

Whangarei District Council meeting - 24th August 2011.

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)

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. He also permits the "Travelling Mayor" Morris 180° Cutforth to speak to the chamber. Morris thanked the Councillors, the citizens of Whangarei, Phil Halse and the staff for keeping it all in order while he was away on sick leave. "It's been a wonderful time to go and get my head sorted out and I think I've done that". *Time will tell.* He acknowledged all the projects that had happened in his absence and will be back to work early next month. *Does that clarify a few things; so was it a 'breakdown' or a 'stroke'? Patient confidentiality and all that; who would honestly know?*

No apologies are received for this meeting.

Item No.1.the 'Public Forum' .Council had not received any applications to speak at Public Forum at the time the agenda closed. But what a surprise, nothing in the agenda at all (hard copy or on line) but Cliff Colquhoun, General Manager from Cebec was to speak. He claims he represents Cebec and apologises for the embarrassment to council from one of their staff members last month. There was a lot of passion involved. She had been given clear written instructions which she had ignored and another person's staff name had been used to book the meeting speech, without their knowledge. He appreciated the support from council staff and was looking forward to working with them in the future. *Personally I feel this is a disgusting abuse of the use of a public forum to air personal staff issues of a local commercial business. A bad lack of control by the chair, Mr Halse. I bet you wouldn't allow a citizen to stand up in the public forum and bad mouth one of their employees. (Eg.a council staff member) Talk about double standards; was this a set up right from the beginning?*

It was now 1006hrs. Item No. 2, Minutes of a Meeting of the Whangarei District Council held 27 July 2011. No discussion was required for this item.

Item No. 3. Minutes of the 20/20 Inner City Development (City Centre/Urban Design) Subcommittee Meeting held 10 August 2011.

As there was no need for discussion, this was all over in seconds.

With time still at 1007hrs it was Item No. 4. Police Report

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

Read the report, some very interesting statistics there to make one ponder.

Senior Sergeant Rob Huys was taking the place of Inspector Paul Dimery who was away in Wellington on business. Rob went through the report supplied by Inspector Dimery giving a brief of priority issues. Motor Vehicle accidents were slightly up on the previous month. Burglaries continue with a 7% increase. Vine Street continues to be a problem. Rob discussed the "Investing in OUR Young People" hui. A most interesting comment that Rob completed the Police Report with was 'Criminals don't even want their own kids to be criminals'. Some food for thought from that gripping statement. *It's alright but not in my back yard!*

The time now at 1016hrs. Item No. 5. Electoral Decisions

Cr Aaron Edwards claims he prefers the STV (single transferable vote) system but happy to go with the majority.

Cr Merv Williams believes that some other systems may represent people's opinions better, but in other electorates most don't understand the system.

Cr Kahu Sutherland explains that in the past he was against Maori Representation as he believed we should all come through the process we all undergo. He is pleased we are getting a paper on this issue. There is potential for Maori involvement through Treaty claims. This should be discussed around the table and not underneath it.

Item No. 6. Change to Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances (1019hrs)

Cr Warwick Syers comments that it is unfortunate they haven't changed the 30km ruling but it was outside our control.

Cr Phil Halse explains it's because of excessive claims by some urban councilors

Cr Shelley Deeming was unhappy they discriminate against rural councilors and residents. Travel costs could use your whole income.

Cr Crichton Christie wished to confirm 'urban councilors don't abuse it on the whole'.

Cr Sue Glen insists 'they need to let them know it's not palatable; it's a poke in the eye saying we are untrustworthy.'

Cr Phil Halse confirms it was protested hard at the local government meeting.

Northland Events Centre – Appointment of Trustee Item No. 7.

It's now 1024hrs and there was no need for discussion on this item.

It's still 1024hrs, Item No. 8. Statement of Proposal – Review of the Liquor Management Bylaw 2007

[Link to Supplementary item1](#)

Cr Merv Williams asked the Kamo Police Sergeant Stephen Duckmanton to go through the changes.

Sergeant Stephen Duckmanton obliged by explaining the review.

Cr Merv Williams explained they had waited a long time for the communities to tackle specific problems since the introduction of the liquor ban in the CBD. We must support and thank the police with this project.

Cr Sharon Morgan agrees with the plan but has concerns about managing it. The logistics are if the problem moves elsewhere is do you have the resources to cope. Sergeant Stephen Duckmanton confirmed that it was a tool for the police; it is legislation to assist us to move groups. They will move off elsewhere, but away from families and tourists making a safer environment. Most problems are in the early hours of the morning in Kamo for example; 18 year olds with alcohol in a public place.

Cr Crichton Christie supports the intention; it is a tool in the toolbox. If you are too tough we will take away the bylaw as it is our bylaw. He will be happy to take it away if you abuse it; you must use common sense.

Cr Greg Martin claims he supports it absolutely; but calls for a division.

Cr Kahu Sutherland has a concern if this goes far enough; are we shifting the problem? If this is a problem we have to add, that we need to solve the issue; don't push it out further.

Cr Phil Halse informs that we need to educate people. There has to be an acceptable level in the community and this is a part of the submission process.

Cr John Williamson queried if there was to be an increase of police presence in Tikipunga. *Gee Mr Williamson, you are not going to get your wife to park on those broken yellow lines again are you? Should be alright, the council may screw up the ticket, but the police don't entertain perverting the course of justice. They have integrity.* Sergeant Stephen Duckmanton confirmed that there had been an increase of police in Tikipunga addressing some issues.

Cr Merv Williams believed the problems in Vine Street had decreased since the liquor bans had been in place.

This was passed unanimously with Morris not voting on issues as he was still on leave.

It's still now 1039hrs, Item No. 9. Review of Council Policy on Dangerous, Insanitary and Earthquake Prone Buildings

Cr Brian McLachlan asked a question in relation to the 33% of today's engineering standards.

CEO Mark Simpson explained that was a minimum that the law allowed but council could go above that standard if it wished.

Cr Shelley Deeming queried if residential buildings were affected and it was confirmed that residential buildings were not.

Cr Crichton Christie was against this proposal; they need to assess the risk and he was happy with the status quo. It was just adding another \$10million to the bill for commercial properties. He will be voting against it; of course building Inspectors and engineers will want it to 'clip the ticket on the way through'.

CEO Mark Simpson explained that the reason they are doing it is because its law.

Cr Sue Glen asked for this law to be explained and Graham from the building consents section gave a brief on the law relating to this item.

Cr Crichton Christie was the only councilor to vote against the item.

It's now 1046hrs, Item No. 10. Progress in Scoping Whangarei Harbour Integrated Management Strategy

Cr Phil Halse explains that he wants Cr Brian McLachlan to be involved on the committee with the NRC and the Whangarei Harbour Integrated Management Strategy. He believed the WDC needed a representative on this committee.

Cr Greg Martin would like to add Cr Crichton Christie to it as well as he has huge experience in this area.

This item was duly passed.

Proposed Sale of 24 Mair Street – Whangarei Top 10 Holiday Park Item No. 11.
(at 1049hrs)

Cr Crichton Christie moved to not sell the property and gave some good reasons. There seems to be no intention to reinvest property sale money; it seems to be used for debt.

Cr Warwick Syers took issue with the previous speaker (Crichton Christie) money will eventually be reinvested as per the policy. He was phoned earlier by the Northern Advocate and asked how he would vote. He felt the ones that commented were reckless. The amount is minuscule and not important in the scheme of things. *Here you go people of Whangarei; here is a councilor responsible for your money that thinks approx \$600,000-00 is minuscule. How is that for an attitude; tell that to one of many that are struggling and on the bones of their backside.*

Cr Phil Halse commented to Warwick, "well said".

Cr Brian McLachlan informed that a camping ground is a necessity for people to stay at when using the proposed cycle way; it was a strategic property.

Cr Merv Williams had spoken against this earlier and believed Warwick Syers do a review of non strategic properties. This was a logical fit for an extension to Mair Park.

Cr Sue Glen said people had no idea on the stress that had been on the community.

Take time to think about the people in Gomez Road and how they were kept out of the discussions about a motorsport park. Personally I love motorsports but the lack of open process leaves a lot to be desired. Sue continued that the Northern Advocate had phoned her and they had jumped the gun. Their report had not shown us all in the best of light. *(Has it shown some true colours?)* She confirmed she was voting against the sale.

Cr Jeroen Jongejans wanted to have a talk about it. He had visited the camping ground in 1980 and not stayed there. He would support the direction of the leaseholder who wants to upgrade the site more. He understood that people like to spend money on projects when they own them and not lease them. *Very sound comments, Jeroen.*

Cr John Williamson claimed it was a good debate to have; they needed to consider what was strategic and if they sell it, we would ruin its potential. He too had been phoned by the Advocate and he had said 'he was a swinger'. *That doesn't surprise me at all John; because when we asked you your thoughts on the 'lower harbour crossing' your reply was "No one has asked for my vote yet". We know how you swing and sit on the fence. Could there be something of benefit to you? That may help the decision; a get out of jail free card or squash the parking ticket, eh? In my opinion; think of the integrity you and your cohorts may have undermined; of the conscientious parking warden who initially issued the infringement notice in good faith and the 'three of you' undermined that person's confidence in their job that they had done, because the three of you, could?*

Cr Aaron Edwards claimed it was strategic and we had been asked by the submitters and community not to sell it.

Cr Sharon Morgan informed she agreed with Cr Syers *(Surprise! Surprise!)* She will not be supporting the sale; it is a great asset on our doorstep and congratulations to the submitters who have convinced her not to sell it.

Cr Greg Martin called for a division on the vote.

Cr Phil Halse emphasized that it is easy to get caught up in the emotion. It is 4 residential sections and this is a fact; it's not heritage land; it's not a strategic asset; all submitters were locals and these are facts.

Cr Shelley Deeming claims she has sympathy with the camp owner who wants to increase his investment.

Cr Kahu Sutherland informs that he is against the sale. We are dealing with a process; it's a public document which I was asked my opinion on, not confidential. This is about keeping specific sites and locals were to be the most affected.

Cr Crichton Christie, in his right of reply, says they were powerful submitters. There is a good lessee there with an opportunity of a very good facility. It was previously run down and they have moved it up. In regards to borrowing (to the deputy mayor) he states "Don't think you have got the message from me yet! We have a policy and we have not lived by it. You haven't proved you can sell the silver and reinvest it".

Cr Phil Halse replied, (to Crichton Christie) "It's your interpretation".

Cr Crichton Christie retaliated to the deputy mayor, "Read the policy"

The decision was the property was to be retained and not be sold.

Cr Jeroen Jongejans was the sole councilor to vote against the property being retained.

Emma Cribb, rising to her feet joyfully singing and stating "The land remains, thank you".

Foot note: It surprises me that just 10 submitters have had such an influence. I too am pleased it is not being sold, but let's not hope this is just a smoke screen for the next project that they don't listen too as Cr Syers said "The amount is minuscule and not important in the scheme of things". This could be an excuse and they, in the bigger scheme of things could say, "Well we listened to submitters and decided not to sell the Holiday Park so that proves we do listen" Just ask yourself, 'are we just being fooled by this crafty lot?'

Item No. 12. International Rally of Whangarei (at 1128hrs)

Cr Merv Williams claims he is looking forward to next year with the International Rally of Whangarei being also a round of the WRC (World Rally Championship) and Asia-Pacific series starting on 22 June 2012. *Yee ah, bring it on!!!!*

Targa Rally – Temporary Road Closure. Item No. 13. (at 1129hrs)

[Link to Supplementary item 2](#) This item was to be heard on 10th August but was withdrawn pending more information required.

Cr Greg Martin claimed he was voting against this; he had asked for information and it doesn't come in. The job hasn't been done here.

Cr Shelley Deeming makes a statement that Targa Rally could learn a few lessons from Rally New Zealand about communicating with the people.

Jude Thompson, WDC Chief Operating Officer, claims Targa is as equal in organising as RNZ (Rally New Zealand) as she had experienced with dealing closely with them both. What we must do is put people with issues in contact with the event organisers.

Cr Greg Martin was the only who voted against the event being run.

It was most interesting to see Julia Willemen, spokesperson for Gomez Road residents, proudly displaying a message for Cr Greg Martin. It's o.k. for Greg if it's not in his street or doesn't affect him. [Link to photo.](#)

The meeting concluded at 1137hrs before having a presentation with the New Zealand Fire service and then going to a **confidential** section of the meeting.

C.1 Confidential Minutes of the Whangarei District Council meeting held 27 July 2011

*Didn't Morris campaign that he wanted open and transparent council? Yeah right.
(What don't they want us 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](#).