

Whangarei District Council Infrastructure and Services meeting

–11th September 2013

[Link to appropriate Agenda](#)

Chair Cr Greg Martin called the meeting to order at 0900hrs and welcomed all to this month's Infrastructure and Services meeting.

There was one apology for Cr Brian McLachlan.

Mayor Cutforth was absent as he had been granted a leave of absence and no apology for him was required.

Moved Cr Jeroen Jongejans, seconded by Cr Sue Glen.

Time was 0900hrs and it was Item No.1. Minutes of a Meeting of the Infrastructure and Services Committee held 14 August 2013. (Page 1)

Moved by Cr Shelley Deeming, seconded by Cr Merv Williams.

These were duly passed, with no discussion necessary.

With the time now at 0901hrs it was on to Item No. 2. 2013/2014 Roding Programme. (Page 3)

Moved by Cr Sharon Morgan, seconded by Cr Sue Glen.

Cr John Williamson moved an amendment No.3 to read 'That staff provide a report detailing the process of establishment of speed limits in the Whangarei district and identify the process and recommendation by which the speed limits of our major feeder and through routes are reviewed.'

Moved by Cr John Williamson, seconded by Cr Aaron Edwards for discussion.

Cr Merv Williams asked if this was an addition to the recommendations.

Cr John Williamson spoke to his amendment explaining speed limits were important. We have high risk rural roads. We own the roads and have absolute authority to set the limits. There had been a recent meeting regarding the Otaika Valley Road by concerned residents. There were issues with Otaika Valley Road, Maungakarama Road, Mangakahia Road, Whangarei Heads Road and Pipiwai Roads. He claimed they also hadn't had a paper on 'Safer Journeys'.

Cr Phil Halse claimed after the meeting yesterday he wasn't comfortable with this. Roding is always No 1 priority and they were not getting funding and they realised this in the Long Term Plan. We need to get our priorities right, we must keep our maintenance up and this needs urgent measures and we should be prioritising our spending. *Is this why all councillors, except one, Cr Christie who voted against over his concerns of high debt, (NB. Cr Christie is supportive of HAC though) voted for the Annual Plan in June which included funding for the Hundertwasser project? Oh well it is election time now and are some allowed to now tell porkies?*

Cr Aaron Edwards claimed there were items in this Roding Programme that had not been before the walking and cycling group.

Cr Merv Williams asked Cr Edwards to be more specific.

Cr Aaron Edwards gave some details of those items.

Cr Shelley Deeming, to her feet, "as a rural councilor living in a one way loose metal goat track" Um! *You chose to live there.* It's good to have a vibrant city but dollars have gone to other budgets. If we can't get the product out of the rural areas we will go backward. There should be money in the budget to address this issue". *Shelley, you along with all the others have chosen to spend the money on other projects, now its election time you are realizing were not high on the priorities of councilors when they voted on them. Shame!*

Cr Phil Halse advised they could not keep dipping out of roading for other budgets. He quipped about some not attending the workshops and being un-informed. *Hey guys we have seen you all approve other projects in the past to suit your wants before the needs of the community.*

Cr Sharon Morgan commented on the meeting held in regards to Otaika Valley Road.

Cr Crichton Christie, to his feet, informed you don't have to be rural to be concerned about the roads and he believed signs will not do anything about the problem.

Cr Sue Glen claimed she would support this after sitting through the lengthy meeting yesterday where everything was explained. She had concerns about roading budgets being high jacked and had a question to Group Manager Infrastructure and Services Simon Weston about if he was aware this was happening.

Simon Weston replied with a 'yes'.

Cr Merv Williams claimed urban councilors should not be taking the flack over the rural issue; this is about the program not the budgets.

Cr Kahu Sutherland advised he didn't turn up to the meeting and was happy he hadn't, because going by today's discussion a lot was not achieved. He claimed we are suffering from cut backs; WDC used to be well regarded by government, now we have been caught with our pants down.

Cr Jeroen Jongejans advised we all have an issue with roads. We will always find potholes. The staff needs to work harder lobbying with NZTA. There was limited amount of dollars available as major roading networks were receiving that funding. We are affected by cutbacks and there is only so much money.

Cr Warwick Syers claims Cr Williams hit the nail on the head. *(Is he now looking for Mervs support as its election time?)* Let us concentrate on the Roding Programme, the budgets were discussed earlier.

Cr Phil Halse informed that their lobbying with government had been good. We have picked up the Mangakahia Road route which had previously been funded by government (NZTA).

Cr Sharon Morgan advised staff were working within restraints, we are doing a lot of lobbying and she would be supporting the amendment.

Carolyne Brindle, Senior Meeting Co-ordinator read out the amendment No 3. and this was carried.

A vote was carried out for all three recommendations.

These were duly passed and no discussion was necessary.

With the time now at 0933hrs and Item No. 3. Temporary Road Closure – Marsden Wheelers. (Page 13)

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

There were a couple of brief comments.

This item was duly passed and no further discussion was necessary.

With the time still at 0933hrs and Item No. 4. Temporary Road Closure – Pohutukawa Christmas. (Page 16)

Moved by Cr Crichton Christie, seconded by Cr Merv Williams.

This was duly passed and no discussion was necessary.

It was now 0934hrs and Item No. 5. Reserve to be Dedicated Road, Huia Street. (Page 19)

Moved Cr John Williamson, seconded by Cr Phil Halse.

This was duly passed and no discussion was necessary.

With the time still at 0934hrs and Item No. 6. Land Declared Reserve, Albany Road Marsden Bay. (Page 21)

Moved by Cr Aaron Edwards, seconded by Cr Phil Halse.

Cr Phil Halse made a brief comment.

This was duly passed and no further discussion was necessary.

There was a vote for the public to be excluded before going into the **confidential** section of the meeting and this was moved by Cr Greg Martin, Seconded: Cr Aaron Edwards.

Not bad for an open and transparent meetings?

Chair Cr Greg Martin thanked all for attending and concluded the meeting with the time at 0935hours

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

CONFIDENTIAL INDEX

Item No. C.1 Financial matter. (Page 1)

Item No. C.2 Strategic Infrastructure. (Page 4)

Those present left the chamber, off to the library (or to the NRC) to have a coffee before the next meeting at 1000hrs.

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