

Whangarei District Council Finance and Support Committee meeting - 22nd June 2011

[LINK to the appropriate Agenda](#)

[Link to Supplementary item](#) - Rugby World Cup update

This month's Finance meeting started at 0900hrs with Cr Warwick Syers in the chair. He wished all a good morning and welcomed the public and press that were present.

Item No. 7. Presentation Rugby World Cup update was withdrawn as the presenter was unavailable.

There was an apology received for Cr Kahu Sutherland, moved by Cr Phil Halse and seconded by Cr Greg Martin.

Item No. 1. Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance and Support Committee held 25 May 2011. These were received with no discussion required.

Item No. 2. Financial Report for the Eleven Months Ending 31 May 2011 were received at 0901hrs.

Group Manager Support Services Alan Adcock gave a quick overview. They were tracking on budget with expenses of storm damage having an effect. There was a \$2.5mil deficit on the budget, \$143mil external debt. (debt at banks and financial institutions) The debt should be under \$150mil by year end.

For your information the cost of borrowing (page 6) is \$7.338million.

Cr Aaron Edwards requested a breakdown of figures (page 11) for Acacia Park and Mander Park trees, just as he had asked last month.

Cr Brian McLachlan gave an explanation from information he had; apparently \$450,000-00 was for Mander Park trees replacement.

Cr Sharon Morgan had a query (pg13) on the \$36,000 and was it held over when not spent. It was confirmed it was and her reply of 'That is great news' *This certainly had her content in her designer 'hundertwasser' blouse that she was so committed to wear. Had the promoters of the project got to her with their wares?*

Cr John Williamson questioned whether the developer contributions (pg 9) were expected by the end of the year. He also queried the Economic Development and Organisational Management over spends. He questioned if an agenda item next week was in connection to the Tourism Trust; as they councilors and the public were entitled to know.

Cr Sue Glen queried the \$20mil over projected budget.

Alan Adcock emphasized that the 'Old Boys' sale had not gone through.

Cr Warwick Syers confirmed there were \$40mil in property sales that haven't happened yet.

Time at 0913hrs it was Item No. 3. Support Services Group – Report on Recent Activity.

Cr Warwick Syers explained they hadn't done these reports before; the purpose of them was to bring people up to speed with what is going on.

Cr Brian McLachlan believed it was great news to see this happening.

Cr Sharon Morgan had a question re insurance on page 17.

Alan Adcock responded explaining there had been insurance issues which had been affected by Christchurch problems and they were working through them.

Item No. 4. CEO's Office Report on Recent Activities. (0916hrs) No discussion was needed in relation to this item.

Item No. 5. Community Funding – 2010-2011 Annual Report

With the time still at 0916hrs it was Owen Thomas, Senior Community Services Advisor who gave details of how more applications had been received.

Cr Greg Martin said there was evidence council was putting a lot into the community.

The security the funding gives to our organizations is amazing.

Cr Sue Glen explained she was at the Onerahi Community Association Inc. AGM, last evening and they formally made thanks to the Whangarei District Council for the support they had received.

Cr Brian McLachlan had a question regards the Hihiaua Trust to Cr Merv Williams about his involvement and it being a conflict of interest.

Cr Merv Williams, *obviously rattled by this comment to say the least*, stated; "I don't have a conflict. I am a trustee. If you think I get anything personally, you can wear it yourself". *I don't think he is very happy Brian. Can we really compare this to the helicopter trust and Bain or the rugby conflicts? Wouldn't that be unfair on Merv?* Merv continued that they are using an empty building.

Cr Warwick Syers confirmed, 'Council has approved the rent concession'.

Cr John Williamson believed that the \$1mil between our ratepayers is relative to the rest of the country; we must up our game.

Alan Adcock assured the quantity of applications had increased along with the quality.

Cr Sharon Morgan said she had noticed, with halls, that a small amount of money can go a long way if it is consistent in supply.

Item No. 6. Northland Regional Landfill Limited Partnership – Statement of Intent
2011/2012 (0923hrs)

Mr Alan Adcock states that as the chair has a conflict of interest he needs to vacate the chair and councillors must nominate a chairperson.

Cr Warwick Syers vacates the chair and sits on the sideline away a little from his normal chair. *He must have had his braces caught in the desk, as slowly but surely during the remainder of this item he crept back to his regular perching place at his desk.*

Cr Shelley Deeming nominates Cr Phil Halse, seconded by Cr Greg Martin

Cr Phil Halse takes the chair for this item.

I felt Mr Halse has a conflict on this item, as it was about the 'LandPhil'

Alan Adcock explained the legal requirements.

Cr Aaron Edwards had a query (pg 41) regarding resource recovery programs.

Cr Phil Halse, as chair, asked Warwick Syers to reply to the question.

Warwick Syers reply was that 'in November there will be a presentation to council on the operation, but people in the pit do pull stuff out'. *Aaron that tells a lot about recycling doesn't it?*

Cr John Williamson had a question over the debt of the operation. *Don't really think they had an answer for that, or did I miss it?*

Aaron Edwards believed there were conflicting comments on pages 44 and page 46.

Phil Halse claimed the board made decisions on each contract. He continued by thanking Cr Warwick Syers for the work he has been doing on the project.

It was all over, Cr Warwick Syers back in the hot seat, with the meeting over by 0929 hours and Warwick thanking all for attending before the Councillors went into business with the public excluded.

It was 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](#).