

Whangarei District Council District Living Committee meeting – 13th March 2013.

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)

Chair Cr Shelley Deeming welcomes all with a good morning, to all those present at 1000hrs.

There were apologies for Cr John Williamson and Cr Crichton Christie.

These were moved by Cr Greg Martin, seconded by Cr Sue Glen.

This next item, below, was showing in the agenda but was not mentioned in the meeting.
Perhaps 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.

Chair Shelley Deeming wished to advise that today's meeting was to be recorded with both audio and video.

Cr Jeroen Jongejans asked if this being said each meeting, was necessary.

Carolyne Brindle, Senior Meeting Co-ordinator, explained that because those staff attending and those in the public gallery varied, then it was necessary to advise the meeting.

Cr Halse asked who was recording and Carolyne Brindle advised him.

Does it really matter who is doing it and do they need to be named. Could this not be 'deemed' to be commercially sensitive?

It was now 1001hrs and Item No.1. Minutes of a Meeting of the District Living Committee held 13 February 2013. (Page 1)

Moved Cr Jeroen Jongejans, seconded by Cr Sharon Morgan.

These were duly passed with no discussion.

With the time still at 1001hrs it was on to Item No.2. Minutes of a Meeting of the Community Funding Subcommittee held 13 February 2013. (Page 5)

Moved by Cr Warwick Syers, seconded by Cr Greg Martin.

These were duly passed also with no discussion entered into.

With the time now at 1002hrs and Item No.3. District Living Group Monthly Report February 2013. (Page 7)

Cr Deeming advised councillors that they would go through this item, page by page and pertinent questions would be accepted.

Group Manager District Living Paul Dell made brief comments advising that there was so much coming out of Central Government at the moment that should be noticed. These were about building regulations, a RMA review (Resource Management Act), RMS Phase 2 and

were being loaded upon us. He had concerns at the pace some of the changes are being pushed through at.

Cr Sharon Morgan had a query on Kiwi Forums as she was on the forest trust.

Cr Sharon Morgan also asked if they had organized anyone yet to be the representative to work with the disability sector. (Page 32)

Cr Phil Halse gave some details about the Kaipara Harbour Forum and how funding was coming from Fonterra. He claimed that this should not get confused with some of the Hikurangi Swamp issues.

This item was moved by Cr Sue Glen, seconded by Cr Sharon Morgan.

With the time at 1008hrs and Item No.4. Rural Strategy Adoption. (Page 33)

Moved by Cr Greg Martin, seconded by Cr Sharon Morgan with an amendment, with the Recommendation No. 2. to read 'That the Rural Development Strategy – February 2013 be adopted Subject to the deletion of all reference to the "use and purpose to which high class and versatile soils may be put".

Cr Brian McLachlan claimed there needed to be more thought put into this.

Cr Aaron Edwards asked if there was a document to support 'reverse sensitivity'.

Cr Phil Halse advised that soil was always going to be questionable.

The recommendations were adopted.

It was now 1012hrs and Item No.5. Proposed Private Plan Change 113: Whangarei Racing Club Ruakaka Racecourse. (Page 74)

Moved Cr Phil Halse, seconded by Cr Jeroen Jongejans.

Cr Phil Halse informed that Council had been aware of this process going on for some time. Cr Sue Glen asked if this was going to cost us anything.

Sue, don't you remember, they received a \$200,000-00 grant and \$100,000-00 loan in a confidential meeting held on 27th September last year. So yes it has already cost us; and Phil has today claimed you all knew about this Plan Change proposal for some time and the handout was all still approved without going through a Long Term or Annual Plan process. Not being aware of all the facts at present, I'm not against a proposed plan change; believe more of the process should be carried out in the public arena especially when public money is in the mix.

Paul Dell claimed they would recover the costs of this Plan Change.

Cr Greg Martin quipped that "it was nice to be getting some of our money back". *But weren't you Greg, one of the ones that approved the grant and loan?*

The recommendations were received.

With the time now at 1015hrs and Item No.6. Managing Risks Associated with Outdoor Use of GMO's: Draft Proposed Plan Change and Section 32 Report. (Page 114)

Dr Kerry Grundy – Team Leader - Futures Planning was to give a power point presentation.

With the time now at 1015hrs, Cr Merv Williams moves that the meeting be adjourned until expected parties can be at the meeting. It was moved that the meeting reconvene at 1030hrs. *This is certainly a change to the NORM. The 'Public Gallery' is on occasions treated as 'THE ENEMY', but there must have been a change of heart. Oh, Silly me. Of course, its election year and some wish to score brownie points.*

With the time now at 1030hrs and Item No.6. Managing Risks Associated with Outdoor Use of GMO's: Draft Proposed Plan Change and Section 32 Report. (Page 114) the meeting reconvenes.

Dr Kerry Grundy gives a presentation but sadly a number of the 'expected' have not yet arrived. The presentation covered the Section 32 Evaluation, Inadequate Liability Law, Proposed Plan Provisions, Relationships between HSNO (Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act) and the RMA (Resource Management Act), Other Councils Positions and his recommendations. He explained the differences between the HSNO & RMA.

His presentation was moved by Cr Phil Halse, seconded by Cr Aaron Edwards.

Cr Phil Halse thanked Kerry for the work he had done over the past 10 years. He added that they needed to protect exports and they needed to be proactive in protecting our patch. This wouldn't prevent trials from being undertaken with a good policy thus stopping people slipping through the back door.

Cr Sue Glen claims she was having trouble understanding what the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) was about; what do they do?

Dr Kerry Grundy gave some details and in brief they maintain and govern changes within their statutes.

Cr Merv Williams apologized to the audience that had been slowly arriving to the presentation, advising they could only defer the meeting for 15 minutes. *It didn't appear to be much of a problem; some had made themselves quite comfortable at the media reporting station which was, again, not occupied today.*

Merv continued that he looked forward to the day that our neighbors take a responsible stance. *Is he having a slight at the Northland Regional Council?*

Cr Sharon Morgan congratulated the staff, particularly Dr Kerry Grundy in his role on a contentious and complex issue showing strong collaboration working with others on this.

Cr Greg Martin believed the whole organization (WDC) needs to be congratulated. We need to continue to lead.

Dr Kerry Grundy added that this council had been very brave on taking this lead. *In my opinion Kerry, I think because you have been doing the leading they have received some great guidance to enable them to make informed decisions.*

Cr Shelley Deeming also wished to congratulate Kerry on the lead he has given.

Cr Aaron Edwards claimed he was thrilled we had got this far.

Cr Phil Halse called for a division to be recorded.

These recommendations were duly passed unanimously.

So, that's it, all over till the next episode, with Cr Shelley Deeming calling the meeting to a close at 1052hours and thanking all for attending.

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