

Whangarei District Council meeting – 28th March 2012.

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)

We are asked to all stand for 'His Worship, the Mayor', but some again don't rise to the occasion. *This number is growing as more and more are losing respect for the mayor.*

At 1000hrs he remained standing and says "Thank you everyone, Thank you public and thank you councilors. It's good to see all the people come along and observe what goes on in council."
"Council's job is to perform a great balancing act between operating conservatively and safely for our ratepayers and having a vision for the future. That's the balance we have got to give."

"No ratepayer has as much information as we have about our district so we are better equipped to know what is best for our district." *Who does he think he is making outlandish comments like that?*

So I'm going to read you this, you may have heard it before;

"To laugh is to risk appearing the fool. To weep is to risk appearing sentimental. To reach out to another is to risk involvement. To expose feeling is to risk exposing yourself. To place your ideas, your dreams before the crowd is to risk their loss. To live is to risk dying. To try is to risk failure. But risks must be taken, because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing. A person, who risks nothing, does nothing, has nothing and is nothing. You may avoid suffering and sorrow, but you simply cannot learn, feel, change, grow, love, live. Chained by your fortitudes you are slaves; you have forfeited their freedom. Only a person who risks, is free." *Ward, William A.*

Morris's version was in fact shortened from the original version.

Morris advises there are no apologies.

Morris continues and invites the first speaker in the Public Forum to come forward.

So it's on to item No.1, the 'Public Forum' (Page 1) (1002hrs) [LINK to Supplementary Agenda](#)

The first speaker (1004hrs) is Gwendolyn Needham "The Young Adults' Power Project" – (Y.A.P.P.) initiated by HIGHWISE Leadership. Purpose – to help school leavers transition safely and successfully (1) into the workforce, and (2) into responsible adult citizenship. A Northland endeavour. Gwendolyn spoke for her allocated time wanting to work with council on this project of her producing a book .

The second speaker up at 1007hrs was Michael Gould Millington-Relocation of the post box at the entrance to Forum North. Michael gave details how he wanted to have the postbox outside Forum North relocated to between the pillars to assist people with disabilities access to the mailbox without getting out of their vehicle. NZ Post was happy to assist but as it was council owned land they had to agree. Council had on a number of occasions declined to move the mail box when Michael had written to them as it was deemed "dangerous."

Morris assured Michael Millington that council would consider his request.

Please don't hold your breath Michael as Morris does 180 degree turns on everything he has promised to his constituents in the past. Something that is being missed here is it is not 'council owned land'. The land is owned by the ratepayers; council is entrusted to look after it prudently. Besides that people involved

with this at council should be totally and utterly ashamed of the way they have treated you in your quest to have a simple situation improved to help the disability sector in our community. I don't like swearing but "Bloody shame on them for making you go to these lengths to remedy the situation". Someone's head should be on the chopping block; it's disgusting to treat any citizen in that way. Shame, Shame, Shame.

Speaker No 3. at 1011hrs, [Link to It's Not OK" Campaign for Action of Family Violence website](#)

"It's Not OK" Campaign for Action of Family Violence (On the agenda it was an 'Unnamed' speaker and I thought they had to be named as a previous person who has been refused speaking rights was told) Jessica from the Ministry of Social Development and Shelley from Family Violence spoke about the program. Check the website; everyone can make an attempt to improve this out of control problem.

It was now 1014hrs. Item No. 2, Minutes of a Meeting of the Whangarei District Council held 22 February 2012 (Page 2)

There was no discussion on this item.

The time was now 1015hrs it was Item No.3. Minutes of an Extra-ordinary Council Meeting held 14 March 2012 (Page 6)

There was no discussion on this item.

With time still at 1015hrs it was Item No.4, Police Report (Page 9) [Link to Police Report](#)

Inspector Paul Dimery, Area Commander for Whangarei/Kaipara, gave an update on police activities since the last report. Paul asked the council to fit in with the It's Not OK" Campaign for Action of Family Violence. We have to stop this cycle of abuse; we must stand up and be counted. There had been some bag snatches recently carried out by 2 x19-23 year olds. They had been targeting people, mainly females, coming out of banks. People are asked to report anything suspicious seen around banks. Paul wanted to give an accolade to one of his staff; Sergeant Dan Cleaver working with the youth unit had been helping with computer thefts by promoting a computer program called "Sneaky Bastard" which takes a photo when the computer is switched on or waking from either sleep or idle time. Paul encourages everyone to install this program.

[Link to Sneaky Bastard](#) *I cannot guarantee this program but it appears that it is for Mac users and I was unable to find a PC version of it.*

Dan has also been dealing well with youth offenders. City Safe is working well with the kids now respecting those working out there. Our Tautoko Teina Co-ordinator Mrs Jual Franks is looking for mentors as role models to help some kids going off the rails. Paul advised that the 'Tribesman' were trying to set up a pad in Otangarei. Paul also made comment on the two road deaths recently that could have been avoided by better driving behavior. Paul also complimented Constable Troy Netzler who completed a charity event, raising funds by completing 100 kilometers in 24 hours. The police Waka Ama team competed returning with gold and silver medals. Paul complimented Caig Cooper, Northern Advocate editor for his good work with the 'Standup be counted' program.

Cr Sue Glen made comments complimenting Paul Dimery in his production of a balanced report showing both positive and negative comments rather than a lot of negative items. *Sue it is possibly difficult for them to make positive comments when sadly the people police have to deal with aren't the nicest to have to deal with. It's a small % but not that great. I personally had 16 years doing security work and I certainly was very aware of the caliber of many offenders. They have a very tough job to do and it usually has to be carried out under public watching through a magnifying glass. You would know that feeling.*

With time at 1027hrs it was Item No. 5, Presentation Regarding the Proposed Whangarei Men's Shed (Page 10)

Mr Dave Kelsey thanked council for allowing him to make a presentation on Mens Shed. He was assisted by Mr John Williams and Mr Doug McDonald who had benefited well from this program. They gave an in depth insight into how the organization was formed and how it helps many men in the community. There were so many skills being brought into the group with a wealth of experience out there. *Loved the comment from one of these gentlemen about a successful security system; two coffins in his shed keeps people away.*

Cr Crichton Christie commented that it was the best thing he had heard of; he fully supported the idea as there was a lot of talent out there.

Cr Sharon Morgan confirmed this is a brilliant idea, a great service to the community spirit. It was great that it was an incorporated society as they will now look for their own funds.

Cr John Williamson asked if there was any potential for a Mens shed to be in a youth space.

Cr Merv Williams advised that both Cr Brian McLachlan and himself had been working with this group.

Merv also wanted to point out that Cr Christie is older than most in the Mens shed and that it was a 'Mens shed' and not an 'Old mens shed'. Merv wished to also move the recommendation.

Cr Phil Halse claimed that council wants to put them in a building but it had to be one that they don't outgrow in a short time.

Cr Sue Glen believed it was Mr Jeff Griggs who needs some recognition on this. Most people who come in have a wish list and want to use ratepayer's money. *Isn't the point that's being missed is they want a property? Isn't that on their wish list?* Sue continued that she supports what they are doing.

Cr Greg Martin explained that he had experienced cancer and heart issues. Many have nowhere to go or family to support them. This is going to be excellent, when can I join? *Greg were you not listening?*

After the presenters confirmed the huge input by Jeff Griggs the chamber echoed from a large round of applause for Jeff. *Great effort Jeff, you have done them well.*

The time now at 1055hrs. Item No 6, Report – Northland Cricket (Page11)

Gary Bell, CEO of Northland Cricket thanked the Whangarei District Council for their on-going support. He showed a time lapse presentation of the recent international game that was hosted at Cobham Oval. He explained that the future cricket events gave an opportunity for Whangarei to show case itself to the world. A media centre was needed and there were issues in regards to accommodation in Whangarei. Getting in and out of Whangarei at the airport was also an issue.

Gary presented a 'Black Cap' signed cricket bat to the mayor in appreciation for the councils support. Morris thanked Gary and commented "if the international event is after July next year 'our bridge' will be included. *Woop! Woop! Who is a tosser then?* He continued by saying "Cricket is not my game, but thanks for the bat" *I am sure we could find somewhere for the bat, after that thoughtless comment. Where is the class in this statement? No wonder less and less people are standing for him when asked to stand as he enters the chamber. 'Respect is earned' it doesn't just come with a title, automatically.*

Cr Jeroen Jongejans complimented Gary for a good presentation. It was good to hear his concerns about accommodation in town.

Cr Kahu Sutherland explained we can see what international events can do; accommodation is important, access needs to be upgraded and we do need the Hundertwasser. *Yeah right, that's not what we are hearing from a lot of people.*

Cr Shelley Deeming complimented Gary on the effort he has put into Northland Cricket. We need to acknowledge what sporting bodies are doing for the district.

The time now at 1109hrs. Item No.7, Property Policy (Page12)

Cr Warwick Syers explained that there were a couple of changes to the existing policy. The changes were to Section 7 Property Governance and Section 11 Property Reinvestment.

Cr Jeroen Jongejans had concerns that the reasons given in relation to the members of the Steering Group was that they have regular meetings; there should also be an economic development group.

Cr Merv Williams wished to move an amendment to Section 7 to read 4 Councillors plus Mayor ex officio. They should take out the 'select' section of councillors. This was the wrong policy eliminating councillors when some will have experience in property. It should be opened up for the 'mushrooms' to be on the committee. *For those that don't understand what Merv is saying 'mushrooms' is often referred to those that are kept in the dark and fed bull shit. Good on you Merv, you are telling it as it is the 'tight five' want total and utter control.*

Cr Sue Glen asked at what stage do the ordinary councillors get a chance. Just like the mushrooms Cr Williams mentioned, some are feeling out of it; it's all about democracy that is what we were elected for. *Sue has brought up comments like this before; information lacking, kept out of things, not being involved or informed. There is a pattern unfolding here and it is not good.*

There was a round of applause for Cr Glen, from many of those left in the public gallery.

Cr John Williamson confirmed that there were certain people around the table that had property experience; there was more experience than those on the proposed selected group.

Cr Greg Martin, *in his normal unintelligent manner*, claims some councillors want to have an election on who is on the committee. Some councillors don't turn up to the meetings to discuss issues. *Hello Greg aren't you the one that absconded, disappearing after chairing the earlier meeting on 14th March and didn't front up to the Gomez Road meeting to face the residents that you were betraying on the motorsport park. Should some look at themselves at some stage?*

Cr Sharon Morgan believed the wording was too restrictive and did agree with Cr Merv Williams.

Cr Shelley Deeming also declared it was a bit restrictive. She objected to being told we don't get enough information; all chairs have focus group meetings that anyone can come to. *Let's know about the next one I'm sure we can get a few along for a listen. Question- if Merv had not suggested the amendment would these councillors named in the original recommendation have accepted the recommendation with the restrictive wording?*

Cr Warwick Syers supported what the two fellow chairs had said; only 5 had turned up to the last focus group. *Maybe this information Warwick should be circulated out to the community. I'm sure residents would like to know which councillors are working for them and which ones aren't.*

Cr Crichton Christie fully supports the amendment; there should be a lesson learnt by some people. Cr Glen summed it up very well, saying it quite elegantly. Shouldn't we take the best person for the job? It has been changed from a committee to a group which means every councillor can't vote. Focus Groups have power to act. Internal borrowing is for 'specific purposes' for short term. What is being done now is not abiding by the policy.

Cr Brian McLachlan was concerned that they didn't have the policy worked through properly; they needed to do more work on it. He wanted to put it to the vote 'to leave it on the table'. This change to the motion was lost.

Cr Kahu Sutherland believed the message was from us that to have so many concerns and to want to form a policy they hadn't done enough work on it yet.

Cr Warwick Syers interjected with "that motion was lost". *It was becoming very obvious that the 'tight five' were anxious that their plan to have control over property policy was being exposed. The best disinfectant is certainly sunlight.*

Cr Kahu Sutherland replied 'I've made my point.

Cr Aaron Edwards had concern there was a lack of provision to report back to constituents. *Come on Aaron, do you think that they worry about that, all they want is to sell what they want and don't really give a toss about anyone else? Do you think that you airing these concerns are stalling their plan?*

Cr Phil Halse claimed that the way to be informed was to come to the 'focus meetings'. There was a challenge who was best for the job; and I'll stand against anyone of you for it. *Well he went right into his experience for the job, how great he was etc,etc. It was getting real personal now with insinuations about avoiding conflicts of interest and corruption.* He commented that he would challenge who would be on the committee. *It was now becoming obvious that come hell or high water he was going to be one of them.*

Phil you are going to have to watch out grazing those knuckles on the ground after all that self praise back patting which may have stretched your arms.

This item was duly passed.

With time at 1143hrs it was Item No.8, 20/20 Inner City Development (Page31)

There had been an amended recommendation circulated.

Cr Crichton Christie insisted that all councilors should have been advised of the meeting. *I understand it was a sub-committee meeting. Crichton you must realize they possibly don't invite you because they may want to do things they won't want others to know about. It's called 'slipping things under the radar', or is that why you didn't turn up?*

Cr Jeroen Jongejans and Cr Greg Martin became involved and made comments about Item 3 on the recommendation in regards to acknowledging important people and felt important things were of possible more significance.

Cr Warwick Syers felt there was confusion over Crichton Christie's comments about committees.

There was more discussion about costs of these proposals.

Cr Aaron Edwards advised he was looking forward to it being completed. *Yes Aaron, there is a walkway and cycle way in this plan and we know your passion for these; but don't sell yourself short.*

Cr Phil Halse had his right of reply and its all go on their proposals.

The time now at 1156hrs. Item No.9, Recommendation for Increase in Contract Value – Chipseal Resurfacing (Page54)

Cr Sue Glen picked up a spelling mistake in the recommendation 'no f in of'

CEO Mark Simpson explained that the contract can only be changed by the councilors approving the change.

So there you have it an example of 'how to spend \$200,000-00 of your money in less than 2 minutes' with really no discussion by councilors.

The meeting concluded at 1158hrs, the public excluded before going into the **confidential** section of the meeting.

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

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