

Whangarei District Council District Living Committee meeting

– 14th November 2012.

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)

Houston, we have a problem; is Morris still suffering from his Solar Eclipse Nap time and wandering around trying to find somewhere to sit? Is it a matter of 'beam me up Scotty' or will Sgt Syers direct me from his chair that Morris had attempted to nestle in and to that of this meetings chair, Shelley? Wow, was that a hard decision? If this sounds stupidthat is because, it was.

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

Apologies were received for Cr Jeroen Jongejans.

Moved by Cr Aaron Edwards, seconded by Cr Sue Glen.

It was 1000hrs and Item No.1. Minutes of a Meeting of the District Living Committee held 10 October 2012. (Page1)

Moved by Morris Cutforth, seconded by Cr Sharon Morgan.

These were duly passed and no discussion was necessary.

Now here is a strange one. Tell me how can someone (the Mayor), move the following "That the minutes of the meeting of the District Living Committee held on Wednesday 10 October 2012 having been circulated, be taken as read and now confirmed and adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings of that meeting." That someone, 'Morris Cutforth' was not present at that meeting as the minutes clearly state so how can they state what they have, honestly?

With the time now at 1001hrs it was on to Item No.2. Minutes of a Meeting of the Creative Communities Assessment Committee held 2 October 2012. (Page 3)

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

These were duly passed and no discussion was necessary.

With the time at 1001hrs and Item No.3. District Living Group Monthly Report October 2012. (Page5)

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 the Whangarei Harbour Plan was moving forward. There was lots of building going on in the district keeping staff in those areas busy.

Cr Merv Williams queried about the costs being claimed (Page 13) i/ Plan Change 65 – Longview Estate. This was qualified by Paul Dell.

Cr John Williamson asked about viii/ Plan Change 124 – Built Heritage.

Paul Dell gave details.

Cr Phil Halse queried (Page 16) a/ Rural Development Strategy.

Paul Dell again gave details.

Cr Crichton Christie had questions on d/ Genetic Modification (Page 17) and how it was contradictory to what was said on page 5, in Policy and Monitoring Manager section. He claimed it contradicts what this council wanted.

Paul Dell explained that from monitoring ‘court decisions’ they were watching this issue closely.

Cr Merv Williams asked if they were any closer to making a recommendation to the NRC (Northland Regional Council) on the RPS (Regional Policy Statement).

Paul Dell advised that the RPS has gone out and was now going through ‘due process’.

Cr Merv Williams advised that many people were up in arms about the mapping being undertaken by the NRC on Significant Landscapes.

Policy and Monitoring Manager Paul Waanders, gave some explanation and clarification to this item.

Cr Merv Williams claimed that he wished to be part of the communication as he was sick of being targeted with emails and phone calls about the ‘mapping project’.

Cr John Williamson advised that the ‘rules’ will be developed later after ‘lines’ are confirmed. *Exactly John, this is what the people are concerned about as they don’t yet know the consequences of the lines. They should know of the whole process and what may be the resulting implications of this change.* John advised it was a statutory process and has been since the 8th October.

Cr Phil Halse gave some details of his own submission and the process so far. He believed “that it is time to say No, to any more protected land”. We represent our ratepayers.

Cr Sharon Morgan made a quick comment on Creative Communities (Page 27)

Cr Aaron Edwards commented that it was great to see the central city car park getting a mention in the report and positive responses to it.

Cr Greg Martin had a question re tagging in Hikurangi and it not appearing in the figures in the report.

This item was moved by Cr Shelley Deeming, seconded by Cr Brian McLachlan.

With the time at 1023hrs and Item No.4. Walking and Cycling Reference Group – Terms of Reference. (Page 31)

Moved by Cr Aaron Edwards, seconded by Cr Brian McLachlan.

Cr Aaron Edwards was pleased of the progress on this item.

Cr Crichton Christie asked if they were getting an increase in the interest for cyclists.

Paul Dell claimed they were putting data together on it.

Cr Brian McLachlan gave a brief on the ‘bikes in schools’ project.

The motion was carried unanimously.

With the time at 1025hrs and Item No.5. Positive Ageing Advisory Group – Term of Reference Review. (Page 35)

Moved by Cr Sue Glen, seconded by Cr John Williamson.

Cr Sue Glen claimed it was a very clear document and informs what this amazing group does.

Cr John Williamson was pleased there was a proactive stance between this group and staff and it had been very well chaired.

Shelley Deeming wanted it noted and thanked Owen Thomas, Senior Community Services Advisor and his team for the work well done.

It was now 1027hrs and Item No. 6. Council Liability to Commercial Property Owners for Leaky Buildings. (Page 40)

Moved by Cr John Williamson, seconded by Cr Sharon Morgan.

Paul Dell advised that they (Government) had moved the goal posts around leaky buildings, that is why things are changing.

Cr Merv Williams claimed he would like to see some comments about this as he had concerns about the liability of council. For example internal spouting can cause problems with water entering buildings so what is the extent of our liability.

Paul Dell advised that there were differences between design issues and bad maintenance.

CEO Mark Simpson informed that council's liability ceases after 10 years since the CCC (code of compliance certificate) was issued. *Is this why councils drag out claims over many years to go beyond their liability period?*

Cr Merv Williams claimed they were still allowing building to the same standards. *Good point Merv, who then is accountable?*

Cr Crichton Christie commented that these things are all putting up the costs of building and government complains about the cost of housing. Crichton continued "Councils take the permit money then run like hell and no accountability. He would not be receiving this as he could not support any more cost increases".

Cr Kahu Sutherland, Cr Crichton Christie and Cr Phil Halse all voted against the receipt of the report and wished to have their votes recorded.

This item was duly passed.

With the time at 1036hrs and Item No. 7. Incorporation of the National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health into the District Plan. (Page 42)

Moved by Cr Brian McLachlan, seconded by Cr John Williamson.

Cr Brian McLachlan commented that this needed to be done as a two stage project and it was introducing more rules.

Cr Crichton Christie asked how they knew if properties were contaminated.

Resource Consents Manager, Alistair Hartstone gave some clarification of the situation of contaminated properties. *There must be a few around; like Pohe Island full of contamination and now they want to put sports fields on for healthy people to congregate on. Sounds sensible? And there is the old rubbish tip where The Warehouse is now?*

Cr Sharon Morgan asked if Stage Two will go out to public consultation or is this just the 'fast track' option that's happening.

Policy and Monitoring Manager Paul Waanders advised that they may still have to do a review if the 'fast track' is not sufficient.

Cr Crichton Christie again claimed he was concerned.

Cr Sue Glen interjected asking Cr Christie "Haven't you already spoken?" *Who is chairing this meeting? Sue certainly has been getting vocal over the last few months on a few issues; is she genuinely concerned or is it getting close to that magic reinstatement time called 'Elections'?*

Cr Crichton Christie, with no hesitation replied, "I asked a question, now I will speak". He continued that he understood some sites were dangerous and costs can be extensive with these soil tests. Most of these sites were allowed in the time that the contamination took place. He pleaded that the staff needed to be realistic and not too precautionary. He would be voting against it also because of the costs.

Cr Crichton Christie was the only councilor to vote against this item.

This was duly passed.

It was now 1045hrs and Item No. 8. Ngunguru Bowling Club Inc – Loan Application. (Page 96)

Moved by Cr Greg Martin, seconded by Cr Brian McLachlan.

Cr Greg Martin spoke to the item. He said it was good to see these groups that are struggling to get a loan from council. They had to jump through a lot of hoops to be approved and were assisted a lot by both Jenny Teeuwen, (Community Funding Officer) and ex-councillor John Watson who he wished to have it recorded, he thanked for their help.

These were duly passed and no further discussion necessary.

So, that's it, all over till the next episode, with Cr Shelley Deeming calling the meeting to a close at 1046hours 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](#).