

**Whangarei District Council Infrastructure and Services meeting
- 8th February 2012**

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)

Chair Cr Greg Martin called the meeting to order at 0900hrs and welcomed all.

There were no apologies.

Greg Martin was quick to comment 'Would you gentlemen like to take part in the meeting' referring to Cr John Williamson and Cr Brian McLachlan who were having a little chat at the back.

Glenis Rule was welcomed to the meeting as a new member of staff.

Time at 0900hrs and it was Item No.1. Minutes of a Meeting of the Infrastructure and Services Committee held 14 December 2011(Page 1) and these were duly passed with no discussion necessary.

Cr Crichton Christie requested that Confidential Item No. C.2 Contract, be discussed in the open part of the meeting.

He was advised that would be discussed at the later part of the meeting.

Time at 0901hrs. Item No. 2. Infrastructure and Services 2012/2013 Fees and Charges Review (Page 3)
Cr Crichton Christie advised he was against the increases as they were out of order with the cost of index rate.

It was most interesting to see Carolyne Brindle, Senior Meeting Co-ordinator, personally deliver an agenda to Ms Vivienne Shepherd who had just arrived. (A vast improvement on the ways Ms Shepherd had been treated previously by this council)

Cr Brian McLachlan asked if this increase reflects the true costs.

Cr Merv Williams asked if those against the LGI assessed increase had some CPI figures. *Merv must have, to ask that question.* Merv continued that it is best to use an increase formula that reflects our costs.

Cr Kahu Sutherland advised he would be voting against this. People are not participating in sport because of costs; it's a social problem that needs to be addressed. They need to keep costs down to assist the clubs fighting to survive and 'this was one way we can certainly help'.

Cr Warwick Syers claims he was struggling with some of the comments by some councilors. To suppress in this area means other ratepayers will pick up the shortfall.

Item No.3. (0909hrs.) Ruakaka South Sewer Extension (Page 11)

Cr Phil Halse declared he had a Conflict of Interest and moved back from the table.

Cr Shelley Deeming rising to her feet advised she was privileged to move this item. Credit must go to staff, Group Manager Infrastructure and Services Simon Weston and Waste and Drainage Manager Andrew Carvell for the work done to date.

Cr Merv Williams claimed there had been a lot of hue and cry about harbour contamination and this is our duty of care.

Cr Sharon Morgan asked if people don't connect to this system now will they later forfeit the subsidies to connect at a later date.

Group Manager Infrastructure and Services Simon Weston, *in a short answer*, 'Yes'.

Item No. 4. (0915hrs.) Whangarei Wastewater Level of Service Improvement (Page18)

Cr Brian McLachlan advised that the crux of this is about Stage 2; about the inflow and infiltration program.

Cr Sue Glen commented that the gully trap info (pages 23 & 24) is great.

Mayor Morris Cutforth asked 'what was the catch rate, of people with problems?'

Simon Weston answered that it was reasonably high.

Mayor Morris Cutforth continued with 'so it's not a sewage problem but a storm water problem'. *Does that make you feel better? We have issues with storm water and sewerage because its storm water entering the sewerage system; so that tells me there are faults in the sewerage system. Cr Syers wants to go around with blinkers on saying they have done a great job but we still have poos going into our harbour.....face facts; how many times has the harbour been closed in the last year?*

It's Cr Sharon Morgan's time now to acknowledge work the staff has done and claims it's great to see we have received accolades from outside our district for work on the sewerage system. *You are right Sharon, staff just need you and the other councillors to budget for more funding into that area of storm and waste water rather than trying to build monuments; it would make their jobs a whole lot easier.*

Cr Warwick Syers advised that in his time they had made improvements to the Okara Pump Station, plans to upgrade the treatment station and would have the new Hatea holding tanks commissioned in March 2012. *He was also attempting to make some of us who have protested publically about the sewage issues feel bad; it's just like water off a ducks back when it comes to important issues like this so when you get better at it have another shot. And Mr Syers, are you going to buy a property in Whareora Road near the new holding tanks where council is applying for resource consent to discharge partially treated sewage into the Hatea River?*

Item No. 5. Transfer Station Hours (Page 25)

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

Item No. 6. (0922hrs.) Review of Trade Waste Charges Following Consultation with Business Community (Page 27)

Cr Aaron Edwards advised he was happy to support this, with one concern. He believed users should be paying; otherwise one group of ratepayers shouldn't be supporting the others.

Time now at 0924hrs. Item No. 7. Water Supply Bylaw Review (Page 30)

There was obviously no debate required for this item and it was over and out.

Item No. 8. (0925hrs.) Temporary Road Closure – Ray White Allen's Kids Triathlon (Page 72)

There was a correction on page 72 and it was to read Scott Lane (not Scott Road)

Time at 0927hrs. Item No. 9. Temporary Road Closure – Tour of Northland Cycle Challenge (Page 75)

No discussion was required or entered into for this item.

Item No.10. (0928hrs.) Temporary Road Closure – D1NZ National Drifting Championship 2012-01-31 (Page 79)

No discussion was required or entered into for this item.

Time at 0929hrs. Item No. 11. Temporary Road Closure – Chilltech Beach 2 Basin Run/Walk (Page 86)

No discussion was required or entered into for this item.

Item No.12. (0929hrs.) Temporary Road Closure – ANZAC Parade (Page 89)

This was passed as quick as with no discussion necessary. *An annual event that no one in their right mind, would want to object to.*

It was now time for Cr Crichton Christie to advise that he wished to move that Confidential Item No. C.2 Contract is discussed in the open part of the meeting.

Cr Brian McLachlan seconded the motion opening it up for discussion.

Group Manager Infrastructure and Services Simon Weston advised that council renews contracts from time to time; this contract is a little different in that when it was originally to be tabled it was deemed to be 'confidential'.

CEO Mark Simpson advised that the CEO and mayor have the right to put items into confidential as they see fit.

Cr Crichton Christie claimed this item, as it had been in the public arena some time back, does not meet the criteria for confidentiality.

Cr Warwick Syers claimed the CEO is right. Some numbers in there are that the figures should be initially in confidential then later released into the public domain. *Does it seem keeping things confidential may make them feel important?*

Cr Brian McLachlan advised it's the methodology that should be discussed.

Cr Greg Martin informed that the CEO is still in final negotiations with the contractor. *Not after hours I hope?*

Cr John Williamson advised that he would withdraw from discussions as a family member was involved. *Oh does that mean it's a parking ticket contractor?*

This had to go to a vote and the result was:-

For the item to be moved to the open section of the meeting - Cr Merv Williams, Cr Brian McLachlan, Cr Jeroen Jongejans, Cr Crichton Christie & Cr Kahu Sutherland

For the item to remain as tabled in the confidential section of the meeting.

Cr Phil Halse, Cr Aaron Edwards, Cr Shelley Deeming, Mayor Morris Cutforth, Cr Sue Glen, Cr Sharon Morgan & Cr Warwick Syers.

The item remained in the confidential section. Not bad for the Mayor Morris Cutforth, to vote for confidentiality when he campaigned saying: - "Nothing will be hidden and you will know exactly what is going on in your district. You will no longer need to fight for information. It will be readily available."

Chair Cr Greg Martin thanked all for attending and concluded the meeting at 0936 hours.

CONFIDENTIAL INDEX

C.1 Contract (Page 1)

C.2 Contract (Page 3) * see note below

Note. Watch this space. Was a contract awarded for \$9million for parks work without public consultation?

Didn't Morris campaign that he wanted open and transparent council? (Why do they need a confidential section then?)

To the library for a relaxing coffee and back before the next meeting at 1030hrs.