

Whangarei District Council meeting - 23rd February 2011.

This meeting started with all being asked to stand for the mayor, with all, but a couple obliging to this request. *Understandably, after speaking to the two later who had not stood, they told me they had lost respect for him in the way issues they are having, had been handled recently and they only stand for people they respect. Fair enough, I had to agree, as previously I had been down a similar track.*

(Not personally agreeing with the Mayors list of priorities. I would have recognised Christchurch and Ann Shaw before myself but I suppose, to some, it's all about him) The Mayor thanked those that had sent well wishes and cards and claimed he was still very seriously ill according to the doctors and nurses who had been caring for him.

He then showed concern for the 'People of Christchurch' going through a very serious disaster following the earthquake of 22nd February. People were standing and a moment's silence was observed by ALL.

The passing of Ann Shaw, an ex-WDC Councillor was recognised. It was Cr John Williamson that undertook the eulogy for Ann Shaw to a now seated public gallery. He acknowledged her contribution to society. Ann was a very successful person before being elected to council. Ann was a good business person, an employer, active in the Girl Guide movement, YWCA and a member of National Council of Women. Ann ran the 'Paper Mill', was involved with Senior Net and Chamber of Commerce, she was also the first female to hold a Licensed Motor Vehicle Licence in NZ. Ann was a tough person, street smart and had a no nonsense approach. *John you enlightened many of Ann's great qualities and Ann will be sadly missed by many who have had the pleasure to know her through her life.* People again stood for a moment's silence which again was observed by ALL.

It was now 1009hrs and Morris Cutforth vacates the chair for Deputy Mayor Cr Phil Halse to preside over the remainder of the meeting. An apology from Cr Crichton Christie is received.

It was into Item No.1.the 'Public Forum' but was I mistaken, as on my agenda it was dated 2 December 2010. *Strange about the date, but it certainly had today's participants correctly listed.*

Ms Bev Woods (who was rudely short changed of time when attempting to talk to council on 24th November 2010) talked about her concerns regarding vehicle free zones on beaches. She claimed Council had not replied to her letters, and made demands that the process should be transparent. She explained recent dealings with Northland Regional Council earlier, in regards to kite boarding, had been very open and honest. Alas, today there was no attempt to stop her early but Bev again, astutely prepared, finished a mere 5 seconds short of her allocated time.

There was an apology for Mr Karl Lieffering, who had been reprogrammed from being the first speaker today, but overlooked by the chair and was now to address council next month.

Mary McDonald was next to present a well researched speech and her passion for the retention of Mander Park which may shortly be cleared of some Heritage trees to make way for the widening of the highway. The trees were under threat of being chopped by New Zealand Transport Agency trying to put through a cheap and easy option. The public had not been well informed, with the plans being flawed and not known to most. The plans had not been publicised regarding the Maunu Road and Selwyn Road intersections. Her claims of Cheap, Easy and Nasty fairly described the process that had been undertaken to date by council. Mary filled her time well. (actually receiving an extra 58 seconds) *Thank you councillors, for being so accommodating.*

At 1019hrs it was Item 2, the Minutes from the previous meeting and all approved with no issues needing any discussion from them.

Item No.3. A Petition received from Mrs Jan Davidson to preserve the trees in Mander Park was received by council during the next minute.

Item No.4.the Police Report written by Area Commander Inspector Paul Dimery, who was absent on sick leave was presented by Senior Sergeant Richard Leach at 1020hrs. There was discussion about volunteers patrolling 'hot spots' at beaches and it was Cr Sue Glen who asked 'who they were'. Owen Thomas, Senior Community Services Advisor gave brief details of the plan.

It was then Cr Warwick Syers who questioned about the barring of gang patches.

Mayor Morris (*oh, he's still awake*) asked of the 'downsides of gang patches'. *Oh Morris, it's the people in the embroidery business, which will be out of pocket, of course.*

Cr Phil Halse, to the rescue, suggesting they would need to meet with Inspector Paul Dimery, the Mayor and CEO to discuss this issue. Cr Merv Williams commented that Inspector Dimery had sent info to the W.D.C. safety Officer.

Cr Sharon Morgan had queries about alcohol blitzes and the 30% failure by selling to underage persons. Senior Sergeant Richard Leach commented that it was higher than they wanted it to be. *It's great they are watching and checking for breaches of liquor laws. Keep up the good work.* Sharon Morgan wondered if the deterrent was great enough and Richard replied that many were fully aware and a number had been prosecuted. *Sharon seems keen to sort out some alcohol issues in the district. I can put you on to someone that hasn't had an alcohol related problem addressed yet, that you may like to address with integrity.*

It was Cr Aaron Edwards (*oh you are back on duty*) who asked about any police being deployed to Christchurch to assist with the earthquake issue. (*Don't tell us you wish to go away down south again Aaron*) Senior Sergeant Richard Leach commented that there had been offers by 10 police to go down and they were deploying 7 who had experience with SAR and disaster training.

Cr Crichton Christie joined the meeting at 10129hrs.

Cr John Williamson thanked Mr Dimery (*he's not here John*) for the strong commitment to road safety but sadly had concerns about security in Kamo and was surprised to have heard this

from a number of business owners in the area. Senior Sergeant Leach claimed he would be happy to discuss this problem to learn more.

Item No.5. Elected members Appointments kicked off at 1032hrs with Cr Merv Williams Commenting in relation to Recommendation 1b (page20) that community appointments were a sham but he was not opposing the appointment as it was in a stage of transition.

Cr Syers confirmed that councilors were trustees, council appointed the committee and it was in a transition stage.

Cr Brian McLachlan asked a question but was interrupted by Cr Phil Halse saying it was 'work in process'. (*Brian, does that mean shut up?*)

But no it was Warwick Syers that went on to have the final say *and put it to bed.*

It's now 1037hrs, Item No.6. Creative Communities Assessment Committee - Terms of Reference and Cr Sharon Morgan explains that she is looking forward to working with this group as their chair.

Item No.7. (Supplementary Item Agenda No 1) Notice of Motion begins at 1039hrs with Cr John Williamson rising and explaining the importance of his motion. We must acknowledge the parks and their history. It was not a new idea but a historical contribution to the community. Parks needed notice boards giving the history of each of the parks. Many didn't know where some of the city parks were, let alone their history. He emphasised there was no need for consultants, they need not be expensive, work could well be done in house and it could even be done by cadets as the knowledge is readily available. We claim to be the 'city of trees' so let's make a start with this motion.

Cr Jeroen Jongejans spoke in favour by commenting 'by understanding our history it promotes pride in the community. It was a fantastic idea and would be good for tourism'. (*Knew he was awake, whenever the word tourism comes up*)

Now it was Sgt Warwick Syers rising to his feet saying he had a problem (*but failing short of saluting*) claiming in his normal condescending manner, (*probably as it was not his idea*) that council made decisions and spent \$130million each year and had the Draft Annual Plan for such projects. While he supported it, he wouldn't support it going through in this process. 'If every \$30,000-00 matter came before council they would be there till 12 o'clock every month'. 'It was the bad use of process, there were focus groups and it shouldn't be in this forum'. He would be voting against this motion. (*Does this guy not like transparency in public meetings?*)

It was Cr Merv Williams claiming he disagreed *with Sgt Syers.*

Merv was in support of principle and supports 'Notice of Motion' but wanted an amendment to the motion to "read explored instead of provided" for in part 3 of the motion. It was a good idea but prioritization on parks projects shouldn't be affected as there is a big picture.

Cr Aaron Edwards (*oh he hasn't left town again*) wanted clarification from staff as to whether something similar was planned for other parks.

Paul Dell made comment in regards to Mander Park and it was NZTA and council that need to explore it.

Cr Sue Glen said 'Cr Williamson needs to be commended as it's not even election year'.

(So even Sue notices a difference in behavior, in election year to other times. It appears many sit on their behinds and cruise for two years and start rocking the boat only in election year. The Wallys and Franks are few and far between working for their constituents for a FULL 3 years.) Chair Phil Halse supported the amendment. He also supported Warwick Syers *(of course he would)* but we must have leadership and discipline in processes.

It was Cr John Williamson and time for his 'right of reply'. He supported the amendment. Some were not used to debate in public but that was true democracy. Councillors should feel that that can use Notice of Motion. He will uphold the Notice of Motion process till..... *we never heard the 'when' bit but assumed it was till he was destroyed by those against it.* He claimed he was passionate about the district and this had a sense of place.

The amendment was passed by all. The motion passed with both Cr Warwick Syers and Cr Sharon Morgan against the motion. *(The 'Yuhu Twins' they seem to stick together)*

The meeting concluded at 1054hrs with Cr Crichton Christie apologising for his standard of dress and being late as he had been providing a service to Auckland dropping tourists going to Christchurch. *(I wonder if his pay will be docked?Don't have to wonder for long)*

There was now to be a public exclusion for the next 4 items on the agenda *and we thought Morris wanted open and transparent council. (It looks like more property transactions are in the muzzle and they don't want us, the owners, to know)*

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

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#) plus [Supplementary Agenda Item No 1](#)