

Whangarei District Council meeting – 24th April 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, which allowed them to sit down.

At 1000hrs Morris remains standing and wished to read a poem, as tomorrow was Anzac Day. The poem was '[In Flanders Fields](#)' written by Major John McCrae in May 1915.

[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 during the reading of the items.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

At 1001hrs Morris says 'he would like to declare the meeting open'.

There were apologies for Cr Phil Halse and Cr Jeroen Jongejans.

Moved: Cr Greg Martin, Seconded: Cr Sharon Morgan.

Morris wished to advise that today's meeting was to be recorded with both audio and video.

Time still at 1002hrs and Item No.1, the 'Public Forum' (Page 1)

It was advised that there had been no applications approved to speak at today's meeting. Cr Merv Williams asked 'if either no applications had been received, or had applications been received but not been approved'.

Mayor Morris Cutforth replied "that an application had been received, but the person who wanted to speak to the public forum wouldn't let us know what he wanted to talk about"

*That is nothing short of a **mistruth** by the mayor.*

[LINK](#) to the application which was lodged on 9th April 2013. This proves the mayor is either a liar, or not being informed by the staff. Either way it is totally unacceptable.

[LINK](#) to Councils reply 'declining the above application' and personally signed by the Mayor **who said** "but the person who wanted to speak to the public forum wouldn't let us know what he wanted to talk about"

[LINK](#) to further written request to council regarding speaking at public forum.

To date no reply has been received to this latest request.

Group Manager Support Services Alan Adcock advised, under instruction from the mayor, that coming up to election there may be some changes to this policy of public forums. *Surely this should be the time when some truths come out about some of the elected representatives and their actions or lack of actions on behalf of their constituents.*

It was now still 1004hrs. Item No. 2. Minutes of a Meeting of the Whangarei District Council held 27 March 2013. (Page 2). Morris advised this also included the confidential minutes.

Moved: Cr Brian McLachlan, Seconded: Cr Sharon Morgan.

There was no discussion on this item.

With the time at 1005hrs it was Item No.3. Minutes of an Extraordinary Council meeting held 21 March 2013. (Page 9)

Moved: Cr Greg Martin, Seconded: Cr Warwick Syers.

There was no discussion on this item.

With time still at 1005hrs it was Item No. 4 Minutes of an Extraordinary Council meeting held 11 April 2013. (Page 12)

Moved: Cr Warwick Syers, Seconded: Cr Sharon Morgan.

There was no discussion on this item.

With time now at 1006hrs it was Item No.5. Police Report. (Page 14)

The report can be found in the on line agenda.

Morris Cutforth invites Area Commander Tracy Phillips to speak to the meeting.

Area Commander Tracy Phillips gave details of her report. She spoke of how alcohol had an influence on the later part of the Fritter Festival. Tracy also advised that police would be conducting breath testing at all hours of the day. Tracy was looking forward to tomorrows Anzac Day Parade and was happy to answer any questions.

Cr Shelley Deeming asked the Area Commander if she felt it was reasonable for police to approach people from behind, with lights flashing, in rural areas, at night in plain cars to conduct breath testing of motorists and was it reasonable action for the safety of citizens. Tracy Phillips replied, 'absolutely', we also have respect for our officer's safety as well and that can also be of concern.

Cr Shelley Deeming explained that it was her that it had happened to and she was unsure if in fact it was police stopping her, or someone else as had previously occurred in town. She explained that she was not at all keen of getting out of her vehicle. *The real question is, did she blow positive or negative after pulling out of where she had been?*

Cr Aaron Edwards asked if it was possible to get the police who assisted with traffic control after an accident at a local set of traffic lights to talk to council traffic engineers, as it was the best traffic had flowed for some time in this town.

Tracy Phillips, chuckling felt it was not good to answer that. She continued advising that nationally they were catching 100 people per day for drink driving offences.

Cr John Williamson asked if they would be seeing some traction on drug testing also being carried out randomly.

Tracy Phillips explained that drug testing requires strict training and processes and when funding is available, more training for this will be carried out and then it will be done more extensively.

Cr Warwick Syers commented that catching 100 people per day for drink driving offences requires more exposure through the media.

Tracy Phillips made a welcome invitation gesture to the media present.

Cr Sue Glen claimed it was like fishing, getting drunk drivers; some get away. She also made comment about the volunteer function she attended recently.

Tracy Phillips claimed that was a good note to finish on.

Morris Cutforth thanked the Area Commander for her report.

This report was received, moved by: Cr Sue Glen, Seconded: Cr Aaron Edwards.

With time at 1017hrs it was Item No.6. Review and adoption of Board Venue Policy. (Page 16)

Moved, Cr Shelley Deeming, Seconded: Cr John Williamson.

Cr Crichton Christie advised that he was withdrawing from this item as he believed he had a conflict of interest. He advised that he wasn't there for the submissions, believing he could therefore not make informed decisions on the item.

That is interesting Crichton, don't many of the others make decisions without being informed?

Morris Cutforth commented that it was only an adoption of the policy that had been decided.

Cr Greg Martin interjected in reference to a discussion being held with Cr Christie, "we need to move on as he has elected to leave". *Oh so who is in the chair? Is it Greg?*

Cr Shelley Deeming commented that there was no need for discussion, as it had been decided in public forum. *Oh, is that not normal? Is it usually done in closed workshops?*

Cr Warwick Syers wanted clarification on Cr Christie's position. *Simple, Warwick he is three seats to your left. He has left the table.*

There was no further discussion on this item and it was carried.

With time at 1019hrs it was Item No.7. Review and adoption of Class 4 Gambling Policy. . (Page 31)

Moved: Cr Merv Williams, Seconded: Cr John Williamson.

Both Cr Sharon Morgan and Cr Crichton Christie withdrew from this item. *Maybe their conflicts should be reported and recorded.*

Cr Merv Williams advised they had litigated this fully and it was out of order to re-litigate at this point, as we are just adopting it.

Cr Sue Glen commented that they had considered and deliberated and today we just have to put the stamp on it.

Cr Shelley Deeming claims the position she had taken on it previously was not good policy, but advised that she will support it.

There was no further discussion on this item.

With time at 1021hrs it was Item No.8. Northland Cricket Association. (Page 46)

Moved: Cr Shelley Deeming, Seconded: Cr John Williamson.

Group Manager Support Services Alan Adcock left the table as he believed he had a conflict of interest.

Cr Shelley Deeming commented that cricket had done a great job enhancing the district and believed that Alan Adcock was an excellent representative as Councils appointee on the Trust.

Cr Sue Glen informed they particularly wanted Alan, but for what reason?

Alan Adcock, in reply, "it was for my understanding of the sport and being a player."

Cr Brian McLachlan explained that the context was great but the sticky part is about a council appointee; is he in his private capacity? But he still had concerns about council appointment. I suppose it is, as long as Alan is happy.

Cr Aaron Edwards asked if this appointment will be seen as a role in council; are we paying him for the time he serves in this role.

Morris Cutforth claims "the CEO said as long as he does it in 'his' time, its ok". *That didn't really answer if they were paying him, or is it a paid position?*

Cr Crichton Christie queried if it was in the Trust Deed that there would be a council appointee.

Alan Adcock advised that it is in the deed.

Cr Warwick Syers also gave some clarification to the item.

Cr Brian McLachlan attempted to reply to a comment that had been made about uncertainty by some around the table on this appointment, but Morris Cutforth advised him he had already spoken and stopped him from continuing. *At least you got your three minutes worth earlier, Brian; not like some who are denied the right to speak in a public forum and then have mistruths said about their application.*

The meeting finished at 1029hrs.

There was a vote for the public to be excluded before going into the **confidential** section of the meeting and this was moved by Cr Aaron Edwards, Seconded: Cr Sharon Morgan. Not bad for open and transparent meetings?

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

CONFIDENTIAL INDEX

C.1 Confidential Minutes of a Meeting of the Whangarei District Council held 27 March 2013
(Page 1)

C.2 Property Transaction (Page 2)

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

