

Whangarei District Council Finance and Support Committee meeting – 19th December 2012

[LINK to the appropriate Agenda](#)

This month's Finance meeting started at 0900hrs with Cr Warwick Syers in the chair wishing all a good morning and welcoming everyone to the meeting.

Warwick had actually come up to the Public gallery before the start of the meeting and wished those present all the best for the festive season.

Warwick welcomed Andrew Simkin, a Whangarei District Council Youth Advisory Group member who was present in the public gallery watching today's proceedings.

Warwick advised the meeting they were to be on TV again, adding that today's meeting was subject to video and audio recording.

Warwick advised there was an apology for a late arrival for Cr Merv Williams.

Moved: Cr Crichton Christie, Seconded Cr Aaron Edwards.

Time at 0901hrs, Item No.1. Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance and Support Committee held 28 November 2012. (Page 1) plus the **Item No. C.1 Confidential Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance and Support Committee.**

Moved: Cr Greg Martin, Seconded Cr Jeroen Jongejans.

These were received with no discussion required.

With the time still at 0902hrs, Item No.2. Financial Report for the Five Months Ending 30 November 2012. (Page 3)

Warwick advised that Group Manager Support Services Alan Adcock was absent and informed that the Financial report would be presented by Kylie Wellford, (Financial Accountant) who had been delegated by Alan to go through the report in the normal fashion and give a brief overview.

Kylie Wellford advised that all was on track for a good year end. There was to be surpluses for the end of month. Capex (Capital Expenditure) was all on target. She advised of an error in line 19 on page 16 that should read 332 and should be in line 20. Debt was lower than forecast; it would be nice if it stayed there but there were some large payments due to go out.

Kylie advised that the cost of borrowing was at 5.59%

Report moved: Cr Brian McLachlan, Seconded: Cr Aaron Edwards.

It was at this time that a Whangarei District Council Youth Advisory Group member left the meeting. *6 minutes! Had it been that much of an eye opener?*

CEO Mark Simpson advised that an error on page 5 in variances Paragraph 3 should read refuse collection, not litter collection. *And we thought that was about 'kitty litter' from the kittens whose eyes were just opening.*

Cr Sharon Morgan had a query on staff vacancy numbers.

CEO Mark Simpson explained that there were some gaps in staff numbers as with people resigning and them trying to get the right people for the position, there were times of shortages of staff numbers.

There was no further discussion on this item.

Warwick decided to take the Chairman's prerogative and fill out some time rather than finishing the meeting in eight minutes at 0908hrs. *(Yes that's right, 8 minutes)*

Warwick claimed that against people who should have known better who had gone public, he stated they had undertaken a 'full rates review'.

He advised that \$26million Capex (Capital Expenditure) was being carried forward to maintain debt at \$161.5 million. *Oh and we thought it was not to go over \$135million which had been quoted during election campaigns.*

Warwick continued, *with his prepared 'political speech'*, adding that the positive growth committee had monthly meetings to keep an eye on things. *Sad that they turn a blind eye to some of the things like genuine community consultation.*

Also he commented that the property committee meets monthly.

We were entertained briefly by Cr Jeroen Jongejans cell phone breaking the intensity of Warwick's dribble, but Warwick suggested some chocolate fish may make all be forgotten about the phone.

His political ambiance advised that the biggest think for 2013 would be Local Government reform. *Wot, not the major reshuffle in October? I can just hear the orchestra playing lovely violin music as a backdrop to Warwick's hallucinations.*

Warwick went on claiming "If you don't have a path down which to go you end up going nowhere". *Well should he know that?*

He claimed that they had fulfilled most of their shopping list in the last year. *Well he got that right 'THEIR' being the operative word; not what the community wanted on the shopping list.*

He claimed there had been accusations that some councilors had hidden agendas that they get accused of and ho didn't believe that at all as they all were there for the community. *May we suggest he get to know some of them a bit better?*

Cr Warwick Syers advises at 0919hrs that the meeting ends and, thanks all for attending and wished all a Merry Christmas.

Off for a stretch of the legs and a coffee at the library or NRC, before the Council meeting at 1000hrs

CONFIDENTIAL INDEX

Item No. C.1 Confidential Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance and Support Committee held 28 November 2012. (Page 1)

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