

Whangarei District Council District Living Committee meeting – 14th August 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 Mayor Morris Cutforth and Cr Jeroen Jongejans.

Moved by Cr Greg Martin, seconded by Cr Aaron Edwards.

This next item, below, was showing in the agenda 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.

It was still 1000hrs and Item No.1. Minutes of a Meeting of the District Living Committee held 10 July 2013. (Page 1)

Moved Cr Crichton Christie, seconded by ?

These were duly passed with no discussion.

With the time still at 1000hrs and Item No.2. District Living Group Monthly Report July 2013. (Page 4)

This item was moved by Cr Crichton Christie, seconded by Cr Kahu Sutherland. Cr Crichton Christie moved an amendment to the report to address a current recreational fishing issue before us all. This was seconded by Cr Shelley Deeming. He wanted staff to work with councillors to make a submission on this issue.

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 they were preparing a submission to go to the Ministry of Environment (Page 4) He discussed the customer satisfaction survey recently undertaken.

Cr Merv Williams asked a question about signs on council cars.

Cr John Williamson queried in reference to page 13 b/ about mining hazards.

Paul Dell discussed graffiti (Page 24) how there had been 6200 graffiti incidents which resulted in 28,000 tags being removed.

Cr Sharon Morgan had a query about graffiti in outlying areas.

Paul Dell advised that they were mapping the incidents and working out black spots for tagging areas. *Paul I would have thought 'hot spots' may have been a better selection of words.*

Cr Crichton Christie claimed that graffiti must be cleaned up within 24 hours so the graffiti artist receives no kudos.

Cr Aaron Edwards wanted to acknowledge the new members joining the YAG (Youth Advisory Group) and spoke of a lot of good work being done by that group.

Cr Merv Williams informed that YAG had been going a year now.

Cr Greg Martin asked if the Hikurangi tagging figures were in the report.

Owen Thomas, Senior Community Services Advisor advised that council helped the Bream bay and Tornado Youth for their assistance with graffiti removal.

With the time now at 1012hrs it was on to Item No.3. Key Research Customer Satisfaction Report. (Page 29)

Moved by Cr Aaron Edwards, seconded by Cr Greg Martin.

Paul Dell advised how the report had focused on two points; output and how the customer sees the service. He was pleased how Dog registrations were now at 92% satisfaction. Overall we are pleased; what can we do to improve our services to our customers is what we need to look at.

Cr Sharon Morgan asked if it was last year's customers that were surveyed and was a list given by council of those people to the research company.

Paul Dell advised how the research company has minimum numbers to contact.

Cr Sharon Morgan commented about how pre-lodgment consents were up to 50% in 2012 from 38% in 2010. (Page 31)

Paul Dell gave some details of this.

Cr Sue Glen commented that Environment Northland have set a bench mark here; we used to be at the bottom of the heap.

Cr Merv Williams had a query on pre-lodgment meetings.

Paul Dell informed how they liked them to come in early to discuss projects.

Cr John Williamson had a query on Coastal Plan changes.

Paul Dell gave details on this.

Cr Crichton Christie claims he was sometimes disappointed with some of the results. He added that if a third of his customers went away unhappy, his business would suffer.

Because we are a monopoly we get away with it; they can't go to another person.

More work needs to be done to improve things.

Cr Brian McLachlan commented that this report has its highs and lows. District Plan changes needs some work to done.

Cr Shelley Deeming claimed they were endeavoring to streamline the process.

These were duly received.

With the time at 1027hrs and Item No.4. District Licensing Committees – Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012. (Page 33)

Moved by Cr Merv Williams, seconded by Cr Aaron Edwards.

Paul Dell advised this was one of the formal stages we go through from the old legislation into new policies. The 18th June saw a number of changes come into effect. Going through the recommendations he advised about the CEO being given the power to delegate. (No. 3 Pg 38)

Cr Merv Williams had a query about recommendation No 5 about appointments.

Paul Dell informed the meeting they were awaiting clarification on this; there are some interesting legal issues.

Cr Sharon Morgan advised that they get about 23% recoveries from their fees; will there be an increase in fees to cover the cost of the new legislation.

Paul Dell gave some details and it appeared to be a yes.

Cr Kahu Sutherland had a query about a shared list with Kaipara. (Page 38, reco 4)

Cr John Williamson claims a lot will depend on the electoral process in a couple of months claiming they need some experience there.

It was now 1037hrs and Item No.5. Whangarei District Council Advisory Groups' Annual Report 2012/2013. (Page 50)

Moved Cr Sue Glen, seconded by Cr Greg Martin.

Paul Dell advised of a clarification that Cr Sue Glen was in the Disability Advisory Group and not Cr Williamson.

Cr Sue Glen advised how she looks forward to working with these groups; they were good and positive.

Cr Merv Williams claimed it was good to see young councilors on YAG, Sue on disability and Cr John Williams with Positive Aging Group.

The information was received.

With the time now at 1040hrs and Item No.6. Dog Control Review Committee Recommendations. (Page 56)

Moved by Cr Aaron Edwards, seconded by Cr Sharon Morgan.

Paul Dell advised that Cr Crichton Christie was chair of the Review Committee when they heard a lot of submissions. He wanted to acknowledge the great guidance that came from that review. There had been achievements in 95% of the areas of concern. They were using a vet for euthanasia now and they were also dealing with some very difficult issues and people with this item. *This was yet another issue that was forced by the community for council to get its act together; just like the sewerage issues.*

Cr Crichton Christie claims it was one of the committees he enjoyed being on. It addressed some key issues like; buildings, no interview areas, disposal of dogs. There were also some issues regarding old dogs. (*Senior dogs*) More work needs to be done on the building; we should not forget about it and bury it. *Why not? You did before.*

Cr Sue Glen advised that ex Cr Frank Newman was into this at the time; we needed him in the review panel. The recommendation was what we needed; hats off to that team.

Yes Frank Newman was needed; he was the only councillor on the review committee who turned up when we exposed the open offal holes full of decaying dog carcasses on 16th May 2013 in McDonalds Living Treasure Forest above Kioreroa Road, behind the dog pound in Whangarei.

[LINK](#) to Campbell Live. *Watch this and you will be enlightened.*

Cr Greg Martin believed Cr Deeming needed recognition as it was under her committee and Mr Dell.

Paul, Crichton, Sue and Greg you all failed to mention to the meeting who wrote the list of recommendations that the review committee used in the review. You also failed to explain how those same people asked two years later in October 2009 to visit the pound and carry out an inspection of the pound to see what improvements had been undertaken.

[LINK](#) to the requests and Mr Dells answers. Worth a watch! See how people are treated.

It was most interesting throughout this review, as we were part of the initiation team, that both Cr John Williamson and Cr Merv Williams did not wish to be involved and both having had involvement in dog boarding businesses we found that of particular interest.

These issues, that we found very distasteful and unacceptable, were exposed and addressed, for the benefit of our community.

The report was received.

So, that's it, all over till the next episode, with Cr Shelley Deeming calling the meeting to a close at 1048hrs 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](#).