



GANNAWARRA
Shire Council

Council Meeting

MINUTES

Wednesday, 17 March 2021

6:30pm

Senior Citizens Centre

Kerang

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**MINUTES OF GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE, KERANG
ON WEDNESDAY, 17 MARCH 2021 AT 6:30PM**

PRESENT:

Cr Charlie Gillingham (Mayor)	Avoca Ward
Cr Garner Smith (Deputy Mayor)	Yarran Ward
Cr Keith Link	Yarran Ward
Cr Ross Stanton	Murray Ward
Cr Kelvin Burt	Patchell Ward
Cr Travis Collier	Patchell Ward
Cr Jane Ogden	Patchell Ward

IN ATTENDANCE: Acting Chief Executive Officer
Manager Governance

Gallery: 6

Media: Nil

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Gannawarra Welcome to Country video was played as the Acknowledgement of Country.

2 OPENING DECLARATION

The Deputy Mayor read the Opening Declaration.

3 APOLOGIES

Nil

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jane Ogden

Seconded: Cr Ross Stanton

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17 February 2021 be confirmed.

CARRIED

5 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil

6 BRIEFING SESSIONS

6.1 RECORDS OF COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS - 11 FEBRUARY TO 10 MARCH 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents to Council written records of Councillor Briefings in accordance with Clause 31 of the Gannawarra Shire Council Governance Rules.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Kelvin Burt

Seconded: Cr Travis Collier

That Council note the records of Councillor Briefings from 11 February to 10 March 2021.

CARRIED

7 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION

7.1 POLICY REVIEW - POLICY NO. 140 - COVID-19 HARDSHIP

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In response to the impact that Coronavirus (COVID-19) was having and was likely to have on our local businesses and employment, Council adopted Policy No. 140 – COVID-19 Hardship in April 2020. The policy, which recognised the financial hardship ratepayers were experiencing or predicted to experience due to the impact of COVID-19 restrictions, was put in place for six months. The policy was extended in September, 2020 up until March 2021. It was amended in December 2020 to broaden the policy parameters to include assistance to commercial ratepayers who have paid multiple waste charges during periods where their business was shut down due to the imposed lock down restrictions.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Travis Collier

Seconded: Cr Jane Ogden

That Council extend the operations of Policy No. 140 – COVID-19 Hardship until a further review on or before 16 June 2021.

CARRIED

7.2 COUNCIL POLICY REVIEW

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council officers undertake regular reviews of Council policies to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and that they are reflective of current practices. This report addresses the following policies which have recently been reviewed:

- Policy No. 063 – Caravan Annexes
- Policy No. 064 – Caravan Park ‘Fly Over’ Specifications
- Policy No. 066 – Building Regulations
- Policy No. 071 – Building Regulations 2018 – Regulation 87 – Erection of Class 10a Buildings on Vacant Allotments
- Policy No. 101 - Media

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ross Stanton

Seconded: Cr Jane Ogden

That Council:

- 1. Endorse the following reviewed policies:**
 - **Policy No. 063 – Caravan Annexes**
 - **Policy No. 064 – Caravan Park ‘Fly Over’ Specifications**
 - **Policy No. 071 – Building Regulations 2018 – Regulation 87 – Erection of Class 10a Buildings on Vacant Allotments**
 - **Policy No. 101 – Media**
- 2. Repeal Policy No. 066 – Building Regulations**
- 3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to make amendments to the documents to correct any minor drafting errors that do not materially alter the intent of the policies.**

CARRIED

7.3 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE INDEPENDENT MEMBER APPOINTMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

One of the three Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) independent members three-year term concluded in December 2020. The position was advertised in January 2021, with applications accepted up to 4 February 2021.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Garner Smith

Seconded: Cr Ross Stanton

That Council appoint Mr Francis Crawley as an Independent Member to the Audit and Risk Committee for a period of three years.

CARRIED

7.4 PROPOSED SCHEDULE FEES AND CHARGES 2021/2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each year Council reviews the level of fees and charges that are applied across Gannawarra Shire Council for the provision of services, with a view to achieving a balance between affordability, encouraging greater usage, cost recovery and raising sufficient revenue to support the delivery of services.

The Fees and Charges schedule is included in Council's Annual Budget document.

In accordance with best practice financial management, Council Officers have conducted a comprehensive review of the Schedule of User Fees and Charges to ensure the achievement of the above criteria.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ross Stanton

Seconded: Cr Jane Ogden

That Council:

- 1. Adopt the scheduled Fees and Charges 2021/2022 effective from 1 July 2021.**
- 2. Publish the Fees and Charges on Council's website.**

CARRIED

7.5 2021 MAJOR COMMUNITY PROJECT FUND

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Major Community Projects Fund 2021 received 18 applications, requesting \$926,658 of support. The program allows for a discretionary allocation of funds with specific criteria to assist community groups on non-Council owned or managed land that are often limited with funding opportunities to support them. Following an assessment of each project against the criteria of the funding program, recommendations for funding have been established and are outlined in this report and attachment.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Kelvin Burt

Seconded: Cr Keith Link

That Council approve the allocation of the Major Community Projects Fund 2021 to six projects, as outlined in the attachment, totalling \$251,732.29.

CARRIED

8 URGENT ITEMS

Nil

9 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

10 QUESTION TIME

Author	Question	Response
Ms Louise Graham	Under the protocols and guidelines used within your organisation for tree removal, is an arborist report, tree protection on public and private land and justification of large and small tree removal required?	The current policy, 065 – Trees and related guidelines addressing trees on Council owned and managed land, are available on Council’s website. The policy and guidelines are scheduled for, and will be reviewed this year. The current guidelines include provisions for tree risk assessments, tree inspections and tree removals.
	Can the council elaborate on what action will be taken to include the community consultation and concerns regarding the proposed plans for the garden park ?	Feedback gathered from the community since late 2020 is currently being used to inform a draft concept design for the area. An extensive community consultation process will be undertaken once the draft concept designs are available.

Mr Geoff Kendell	<p>Firstly, we furnished Council and Councillors a letter dated Sunday 24th January 2021 regarding the irreputable environmental damage being done to one the Shire's biggest assets the Gunbower Forest imploring Council to make representation to the Federal Minister for Water Keith Pitt and the Federal Minister for the Environment Sussanah Ley to put an immediate stop to the destruction.</p> <p>Has this been done?</p>	<p>Council's Mayor and CEO have met with the Minister for Water through the Murry River Group of Councils group.</p> <p>Furthermore, Council has scheduled a presentation from the North Central Catchment Management Authority on watering regimes for the Gunbower Forest.</p>
	<p>Secondly, we suggested that Council and Councillors needed to hear and see firsthand for themselves what was occurring with the hope you all might join one of our Tours.</p> <p>Have the Councillors considered this to try to educate themselves with what is occurring as our offer is still stands?</p>	<p>The North Central Catchment Management Authority are the relevant authority for environmental water management of the Gunbower Forest.</p> <p>Councillors will reconsider a tour following the upcoming presentation from the North Central Catchment Management Authority on watering regimes for the Gunbower Forest.</p>

11 DELEGATES REPORTS

11.1 DELEGATES REPORTS

Association	Appointed Council Delegate
Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance	Cr Stanton
Community Halls Community Asset Committee	Cr Burt
Loddon Campaspe Group of Councils	Mayor
Loddon Mallee Waste and Resource Recovery Group (LMWRRG) Forum	Cr Ogden
Municipal Association of Victoria	Cr Collier
Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee (MFMPC)	Cr Link
Murray River Group of Councils (MRGC)	Mayor
Rail Freight Alliance	Cr Stanton
Rural Councils Victoria	Cr Smith

NB: * Audit and Risk Committee - no delegate report is required as the Audit and Risk Committee formally reports back separately to Council in accord with the Audit and Risk Committee Charter.

Councillors gave verbal updates on attendance at meetings to which there are the appointed delegate.

Councillor Keith Link gave a verbal update on the Cohuna Campaspe LLEN.

12 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil

The Meeting closed at 7:01pm.

The Minutes of this Meeting were confirmed at the Meeting of the Gannawarra Shire Council held on 21 April 2021.

**Mayor Charlie Gillingham
CHAIRPERSON**