



GANNAWARRA
Shire Council

Council Meeting

MINUTES

Wednesday, 15 September 2021

6:30pm

Zoom

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**MINUTES OF GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
HELD BY ZOOM
ON WEDNESDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 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: **Chief Executive Officer
Manager Governance**

Gallery: **Nil**

Media: **Nil**

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor read the Acknowledgement of Country.

2 OPENING DECLARATION

The Deputy Mayor read the Opening Declaration.

3 APOLOGIES

Nil

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Keith Link

Seconded: Cr Ross Stanton

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18 August 2021 be confirmed.

CARRIED

5 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil

6 BRIEFING SESSIONS

6.1 RECORDS OF COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS - 11 AUGUST TO 7 SEPTEMBER 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 Travis Collier

Seconded: Cr Kelvin Burt

That Council note the records of Councillor Briefings from 11 August to 7 September 2021.

CARRIED

7 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION

7.1 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. 045 – Mystic Park Cemetery Trust
- Policy No. 073 – Dust Control

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Travis Collier

Seconded: Cr Jane Ogden

That Council:

- 1. Endorse the following reviewed policies:**
 - Policy No. 045 – Mystic Park Cemetery Trust
 - Policy No. 073 – Dust Control

CARRIED

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In response to the potential impact that Coronavirus (COVID-19) was likely to have on our local businesses and employment, Council adopted Policy No. 140 – COVID-19 Hardship in April 2020. The policy was put in place for six months. The policy was extended in September 2020, March 2021, and again in June 2021 to September 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.

Policy No. 034 Rate Relief is the policy that has traditionally provided for assistance to ratepayers experiencing general and financial hardship, specifically around rates and charges raised by Council.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jane Ogden

Seconded: Cr Ross Stanton

That Council:

- 1) Extend the operations of Policy No. 140 – COVID-19 Hardship until a further review on or before 31 March 2022; and**
- 2) Align a review of Policy No. 034 Rate Relief with the review of Policy No. 140 – COVID-19 Hardship on or before 31 March 2022.**

CARRIED

7.3 CHRISTMAS CLOSURE 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As has occurred in prior years, to enable Council staff to spend the Christmas holiday period with family and friends, it is proposed that Council close its main administration offices, libraries, Gannawarra Shire Children's Centre administration and Works Depot from 2pm Friday, 24 December, 2021 re-opening on Tuesday, 4 January, 2022.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Kelvin Burt

Seconded: Cr Travis Collier

That Council:

- 1. Acknowledge the closure of Council offices over the Christmas/New Year period from 2.00 pm on Friday 24 December, 2021 through to Tuesday 4 January, 2022.**
- 2. Advertise the office closure in the local newspaper, website and social media.**

CARRIED

7.4 2021 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2021 Financial Statements and Performance Statement are presented to Council for 'in principle' approval. The statements, subject to final audit, present the financial position of the Council as at 30 June 2021. The audit position is unqualified at this stage and is subject to consideration by the Auditor-General.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Garner Smith

Seconded: Cr Keith Link

That Council:

- 1. Acknowledge that the 'in principle' 2021 Financial Statements, and 'in principle' 2021 Performance Statement have been presented to and endorsed by the Audit and Risk Committee at its meeting on 7 September, 2021.**
- 2. Approve the 'in principle' 2021 Financial Statements and 'in principle' 2021 Performance Statement.**
- 3. Approve the Chief Executive Officer to be authorised to effect any changes required by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office.**
- 4. Nominate Cr Gillingham and Cr Smith to be authorised to certify on behalf of Council the 'final statement' 2021 Financial Statements, and 'final statement' 2021 Performance Statement, which are also to be signed by the Chief Executive Officer and the Principal Accounting Officer, and submit to the Minister and Auditor-General.**

CARRIED

7.5 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE - 7 SEPTEMBER, 2021 MEETING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) met on Tuesday, 7 September, 2021. The focus of the ARC meeting was to review the 2021 annual financial statements. Other reports considered included a review of the draft Financial Plan and various reports from agencies on relevant governance, compliance and risk management matters.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Garner Smith

Seconded: Cr Ross Stanton

That Council receive and note the summary of the discussions of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held 7 September, 2021.

CARRIED

7.6 G06-2021 ROAD SEALING PROGRAM

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council officers have completed a tendering and evaluation process and recommend the tender for the Road Sealing Program be awarded to Boral Resources (Vic) Pty Ltd trading as Boral Asphalt.

The Road Sealing Program ensures the sealed road network is maintained to an appropriate standard for the community.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Travis Collier

Seconded: Cr Ross Stanton

That Council:

- 1. Award tender G06-2021 for the Road Sealing Program to Boral Resources (Vic) Pty Ltd trading as Boral Asphalt for a three year period with the option of two, one year extensions, at the tendered schedule of rates subject to rise and fall, with works carried out annually to the limit specified within Council's Capital Works Budget.**

CARRIED

7.7 INVESTIGATION OF POSSIBLE CHILDCARE CENTRE IN COHUNA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the Council Meeting on 21 April 2021, Council resolved through Notice of Motion 75 – *That the Shire investigate the possibility of a child/day care centre in Cohuna*. This report investigates the possibility of childcare centre in Cohuna.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Garner Smith

Seconded: Cr Kelvin Burt

That Council note the investigation of possible childcare centre in Cohuna

CARRIED

7.8 MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL ADVOCACY INITIATIVE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is provided further to a Notice of Motion at the August 2021 meeting, at which Council resolved to call for a report to the next Council meeting to consider authorising a contribution of up to \$50,000 to the Murray Border Region Government Advocacy Initiative and, that the Council Report provide information and funding options to guide Councillors to make an informed decision on this proposed unbudgeted expenditure.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jane Ogden

Seconded: Cr Ross Stanton

That Council will not contribute any funds towards the Murray River Council's advocacy initiative at this stage.

CARRIED

Cr Garner Smith called for a Division

In Favour: Crs Gillingham, Ogden, Stanton and Burt

Against: Crs Collier, Smith and Link

7.9 DRAFT AQUATIC STRATEGY OPTIONS**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Over the past 12 months Council has been developing the Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy with leading consultancy firm Otium Planning Group. Three options for the strategic direction of the strategy have been established, which have been developed based on community feedback, infrastructure assessments, demographic analysis and financial modelling. These evidence based options are provided for Council consideration to enable the draft strategy document to be finalised and further community consultation to be planned.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ross Stanton

Seconded: Cr Jane Ogden

That Council:

- 1. Approve Option 2, to be added to the draft strategy.**
- 2. Maintains its existing funding contribution to pools, until such time that the formal consultation process is completed and a decision of Council is made on Gannawarra's future Aquatic requirements.**

CARRIED

Cr Garner Smith called for a Division

In Favour: Crs Collier, Gillingham, Ogden, Stanton and Burt

Against: Crs Smith and Link

8 URGENT ITEMS

Nil

9 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

10 QUESTION TIME

Nil

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
Timber Towns 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 they are the appointed delegate.

12 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil

The Meeting closed at 7:25pm.

The Minutes of this Meeting were confirmed at the Meeting of the Gannawarra Shire Council held on 20 October 2021.

Mayor Charlie Gillingham
CHAIRPERSON