

Whangarei District Council meeting - 27th July 2011.

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)

[Link to email correspondence](#) - Vivienne Shepherd to WDC Councilors & a return back from one Councilor after Viv was refused an opportunity to speak at this meeting. (well worth a read)

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.

No apologies are received for this meeting. *(Maybe there should have been apologies for some present)*

Item No.1.the 'Public Forum'

First up was Paul Berks who spoke on Consultation and the Town Basin. His comments were that consultation was normally late. There needed to be quantitative measures on projects in the way of surveys or referendum. They needed to use the right tools and consult properly. (He received 3m 18seconds)

Geff Griggs spoke for 3min 23seconds on Youth Forum. He was a supporter of the Youth Forum in the aspect of giving them a voice; he was not a facilitator. They need to promote the Youth Centre and after initial discussion with council there had only been one way dialogue. (And that wasn't from council) There needed to be open dialogue. *Jeff you may have to use words they understand, like talk, listen and act.*

The third speaker Anna Murphy was to speak on E-cycle Education and her manager Viv Shepherd was prepared to speak. *(Viv had applied to speak late June and been refused by Deputy Mayor Phil Halse on the grounds 'there is potential for the Public Forum to be used as a political platform'. Well hello, is the council chamber used for political debate and discussion or is it reserved for just a few on their own little power game trips?)* Anna was away on leave and had asked her manager to speak on her behalf, but Phil Halse was having no part of it, claiming the public forum was 'Name specific' *Is this democracy? Phil you need to remember these are people you are dealing with.... Not cows.*

Check out the application to speak form. They want to know who and what you wish to speak about so they can be fully prepared; they don't like surprises. They can also vet for people they don't wish to listen to. Is this democracy?

[Link to Application to speak at Public Forum](#)

Viv attempted to get her message across, taped a red zipper across her mouth, proceeded to distribute her literature (which was hastily removed by the meetings coordinators Caroline and Judy) and then deposited her eco-waste samples onto the floor of the chamber before departing. *What has brought her to this point?*

[Link to NewstalkZB report 28July2011](#)

Cr Phil Halse called the meeting to an adjournment at 1010hrs. Was this a bad display of the lack of democracy to a ratepayer? *Really was giving Viv 3 minutes to speak on an issue as important as eco waste going to bring the world to a grinding halt? No. If Viv had been given three minutes to speak the exposure would have been far less than what is likely to eventuate now. Why did he prevent her from speaking to the councillors and public present? Because he could! Just another display of the bully boy tactics we have witnessed over the last 5 plus years of attending council meetings.*

The meeting reconvened at 1011hrs, after numerous staff had retrieved eco waste off the chamber floor.

It was Item No. 2, the Minutes of a Meeting of the Whangarei District Council held 22 June 2011. No discussion was required for this item.

Item No. 3. Minutes of the Extra-ordinary Whangarei District Council Meeting held 29 June 2011

As there was no need for discussion at 1012hrs, this was all over in seconds.

With time still at 1012hrs it was Item No. 4. this is to be heard later in the meeting.

The time now at 1017hrs. Item No. 5. Submissions for the Proposed Sale of 24 Mair Street- Whangarei Top 10 Holiday Park.

Submitters presented their concerns to Council.

Presentations were by Anthony Best, a resident of Mair Street who had some ideas about the retention of the land.

Cr Brian McLachlan asked Mr Best about access from Mair Street.

Cr Crichton Christie queried issues of an historical site.

Cr Kahu Sutherland requested a full copy of Mr Best's submission as time did not permit his full submission being heard. *Maybe within reason time should be set aside to listen to submissions in their entirety. The emphasis being on 'within reason' as no one wants to hear someone prattle on for hours.*

Another submitter Leah Petersen, also a Mair Street resident didn't want any park land sold. *Fair call. That is one thing that they are not making any more ofland.*

Vince Cocurullo also spoke to the issue claiming there was unfairness to the park strategy. In this consultation there had been nothing about where the money is to be spent and they should replace like for like.

Cr Brian McLachlan asked Vince if he understood the nature of the covenant.

Vince replied that smart lawyers in this town could easily find a way around it.

Cr Phil Halse said something. *Couldn't quite catch it. Was he still trying to get his breath back after Viv's escapade?*

Mr John Snell, a resident of Rurumoki Street, gave a brilliant presentation. He claimed that shortly for his eightieth birthday he would be climbing Mt Parahaki for the 500th time. This park was part of the community heritage. Land, when sold will be lost forever for future generations. He queried 'have council visited the site?' It appeared they were selling off the silver for financial reasons. Mr Snell, because of his hard of hearing, had spoken over time and when alerted to this he politely requested extra time.

Cr Phil Halse replied with a simple "No". *Sausage rolls going to get cold Phil?*

John Snell rose to his feet, smiling and returned to his seat in the public gallery amidst applause from the gallery. *A brilliant presentation and like others should be given the time to be heard completely for the future benefit of our community.*

Cr Brian McLachlan questioned if the decision on this item will be held in confidential or in a public arena.

Cr Phil Halse replied 'in Public'.

Item No. 6. Enterprise Northland Monthly Report. (1046hrs)

A trustee of Enterprise Northland Mr Bill Shepherd and Mr Wayne Hutchinson, Acting General Manager of Enterprise Northland were present for the meeting.

Cr Jeroen Jongejans commented that economic development is extremely important.

He was disappointed that Whangarei had lost a large project. (\$50million boat contract)

He mentioned a quote of the Dalai Lama who said "When you lose, don't lose the lesson." Had they learnt anything from the loss of the contract?

Bill Shepherd informed they had but it was commercially sensitive.

This 'commercially sensitive' is a common answer from many when questions are asked, not just Bill. It appears to give exemption from giving an answer and given for many 'confidential issues' discussed at council, even when their deals are with ratepayers money and property.

Cr Brian McLachlan asked if a lesson would be we didn't work with the wider community?

This received an abrupt "No" from Bill Shepherd.

Road Maintenance North, Central and South Areas, Item No. 7. (*refers to **only** an increase of \$8.9million and gets 4 minutes airing time in the meeting*)

It's now 1053hrs and CEO Mark Simpson agrees that the item addresses it. The general principle is what we have to do in the future. It's not about extra money; the money has already been allocated.

Cr Kahu Sutherland queried when will they get the rest of the details on properties changed.

CEO Mark Simpson replied in the next 2 to 3 months.

Cr Greg Martin claimed things had slowed down, things had been held up with the CEO being sick. *Gee Greg, that's a bit of a kick in the guts, for acting CEO Jude Thompson.* He informed there had been meetings with the contractor's federation and things were moving forward to get it right.

Cr Merv Williams queried if they were working in the same direction as the contractors.

It's now 1057hrs, Item No. 8. Rollover of Contract 06006 WDC Chip-seal Resurfacing
No discussion was required for this item. (*It was **only** an increase of \$3.9million and no discussion necessary*)

It's still now 1057hrs, Item No. 9. Rollover of Contract 06013 Professional Services for WDC Chip-seal Resurfacing (*refers to increases of \$110,000-00 and gets 2 minutes airing time in the meeting*)

Cr Greg Martin suggests Group Manager Infrastructure and Services Simon Weston
Simon Weston gives a brief on this item.

And he did give a brief; *it was all over in less than two minutes which included the reading of the motion.*

It's now 1059hrs, Item No. 10. Rollover of Contract 06034 Professional Services for Bridge Inspections & Management

No discussion was required for this item. (*refers to increases of \$170,000-00 and gets less than 1 minutes airing time in the meeting*)

We are now back to Item No. 4. Police Report (at 1059hrs)

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

Area Commander Inspector Paul Dimery was here to present his report.

Paul was exuberant that there had only been one fatality in Kaipara/Whangarei District in 7 months; it was a record.

There were 4 big issues facing the district with policing.

1/ Family violence. This was still not sorted and we all must respect our wife's, spouses and girlfriends. 2/ Burglary was a major issue. We should all know the names of our neighbours, lock our homes securely and not leave tell tale signs of being absent from your property. This tells prospective burglars you are not there so don't make it easy for them. 3/ Theft ex car are carried out by lazy opportunists. You can help by keeping valuables out of sight. If you leave valuables there within seconds they could well be gone. 4/ Unlawful taking of motor vehicles. Either have immobilisers fitted or a cheaper option is have the steering wheel locked. This is a visible sign that your vehicle is not easy to be taken.

There were also the other issues of alcohol causing some problems on Friday and Saturday nights. Organised crime is still an issue; the Rebels are still in town but not riding around in groups or wearing patches which makes them easier to be unidentified. They are still around doing their normal criminal behavior.

Paul's last comment was 'he could get off his soapbox now'. Paul, you are correct with the issues you have highlighted are ones that the community can take a part in by not making these activities accepted by the community or made easy by the community. Take Paul's advice, lock things up, secure your property and vehicles and make domestic violence unacceptable. You can make a difference.

Cr Greg Martin asked if police had a kit for testing for illegal substances, like swabbing someone's tongue.

Paul Dimery in a short answer, No because of civil liberties but police do have ways of conducting tests to ascertain use of certain substances. 95% of people are law abiding but police are limited and police have to play within the rules.

Cr Sharon Morgan queried the last couple of months how there had been an increase in alcohol problems and were people coming into town after already drinking.

Paul Dimery explained that most licensee's are very good, but not all of them. He wasn't going to name them but there are two in particular whose places have featured in the last 6 months. There is a culture of some who drink at home or a friends place to get 3/4 drunk then go to town then and pay bar prices.

Cr Sharon Morgan questioned if CCTV (closed circuit television) helped.

Paul Dimery added that CCTV was brilliant and the volunteers, some younger youth, did a grand job.

Cr John Williamson wanted to compliment Paul on the strong role they had taken in Road Safety. *(Thought for a minute John you were going to ask Paul what broken yellow lines meant)* [Special Link for John Williamson](#) to inform himself what broken

yellow lines are for. This is from the NZ Road Code that I thought you would be well aware of with your various road safety positions.

Paul Dimery thanked John for his comments, but insisted the credit needed to go to Inspector Clifford Paxton, Northland Road Policing Manager, for the work he and his team had put in.

Cr Sue Glen, claiming 'I thought it was closing, (the meeting) I was in a dream', but wanted clarification about the volunteers. *Were they nice dreams Sue? Bet you thought it was all a dream when the deputy mayor wouldn't let a member of the public speak in a public forum, in a political venue.*

Paul Dimery reiterated the volunteers were brilliant and they were using more youth. Paul was thanked for his report.

The meeting concluded at 1118hrs before going to a confidential section of the meeting. Cr Kahu Sutherland gaining the meetings attention, wished to acknowledge the young people at the back of the room who had attended to listen to the presentation by Jeff Griggs who spoke on Youth Forum and the item regarding the sale of Mair Park. *Think they were possibly mainly there to see what is happening about the Whangarei Youth Centre as we are hearing it is not really catering to the title of a Youth Centre as the name portrays. Let's hope the comments we are hearing can be proven to be wrong.*

C.1 Confidential Minutes of the Civic Honours Committee of the Whangarei District Council held 9 June 2011

C.2 Property

C.3 Sports Field

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](#).