

Wendy Collard

From: Sharon Bodeker
Sent: Monday, 11 December 2023 04:58 p.m.
To: Grant Miller
Subject: RE: Local Government Official Information request - 1001180
Attachments: Correspondence between Board members_Redacted.pdf

Kia ora Grant

I refer to your LGOIMA request below. Please find attached communications between the Board members of the Strath Taieri Community Board as requested. I note that the name and contact details of a member of the public who emailed the Board have been redacted under section 7(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons.

As we have redacted some information, I advise that you have the right to have this decision reviewed by the Ombudsman.

Ngā mihi

Sharon Bodeker
Special Projects

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From: Grant Miller <Grant.miller@odt.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, 13 November 2023 12:17 p.m.
To: Official Information <officialinformation@dcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Local Government Official Information request - 1001180

Grant has submitted a LGOIMA request - 1001180.

Below are the details of the request

Request details:

Hello, I request any communication, including emails and text messages, between members of the Strath Taieri Community Board relating to the position of the chairman. The period of time would be from August until the end of

October, 2023. Communication of interest to us would include reactions to the censure of Barry Williams and any consideration of whether he should resign or be replaced as chairman.

File attachment (file name)

No file uploaded

Name

Grant Miller

Email address

grant.miller@odt.co.nz

Mailing address

grant.miller@odt.co.nz

Contact phone number

022 016 1312

Sharon Bodeker

From: Robin Thomas
Sent: Thursday, 31 August 2023 01:11 p.m.
To: Sharon Bodeker
Cc: Anna Wilson
Subject: The elephant in the room - agenda item.

Hi Sharon

Our conversation earlier today refers.

I am not convinced that this issue cannot be appropriately raised in the Board meeting either in public or in committee. It IS of significant interest to many in our community and questions are quite rightly being posed "does the Board support the chairman and racist slurs" etc. Obviously those and other questions are being posed both privately and via social media.

The Board was elected by the community and I believe the community has a right to ask those questions of the Board. While individually we can answer that and other comments there is no opportunity for the Board per se to make it clear that collectively we neither endorse nor condone any form of racism, sexism or similar.

I am not advocating that the Board express a vote of no confidence in the chair. However the issue of what the Boards position is wrt racist comments etc will remain "the elephant in the room" until it has been addressed in some form.

One way forward that could hopefully clear the air (a little at least) would be for Barry, as part of his report to the Board, to be encouraged to issue an apology to the Council, Board and Community for bringing this matter into the public spotlight and creating embarrassment and drawing such negative attention to our community (wording would clearly need massaging). He has already apparently apologised to the victim so taking that next step would hopefully ameliorate community angst to some degree.

Hopefully that should draw a line under the issue locally.

As a Board if we do nothing we are seen to be complicit in and supportive of his stated views.

I would draw your attention to the manner in which the Boards concerns over his presentation to Council on the Annual Plan was handled. It addressed the concerns both from the Board and those raised by the Community and an amicable solution was reached. Had we tried to hide that under the table it too would have been an ongoing festering issue.

I accept that the final say on the composition of the Boards Agenda is approved by Councils CEO and Board Chair and clearly will abide by those decisions. I do however urge consideration as above to help dampen and moderate impact of this issue.

Many thanks
Robin T

Sharon Bodeker

From: Anna Wilson
Sent: Tuesday, 21 November 2023 09:40 a.m.
To: Sharon Bodeker
Subject: Fw: Media Response

From: Anna Wilson <anna.wilson@outlook.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 6 September 2023 4:55 pm
To: Barry Williams <barry.williams@powerfarming.co.nz>; jock876@gmail.com <jock876@gmail.com>; robin.thomas@xtra.co.nz <robin.thomas@xtra.co.nz>; tandpmarkham@xtra.co.nz <tandpmarkham@xtra.co.nz>; Terina Geddes <hayden.terina@xtra.co.nz>
Subject: Media Response

I will call you all shortly re this Robin I think Bill has touched based with you about it? Thanks Anna

The Board does not have a formal position on the matter because it has not met since the matter was considered by the Council.

As an individual member of the Board, I am disappointed in Mr Williams' behaviour and strongly believe there is no place for racism in our community, or anywhere else for that matter.

I respect the role Councillors played in considering and upholding the independent investigator's report into the material breach of the Code of Conduct. Councillors have carried out their duty and a decision was made. Mr Williams has been censured by the Council and has apologised directly to the victim. I have nothing further to add on this matter.

Sharon Bodeker

From: Robin Thomas
Sent: Thursday, 7 September 2023 02:43 p.m.
To: [REDACTED] Barry Williams; David Russell (Jock) Frew; Terina Geddes; Tony Markham; Anna Wilson
Cc: Bill Acklin
Subject: RE: Behaviour of Strath Taieri Community Board chair

Kia ora [REDACTED]

I am expecting the Agenda for the upcoming meeting to be released any day now.

The Board Agenda (as per all Council Agendas) is set by the CEO. I am confident that the general issue regarding our Chairmans conduct will be covered in some form in that meeting. Until an agenda is released none of us have knowledge of what form any of the topics to be discussed will take.

Nga mihi
Robin Thomas

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 5 September 2023 5:42 pm
To: barry.williams@powerfarming.co.nz; jock876@gmail.com; hayden.terina@xtra.co.nz; Robin Thomas <robin.thomas@xtra.co.nz>; tandpmarkham@xtra.co.nz; anna.wilson@outlook.co.nz
Cc: bill.acklin@dcc.govt.nz
Subject: Behaviour of Strath Taieri Community Board chair

To the elected members of the Strath Taieri Community Board,
(Barry Williams, Anna Wilson, Robin Thomas, Tony Markham, Jock Frew, Terina Geddes)

I am, like most of the people in our community, well aware of the furore around the chair's comments to a local woman who has subsequently left town.

Will his tenure as chair of the Strath Taieri Community Board be on the agenda for public included discussion at the next board meeting on 14 September?

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Sharon Bodeker

From: Anna Wilson
Sent: Tuesday, 21 November 2023 09:37 a.m.
To: Sharon Bodeker
Subject: Fw: Otago Access Radio podcast

From: Anna Wilson <anna.wilson@outlook.co.nz>
Sent: Sunday, 10 September 2023 9:24 am
To: Robin Thomas <robin.thomas@xtra.co.nz>
Subject: Re: Otago Access Radio podcast

Hi Robin

We are obviously going to get to have our say on Thursday and as much as I am still getting emails etc etc I feel like it is time to move on and go back to our original statement that we do not condone etc. I clearly am not buying into media/podcasts etc as I do not operate on those platforms and clearly this has further emphasised my reasons behind that decision.

I am just very over it and feel like it is going around in circles. I have written myself a statement as such to read on Thursday just regarding how we need to move on and focus on items such as the speed management plan that needs submitted on very shortly etc etc I'm there to do my job and I trust the DCC have completed theirs too.

Can you tell I am over it!!

I assume Barry rang you yesterday to say he wasn't going to co-govern

Thanks
Anna

Anna Wilson

On 10/09/2023, at 8:34 AM, Robin Thomas <robin.thomas@xtra.co.nz> wrote:

Hi Anna was alerted to this by an ex Strath Taieri resident.
Even allowing for the niggly mayoral challenge back story (Radich vs Hawkins) it is an interesting "wider community" perspective and confirms for me that we will be under the microscope by a very wide "audience" - clearly confirming that the ramifications of this will have wider implications than just our wee patch....
How do we make it clear this is NOT who we are and get it across that this incident can not be allowed to define our community?

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0B8fAh8YNQdyQA6fB2r16eTR5ydHTxcXKpbAeuJ2AFcTSLSZgimKdpEmL1ABbKgvueI&id=100063686464451&sfnsn=mo&mibextid=RUBZ1f

Sharon Bodeker

From: Anna Wilson
Sent: Tuesday, 21 November 2023 09:37 a.m.
To: Sharon Bodeker
Subject: Fw: Board Statement

From: Anna Wilson <anna.wilson@outlook.co.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 14 September 2023 12:13 pm
To: Robin Thomas <robin.thomas@xtra.co.nz>
Subject: Board Statement

As a Board we are disappointed in Mr Williams' comments. We strongly believe there is no place for racism or sexism in our community, or anywhere else for that matter.

We respect the role Councillors played in considering and upholding the independent investigator's report into the material breach of the Code of Conduct.

Councillors decided to censure Mr Williams, and he has apologised directly to the victim. This is exactly what needed to happen.

As a board, we have not been involved in the Code of Conduct process, but I would also like to acknowledge my fellow members who, over the last few weeks, have been subject to relentless verbal abuse, threats and harassment on an unprecedented level.

Every one of us needs to be kind and learn from recent experiences, and my hope is we all reflect on this as a community. As a Board we are intent on ensuring we move on from this experience in a positive and inclusive manner.

The board has plenty of issues still to tackle that also affect our community, and we now need to focus on these. That is what we were elected to do, and we are looking forward to doing that work.

Sharon Bodeker

From: Anna Wilson
Sent: Tuesday, 21 November 2023 09:39 a.m.
To: Sharon Bodeker
Subject: Fw: Facebook post:

From: Anna Wilson <anna.wilson@outlook.co.nz>
Sent: Friday, 15 September 2023 8:32 am
To: Mike Perkins <Mike.Perkins@dcc.govt.nz>; Barry Williams <Barry.williams@powerfarming.co.nz>; Robin Thomas <robin.thomas@xtra.co.nz>; David Russell (Jock) Frew <jock876@gmail.com>; Bill Acklin <Bill.Acklin@dcc.govt.nz>; Terina Geddes <hayden.terina@xtra.co.nz>; Tony Markham <tandpmarkham@xtra.co.nz>
Subject: Re: Facebook post:

Thanks Mike - was put up last night and definitely the right decision as so much information the media misconstrued to fit their own narrative from our Board perspective.

From: Mike Perkins <Mike.Perkins@dcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 15 September 2023 8:26 am
To: Anna Wilson <anna.wilson@outlook.co.nz>; Barry Williams <Barry.williams@powerfarming.co.nz>; Robin Thomas <robin.thomas@xtra.co.nz>; David Russell (Jock) Frew <jock876@gmail.com>; Bill Acklin <Bill.Acklin@dcc.govt.nz>; Terina Geddes <hayden.terina@xtra.co.nz>; Tony Markham <tandpmarkham@xtra.co.nz>
Subject: RE: Facebook post:

Hi All

I don't have any voting rights however as this was a public meeting there wont be any privacy issues, so if you all agree there shouldn't be any problems.

Kind Regards Mike



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From: Anna Wilson <anna.wilson@outlook.co.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 14 September 2023 7:07 PM
To: Barry Williams <Barry.williams@powerfarming.co.nz>; Robin Thomas <robin.thomas@xtra.co.nz>; David Russell (Jock) Frew <jock876@gmail.com>; Bill Acklin <Bill.Acklin@dcc.govt.nz>; Mike Perkins <Mike.Perkins@dcc.govt.nz>; Terina Geddes <hayden.terina@xtra.co.nz>; Tony Markham <tandpmarkham@xtra.co.nz>
Subject: Facebook post:

In typical media fashion they have omitted the punchline of our statement and I think it would be worthwhile to post this on our social media page if you all agree.

Full Statement from the Strath Taieri Community Board

As a Board we are disappointed in Mr Williams' comments. We strongly believe there is no place for racism or sexism in our community, or anywhere else for that matter.

We respect the role Councillors played in considering and upholding the independent investigator's report into the material breach of the Code of Conduct.

Councillors decided to censure Mr Williams, and he has apologised directly to the victim. This is exactly what needed to happen.

As a board, we have not been involved in the Code of Conduct process, but I would also like to acknowledge my fellow members who, over the last few weeks, have been subject to relentless verbal abuse, threats and harassment on an unprecedented level.

Every one of us needs to be kind and learn from recent experiences, and my hope is we all reflect on this as a community. As a Board we are intent on ensuring we move on from this experience in a positive and inclusive manner.

The board has plenty of issues still to tackle that also affect our community, and we now need to focus on these. That is what we were elected to do, and we are looking forward to doing that work.

Sharon Bodeker

From: Anna Wilson
Sent: Tuesday, 21 November 2023 09:39 a.m.
To: Sharon Bodeker
Subject: Fw: community board chairperson

From: Anna Wilson <anna.wilson@outlook.co.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 September 2023 12:31 pm
To: Chris Morris <Chris.Morris@dcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Fw: community board chairperson

Hi Chris

Just FYI - will not be replying

Thanks
Anna

From: Grant Miller <grant.miller@odt.co.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 September 2023 12:24 pm
To: jock876@gmail.com <jock876@gmail.com>; hayden.terina@xtra.co.nz <hayden.terina@xtra.co.nz>; tandpmarkham@xtra.co.nz <tandpmarkham@xtra.co.nz>; robin.thomas@xtra.co.nz <robin.thomas@xtra.co.nz>; anna.wilson@outlook.co.nz <anna.wilson@outlook.co.nz>; bill.acklin@dcc.govt.nz <bill.acklin@dcc.govt.nz>
Cc: barry.williams@powerfarming.co.nz <barry.williams@powerfarming.co.nz>
Subject: community board chairperson

Hello,

I inferred from the meeting last week there is unlikely to be a change of chairperson of the board. Board members can obviously move to change the chairperson if they want to. It would not have been possible at the previous meeting but could occur at the next one if board members wish to pursue this course.

At the meeting, neither Mr Williams nor the board said why he should continue in the role. However, there was comment about the board needing to focus on its work.

It is possible to conclude a board "intent on moving on from this experience in a positive and inclusive manner" is minded to depose the chairperson. Indeed, this would seem to fit with the comment about there being no place for racism or sexism.

Are board members prepared to rule out a change of chairperson? Would you vote against such a move?

If board members do not vote in a new chairperson, how should this be reconciled with the statement about them strongly believing there is no place for racism and sexism?

If Mr Williams remains in the role, will there be a statement at the next meeting about why this is the right course or why board members decided not to exercise their right to force a change?

Regards,

Grant Miller
Journalist

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Otago Daily Times