

Whangarei District Council Finance and Support Committee meeting - 21st December 2011

[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.

There was an apology for Cr Brian McLachlan.

Item No. 1. Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance and Support Committee held 23 November 2011 (Page1) (0901hrs) these were received with no discussion required.

With the time at 0902hrs, Item No.2. (Page 2) Financial Report for the five months ending 30 November 2011 (Page 3)

Cr Warwick Syers asks Group Manager Support Services Alan Adcock, "to walk us through it." He explains "It's really a replay of last month and they are trading fairly much to budget". The debt is at \$150million (page 19)

He advised the Local Government Funding Agency was now operational.

Cr Kahu Sutherland asked about the non- payment of rates and about Maori Land and how it was collected.

Warwick Syers advised we must move the motion and he would come back to Kahu.

The recommendation was moved so as promised Warwick Syers gave Cr Kahu Sutherland the opportunity to ask how much was written off in rates. Kahu asked did a 'double standards system' exist. *Oh surely not; double standards from THIS council? Kahu, how could you?*

Alan Adcock advised they don't have a problem with Maori Land rates. He agreed with Kahu that there were different rules.

Warwick Syers informed that "any write offs came to council at the time of the annual accounts and these were not significant". "Being only tens of thousands, in a rate take of \$65million was insignificant". *Certainly not significant when it's someone else's money, eh Warwick. Tell that to some-one that \$1000 would be a matter of feeding or starving to.*

Alan Adcock, in answer to Kahu's original question, advised that they will use any vehicle that is available to collect rates. *That's what we like to see; a level playing field.*

Item No. 3. Support Services Group – Report on Recent Activity (Page 25) (0915hrs)
Alan Adcock advised that this item doesn't report all the things that go on
Cr Sharon Morgan gave some information about the Mission Ground Cemetery book, in
the Graphics and Publishing item on page 28. *Does this confirm Sharon that you may
have been behind the letter to the editor about this subject the other day, in the
Advocate?*

Time at 0917hrs Item No. 4. Positive Growth Group Report on Recent Activities July –
September 2011 (Page 32)

Jude Thompson, WDC Chief Operating Officer advised that they had delivered well on
The Rugby World Cup and the Christmas Festival and these were successful. *Is it a
pity about the Mayor's speech he had trouble reading? Does someone need to use
bigger fonts and write it slower for him?*

Pete Gleeson, WDC Economic Development Manager advised these were community
events. They had also done a huge amount of work with Maoridom. They were dealing
with businesses willing to move up here but some information was confidential. They
were targeting to bring many people to the area with the many events planned. The
World Rally and the Rally of Whangarei were just two events planned for 2012. *You are
right Pete; 'events' bring people, bridges, statues and buildings don't.*

Cr Sharon Morgan had a question re eels in the Mangakahia River.

Cr Kahu Sutherland asked who was 'Positive Coordination Limited?' (in the Sustainable
Maori Economic Development section, on page 35)

Jude Thompson did not appear happy about revealing the information and suffered
memory lapse at the critical moment of giving the names to Cr Sutherland. *It's public
knowledge; [Link to Companies Office details](#). They just happen to also be neighbours
of the mayor who lives at 73 just across the road (surely he could have named them
when Jude's memory lapsed)*

Cr Merv Williams queried the concerns from Federated Farmers about the Targa Rally.

Pete Gleeson advised a letter had been sent but to date no reply had been received.

Cr Greg Martin suggested it would be helpful if they met with local councilors instead of
just giving flash presentations to talk to the people affected. *Is that just like you
discussed the Motorsport Park with the locals in Gomez Road, who would have been
affected? Remember Greg you didn't visit not even one of them who you are meant to
represent. Shame on you!*

Item No. 5. Delegated Authority - Financial (Page 42) (0926hrs)

This item was received with no discussion required.

Cr Warwick Syers advises at 0927hrs that this ends the meeting' thanking all for attending and wishing all to have a good Christmas

Off to the library for a coffee & chat readying oneself for the Council 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](#).