

**Whangarei District Council Finance and Support Committee meeting  
- 23rd February 2011**

Today's Finance meeting started at 0900hrs with Cr Warwick Syers welcoming back Mayor Morris Cutforth, who promptly replied with "Don't be surprised if I drop off to sleep". *Morris you napping will come as no surprise to us at all, as we, along with others, were witness to you 'cat-napping' (approx 30-40minutes), during the Local Government hearings in July 2010, (before Independent commissioners Don Brash and Sir Peter Trapski) and before your work commitments increased, only to be woken when your cell phone (alarm clock) sounded. So sorry, that really comes as no surprise at all.*

There was an apology received for Cr Crichton Christie's lateness or non attendance.

Item No.1. The minutes of the previous meeting were received and there was no need for discussion.

Item No.2. The Financial Report was up and Mr. Alan Adcock, Group Manager Support Services, was asked to give a brief report on the figures ending January 31. He commented that as there were no property sales (*that is your properties*) this was putting pressure on council (*your*) debt. *Strange there was no mention on trimming back on spending which I thought may have an effect on debt. Spending less means less debt but; But, what would we know?*

We are getting through this in good time so at 0904hrs it was Item No.3. The Financial Report for the Seven Months ending 31st January 2011. All must be in order as there was no discussion.

Item No.4. Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) Performance Report to December 2010. No one really wanted to say anything until Cr Brian McLachlan had a comment on an item on page 42 where he believed 3% was not a good annual gross return on Council owned (*your*) commercial properties and this needed to be raised. Cr Merv Williams questioned if this was from Commercial properties.

The Ruakaka Reserve Board - Loan Application Item No.5. and Cr Phil Halse moved away from the table at 0908hrs. Cr Shelley Deeming queried whether there were sufficient funds in the Recreation Fund for this. She was assured there were sufficient funds for this and the next Agenda item.

Cr Kahu Sutherland had some queries as to why DOC (Department of Conservation) had been asked for support by the applicant and what was their involvement.

It was Owen Thomas, Senior Community Services Advisor to the rescue advising the public reserve was on DOC land. It was owned by the board (Ruakaka Reserve Board) that runs the amenities.

Kahu Sutherland was still concerned as previously there had been projects with involvement with DOC about public toilets and closing roads etc. and why this was so different.

Cr Greg Martin queried whether they had any significant grants in the past.

Phil Halse, (*still moved back from the table but chaffing at the bit*), confirmed there had been loans of One hundred and eighty thousand dollars and these had been paid back on time.

It was Cr Kahu Sutherland who quipped "It should be subject to access being available through the camp ground to the beach". *Something about this beach and Kahu.*

It was Group Manager Support Services, Alan Adcock adding that "They purchased a council asset this year". *Bet you didn't know that... and what was it and how much for?*

The clock now stretching to 0913hrs it was Item No.6. Onerahi Bowling Club Inc - Loan Application. This club had applied for a loan of \$80,000-00 to replace their artificial turf. No hold it a minute there was to be a change. There had been a request to reduce the amount to fifty thousand dollars.

Cr Sue Glen wished to support this and that is what the fund was about and they (Onerahi Bowling Club) had previously paid back loans. It was a good place for the meeting of young and old. The extent of the use of this clubroom was enjoyed by Lions etc. It was well set up with a bar and kitchen. It was well kept and well up to date. This improvement will be an asset to the community.

Cr Merv Williams happily made a commendation for this 'standout amenity, its peers and it was very successful'. It had 'maintained its membership and was a strong purpose in its community'.

It was now for Cr Warwick Syers to add that Security needed to be taken over the Onerahi Bowling Club chattels.

Cr Sharon Morgan wanted clarification on criteria for loans.

Owen Thomas again to his feet, quoted it was available to organizations on Council or Reserve land, had to be approved through the Finance department, needed to be able to provide security and able to meet its repayment commitments. The first \$100,000-00 was interest free and the applicant needed a 50% contribution.

All approved and the meeting was over by 0919hours. It was off to the library, for a coffee readying oneself for the next round 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](#).

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