

Whangarei District Council Infrastructure and Services meeting - 9th February 2011

At 0900hrs, the Infrastructure & Services Chair Cr Greg Martin, welcomed all in the public gallery, to the first meeting of the year.

Apologies accepted for Mayor Morris Cutforth and Cr Aaron Edwards. *Strange, I could not see Cr Sue Glen or Cr Merv Williams present either.*

Item No 1 Minutes from the previous meeting were passed with no discussion necessary.

Infrastructure & Services 2011/2012 Fees and Charges Review, Item No 2. Group Manager Infrastructure & Services, Simon Weston confirmed these were due to a 2.5% rise in GST.

Item No 3 Contracts Authorised Under Delegated Authority had 'Phil in Mayor' Cr Phil Halse saying it was pleasing to see new Contractors were entering into the tender processes. It was noted competitive tenders were good for Council. Cr Kahu Sutherland questioned who was one of the new tenderers. A brief explanation was given, but Kahu when you are out of the know....you are out of the know and it is obvious on a need to know basis only. *(FYI. It was a new company formed 9th July 2010 but you may know them and could be worth checking out). On Page 23 it is interesting the Refuse and Recycling Contract has been approved for those interested.*

Kensington Park - Extension to Hockey Fields, Item No 4 saw Cr Crichton Christie move away from the table, at 0905hrs, to avoid a potential 'conflict of interest'. Cr Shelley Deeming wanted assurance other sports codes were being considered also. Simon Weston claimed the report was comprehensive for all. Whilst Cr Kahu Sutherland explained that Hockey was under pressure for its growing demand Cr Crichton Christie was exposed with his cell-phone ringing. *Wouldn't want to go undercover with you, Crichton.*

Cr Merv Williams joined the meeting at 0906hrs and apologized for his late arrival mentioning in an item in the latter meeting there was a Plan change that may have effect on Sports grounds. They must look at the big picture, long term to make decisions, rather than make decisions by knee jerk reaction. Cr Sharon Morgan questioned and was assured time lines were in place for this item. Cr John Williamson believed Hockey needed some assurances as they had huge investments in their infrastructure. It was capital investment, especially on their playing surfaces and he supports the recommendation. Cr Greg Martin made a brief comment and didn't want

other sports disadvantaged. The people there obviously from Hockey left at the finish of this item.

Item No 5 - Request for a Contract Rollover was over and out in less than a minute with no discussion. *No fear it was only for the spending of \$0.25million of ratepayer's money.*

The Proposed Parking Restriction for Fairway Drive, Item No 6 drew comment from John Williamson (*obviously in his patch, remember he's in a different ward now from past*) He believed the residents around the large on-going construction site had been tolerant and it was now nearing completion. There had been issues of storm water and parking and the residents had gone to the top (of the development organisation) to discuss the issues.

Item No 7 - New Road names was proceeding but enthusiastic Cr John Williamson rose to read an article in regards to one of the street names. Worthy listening and as the daughter of the named in the article was present it was going to be hard for any to oppose the new name. Cr Crichton Christie (*back now with his silenced phone - a 'band aid' hopefully over the loud speaker*) was keen to name roads to preserve the history of the district. (*should we be looking for a Peters Place, a Semenoff Street, a Cutforth Close, a Redwood Road, a Lieffering Lane, a Goodhue Grove or a Newman Nook?*)

At 0917hrs it was into Item no 8. Temporary Road Closure - Anzac Day Parade. Cr Sharon Morgan was pleased to see the same format as last year's parade had been most successful.

Chair Cr Greg Martin thanked all for attending. That was it, the meeting concluded at 0918hours and the public left for the meeting to enter a Confidential 'cone of silence' to discuss a Property Transaction.

Off to the library for a coffee before the next meeting at 1030hrs

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)