

Tabled Information : relevance 327/12P(A)

RE "Pre-Meetings"

From: **Michael Gibson** (michaelpcgibson@hotmail.com)
Sent: Wednesday, 7 November 2012 10:46:38 a.m.
To: Andy Foster (andy.foster@wcc.govt.nz)
Cc: Helene Ritchie (helene.ritchie@wcc.govt.nz); councillors wcc (councillors@wcc.govt.nz); Ian Hunter (ian.hunter@wcc.govt.nz)
Bcc: Sheena Bennett (sheena@bennett.net.nz); Pauline Swann (athol.swann@paradise.net.nz); Kristin Gibson (kristin.gibson@xtra.co.nz); Rosamund Averton (rosamund.averton@clear.net.nz)

Dear Andy - what concerned me about your "knowledge of ltd liability companies" (see below) was your approach to Helene Ritchie when she asked an excellent question about their having a legal obligation to make a profit. The officers seemed to have no difficulty in understanding her point & somebody gave an excellent, educated & illuminated answer.

What I thought was gross was your rude disagreement with Helene Ritchie's thesis about companies having to make a profit & the general difficulties which you create whenever one of your 'enemies' (or whatever) tries to ask a question. You do not have to understand their question but it is most disagreeable to hear you argue with its thesis!!!

I am not familiar with the rules (if any) which govern "pre-meetings" but I noticed at the only other one I have ever attended, last month, that you treated Helene with the same sort of disdain.

This does not look good - but I suppose it is the sort of thing one must expect when there is no restraint on a chairman who seems to be able to operate without having to comply with Standing Orders & without the media being present (& without most members of the public even knowing such "meetings" take place!).

On the point re having the info. about "pre-meetings" on the website: I have exchanged many emails with Mr Ian Hunter on the subject (frankly, a crashing bore but should I do *nothing*!?) & I have had received the clearest intimations from him that the matter had been sorted. It is incredibly disappointing that it hasn't been!

Perhaps there should be a Staff Manual - as previously discussed between us!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

In any event, I should appreciate hearing from you if I have misrepresented the duty-to-make-a-profit situation - or, indeed, anything else!

In the meantime I would like to stress that I believe that it is the job of all elected members to determine whether they want "the Council (to be) a little less autocratic, self-serving and self-centred" (see below) - I am absolutely fed up with doing your job myself.

In spite of the solecism I am sending a copy of this to Mr Ian Hunter because he is already fully aware of my views regarding the way in which the Council is operated & I trust that he can continue to contribute to improving matters - under a new regime if that is the

only way in which there can be any improvement.

Kindest regards,

Michael

P.S. By the way there is at least one fairly simple new approach which the Council could take to the company-not-making-a-profit 'problem'.

From: Andy.Foster@wcc.govt.nz
To: michaelpcgibson@hotmail.com
CC: Andy.Foster@wcc.govt.nz
Subject: RE: Pre-Meetings
Date: Tue, 6 Nov 2012 08:50:03 +0000

Hi Michael –

I suspect you have misconstrued something about my knowledge of ltd liability companies, but as you haven't been specific I can't tell. It's certainly easy to mis-hear what somebody says from the back of the room. Perhaps you could fill me in on what you think I may or may not know on whatever the subject was – if it is important. That said I don't know everything about the legal requirements governing limited liability companies. I suspect that is rather extensive, and I tend to the view that one asks questions to elicit information as I am sure do you !

In terms of the pre meeting briefing, we have, in large part in response to you and a couple of other people, raising the issue, included on the hard copy of the agenda the note that there is a pre-meeting session on the Tuesday. I think you raise a reasonable point that we should note this on the website and I will ask Democratic Services to arrange that. Whether you wish to believe it or not, we do want to make meetings as accessible as possible.

Kind regards

Andy

From: Michael Gibson [mailto:michaelpcgibson@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, 6 November 2012 6:37 p.m.
To: Ian Hunter
Cc: Helene Ritchie; Andy Foster; Iona Pannett; Garry Poole
Subject: Pre-Meetings

Dear Mr Hunter - the disconnect continues to be between the "pre-meeting" 'announcement' on the hard copy of an Agenda & the website. This came home to me today when I saw a hard copy of the Agenda for the Meeting scheduled for this Thursday the 8th - a very kind Council person mailed me one.

I would guess that:

1/ only 1-5% of the members of the public who find themselves in possession of a hard copy of an Agenda do so before the "pre-meeting" has taken place - in other words the information is, for practical purposes, absolutely useless
2/ ten times that number would see the website before any particular "pre-meeting" & might find the intimation of a "pre-meeting" of interest when that information is of some possible practical advantage. This would certainly have included me when, last year, I first encountered the Council's current *modus operandi* after many years in which I had enjoyed the luxury of not knowing.

I would like to speak in "Public Participation" at the Strategy & Policy Committee Meeting scheduled for Thursday week, 15th November, please.

Do not hesitate to telephone me if you believe that it would progress anything.

With kind regards,

Michael Gibson

P.S. I attended part of today's "pre-meeting" & was most disappointed that the Committee Chairman, Cr. Andy Foster, appeared not to have been properly advised about the legal requirements governing limited liability companies - can this be corrected please?

From: Ian.Hunter@wcc.govt.nz
To: michaelpcgibson@hotmail.com
Date: Mon, 5 Nov 2012 08:20:46 +1300
Subject: RE: Strategy & Policy Committee Meeting 6/11/12

Hi Anusha,

Just to keep you up to date with Mr Gibson. Seems we hadn't listed the 'pre-meeting' on the website. Were we listing all 'pre-meetings' on the website these days?

Cheers,

Ian.

From: Michael Gibson [<mailto:michaelpcgibson@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, 4 November 2012 1:33 p.m.
To: Ian Hunter
Subject: FW: Strategy & Policy Committee Meeting 6/11/12

Dear Mr Hunter - I think that we have had some useful interchanges which have hopefully contributed towards the Council being a little less autocratic, self-serving and self-centred.

But why is the useful information shown below not on the Council's website? And when is (or was) the advertised "pre-meeting" for Tuesday's Committee Meeting, please? For the record, I will not be able to attend if it is tomorrow.

With kind regards,
Michael

> From: Anusha.Guler@wcc.govt.nz
> To: michaelpcgibson@hotmail.com
> Date: Sun, 4 Nov 2012 11:30:09 +1300
> Subject: Re: Strategy & Policy Committee Meeting 6/11/12
>
> Dear Mr Gibson
>
> The pre-meeting session for the SPC meeting on 08 November is scheduled for 1.00pm on Tuesday, 06 November.
>
> Thanks
>
> Anusha
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On 4/11/2012, at 9:16 AM, "Michael Gibson"
> <michaelpcgibson@hotmail.com<<mailto:michaelpcgibson@hotmail.com>>>
> wrote:
>
> I wish to speak, please, at the above Meeting which is scheduled to take place at 9.15 a.m. on Tuesday, 6 November 2012.
> The subject would be "Wellington Waterfront Ltd."
> When is the pre-meeting (which the Council's Public Notice advertised for two days before the Strategy & Policy Meeting scheduled for 9.15a.m. on Thursday, 8 November 2012) due to take place?
> My telephone number is 4757545 - please do not hesitate to leave a message on the Answerphone.
> SIGNED
> Michael Gibson