

Whangarei District Council meeting – 27th June 2012.

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)

It is Deputy Mayor Cr Phil Halse in the main chair today who welcomes everyone to today's meeting.

Phil asks all to rise for a moments silence as a mark of respect for the recent passing of the CEO's mother, Cr Merv William's mother and Ken Patterson the ex CEO for the Northland Regional Council.

Phil reads a message that the Mayor has asked him to share with the meeting.

From Morris Cutforth "I am disappointed I am not here to chair today's meeting. Unfortunately my surgeon has restricted me to specific duties for a short time. Today we ask the councillors to approve the long term plan. We have spent hours work-shopping all the issues. We have considered the whole community; Waipu, Kamo, Tikipunga to Ngunguru etc. More so we kept to our projects within a modest budget which will be affordable to our ratepayers. I am satisfied we have agreed to a very comprehensive plan we all look forward to adopting. I ask you all to keep on track and follow through with what I believe is a great result for Whangarei."

He advises there are apologies today, for Mayor Morris Cutforth and CEO Mark Simpson. *Is Mark away hassling someone who has written an article about him again? I like many others, have no time for bullies.*

Moved: Cr Aaron Edwards Seconded: Cr Shelley Deeming

Phil asks Carlyne Brindle to go through all the paperwork to ensure councilors have the appropriate documents in front of them.

Carlyne advises of the supplementary papers for the LTP.

She advises that Item No. 14 (Supplementary No 3) will be taken before Item No. 6.

She also advised that Senior Sergeant Cliff Metcalfe would be presenting the police report in the absence of Inspector Paul Dimery.

Phil Halse invites the speaker in the Public Forum to come forward.

Item No.1, the 'Public Forum' (Page 1) Today's speaker (at 1004hrs) is Clive Rutherford-Corin, who speaks on the Concept of "Anniversary Day, Whangarei" for 28 January 2013. An event to celebrate the anniversary of the Whangarei District.

Basic programme 28 January: Morning – Waka-ama races on Hatea River.

Afternoon – Live Day at Heritage Museum.

An interesting address basically asking why we don't observe Anniversary Day in Whangarei.

It was now 1007hrs. Item No. 2, Minutes of a Meeting of the Whangarei District Council held 30 May 2012. (Page 2)

There was no discussion on this item.

With time at 1008hrs it was Item No.3, Minutes of an Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Whangarei District Council held 29 May 2012. (Page 6)

Moved: Cr Jeroen Jongejans Seconded: Cr John Williamson

There was no discussion on this item.

The time at 1009hrs and it was Item No.4. Minutes of an Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Whangarei District Council held 13 June 2012. (Page 20)

There was no discussion on this item.

With time at 1010hrs it was Item No.5, Police Report. (Page 22)

Cr Phil Halse invited Senior Sergeant Cliff Metcalfe to speak to the meeting.

[Link to Police Report](#)

Senior Sergeant Cliff Metcalfe went through the report page by page highlighting some of the items. There were 131 less offences in May this year. Violence in public place is dropping. *(Is this because aggression and bullying is not tolerated by the community at large now?)* The Blue Light Mid Christmas Dance Party (page 2) was great interaction between youth and police. In relation to organised crime the Tribesman Motorcycle Gang (TMC) formed a chapter in Whangarei in the last 2 months. (Page 2)

In relation to Alcohol (Page 3) police were looking forward to the WDC policy being implemented at the end of the year. There had been 4 new staff to Whangarei but they had lost Senior Constable Daryl Curran from Onerahi after 16 years.

Cr Shelley Deeming wanted to thank the Road Policing section for having chats with local clubs. They even followed up with a bouquet of flowers for the bar manager which the whole district is still talking about. *That's great Shelley as I had heard there had been some issues out there for some time which the previous mayor had failed to address.*

Cr Greg Martin asked that with the restructuring going on will there be an effect on City Safe and ALAC sections. He hoped they would keep emphasis on Road Policing. Rural Policing is of concern as they don't want any cuts to rural or holiday policing.

Cr Sue Glen questioned when the Onerahi Constable will be replaced.

Thanks to Cliff for bringing the report to council.

Moved: Cr Sue Glen Seconded: Cr Sharon Morgan

The time now at 1020hrs. Supplementary Item No 3- Item No.14, 2012-2022 Long Term Plan – Balanced Budget Requirement.

Moved: Cr John Williamson Seconded: Cr Shelley Deeming

Cr Brian McLachlan was concerned about the surplus over the 10 years of the plan being over \$22million and urged that they be more disciplined in their spending.

Were they listening Brian? Bet they weren't.

There was no further discussion on this item.

With time now at 1025hrs it was Item No. 6. Approval and Adoption of Long Term Plan 2012-2022. (Page 23) *2012 Long Term Plan -under separate cover*

It was now obviously the time for the public gallery to show why they were all there. Signs popped out of everywhere and they displayed the numerous messages to the councilors who were about to put their reputations on the line for not listening to the majority.

Cr Aaron Edwards opened the proceedings by claiming it was a good plan with the only item that should be omitted was the Hundertwasser Art Centre. He believed statements made by some prior to and during the process may be damaging to this council. *I think what he was saying is some should be dumped for not listening to the people who pay the bills.*

Personally I don't care whether we have a Hundertwasser or not; but my concerns are the process and how it will be funded. Let those that want it, buy some land, build a Hundertwasser, fund it themselves and benefit the profits or suffer the losses themselves. Why run a business that is not essential, with ratepayer's money? Oh that's right, it's because they can. Let's hope people remember October 2013.

Cr John Williamson claimed he was pleased about the plan, especially pages 31-33, which covered the changes made to the plan. It relates to the things that people wanted and covered some rural issues. Has he asked the people he represents? *I know many he hasn't even spoken to so the answer is NO.* He was excited about Hundertwasser. *Does that mean as excited as getting \$60-00 parking tickets and having them squashed by your mates?*

Cr Sue Glen claimed they had a responsibility to do the right thing. *Really?* Overall this plan is very good. She was going to hope and pray that they are re-elected again and again. It's a shame there has not been a full picture to the people. *I don't think the councilors have even got a full picture; it wasn't that long ago when you, Sue was complaining that information had not been forthcoming from Dell and others. It's on record Sue, remember.* Sue suggested that if the government and the funders pulled the pin on the funding, where are we left then? Would they be left with a good profit in our plan? *Sue you must have been napping.....the debt is \$157million and steadily climbing. Wakie wakie.*

Cr Brian McLachlan explained that there are some good points and some he didn't agree with. He wanted to focus on the positives. He had concerns about the rate increase as they should have stuck to a 'CPI' increase. Many incomes are only increased by CPI. It is a great plan and he would have liked to see some changes. *Brian I think changes can be made, if you vote.*

Cr Greg Martin, came out fighting, *But will he last all rounds?* He claimed he voted against the Hundertwasser. One councilor didn't vote; *(that was Cr Brian McLachlan)* you should have the guts to vote. "Democracy is great when you are winning, but hard to swallow when you are not". We can keep spending and borrowing expecting our infrastructure to last. He will be supporting

the plan and he claimed he hadn't brought any farm language to the meeting. *I think he mean's 'Bull Shit'. What, did you forget it this trip Greg? Possibly one of your better speeches Greg.* Cr Warwick Syers advised that this document is the biggest project in each council term. Thanks to the staff for the many many hours put in at their request. Thanks to the councilors going to all the meetings. *Were those the propaganda meetings?* Against some thought he insisted there was a full rates review. In politics you can't please everyone; if you come out on the wrong side, that's the reality. The Hundertwasser was a 10-4 vote. A submission is not a referendum. *The public gallery gave him a burst for his fine display of arrogance. Was this an election speech, or his farewell speech? The LGA fails to say in it, that with submission processes the elected you should listen to the people who pay the bills.*

Cr Crichton Christie comments that he accepts that this is a document that takes a long and tedious time to get there. He supports all the major projects but was disappointed that they didn't have a referendum. *Cheers from the Public Gallery.* What concerns him is rates increase above the CPI. He believed they (WDC) should be still doing the buses. But they were happy to hand over these projects. *Crichton the buses are still running; how about your Hikurangi swamp scheme? Hand that over, or will it affect the council's borrowing power by losing a large asset?* Crichton continued they now have the 8th biggest debt in NZ; we have come from a minimal debt to where we are now. *And it's still climbing.* None of our plans have achieved their targets and my concern is debt will go up and this concerns me. The main issue is property sales; using \$30million to keep the debt down. The LTP say's we will get it back but we are selling our silver. The property investment fund is meant to get a better return to council.

Chair, Deputy Mayor Cr Phil Halse, interjects telling Crichton his 5 minutes is up so can you finish it. *Crichton what he was trying to tell you is he didn't want people to hear what you were saying as it is true.*

Crichton continues, the figures are un-achievable; I'm not selling the silver to keep this animal going and against what the mayor says 'I'm not a bob each way person'. *Does he know? Is he the full quid?*

Cr Merv Williams claims he has concerns about their position at the end of the plan. We can spend as much as we like but 90% is in response to the community; we have a credit card mentality. We all have to learn some restraints and disciplines. There are some 'good things' and some 'nice things', like \$13million (*Hundertwasser?*) We have to be careful; my concern is intergenerational debt. When we want to replace something down the track, we will need the funds. The Hundertwasser is going to bring a hotel to Whangarei; I might be disappointed. *During some heckles from the gallery Merv commented to the gallery "that he can be ignorant too"*

Chair, Deputy Mayor Cr Phil Halse reminded Merv to address the councilors; *not the gallery.*

Cr Jeroen Jongejans insists he is going to vote for this plan. It's been a lot of time and work; it is a positive plan bringing, environmental, wastewater and economic development. It will have an excellent impact bringing low GDP and helping un-employment. Hundertwasser will be a catalyst in that space. A hotel will come out of it and a conference centre. *You missed out lots of divers.* He wanted to thank the staff for achieving deadlines, they have met them all. *Jeroen, I think your favorite word is 'POSITIVE' as it was a bit over worked in your speech. Nothing wrong with 'positive' but 'reality' is equally as good.*

Cr Sharon Morgan advised that she would be voting in support of this as figures she had been given show that Whangarei is growing by 1000 annually and they have to have infrastructure and amenities for that. She was pleased to see seal extensions back in the plan. She supported Hundertwasser as she had been involved in the arts for the last 5 years. She was pleased council had listened to the 'Gomez Road' people and stopped that issue.

Cr Kahu Sutherland claimed he wasn't going to let this opportunity go by. *Was it to be his last?* To vote for it, reinforces the decisions made beforehand. He wanted to recognise all the hard work that had been put into this. *What about the cool trip you had with Simo to Vienna? You could have thanked the ratepayers for funding it.* It had been very diverse, but everyone decided it was an opportunity and to support the Hundertwasser project.

Cr Phil Halse advised that government had brought out a paper where they wanted us to be. People want us to keep rates down. Our council has got its head around debt and assets. *You can get drugs for curing hallucination, now Phil.* It was disappointing to hear councilors saying we are selling off the silver; we have purchased properties. *Whose money? We have bought car parks and we now have the best farmers market. I would have thought the organisers of the farmers market have made it what it is. Sure council allowed access to the car park, but don't pinch their kudos in an attempt to make some of your actions look good.* We are selling assets for more strategic assets. *Name them, now there's a challenge, put your money where your mouth is, and tell us what assets you are buying.* Phil continued with "We know what we are doing' amidst laughter from the gallery. *He should have quitted while he was ahead or is he after Syers 'Trophy de arrog'nce'.*

Cr Warwick Syers, in his response, wanted to reiterate what he had said earlier. Not everyone will get their own way. *Is that why you left rugby?* If we don't pass this we can't sign any cheques from July. *Maybe that would be good, stop spending and the debt will come down; maybe I should introduce you to a good accountant.*

A division was called for and all councilors voted for the plan being approved for signing with the exception of one **Cr Crichton Christie**.

The Audit Director, John Scott discussed the process that they had gone through. *Yes it was just ticking the boxes of things that were required under the act. No real AUDIT; just a snap shot?*

Deputy Mayor Cr Phil Halse, Group Manager Support Services Alan Adcock, Audit Director, John Scott and Cr Warwick Syers left to sign the documents returning shortly.

While they were absent a person who had been seated in the gallery addressed the crowd giving some interesting statistics about surveys he had carried out on support for the Hundertwasser. Watch this space !!!!!

On their return after the documents had been signed it was then moved etc.

Moved: Cr Warwick Syers Seconded: Cr Shelley Deeming

Cr Shelley Deeming wanted to have her say, now all the protesters had left the chamber, saying without a plan they can't do anything. She had chosen to go for the LGCI increase in rates and wasn't going to regurgitate what's gone before. *Strange she didn't have a say in front of a full gallery?*

Footnote:- Most councilors stated they had concerns about some things in the plan. But not one suggested an amendment to the recommendations, to make improvements to the plan. WHY? What do we have there representing us?

The time now at 1120hrs. Item No 7. Rates Resolution 2012/2013. (Page 24)

Moved: Cr Brian McLachlan Seconded: Cr Merv Williams

There was no discussion on this item.

It was now 1121hrs. Item No. 8. Adoption of Fees and Charges 2012-2013. (Page 28)

Moved: Cr Merv Williams Seconded: Cr Cr Merv Williams

There was no discussion on this item.

The time still at 1121hrs. Item No.9, Development Contributions Policy 2012. (Page 39)

Development Contributions Policy – under separate cover

Group Manager District Living Paul Dell was asked to speak to this item and all he really said was 'we have circulated the latest amendment'. *Not like him to be brief, he must have a sore throat.*

Moved: Cr Shelley Deeming Seconded: Cr Sue Glen

There was no discussion on this item.

It was now 1122hrs. Item No. 10, Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Adoption. (Page 40)

Waste Management and Minimisation Plan – under separate cover

Moved: Cr Crichton Christie Seconded: Cr Brian McLachlan

There was no discussion on this item only a small adjustment.

The time now at 1124hrs. Item No.11, Trade Waste Bylaw Adoption. (Page 42)

Trade Waste Bylaw under separate cover

Moved: Cr Greg Martin Seconded: Cr John Williamson

There was no discussion on this item.

It was now 1124hrs. Item No. 12, Sanitary Assessments for Cemeteries and Crematoria. (Page 4)

1st recommendation Moved: Cr Greg Martin Seconded: Cr Sue Glen

2nd recommendation Moved: Cr Greg Martin Seconded: Cr Jeroen Jongejans

There was no discussion on this item.

The time now at 1125hrs. Item No.13, Amendment to Council Schedule of Meetings. (Page 63)
Cr Phil Halse explained that this was about trying to be more efficient with staff not having to sit around and waiting for meetings. *Or was it to cater for the shorter meetings we are starting to experience again; behind closed door earlier meeting stuff?*

Moved: Cr Kahu Sutherland Seconded: Cr Shelley Deeming

There was no discussion on this item.

The meeting concluded at 1126hrs, the public being excluded before going into the **confidential** section of the meeting with the urgent addition of some confidential supplementary items.

Gosh oh gosh, didn't Morris campaign that he wanted open and transparent council? And he always tends to vote for it to go into confidential.

CONFIDENTIAL INDEX

C.1 Confidential Minutes of a Meeting of the Whangarei District Council held
30 May 2012. (Page 1)

C.2 Confidential Minutes of a Meeting of the Civic Honours Committee held
12 June 2012. (Page 4)

C.3 Partnership: Financial Arrangement. (Page 8)

C.4 Property Matters. (Page11)

C.5 Property Transaction. (Page 14)

C.6 Property Transaction. (Page 20)

There was another item No.C.7 added under urgency.

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