hrs, Item No. 10. Northland Events Centre – Appointment of Trustees

Cr Warwick Syers withdrew from the table. *(He did not leave the chamber)*

No discussion was entered into on this item.

Cr Phil Halse thanked Cr Warwick Syers for his work as a trustee on the Northlands Event Centre.

Item No. 11. Granting of Easement - Reotahi (1106hrs)

Cr Greg Martin believed it was the rationalisation of their access from the 1950s

Cr Aaron Edwards wanted some clarification.

Cr Crichton Christie claims it says there is a value to it. There are figures on it and cost to whom?

Cr Warwick Syers informs that it is just an easement to the access.

Cr Crichton Christie asks if we are going to be paid.

Cr Phil Halse tells Crichton he has two options, agree or make an amendment.

Cr Crichton Christie chooses to make an amendment that the value is \$25,000-00 plus GST.

Cr Warwick Syers, *obviously not impressed*, says this is absolutely ludicrous; charging this person \$25k. He can't support it. This is 'Justice by Shotgun' (*how would he know?*)

He continues that there was an opportunity before the meeting to get the facts. Don't fire off the top of your head. (*Gosh, did he learn all this while on the RU board?*)

Mr Michael Mattin is one of the applicants for the easement. (Check the agenda item.)

*An interesting link Would this be a 'conflict of Interest'? Should Mr Syers have left the room? Does this explain his intense, slightly hostile interest in **this** item on the agenda?*

Cr Aaron Edwards suggests that they have the results of the valuation; all Cr Christie wants is clarification. If we are going to seek the payment it should be in the recommendation.

Cr John Williamson feels it should lie on the table as the local councilor (Syers) has a difference of opinion.

Group Manager Support Services Alan Adcock confirms that it is all covered the recommendation.

The amendment by Cr Christie is lost and the motion is carried.

The meeting concluded at 1117hrs before going to a confidential section of the meeting.

Didn't Morris campaign that he wanted open and transparent council, or did the travelling sick Puppet tell porkies? He obviously doesn't suffer from travel sickness. (What don't they want us to know?)

C.1 Confidential Minutes of the Civic Honours Committee of the Whangarei District Council held 9 June 2011

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

