

Whangarei District Council Infrastructure and Services meeting – 13th March 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.

Greg Martin wished to advise that today's meeting was to be recorded with both audio and video.

There were apologies for Cr John Williamson and Cr Crichton Christie
Moved by Cr Phil Halse, seconded by Mayor Morris Cutforth.

Time was now at 0901hrs and it was Item No.1. Minutes of a Meeting of the Infrastructure and Services Committee held 13 February 2013. (Page 1)
Moved by Cr Phil Halse, seconded by Cr Aaron Edwards.

These were duly passed, with no discussion necessary.

With the time still at 0902hrs it was on to Item No.2. Loading Zone Robert Street. (Page 6)
Moved by Mayor Morris Cutforth, seconded by Cr Jeroen Jongejans.

Cr Shelley Deeming claimed it had been a storm in a tea cup over legalities.
These were duly passed with no further discussion.

With the time now at 0903hrs and Item No.3. No Stopping Lines – Dundas Road. (Page 10)
Moved by Cr Merv Williams, seconded by Cr Brian McLachlan.

These were duly passed and no discussion was necessary.

With the time at 0904hrs and Item No.4. Temporary Road Closure – ANZAC Dawn Parade 2013. (Page 14)

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

These were duly passed and no discussion was necessary.

Cr Greg Martin comments "that this is one of the best things he gets to do; I just love it".
Was this because everything was being passed with no discussion? Or what?

It was still 0904hrs and Item No.5. Temporary Road Closure Whangarei Sunrise Rotary Trolley Derby (Page 19)

Moved Cr Aaron Edwards, seconded by Cr Merv Williams.

Cr Merv Williams advises that this was only an ongoing event.

These were duly passed with no other discussion.

With the time now at 0906hrs and Item No.6. Rust Avenue Bridge Replacement. (Page 22)
Moved by Cr Shelley Deeming, seconded by Cr Brian McLachlan.

Group Manager Infrastructure and Services Simon Weston gave some details about this issue was identified a number of years ago. This was a significant program and it was critical that they get hold of any funding that was available for it.

Cr Aaron Edwards advised that it was really good to see that this project had come up not just for flooding, but it was good to see foot paths on both sides in this high pedestrian area. He did query where the local funding was coming from.

Simon Weston advised that funding was coming from a number of other departments.

Cr Aaron Edwards asked if those funding details would be in the Annual Plan and will it be advertised.

Cr Greg Martin interjected claiming they had workshops on this and all had been explained but continued to ask Council Roading Manager, Jeff Divine to give details.

Jeff Divine explained that funds were coming out of normal bridge programs. This was funding that they have had for some time as they had some money left over. *Really?*

Cr Brian McLachlan commented that it was great to see it's going ahead; the pictures on page 22 tell a story.

Cr Merv Williams claimed this was another 25 year project finally coming to fruition.

Cr Phil Halse advised the meeting he was not going to support this; there has been a 40% reduction in the roading budget. There were major expenses coming in roading that they need to look at. He agreed it needs to be done, but will not support it with their own funding.

Cr Warwick Syers say's "whilst he appreciates Cr Halse's position he believes that the NZTA funding needs to be taken when it is available otherwise it will sit on the sideline for years.

It's not an unmanageable amount. It was an absolute no brainer not to move forward with it".

Cr Shelley Deeming supported Cr Syers comments. To ensure we get maximum subsidy from NZTA we need to move forward.

Cr Sue Glen asked if there were any opportunities to regain anything we put into it. There are other things we can chop off, like the nice things. *Sue, are you referring to unnecessary projects like Hundertwasser, Car Park to Park, fluffing up the CBD or perhaps a hotel?*

It was to the vote and Cr Phil Halse wanted his position against this on record,

These were duly passed.

It was now 0912hrs and Item No.7. Extension of Value of Contracts CON05016, CON06017 and CON060178 for the Management of Parks and Gardens (Page 26)

Moved Cr Brian McLachlan, seconded by Cr Sharon Morgan.

Group Manager Infrastructure and Services Simon Weston gave some details explaining that it was measurable value based on CPI's.

Cr Sharon Morgan informs that this company has done really well and had a great rating. She asked who does the accessing.

Simon Weston claims it is done internally by council, our Parks Guys do it.

Cr Merv Williams claims that this brings up some interesting points in our budget. It is costing us extra money to keep our place looking nice. What's suffering? There is an ongoing cost.

Simon Weston advises that they will discuss that at a workshop.

I would like to see more discussed in public. It is ratepayer's money being spent?

Cr Brian McLachlan informs that it always comes down to the dollar and there is always more to be done.

Cr Kahu Sutherland queried how long ago was this contract tendered out.

Simon Weston advises that it goes back to 2006. Then in March 2012 the contracts were extended for a further 5 year term the first year being at the same rate then up for evaluation after that.

Cr Kahu Sutherland queries that it is up for retendering in 4 years.

Simon Weston replies "Correct".

In my opinion tenders should be more watertight than they appear to be of recent times, with this and other tenders seen before us like roading etc. There needs to be firm offers so that budgets can be set and adhered to (just like Cr Williams was referring to) A level playing field is essential for all competitors to compete equally and not with just a 'sprat to catch a mackerel' then up it later. I wish to add though; our reserves, city gardens and parks do infact look pretty dam good, so congratulations to the contractors who do this.

These increases were duly approved.

Chair Cr Greg Martin thanked all for attending and concluded the meeting with the time at 0917hours

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](#).