

Whangarei District Council Environment meeting
- 13th April 2011

Chair Cr Shelley Deeming wishes a good morning to all those present at 1030hrs.

An apology was accepted for Cr John Williamson, who was on a hearing for council as per the earlier meeting. By the way, Morris is here.

Item No 1 - The minutes for the previous meeting were accepted with no discussion necessary.

With the time still at 1030hrs it was on to The Environment Group Monthly Report March 2011, Item No 2 and Environment Group Manager Paul Dell was asked by the chair to speak to the report. There were a few minor tweaks around delegations (page 4). They had tidied up a lot of the outstanding issues well. There had been some noise issues addressed under the Liquor Licensing Authority applications (pg5).

Cr Kahu Sutherland made mention of some previous noise issues in Fairway Drive and wanted an update.

Paul Dell explained he had passed the details to his staff to address. He made comment that resource consents (page 9) had achieved 99% in regards to time frames. Cr Merv Williams queried (page 11) Appeals & other matters in regards to Ravensdown. Mr Dell commented on the final draft of the parking Management Action Plan. (pg14) Cr Crichton Christie was looking forward to the review of the landscape project. (pg14) Cr Sharon Morgan queried the Te Hape Village Plan change 112 (pg13)

Cr Crichton Christie confirmed he had concerns about pride in the community.

Cr Phil Halse queried why the NRC was getting involved in Urban Design.

Cr Merv Williams suggested it was a move towards Unitary Authority.

Cr Sue Glen said we need to show we have pride. How are visitors going to look at us with all the weeds etc? It is a disgrace. *Sue it's also important for the people that live here to like what we see. We are the important ones, not just the visitors passing through briefly heading north or south.*

Cr Shelley Deeming apologizes for not moving the recommendation at the beginning. *That's ok Shellsy you are forgiven.*

With the time at 1044hrs it was on to Item No 3 - Review of Council Policy regarding Uncompleted Works Bonds for Subdivision.

Cr Shelley Deeming gave a brief overview.

Zelka Grammer, the driver of GE Free Northland arrives at 1042hrs in ready for Item No 5, Update on GE.

Paul Dell explained it was for small activities giving flexibility hence the small bonds. By accepting a bond it shows you are working with them.

Cr Merv Williams was happy to move this as by taking a bond in lieu of them completing the work.

Cr Aaron Edwards required some clarification on a point.

Item No. 4. Final consideration of Plan Change 94 - Papakainga Housing.

It was now only 1047hrs and Cr Kahu Sutherland, smiling, claimed "It's been a long, long process".

Item No.5. Update on GE. Now 1048hrs. This was obviously the item that those gathering in the public gallery, over the last fifteen or so minutes, had come to see.

It was Cr Crichton Christie that wanted to kick it off by stating the workshop, *that they had obviously had*, had been informative and it had been eight years in the making. It was about managing the risk that council had with GE (Genetic Engineering). He was happy to now put this plan forward and it would be nice if FNDC (Far North District Council) & KDC (Kaipara District Council) joined us. Government has recognized the risk falls with us so our interpretation is to put it in the District Plan. We can go it alone if the others can't go fast enough.

Cr Brian McLachlan confirmed it was all about risk and if the working draft plan from NRC (Northland Regional Council) and ERMA (Environmental Risk Management Authority) recommend it then it must be going in the right direction.

(Jeremy, where is your rooster? Warwick's nodding off.)

Cr Merv Williams believed it was all about leadership and the weak message we are getting from the NRC we must be sure this matter doesn't stall. We must show the NRC we are serious about this matter and show all other councils we are leading. If the public are concerned we must be concerned and have got to do something about it to show we are serious.

There was applause from the gathered audience. *(Merv, you are a hit)*

Cr Aaron Edwards stated he had great pleasure to support this.

Cr Sharon Morgan enquired if there were time frames in regards to funding etc.

Paul Dell claimed Kerry can go back to other councils now as chair after the direction from this council.

Dr Kerry Grundy (Team Leader Futures Planning) explained other councils will discuss it in May. By the end of May we should have some indication.

Cr Sharon Morgan queried whether we would proceed without other councils.

Paul Dell, quick with an answer, "we will report back to you". *(Does that mean don't ask tricky questions like that?)*

Kerry Grundy informs that he will discuss and find out if others councils want to go down that path.

Cr Merv Williams questioned whether the motion gave that guidance.

Kerry Grundy stated; if they were adopted, they would.

Cr Merv Williams asked is this was sufficient and added; Madam Chair, one last thing, my thanks and I'm sure the councils thanks, to Dr Grundy for going above and beyond for his efforts.

Kerry Grundy responded; all I have done really is provide information to the council on this issue. I have been accused on occasions of putting in my personal preferences, I try not to, I try to be objective and I give credit to this council. *(Kerry you are a very modest man, I have seen you on numerous occasions make presentations and in my opinion you have been professional and factual in all those I have witnessed. Keep up the great work for our district, it is appreciated)*

Cr Phil Halse believed a decision could have been made years ago and saved hundreds of thousands of dollars. *(Oh Phil you have been there 20 plus years, so why didn't you?)* He was disappointed it didn't score higher. Dr Grundy has 40% of the country's population he is representing and wanting this but the NRC is sitting on the fence on this issue. We must be very very careful and be cautious about anything we put on our land. NRC are meant to be the Environmental Watchdog, how is it they are on the other side? There are three districts being represented, the same ratepayers as NRC's and its conflicting. *(Phil, you sure are trying to drive that wedge between WDC and NRC)*

Applause from the audience. *(Real show stoppers today aren't they doing well?)*

Chair Cr Shelley Deeming suggests it's better to add (pg8) that council adopts c & d.

Cr Sue Glen claims New Zealand's gift to the world is growing food. Why would you muck around with trials? Wake up do what you should be doing. I'm proud of us today and hope the public are pleased with us

Applause again from the audience. *(More, more come on they are loving it Sue)*

She continues after the applause subsides; "We will lead the country on this in one way or the other".

Cr Shelley Deeming asked if anyone had any more to add.

Cr Crichton Christie *(is this the right of reply?)* Councillor Williams summed it up, it's about leadership, the strongest word that can be used is "prohibited" which means none and that is what it should be. 7000 put in submissions to this, so the message is 'we want it banned'

Cr Greg Martin called for a division on the vote, it was carried unanimously.
Cr Shelley Deeming finished by making a statement "Well done team" to more applause from the satisfied but tearful hugging audience.

The meeting concluded at 1110hrs with Cr Deeming thanking all for attending. (*We vacated the chamber while a new ruling allowed some of the gathered to partake in the last supper as the catering had been increased to accommodate the invited select few. Was it a bit of a jack-up to pee off the NRC?*)

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)

[LINK to Supplementary Item No 5](#)