

Whangarei District Council meeting – 22nd May 2013.

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)

We are asked to all stand for 'His Worship, the Mayor'. A large proportion attending in the public gallery, remain seated for his entry to the chamber.
He thanks them for standing and allows them to sit down.

At 1000hrs Morris remains standing and advises that he wished to read out a statement. In brief he claimed he was not going to stand for re election, as the health of himself and his wife needed now to be a priority. *Yee Ah, he's been a big disappointment to the many he has fooled.*

There were no apologies for today's meeting

[Link to Morris Cutforth Christmas email.](#) - 21st December 2010 - *Just to remind you all why he stood for mayor*

This next item, below, was showing in the agenda but was not mentioned in the meeting.
Perhaps it's a little alien to this lot?

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Members are reminded to indicate any items in which they might have a conflict of interest.

Time now at 1002hrs and Supplementary Item No.1, the 'Public Forum' (Page 1)
It was advised that there had been no applications **approved** to speak at today's meeting.

There had been applications and these had been held back depending investigation by councils Legal Counsel.

It was now still 1002hrs. Item No. 2. Minutes of a Meeting of the Whangarei District Council held 24 April 2013 (Page 2)

Morris advised this also included the confidential minutes.

Moved: Cr Greg Martin, Seconded: Cr John Williamson.

There was no discussion on this item.

With time still at 1003hrs it was Item No.3. Minutes of the 20/20 Inner City (City Centre/Urban Design) Subcommittee meeting held 8 May 2013 (Page 5)

Moved: Cr Phil Halse, Seconded: Cr Shelley Deeming.

There was no discussion on this item.

With time now at 1004hrs it was Item No.4. Police Report. (Page 8)

The report can be found in the on line agenda.

Morris Cutforth invites Acting Area Commander Tracy Phillips (Inspector Tracy Phillips) to speak to the meeting.

Tracy, after hearing the Mayors earlier statement comments, "Big time for change in Council, it will be interesting to see who we get".

Tracy went through her report expanding on its main points then availing herself to questions.

Cr Merv Williams queried the road policy in relation to trucks. He claimed there was a big problem at Maunu Road / State Highway 1 intersection and this needed to be made safer.

Cr John Williamson made comment re a public meeting at Otangarei where there had been 5 police officers present and was keen on feedback from Tracy.

Inspector Tracy Phillips gave details about improvements to the police presence in Otangarei with new officers undertaking training.

Cr Greg Martin had concerns about the traffic lights at Kamo Road / State Highway 1 intersection where trucks were unable to get through the intersection with light phases claiming they could work with traffic engineers on the issue.

Inspector Tracy Phillips replied that she would love to see some of the traffic lights to be re phased. *So true they need to be phased with 'demand' and not on 'time' as some intersections remain dormant at light traffic hours waiting for lights to change.*

Morris Cutforth thanked Tracy her for the report, then rose to his feet chanting 'Whangarei, Love it Here' a couple of times. *Have another shot at '7 days' when you retire Morrie.*

Morris presented Tracy Philips with a couple of great 'Love it Here' posters but quoting something similar to "one of the signs showed a dog breaking their by-laws".

Tracy thanked council for their posters claiming they will look great at the office in the police station.

This Police report was received and moved: Cr Crichton Christie, Seconded: Cr Sue Glen.

With time now at 1014hrs it was Item No.5.Northland Athletics and Gymnastics Stadium Trust – Report on Financial Position (Page 9)

Cr Phil Halse advised he had a Conflict of Interest, moved back from the table but said he was available to answer any questions.

Moved: Cr Brian McLachlan, Seconded: Cr Warwick Syers.

Cr Brian McLachlan comments that the plans didn't go too good with the cost over runs but he would support the recommendations.

Cr Shelley Deeming claimed she would support the proposal.

Cr Merv Williams informed that he was frustrated that this hadn't come out until he queried the project and they should have known a year ago.

Cr Sue Glen added that "we need to realise the car park is our responsibility; I see us giving zero. It is unfair if we pick on this group of people". *What are you on, Sue?*

Cr Greg Martin insisted that they need staff keeping a track of processes.

Cr John Williamson informed "that when he saw this item he asked who stuffed up? It is a most unusual car park; it's a storm water issue and it's our car park. We need to suck it up and I think that's what we are doing". *John are you and Sue on the same?*

Cr Kahu Sutherland, not at all happy, claimed "he didn't share the view of his fellow councilors. This was another cost overrun; a basic thing like a car park is not considered part of a facility. Try getting consent without one. To me with all the expertise we have, it's about

ticking boxes and making sure we comply. We have failed, it's another fail; just like the overrun on the bridge. It is becoming too frequent if we accept this; we should be building overruns into the projects. He advises he will support the recommendation but just to get the relief they deserve, but still condones the overrun".

Cr Sharon Morgan advises that they don't want to see overruns, but she supports the recommendation. It was not picked up until well into the project and we must support our volunteers.

Cr Jeroen Jongejans wanted to congratulate the trust that had kept it all together on the journey as they struck some problems; advising that he would be supporting the recommendation.

Cr Aaron Edwards advises that he would be abstaining from the vote as some of his business dealing may have a conflict of interest.

The recommendation was duly passed.

Would all these people be this happy if the overrun was on a quoted job at their house and the money was coming out of their own pocket???? It seems to be OK when it is someone else's money.

With time at 1023hrs it was Item No.6. Review of Reserve Management Plan for William Fraser Memorial Park on Pohe Island (Page 11)

(Page)

Moved: Cr Warwick Syers, Seconded: Cr Merv Williams.

Cr Merv Williams informed that this was a Draft Plan going out to public consultation.

Another tick the boxes exercise like LTP's, District Plans etc; but will anything change?

Cr Sue Glen asked if this will be advertised well in the local Leader.

CEO Mark Simpson replied, "Yes".

Cr Brian McLachlan added "Pohe Island is a great asset".

Fait Accompli?

There was no further discussion on this item.

With time at 1025hrs it was Item No.7. Youth Space (Page 51)

Moved: Cr Merv Williams, Seconded: Cr Aaron Edwards.

Morris Cutforth asks Owen Thomas, Senior Community Services Advisor to speak to this item.

Owen explains that he is excited to be able to present this item. We have had some wins over the last 12 months with the Youth sector.

Cr Merv Williams advises that when you came in Mr Mayor, you said youth were important.

Owen advises that Mr Ian Smedley, Project Manager for Youth Space Establishment at Manaia Primary Health Organisation has come on board with this project. NIF (Northland Intersectoral Forum) has also come on board and Owen thanks Mania PHO for their support.

Cr Jeroen Jongejans advises that he read this item with great interest; he wanted to thank Cr Merv Williams and Cr Aaron Edwards for their work on this. He believed this will be the best return on a dollar than we can ever have.

Morris Cutforth interjected and stated that there were two areas that had been neglected; Youth and Maori. He added that these had been well addressed. *Have those been well addressed, just like the Public Forums?*

Cr Crichton Christie, to his feet, claims as one who is still producing youth, he was pleased they were going to look after them. He saw this as a step in the right direction.

Cr Aaron Edwards, as you won't be surprised he would be supporting this item. It had been a long time coming; setting up the Youth Advisory Group (YAG), implementing policies means this new youth space will be a hub for promoting positive moves.

Morris Cutforth wanted to thank Cr Aaron Edwards and Cr Merv Williams for the work they had done.

Cr Sharon Morgan claimed she would be endorsing this project and believed the location was perfect.

Mr Ian Smedley was invited to speak to the meeting and summed it up by stating 'It was increasing the engagement of young people themselves with services to be healthy and happy'. *Pretty great basic objectives if you ask me.*

Cr John Williamson informs that he looked at the use of this building in a positive way.

Cr Greg Martin interjected claiming "we should vote before we start kissing babies". *Well Greg, you should know; different when it's your project!*

Cr Phil Halse advises that he wanted an amendment to the recommendation.

The amendment was moved: Cr John Williamson and seconded: Cr Shelley Deeming. Phil Halse explained that his amendment ensured the transaction was recorded accurately for ratepayers to see the total transaction and council's support of the project.

Cr Merv Williams was happy to have the original recommendation changed.

Morris Cutforth questioned that both the original mover and seconder were happy.

Cr Shelley Deeming informed that Cr Edwards had referred to the building as an incubator for youth; Shelley added that the building was the original Plunket facility and therefore it was appropriate.

Cr Kahu Sutherland offered his word of advice to those present; "make sure you have your lease in perpetuity, ensure your lease is water tight". *I understand where Kahu is coming from as I believe he has first-hand experience of how things can change. He did operate a Youth Centre.*

Cr Merv Williams, in his right of reply, added that Cr Jeroen Jongejans said it was a great return on a dollar; he wanted to thank the staff who had done a lot of work.

The item was carried.

The meeting finished at 1053hrs.

There was a vote for the public to be excluded before going into the **confidential** section of the meeting and this was moved by Morris Cutforth, Seconded: Cr Aaron Edwards.

Not bad for open and transparent meetings?

Just a reminder, didn't Morris and Aaron both campaign that they wanted open and transparent council? And Morris always also tends to vote for it to go into confidential. Just another thing he did an 'about turn on'.

Just a small note it is great to see that some of the councilors hands have got back into action after suffering something like 'writing cramp' but then again it is now entering into re election time. They must have got sore sitting on them for the last 30 months.

CONFIDENTIAL INDEX

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