

## Whangarei District Council meeting - 27th October 2010

Today's ceremony went all with the formalities of Himene, Karakia, Mihi, Waiata, Official opening, declaration of results, swearing in of elected officials, Speeches, Opera and singing. Congratulations to all who were elected and best wishes for the next three years. The explanation of Statutes and Standing orders were explained so let's keep our fingers crossed that all elected declare any 'Conflicts of Interest' (e.g. contracts etc) and that these are publicly available (on website) for scrutiny. Sadly it was announced that the letting of tenders for the new harbour crossing was to happen in the next few weeks. Do I have a memory lapse? ; I clearly recall hearing and reading during the campaign, both before and after the election that newly elected Mayor Morris Cutforth was going to "stop the bridge" Yeah right! The morning meeting adjourned and invited guests were treated to lunch. The meeting re-convened at 1300 hours while the positions of Deputy Mayor and Committee Chairs were declared. Some interesting comments were made by ex-Deputy-Mayor Cr Kahu Sutherland, about the confidence in the newly nominated Deputy Phil Halse about how in the last term of council a "vote of no confidence in him" had seen him relinquish his post and today it would be interesting how those councillors, who earlier voted in the lack of confidence in Phil, would perform today. Surprise, not to me, they supported his nomination and he was duly given the position. Personally I have had dealings with Phil Halse and his comments have been found to be miss-truthful on both occasions. We hereby wish them luck with the new Deputy. The Finance and Support Committee remains with Cr Warwick Syers on watch to rising debt levels, Environment Committee maintains Cr Shelley Deeming as chair and the Infrastructure and Services Committee has provided a change by placing Cr Greg Martin at the sharp end. No more surprises, well only one, Mayor Morris Cutforth again went back on his promise of quoting on a number of occasions during the campaign (after 'yours truly' had claimed to "want the financial position of the Whangarei District Council audited if elected") stating "we will have the accounts audited". Sadly he has done a complete 180 turn on his earlier claims so let's just wait for the next instalment of Guess What.

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)