

## **FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE** [Unconfirmed minutes]

---

**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 26 October, 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; Corporate Services Manager, Finance Manager, Property Manager and Committee Secretary.

### ***Extraordinary Business***

A request was made for a verbal report to be given to the Committee on the status of the Deloitte review.

The Mayor responded and advised that Deloitte are finalising the report which will then be forwarded to the Chief Executive and reported to Council.

### ***Confirmation of Minutes***

"That the minutes of the Finance and Corporate Services Committee meeting held on 14 September, 2006, be taken as read and confirmed."

Brown/Kilworth

**Carried**

### ***Matters Arising***

#### **Rate Rebates**

The Finance Manager reported that applications being received for rate rebates have reduced to around 5-10 per week.

#### **Revaluations**

The Finance Manager acknowledged that a number of properties with new houses have not had new valuations applied. Mr Brake explained that to correct this oversight a process has been put in place by staff which will link building consents to new subdivisions; this information will be forwarded to Council's valuers. Staff are currently auditing all building consents issued over the past three years to ensure that the properties are correctly linked.

### ***ACL Workshop Addition – Acceptance of Tender***

"That approval be given for –

1. the expenditure of \$302,957.05 plus GST, to enable the acceptance of a tender for the construction of an addition to the ACL workshop in South Street; and
2. the acceptance of the tender submitted by Bradford Building Ashburton Ltd in the sum of \$250,727.00 plus GST."

Brown/Nelson

**Carried**

### ***Scales Road Farmland (Recommendation to Council)***

The Committee received further information from the Senior Planner recommending that the proposed nature park be vested as a reserve under the Reserves Act 1977. As such Council would be required to show this on the subdivision scheme plan in accordance with zone standard 6.6.5.1.1.3 in the District Plan.

It was reported that the land proposed for the nature park contains the only stand of the original Kanuka left on the Canterbury Plains and has a QEII Covenant. The Property Manager advised that the Covenant is registered against the title and would not be affected by the proposal.

The Committee agreed that issues such as who will be responsible for administration and maintenance of the proposed nature park needs to be determined before a decision is made on the recommendation. Opportunity for councillors to visit the area was also sought.

“That the item of business being discussed lie on the table meanwhile.”

Mayor/Nelson

**Carried**

### ***Council Grant Scheme 2006/2007***

#### **Rakaia War Memorial Community Centre**

The application received from this group sought funding for the replacement of a damaged heating unit. It has been subsequently advised that insurance cover will meet this cost, and the \$3,500 funding will be allocated instead to meet the cost of replacement trestle tables.

#### **Miles of Tiles Committee**

This application did not meet Council’s funding criteria and has been referred to Creative Communities NZ in Wellington for their consideration.

### **RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

“That Council receives the report of the Council Grants Working Party meeting held on 5 October 2006, as amended, and confirms the grants as listed.”

Glass/Brown

**Carried**

### ***Proposed Meeting Schedule 2007***

It was proposed to set aside a date for meeting with representatives of the Council funded agencies and the schedule has been amended to include this meeting on the morning of Thursday 15 February 2007.

The Committee also supported that a meeting be held with community associations and ratepayer groups, however it was agreed that it would be beneficial to all parties if the meeting is held as part of the budget considerations in December this year.

### **RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

“That Council adopts the 2007 Meeting Schedule for Standing Committee and Council meetings.”

Kilworth/Nelson

**Carried**

### ***Activity Reports***

“That the reports be received.”

Brown/Glass

**Carried**

#### **Investment Report**

A correction was made to the summary of investments balance of \$22,552,426 which is as at 30 September 2006.

The District Librarian attended the meeting.

### **Library Accounts**

The District Librarian reported that delays in the design of .eLM computer reports has resulted in a number of accounts, outstanding since 2004, being sent out only last month. The accounts are for fines covering the cost of lost books and accrued penalties. Over 25% has been recovered to date.

The Information Services Manager attended the meeting.

### **Computer System**

In his report to the Committee the Information Services Manager advised that an internal improvements system was successfully trialled and is being put in place to improve service support to all departments. He noted the Committee's concern with issues that have been ongoing since the new system was implemented.

A request for further information on the how Council's web site is being used will be addressed in the next report to the Committee. In particular, information was sought on the number of other councils and overseas users accessing the site.

An explanation was sought on the recent water meter billing of non residential properties, some of which were for an 18 month period. The Finance Manager explained that the setting up and generating of invoices had significant computer and resource issues, however this has been addressed and invoices will now be sent on a monthly basis.

The Chief Executive attended the meeting at 2.13 pm.

### **Youth Council**

The Committee received the minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on 9 October. It was reported that the Youth Café and Rock'n Vegas events had to be postponed but will be held at a later date.

The Youth Council / Councillor get-together will be held on Thursday 2 November 2006.

### ***Items taken with the public excluded (2.19 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:

<b>Item no</b>	<b>General subject of each matter to be considered:</b>	<b>In accordance with Section 48(1) of the Act, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:</b>
16	<b>Confirmation of Minutes – 14/09/06</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Property Matters</li></ul>	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities
17	<b>Property Matter</b>	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities
18	<b>Property Matter</b>	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities

Nelson/Brown

**Carried**

The Committee resumed in open meeting at 2.55 pm.