

FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT and **MINUTES** of a meeting of the **FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton, on Thursday 14 September, 2006, commencing at 1.30 pm.

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor, M B O'Malley; Councillors K L Holmes, (Chair), N A Brown, D N Nelson, R J Kilworth, M J Urquhart, R C Beavan, D Glass and P W Reveley.

Also in attendance Councillors I J Burgess, L J Leadley, K W P Lowe and B A Tasker; Chief Executive, Corporate Services Manager, Finance Manager, Community Consultation Manager and Committee Secretary.

At the commencement of the meeting Cr Beavan gave notice that he would leave the meeting room for the duration of discussion on item 14.

Confirmation of Minutes

“That the minutes of the Finance and Corporate Services Committee meeting held on 27 July, 2006, be taken as read and confirmed.”

Urquhart/Brown

Carried

Matters Arising

Finance Reports

The Finance Manager agreed to follow up the request for clarification of the amount shown in the dividend report for the period ending 31 May 2006.

2006 NRB Survey

The Committee received the report and NRB survey results for 2006, noting that the best overall results ever recorded in the annual survey were achieved.

“That the report be received.”

Kilworth/Brown

Carried

Elderly Persons Housing Survey

The results of the tenant satisfaction survey for 2006 were presented. The Housing Subcommittee will further review the survey results to identify and address any issues of concern.

“That the information be received.”

Mayor/Beavan

Carried

Enterprise Ashburton / Ashburton District Tourism Client Satisfaction Surveys

The results of the client satisfaction surveys for both agencies were presented to the Committee.

“That the information be received.”

Kilworth/Brown

Carried

Activity Reports

“That the reports be received.”

Brown/Glass

Carried

Rates Rebate

The Finance Manager reported that Council has received more than 600 rate rebate enquiries and additional staff have been employed on a temporary basis to process the applications. Mr Brake advised that \$136,000 in lodged claims has been recouped from the Department of Internal Affairs to date, with further claims of \$100,000 (approximately) to be lodged and applied against the rates. The additional cost to Council in administering this scheme is likely to be \$10,000 - \$15,000 annually. The issue of additional costs being imposed by central government will be pursued by this Council and LGNZ.

Activity Reports

“That the reports be received.”

Glass/Brown

Carried

The District Forester and Information Systems Manager attended the meeting at 1.45 pm.

Forestry

The District Forester reported on the Council’s forestry revaluation completed at 30 June 2006, which shows a decrease in the value of Council’s forest estate of approximately \$1.3 million.

The standing of trees after the snow event appears to have been generally successful.

The District Forester left the meeting at 1.55 pm.

Administration

The Administration Manager attended the meeting at 2.00 pm and tabled an amended staff structure report. The report shows a population increase for the district of 8.4% since the 2001 Census. Council’s staff turnover rate in the 2005/06 year was 11.7%.

The Administration Manager left the meeting at 2.06 pm.

Social Services Discretionary Fund Application

Cr Beavan declared an interest in this matter and left the meeting at 2.06 pm.

“That the Ashburton Council of Social Services (Inc) be granted \$1,200 towards the cost of hosting the NZCOSS Conference in Ashburton from 17 – 19 October, 2006.”

Mayor/Urquhart

Carried

Cr Beavan returned to the meeting.

Fluoridation Survey

The Corporate Services Manager reported that the NRB survey of 400 Ashburton residents will run from 15-24 September. Survey forms are being posted to property owners on all rural water schemes, except Methven.

Items taken with the public excluded (2.10 pm)

“That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting:

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Item no	General subject of each matter to be considered:	In accordance with Section 48(1) of the Act, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:
18	Confirmation of Minutes – 27/07/06 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Property Matters	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities
19	Property Matter	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities

Glass/Brown

Carried

The Committee resumed in open meeting at 2.37 pm.

Quotable Value NZ

Representatives from Quotable Value New Zealand, Messrs D Black and B Bodger were welcomed to the meeting at 2.38 pm. Quotable Value NZ has undertaken on Council's behalf the general revaluation of Ashburton District, which received the approval of the Valuer General on 8 September 2006.

The Powerpoint presentation gave the Committee an overview of the revaluation process.

The presentation concluded at 3.09 pm.

The Committee adjourned for afternoon tea at 3.09 pm and resumed at 3.25 pm.

Agency Reports for the Six Months to 30 June 2006

Presentations of reports were made by the following Council funded agencies –

Sport Mid Canterbury (3.25 pm)	Jan Cochrane and Julyan Falloon
Ashburton Art Gallery (3.39 pm)	Kathryn Mitchell
Ashburton Museum (3.51 pm)	Rita Wright
Enterprise Ashburton (3.57 pm)	Jill Quaid and Tim Fitzgerald

The Committee acknowledged the contribution of Ms Wright, who has given notice of her resignation, and wished her well in her retirement. It was reported that applications are being considered by a selection panel for her replacement.

Items taken with the public excluded (4.12 pm)

“That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting:

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Item no	General subject of each matter to be considered:	In accordance with Section 48(1) of the Act, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:
20	Methven Heritage Association	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities
21	Forestry Matter	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities

Glass/Brown

Carried

The Committee resumed in open meeting at 4.49 pm.

