

Whangarei District Council meeting – 30th May 2012.

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)

We are asked to all stand for 'His Worship, the Mayor'. The majority in attendance in the public gallery remain seated for his entry to the chamber. *The only ones to stand are visitors from out of town; are they not aware of his behaviour yet? This number is growing as more and more are losing respect for the mayor.*

At 1000hrs Morris remained standing and says "I'm not going to give a reading this month, but I think Council is about to run our second marathon in two days; yesterday Councillors got them over the line". *Do you think he was referring to the deliberations over the Long Term Plan and he's right, some of yesterdays choices may have got them over the line; the line in the dole queue after October 2013 Elections?*

Morris advises there are no apologies.

Morris continues inviting the speaker in the Public Forum to come forward.

Item No.1, the 'Public Forum' (Page 1)

Today's speaker (at 1001hrs) is Mary McDonald to speak on Voting methods and the need to have the Single Transferable Vote method of voting used at the next elections for District Council and for Mayor. Mary spoke well and voiced her ideas that council has a chance to change the voting system.

[Link to STV explained](#)

It was now 1004hrs. Item No. 2, Minutes of a Meeting of the Whangarei District Council held 24 April 2012. (Page 2) Moved: Cr Brian McLachlan Seconded: Cr Sue Glen
There was no discussion on this item.

With time at 1005hrs it was Item No.3, Minutes of an Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Whangarei District Council held 14, 15 16, 17 and 18 May 2012 (Page 6)

Moved: Cr Aaron Edwards Seconded: Cr Jeroen Jongejans

There was no discussion on this item.

The time still at 1005hrs and it was Item No.4. Police Report (Page 21)

It was advised that this item had been withdrawn from today's agenda.

Morris commented that they didn't have to listen to a police report this month and he would be catching up with Inspector Dimery.

With time at 1006hrs it was Item No.5, Presentation of Plaque – Brother International Rally of Whangarei (Page 22)

Morris gazes around like a clown at the side show, waiting for a punter to put a ping-pong ball in their mouth asking “Are they here?” Yes they are Morris, they are the two gentlemen in the public gallery who are not the usual regulars; thought you may have noticed them with Jude Thompson.

Jude Thompson, WDC Chief Operating Officer introduced Laurie Brensell and Willard Martin from Brother International Rally of Whangarei. Laurie Brensell advised that the reception the rally received from Whangarei was great. Willard Martin also commented that Whangarei was a great place to bring the rally too and working closely with the council was rewarding to all involved. They presented a plaque to Morris Cutforth who made comment it was great to see “Love it here’ on the bottom of the plaque.

It was moved: Cr Jeroen Jongejans Seconded: Cr Sue Glen that the plaque be received.

Cr Phil Halse and Cr Crichton Christie both gave some of their experiences of having the rally in Whangarei. *Good Stuff.*

With time still at 1012hrs it was Item No. 6. Leave of Absence (Page 23)

This was duly granted with Cr Aaron Edwards commenting that ‘some will be pleased to see the back of me for a few weeks’.

Morris Cutforth commented that after Aaron’s words of wisdom in today’s paper Aaron should enjoy the publicity from it. *Yes so correct, words well said Aaron. Not like some of the bumbles from others reported.*

The time now at 1013hrs. Item No 7. Policy for allowances and reimbursement of expenses to Elected Members (Page 24)

Moved: Cr Warwick Syers Seconded: Cr Phil Halse

It was advised that a remit was to be presented at the next Local Government Annual General Meeting.

Cr Phil Halse advised he had spoken to this at a recent Local Government and they said they didn’t want it brought up at an Annual general meeting.

Cr Warwick Syers asked ‘don’t they want to blot their copy book?’

Morris Cutforth claims he was concerned that councilors travelling great distances are not reimbursed but he will be pushing for it to go to the Local Government AGM.

Cr Sue Glen informs that they (WDC) pay \$50 thousand pa to this organization and they don’t support us.

Cr Merv Williams explains that it was just possibly an email from the CEO advising that they shouldn’t present it to the AGM but it should be pursued to go to the AGM and

other local Authorities will pick up on it. *Would CEO's really do that sort of thing? I thought all CEO's in local government positions were responsible employees.*

Cr Sue Glen asked where and when the AGM was to be held.

CEO Mark Simpson replied it was to be in Queenstown.

Morris Cutforth piped up to Sue saying 'You won't be paid a travel allowance to Queenstown. *Oh really, would that be different to Morris's jaunt around the country at Christmas; I'm sure Sue would be working and not having time out again.*

It was now 1018hrs. Item No. 8. Water Supply Bylaw Amendment (Page 29)

It was advised this had been out for consultation and now it was there for council to accept the by-law proposal.

Cr Brian McLachlan informed that this was to do with water back-flow protectors.

The time now at 1020hrs. Item No.9, Revised Pressure Sewer Policy (May 2012) (Page 31)

Cr Brian McLachlan advised this item was about Pressure Sewer Policy; being a new thing to implement into the district.

Group Manager Infrastructure and Services Simon Weston advised that the philosophy of the document received was the same as the previous document.

Cr Phil Halse advised there was to be a sod turning ceremony at Ruakaka 6.15 one morning.

Morris Cutforth advised he couldn't make it. *Is he a bit tired after having to be at work for a full week recently and not handling the stress? If it was 'kissing babies' and 'cutting ribbons' he would be in boots and all but mention spade or work and he just can't make it.*

It was now 1022hrs. Item No. 10, Easement at Bedlington Street Reserve (Page 68)

Cr John Williamson advised that they needed to get all the facts right with this park and portray it as such; story boards, history, what it is, where it is and who donated it.

Oh no, is that Morris's cell phone ringing or is it his alarm clock sounding off at 1024hrs. He must spend a fortune on Chocy Fish.

Cr Crichton Christie advised that there used to be a sign there. He also felt that maintenance of the driveway needs to be undertaken by the people who want to go with this.

Morris Cutforth asked if this was going to set a precedent to others who have been using public property for access.

Simon Weston answered 'Yes', but continued giving some details.

CEO Mark Simpson confirmed this is about setting a policy framework.

The time now at 1030hrs. Item No.11, Water Reticulation Maintenance Contract (Page 81) Moved: Cr Brian McLachlan Seconded: Cr Aaron Edwards

Cr Crichton Christie withdrew from the table.

Cr Brian McLachlan commented that it was good to see an existing contractor has done well. Having achieved a customer satisfaction score in excess of 99% and a contract increase of only 2% it was pleasing to see them be the successful contractor having the contract extended.

It was now 1032hrs. Item No. 12, Recommendation for Increase in Contract Value for Contract 06002 North Maintenance Area and Contract 06004 South Maintenance Area (Page 83) Moved: Cr Greg Martin Seconded: Cr Shelley Deeming

Cr Greg Martin explained this item was self explanatory.

Cr Shelley Deeming wanted it noted that she was pleased to see Transfield operating in the Southern area as they have done a good job in the past.

Cr Greg Martin claimed that credit must go to Group Manager Infrastructure and Services Simon Weston and CEO Mark Simpson. We looked at other operators in Wanganui and Invercargill.

Mark Simpson, *trying to bring it back on track*, "can we get to discuss the contract and not discuss other things." *Morris!.....Who is chairing this meeting??????*

Am I right to think Greg may have just let the cat out of the bag, talking about the trip away to Wanganui and Invercargill and by the CEO's interjection to get back to the item on the table? They don't like ratepayers knowing about 'trips away for the boys' and girls' in some cases.

The item was duly passed, in a somewhat quieter chamber. *Oops!!!!!!*

The time now at 1034hrs. Item No.13, Contract 12001 – Road Maintenance – North Area (Page 84) Moved:Cr Greg Martin Seconded:Cr Sue Glen

Cr Phil Halse wanted to reinforce some of the words Cr Martin had said. *Was this in regards to the last item where the CEO wanted the trip away discussion to cease?*

Does Phil want to keep it alive for a specific reason? Phil continued claiming the process now being used was something new, it's working; it's a good process and a new idea.

Cr John Williamson claimed it was interesting that the winning tender was \$2mill less than the engineers estimate.

CEO Mark Simpson advised that a lot of work had been done to minimize our costs by working closer with the contractors. *Does this mean they are getting more slices out of the cake?*

It was now 1037hrs. Item No. 14, Contract 12002 – Road Maintenance – South Area (Page 86) Moved: Cr Greg Martin Seconded: Cr Shelley Deeming
There was no discussion on this item and it was passed. *Check it out; how to spend \$9,269,852.35 in less than 1 minute and not one councillor blinks an eyelid, asks a question or makes a comment. And you voted for them to watch on your behalf.*

The time now at 1038hrs. Item No.15, Contract 12003 – Road Maintenance – Central Area (Page 88) Moved: Cr Greg Martin Seconded: Cr Aaron Edwards
Cr Greg Martin advised that it was interesting that Transfield Services had been awarded the contract; showing the open tender processes. *Now could that comment make you even more suspicious?*
Cr Sharon Morgan had some questions about some costs.
Simon Weston explained the point.
This item was passed. Just *another \$3,681,227.03 approved in less than 2 minutes.*

The meeting concluded at 1040hrs, the public being excluded before going into the **confidential** section of the meeting with the urgent addition of some confidential supplementary items.
Wonder if one of these is about all the ‘details’ that have been asked for about the ‘deal’ done between Hundertwasser and the travellers to Vienna?

*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.*

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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](#).