

Whangarei District Council meeting - 26th October 2011.

LINK to appropriate Agenda

We are asked to all stand for 'His Worship, the Mayor', but some didn't.

He asked that we showed a time of reflection and recites the following few quotes made by Winston Churchill;

"A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the Opportunity in every difficulty.

Morris comments "Maybe some of you should take note" and continues with

"Short words are best and the old words when short are best of all."

"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."

"History is written by the victors."

Does this guy just like to hear his own voice or what? Can I suggest you recite in the shower Morris, or as you have previously quoted, "naked in your spa pool?"

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

It was now 1003hrs. Item No. 2, Minutes of a Meeting of the Whangarei District Council held 28 September 2011 No discussion was required for this item.

With time 1004hrs it was Item No. 3. Minutes of a Meeting of the Creative Communities Assessment Committee held 20 September 2011 (Page 5)

Cr Sharon Morgan commented that it was great to see the number of applicants.

Morris Cutforth asked if it was difficult in selecting the successful applicant. *Morris some people can manage to make decisions without too much difficulty.*

With time 1006hrs it was Item No. 4. Police Report [Link to Police Report](#)

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

Inspector Paul Dimery was here to present the report of Inspector Martyn Ruth who is Relieving Area Commander for Whangarei/Kaipara. Paul is taken on a Crime Manager role at the present time.

There were 4 big issues facing the district with policing.

Home invasion and real serious crimes with firearms involved in the Methamphetamine trade, collections of money and gangs were ongoing problems. Unlawful takings and theft x cars were also issues.

Cr Merv Williams asked if Paul was aware of any problems with the closing of the back entrance to Vine Street car park.

'Neighbourhood Policing Team' initiative was discussed;

Paul informed that: 5%-10% will commit crime all the time, 10% will never commit crime and 85% will take the opportunity if it arises. *Do you know which section Cr John Williamson comes in by his attempt to 'pervert the course of justice' over his parking ticket fiasco?*

Paul continued that this initiative was all about 'prevention.' In Otangarei arrests have been made at 1 out of 3 houses. 2/3 are really good community people. Areas like this had organized crime, drugs and gangs and police were going to focus on alcohol abuse, youth offending, victimization, families and policing the roads. They were prioritising neighbourhoods in Otangarei and Raumanga which will have the biggest impact with the aim to focus on crimes and road crashes.

Cr Phil Halse queried if the program will go out to Ruakaka.

Paul informed that they will not reduce police at Ruakaka, Hikurangi, Dargaville or Onerahi.

Robert Sutherland, Audit Manager from Audit New Zealand was present so Item No 7. 2010-2011 Annual Report was brought forward for the signing by staff and elected at 1023hrs.

The meeting resumed at 1033hrs with the Annual Report being adopted.

Cr Brian McLachlan asked about the auditor's report not being with the document.

CEO Mark Simpson confirmed that the auditor's opinion will be in the final copy but added it was "an unqualified opinion". *How is that Mr Auditor? Does that show their contempt for you, or what?*

The time now at 1035hrs. ItemNo. 5. Liquor Management Bylaw Amendment on page 8. Anil Shett, Project Officer and Mandi Cross, Alcohol Harm Reduction Coordinator from Northland District Health Board were present to make a presentation to their submission

(on page14). The presentation was very informative producing some interesting information. \$655million per annum is spent on alcohol related harm.

Cr Jeroen Jongejans asked if the figures represented 1 glass or intoxication for accident statistics.

He was advised statistics were coming and an independent person had been employed to compile these.

The time now at 1044hrs. Item No. 6. Review of Council Policy on Dangerous, Insanitary and Earthquake Prone Buildings (page 50)

Two submitters were present to make their presentations on this item.

Mr Keith Lewis spoke for 9 minutes and Mr Wally Yovich spoke for 5 minutes, both having their comments noted. Two other submissions were also tabled.

Item No.8 (1059hrs) Contract 11061 – Lower Hatea River Crossing – Design & Construction (SP5) Tender Recommendation on page 69 *Oh this is the bridge that Morris campaigned on saying he was going to stop it.....Watch out for the flying pigs!!!!*

Cr Greg Martin advised the project was about roads, roundabouts and bridges. It was the biggest project he will ever be involved with and it was pleasing to see Transfield Services and McConnell Dowell working together in this venture. Working in a positive group this was a wonderful step for the district to help traffic congestion and he hoped all councilors will support it.

Cr Aaron Edwards claimed engineering wise it was very interesting. You should all be familiar with my objections to this as along with the mayor Morris Cutforth I too campaigned in the election against this project. We need more of a reason to spend \$30million rather than “WOW it looks really cool”.

Mayor Morris Cutforth wanted to take the opportunity to respond to Cr Edwards comment. He admitted “he knew very, very little about it when he came into council until he looked at the total picture” and felt it would make a huge difference to traffic flows.

[See the link to Morris's Xmas email where he states](#) “For 8 weeks I campaigned on issues I was ignorant of and commented on things I had no idea about. The silly part about it was I had traction with the voters.” *What is he saying here about those that paid for his campaign and those that ticked the box to support him?*

Morris check how many people reside in the area to be serviced on this road; Not all drive as some are very elderly and some that young, they can't drive; not all that can drive venture into town so explain the ‘fudged’ figures of 30,000 traffic movements per day originally quoted to get a subsidy. Who is telling the porkies? Personally we did

traffic counts in September and October 2010 and the best we got in the best “rush hour” morning or night was only 1047. You do the sums, or can Warwick make the numbers stack up differently?

Cr Warwick Syers wished to speak to the recommendation. He was disappointed with Cr Edwards (*surprise, surprise, it appears he doesn’t like anyone who differs in opinion from that of his own*) who had made a pledge and he respected him for it. He had a weak argument for it. No, if we don’t do it now, I won’t see it in my lifetime. *Could that be tempting fate?*

Cr Merv Williams claimed he would vote for the motion; not just for the transport factor but after the developments at the town basin he could envisage the walkways going around to this ‘fantastic’ bridge. This will define our town basin and be a huge draw card to the town. *Does this mean Merv, that we don’t need the Hundertwasser to draw the hundreds of thousands to the town the ‘little fairy’ tales have been telling us? This will make Whangarei more and more of a destination. Are you going to separate and chop off the rest of Northland and just cast it away?*

Cr Sue Glen believes this was something epic, it was a complete package. She had admiration for Morris who had changed his mind on how he felt on this project quoting to the effect of “It takes a man to admit he was wrong”. *Sue if you want to be so ‘righteous’; tell everyone why the NZTA subsidy was cut from the normal 63% down to 50% to rush the project through, costing the ‘ratepayers’ an extra \$3.7 million which could have been wisely spent on other essentials in the district or were you elected to WASTE our money? Remember sewage still is flowing into our harbour.*

Cr Jeroen Jongejans explained how he and some others had come up with an alternative but that was possible ‘a bridge too far’. *No Jeroen, it just wasn’t PD’s idea so you would never have got it through.* He did continue that this bridge was quite outstanding.

Cr Crichton Christie claimed this was the largest single job the council had undertaken and it will serve our traffic issues. It was in the 50 year plan and covered growth for the future. It’s all about the design for a park on Pohe Island. It’s a lot of money but these big jobs come up. *Strange comment you found all sorts of excuses when sewage was an issue when you were chair of Infrastructure, or are you sitting on a different side of the fence now?* He still does have some concerns; part of our road network is supported by a partnership with NZTA (New Zealand Transport Authority) and they were to build the ‘spine’. There have been ongoing delays on the spine and it keeps being delayed. Other work needs to be done if this bridge is to be successful. *Are you saying then Crichton, this bridge in the present scheme is a ‘white elephant’? Part of the trunk and lots of tales?*

Cr Kahu Sutherland said in reality it’s all about traffic flows and this is to fix up “the stuff up we have” and should help traffic problems. “Come hell or high water get it underway” and it’s been great working with a good team.

Cr Sharon Morgan wished to support the motion; she had never seen it as a stand-alone as it is part of the network project. It's about being forthright. *Sharon don't you have integrity? Tell them all about why it is costing ratepayers an extra \$3.7mill for the loss of 13% of the subsidy.*

Cr Brian McLachlan has always thought the bridge is in the wrong place and should be at the end of Kioreroa Road. *You are right Brian, would have made some good sense to improve traffic flows.* He wondered if it was too soon as he comes in from Onerahi every day and doesn't have any traffic problems; it should have been decided in at least 5 or 10 years time. *Brian has these concerns.....BUT how will he vote?*

Cr John Williamson didn't think it would make the cut. There was a ring road system around Whangarei but wondered how it sat on cash flow of council. *John you should know; the debt just increases and you and others just let it happen. But don't worry councilor Williamson; I have reason to believe there are going to be no parking lines on the bridge especially for you and your other half.*

He wished to recognize the work previous councils have made and the process they had had to complete. We need to be vigilant about the way we manage money but would be supporting the recommendation. *John the dollars don't stack up but you support it?*

Cr Shelley Deeming claims she was proud to be part of a council that has the courage to go ahead.

Cr Phil Halse, rising to his feet, (*yes he is standing*) says it's a great day experiencing growing pains; it all goes back to the plan that was adopted years ago. The work can be completed and we are tasked with dealing with the present. It was the middle of reason being held to go out with this project.

Sounds like a sellout from this lot; Cr Williamson sells out for \$60-00 and council sells out for 13% or \$3.7million.

Cr Greg Martin in his right of reply said 'It's a diving moment for all of us and hoped all support it' *They have certainly 'scrapped the barrel' for adjectives today just like they did for the Hundertwasser.*

Mayor Morris Cutforth has the last say on this. (*Is he going to change his mind again or have his sponsors pulled the strings?*) He claims "You started it, we finished it". I stated on the election campaign "if the waste water was to be the detriment I would vote against it. Our parks have never looked better and the solid waste joint venture is going well and big things are happening with waste water." *Wake up Morris or is it time for another street march?*

The 85% quoted in the police report by Inspector Dimery is looking quite achievable looking around this room. Who has been bought out?

It went to the vote and all but one supported the recommendation to go with the new \$29million bridge.

Cr Aaron Edwards was one of those who campaigned against this project and has stood by his word by not supporting it and voting against it. Others elected but with doubts about bridge location, funding etc. obviously crumpled with the strain of decision making and integrity. Congratulations, Aaron you made your stand. *Christmas is looking good for turkeys.*

The time now at 1130hrs. Item No. 9. Committee and Subcommittee Terms of Reference on page 113

CEO Mark Simpson explained this was just a matter of tidying things up around the Terms of Reference.

Item No.10. (1131hrs) International Safe Communities – Whangarei (page 122)
Morris Cutforth made comment and apologized about Cr Merv Williams being left out of attending the meeting in relation to this project; claiming Cr Williams “will suck it and move on”. *Is this another of your sexual connotations Morris, or a slip of the tongue?*

The time now at 1132hrs. Item No. 11. Submission on Draft Auckland Plan

[Link to Supplementary Item No 1 Agenda](#)

Group Manager Environment Paul Dell gave a brief on this item.

Cr Aaron Edwards was pleased that it supported the Marsden Point Rail link.

Cr Jeroen Jongejans noticed that the plan had changed from the double highway to Wellsford original completion in 10 years had stretched out now being Auckland to Warkworth 10 years and another 10 years Warkworth to Wellsford. This was a significant lifeline and should be highlighted as a priority.

Cr Phil Halse, again to his feet, claimed he had attended 4 meetings regarding this plan. It was an opportunity to push some projects that we needed to push; we only get one shot at this and it has to be our best.

Cr Greg Martin believed we must designate with some urgency the route from Wellsford to Whangarei, before subdivisions get in the proposed route way. It is vital to do the designation now. *Greg you are absolutely right. Now is the appropriate time to accumulate or mark the land required for this future project.*

Cr Warwick Syers queried that was a Northland issue not an Auckland one. (*Oh Greg he didn't think of it*) He continued that “we don’t want to cloud the important issues; we have got to be able to achieve the achievable.” ‘Achievable’ or ‘un-achievable’ sounds like one of Warwick’s footy teams?

Morris claimed "it was now time to shut the meeting."

The meeting concluded at 1142hrs, the public excluded before going to a **confidential** section of the meeting.

C.1 Confidential Minutes of the Whangarei District Council meeting 28 September 2011

*Didn't Morris campaign that he wanted open and transparent council? Yeah right.
(Why do they always want a confidential section then?)*

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