

## Whangarei District Council meeting – 28<sup>th</sup> August 2013

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)

[LINK to Supplementary Agenda No11](#) -

No one is asked to stand for 'His Worship, the Mayor' as it is Phil Halse in the Chair

There were no apologies for today's meeting. As the Mayor had 'leave of absence' no apology was required.

This next item, below, was showing in the agenda index, but was not mentioned in the meeting. *Perhaps at times, it's a little alien to this lot?*

### **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Members are reminded to indicate any items in which they might have a conflict of interest.

Phil advises some changes to today's order of items;

They want to take Item No 10 after the Police Report, Item No. 4.

Phil advised that today's meeting was to be recorded by someone in the public.

There was an Item No. 11. Notice of Motion - Councillor M R Williams which would be taken after Item No. 10.

Time now at 1001hrs and Item No.1, the 'Public Forum' (Page 1)

Cr Halse advised that there were no applications to speak for today's meeting.

*I had been told that there had been an application for today's meeting and it had been declined yet again, this time by Deputy Mayor Halse. What don't they want to hear?*

It was now still 1001hrs. Item No. 2. Minutes of a Meeting of the Whangarei District Council held 24 July 2013. (Page 2)

Moved: Cr Greg Martin, Seconded: Cr Sharon Morgan.

There was no discussion on this item.

Cr Aaron Edwards asked for a point of clarification; were there any applications to speak received, or were there applications but not approved to speak.

Phil advised there no approved applications to speak.

With time now at 1002hrs it was Item No. 3. Minutes of an Extra ordinary Whangarei District Council Meeting held 14 August 2013.

(Page 5)

Moved: Cr Merv Williams, Seconded: Cr Shelley Deeming.

There was no discussion on this item.

With time still at 1003hrs it was Item No.4. Police Report. (Page 7)

The report can be found in the on line agenda.

Cr Phil Halse invites Inspector Tracy Phillips to speak to the meeting.

Tracy Phillips advised that police are doing something with the Northland District Health Board to prevent violence. Tracy advised there is a video on YouTube. [LINK](#)

Tracy Phillips asked that council play a song that featured in the DVD, sung by Kerikeri High School student singer-songwriter Summer Ash, 17. Her song 'Enough is Enough' was chosen as the theme song for the DVD.

[LINK](#) to media article about this program.

*The DVD project was funded by New Zealand police, the Ministry of Social Development's It's Not Ok campaign and the Northland District Health Board.*

Tracy confirmed that the Area Prevention Team was up and running. Police were identifying graffiti artists. We were also made aware that there were incidents with premises being targeted for chemicals of interest; so we all need to be aware that substances for the manufacture of drugs are being targeted.

Cr Sharon Morgan asked a question on Neighbourhood Support Groups.

Cr Greg Martin queried where the Neighbourhood Support Group stickers are available from. Inspector Tracy Phillips in reply suggested it was time for them to upgrade these.

Cr Phil Halse thanked the Tracy for the report.

This report was received; moved: Cr Sue Glen, Seconded: Cr Sharon Morgan.

With time now at 1012hrs it was Item No10. Waipu Glebe Local Purpose Reserve. (Page 49)

It was now time for Council to listen to submissions by Frances Ferrier and Rosemary Drinnan. Both exceptionally good submissions given with sincere passion and concerns.

*Well done let us hope council takes it on board and gives a fair hearing.*

Rosemary's submission ran out of time and it was moved: Cr Greg Martin and seconded: Cr Shelley Deeming for an extension of time which was granted allowing Rosemary to continue. The recommendations, on page 50, were duly approved.

Moved: Cr Phil Halse, Seconded: Cr Shelley Deeming.

There was no further discussion on this item.

With time now at 1039hrs. Item No. 11. Notice of Motion Councillor M R Williams.

Cr Merv Williams spoke how he was bringing back the motion from last month.

Carolyne Brindle, Senior Meeting Co-ordinator, was asked to read the motion to the meeting so it could be clearly understood.

Being moved: Cr Merv Williams and seconded: Cr Crichton Christie it was open for discussion.

Cr Merv Williams asked that CEO Mark Simpson address the meeting and give an update on the progress and discussion had since last month's tabling of the item, which Mr Simpson did. He gave details of a current tenant who will remain and they use about 40% of the building. He explained that he had met with Mr Mansell from Mens Shed. The building is in a state of disrepair; no progress had been made with this building in the last 10-15 years.

*Sounds like a number of our assets; no maintenance, just left to be run down.* Mens Shed were not opposed that 2Meke training stay in the building. Mark continued that he thought they could get a 'win, win' for everyone.

Cr Merv Williams gave some details of the process leading up to today.

Questions were asked by Cr Brian McLachlan, Cr Sue Glen and Cr Greg Martin.

Cr John Williamson rose to his feet and had his concerns heard about giving away a heritage building for a buck to an organisation with little history and little known about. He was in favour of the building being cared for but firmly believed a correct process must be gone through. *John appeared to be the first to have opposition to this item and he must be congratulated to have voiced his concerns. Sometimes it is lonely being prepared to be 'devils advocate' and I must commend John as this being one of his better speeches.*

Cr Jeroen Jongejans advised he was strongly supportive of this going to the Mens Shed.

Cr Kahu Sutherland claimed he was in support of Cr John Williamson; it was too early to come to any informed decision. This has to be dealt with properly. The Mens Shed could end up being the best tenant but we must proceed with due diligence. *That is dead right Kahu, it's about process.*

Cr Warwick Syers claims it is a difficult question; there are performance issues around this building. He advised he will support the recommendation.

Cr Phil Halse advises that the 'heritage' status was not put on by council. *So!* It was put on by a tenant. It has no heritage value, it is not the original railway station, it is in a state of disrepair and needs work done on it. *(Just like a number of council managed assets or are you waiting for the ratepayers to go to the streets and protest like waste water)* He informed the meeting that he supported what Cr John Williamson and Cr Kahu Sutherland have said and will be voting against it. *Good to see there is a balance to the argument.*

Cr Shelley Deeming claims they haven't got the information, it needs further consultation.

She advised she will vote against it; she was not against the motion but she was against the un- timeliness of it.

Cr Merv Williams, in his right of reply, advises that this was brought forward 1 month ago when it was decided that it be tabled to be discussed with the tenant. Members have had 6 weeks to discuss this as we didn't know we had a tenancy agreement. *You have to ask why 'elected representatives' (councilors) are not aware of the situation to enable them to make fully informed decisions? Who is steering this ship; elected or staff? Time for change to get Back on Track!*

It was now to the vote. Cr Kahu Sutherland called for a division;

Cr Aaron Edwards, Cr Brian McLachlan, Cr Merv Williams, Cr Greg Martin, Cr Sue Glen, Cr Jeroen Jongejans, Cr Crichton Christie, Cr Sharon Morgan and Cr Warwick Syers voted for the motion.

Cr Shelley Deeming, Cr John Williamson, Cr Kahu Sutherland and Cr Phil Halse voted against.

The motion was carried.

With time now at 1109hrs it was Item No. 5. Adoption of Carry Forwards. (Page 9)

CEO Mark Simpson advised this was to adjust our accounts for the Annual Report and the Annual Plan.

Moved: Cr Warwick Syers, Seconded: Cr Jeroen Jongejans.

There was no further discussion on this item.

With time at 1110hrs it was Item No. 6. Decision on Long Term Plan Amendment. (Page 13)

Phil advised that this item was also a procedural one

CEO Mark Simpson gave details of this amendment in the Long Term Plan about buildings within this precinct at Forum North.

Moved: Cr Crichton Christie, Seconded: Cr Shelley Deeming.

Cr Crichton Christie claimed it should not have been in the LTP in the first place.

Cr Sue Glen advised that it had created an upheaval in the community.

Cr Phil Halse commented that sometimes you have to clear the land to do a project.

Cr Shelley Deeming claimed it was a good exercise and had got a lot out of the woodwork.

I find here a selection of interesting comments; hope people take notice of attitudes of some come election time. Are these the attitudes we need from our elected?

There was no further discussion on this item.

With time at 1112hrs it was Item No. 7. Council Decisions Following Local Government Elections (Page 18)

CEO Mark Simpson gave details explaining this was normal come election time and u to Christmas. It was for the unlikely case of unfortunate or unforeseen circumstances occurring like earthquake or tsunami and there has to be some delegated authority. *So where are our contingency funds and plans for such events?*

Moved: Cr Brian McLachlan, Seconded: Cr Aaron Edwards.

Cr Aaron Edwards questioned if this was the same as the \$3million previously set

There was no further discussion on this item.

With time at 1114hrs it was Item No. 8. Cruise NZ . (Page 20)

Moved: Cr Jeroen Jongejans, Seconded: Cr Shelley Deeming.

*Didn't we know it?* It was Cr Jeroen Jongejans who informed that this was a huge opportunity; this is bigger than the Mens Shed he claimed. The cruise market is growing and we can be getting rewards from this. North Port has come on board and we have the support from Cruise New Zealand. This is a unique opportunity especially as the biggest cost to cruise ships is fuel and we have that on our doorstep and should be able to undercut it to be competitive on the price of refueling in Auckland. People on cruises come here to see a variety of things and we have quite a reasonable opportunity for them to see. The unique point of difference will be the Hundertwasser Art Centre and a Hotel development as there is a lack of accommodation. Chinese markets are coming here. We must capture the opportunity which is worth a huge \$30million to \$40milliaon per annum.

Cr Aaron Edwards had a question on Recommendation No.2 'That the Council support staff further investigating Cruise Ship opportunities for Whangarei and report back to council'.

*Was he really asking which staff are going to get a cruise?*

Cr John Williamson in question to Cr Jeroen Jongejans; regarding docking at North Port, will they be able to service the Bay of Islands.

Cr Jeroen Jongejans advised that with ships getting bigger the issue of tendering at Bay of Islands is becoming an issue.

CEO Mark Simpson advised that northland is 2nd ranked visiting port by cruise ships which is behind Milford Sound.

Cr Warwick Syers informed, something Jeroen had missed, is that there are 14 ports that are used in New Zealand.

Cr Crichton Christie claimed this is at no cost to council. Tourism is not the end all of everything, but here is an opportunity we can't miss. *You may need more rental cars with more ships coming here Crichton.*

Cr Kahu Sutherland claims this council should be pulling out all stops for cruise ships berthing at Marsden Point; and of course there is my passion for the Hundertwasser for them to visit. *Gee with those projected numbers on top of Deloitte's projections for HAC will we need a 6 lane freeway to the Town Basin?*

Cr Sharon Morgan commented that this was an opportunity to showcase the district.

Cr Jeroen Jongejans, in his right of reply, thanked councilors for their support.

*In my opinion here is a grand opportunity to put Whangarei firmly on the map and I believe the rail link to the Port can also complement what we have to promote Northland even further. Rail could transport passengers to Whangarei and up to Kawakawa for their visits to BOI.*

Here ends the discussion on this item.

With time at 1130hrs it was Item No. 9. Solid Waste Management Bylaw – Adoption. (Page 22)

CEO Mark Simpson and Cr Warwick Syers moved away from the discussion as they have conflicts of interest being directors of our landfill operation.

Group Manager Infrastructure and Services Simon Weston took the chair vacated by Mr Simpson and gave details of the Bylaw adoption and explained the submissions that were made.

Moved: Cr Brian McLachlan, Seconded: Cr Greg Martin.

There was no further discussion on this item.

Item No 10 & Item No. 11 had been dealt with earlier.

Item No10. Waipu Glebe Local Purpose Reserve. (Page 49)

Item No. 11. Notice of Motion Councillor M R Williams.

Mr Halse declared the meeting finished at 1131hrs.

There was a vote for the public to be excluded before going into the **confidential** section of the meeting and this was moved by Cr Aaron Edwards, Seconded: Cr Greg Martin.

Not bad for open and transparent meetings?

## **CONFIDENTIAL INDEX**

C.1 Confidential Minutes of a Meeting of the Whangarei District Council held 24 July 2013.  
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C.2 Property Matter (Page 2)

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