



GANNAWARRA
Shire Council

Council Meeting

MINUTES

Wednesday, 15 November 2023

6:00pm

Senior Citizens Centre

Kerang

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**MINUTES OF GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE, KERANG
ON WEDNESDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 6:00PM**

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive Officer
Acting Manager Governance

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Welcome to Country video was played.

2 OPENING DECLARATION

The Deputy Mayor read the Opening Declaration.

3 APOLOGIES

Cr Garner Smith was noted as an apology.

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jane Ogden

Seconded: Cr Kelvin Burt

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 6 November 2023 and the Council Meeting held on 15 November be confirmed.

CARRIED

5 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Kelvin Burt declared a Conflict of Interest in Item 7.5.

6 BRIEFING SESSIONS

6.1 RECORDS OF COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS - 11 OCTOBER TO 7 NOVEMBER 2023

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 Jane Ogden

That Council note the records of Councillor Briefings 11 October to 7 November 2023.

CARRIED

7 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION

7.1 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS 2023/2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council holds financial memberships for various committees, both locally and regionally, in the interests of advocating for and on behalf of the community. Membership to these and a number of other committees provides for Councillors to act as a Council delegate or representative on behalf of the Gannawarra Shire Council.

The table below lists each committee and the proposed Councillor delegate or representative to each, for 2023/2024.

COUNCILLOR COMMITTEES 2023/2024	
COMMITTEE	COUNCILLOR
Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA)	Cr Ross Stanton, Mayor
Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee (MFMPC)	Cr Keith Link
Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC)	Cr Keith Link
Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)	Cr Travis Collier
Audit and Risk Committee (x 2)	Cr Ross Stanton, Mayor, and Cr Garner Smith
Murray River Group of Councils (MRGC)	Cr Ross Stanton, Mayor
Loddon Campaspe Group of Councils	Cr Ross Stanton, Mayor
Rail Freight Alliance	Cr Jane Ogden
Rural Councils Victoria	Cr Garner Smith
Timber Towns Victoria	Cr Garner Smith

Community Halls Community Asset Committee	Cr Kelvin Burt
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RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Charlie Gillingham

Seconded: Cr Travis Collier

That Council agree to lay Item 7.1 – Committee Memberships 2023/2024 on the table until the December Council meeting.

CARRIED

7.2 2024 CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY DATES**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Each year Council is required to set a schedule of Australian Citizenship Ceremony dates for the Department of Home Affairs, usually three to six months in advance.

This report proposes dates for ceremonies to be held in 2024.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jane Ogden

Seconded: Cr Kelvin Burt

That Council adopt the following dates for the 2024 Citizenship Ceremonies: Friday 26 January, Tuesday 2 April, Tuesday 2 July and Tuesday 8 October, 2024.

CARRIED

7.3 PROPOSED 2024 COUNCIL MEETING DATES, TIMES AND LOCATIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with Council's Governance Rules, at or before the last meeting each calendar year, Council must fix the date, time, and place of all scheduled Council meetings for the following calendar year.

This report proposes scheduled Council meetings for 2024 continue to be held on the third Wednesday of each month from February to December inclusive, with the exception of the June meeting which will be held on the fourth Wednesday. All meetings will commence at 6.00pm at the Senior Citizens Centre, Kerang.

The date for the Meeting to conduct the Mayoral Election has not been included in the meeting schedule for 2024 as this date will be determined upon confirmation of the 2024 Election timeline.

January – No Meeting

July – Wednesday 17 @ 6.00pm at Koondrook Senior Citizen Rooms

February – Wednesday 21 @ 6.00pm at Kerang Seniors Citizen Rooms

August – Wednesday 21 @ 6.00pm at Kerang Senior Citizen Rooms

March – Wednesday 20 @ 6.00pm at Kerang Senior Citizen Rooms

September – Wednesday 18 @ 6:00pm at Kerang Senior Citizen Rooms

April – Wednesday 17 @ 6.00pm at Cohuna Council Meeting Room

October – Wednesday 16 @ 6.00pm at Cohuna Council Meeting Room

May – Wednesday 15 @ 6:00pm at Kerang Senior Citizen Rooms

November – Wednesday 20 @ 6:00pm at Kerang Senior Citizen Room

June – Wednesday 26 @ 6:00pm at Kerang Senior Citizen Rooms

December – Wednesday 18 @ 6:00pm at Kerang Senior Citizen Room

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Charlie Gillingham

Seconded: Cr Keith Link

That Council adopt the list of dates, times and locations for 2024 scheduled meetings of Council as detailed in this report.

CARRIED

7.4 REVISED 2023/2024 FEES AND CHARGES

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 Schedule of Fees and Charges is to be included in Council's Annual Budget document.

Since the adoption of the 2023/2024 Fees and Charges in March 2023, Council Officers have identified a number of required changes to ensure the achievement of best practice financial management.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Kelvin Burt

Seconded: Cr Travis Collier

That Council endorse the changes to the 2023/2024 Fees and Charges relating to the Quambatook Caravan Park and Road Opening Permits, to commence from 16 November 2023.

CARRIED

Cr Burt left the room at 6.11pm

7.5 2023 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM - COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2023 Community Grants program saw 43 applications submitted totalling \$173,900.68. Of these applications 14 were for Community Events and 29 were for Community Support. A summary of the submissions is detailed below:

Funding category	Number of applications received	Total Amount requested
Community Events	14	\$53,325
Community Support	29	\$120,575.68

An assessment process has been undertaken for both categories (Community Support and Community Events), with independent assessments completed by a cross-departmental panel, taking into consideration the responses to the essential criteria, evidence provided to support applications, as well as history of previous funding received through the program. From this,

Council officers have developed the attached recommendations for funding that are within Council's budget for the program.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jane Ogden

Seconded: Cr Travis Collier

1. That Council endorse the allocation of the 2023 Community Grants – Community Support category, totalling \$65,454.05 to the 19 projects as attached.
2. That Council endorse the suggested allocation of \$3,000 in funding support be referred to the Community Resilience Committee for consideration of funding as part of the Flood Recovery Program.
3. That Council endorse officers to undertake a review of the Community Grant guidelines to determine funding criteria for the 2024 program.

CARRIED

Cr Burt returned to the room at 6.14pm.

7.6 QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT - QUARTER ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At 30 September 2023 Council is anticipating an underlying result deficit of \$1.166 million, this is \$0.303 million improvement on the budget. Income shows a favourable variance of \$1.725m and there is a \$1.422m unfavourable variance for expenditure YTD. The budgeted Operating Result of \$30.298 million surplus will decrease by \$13.87 million to an anticipated Operating Result of \$16.428 million surplus. This decrease is due to the deferral of grant income anticipated to be recognised into 2023/24.

Council's Capital Works program is progressing with an anticipated variation in scheduled works of \$13.396 million. The adopted capital budget for 2023/24 is \$38.691 million and it is expected to decrease to \$25.295 million by 30 June 2024. This decrease is due to the reduction in expected expenditure due to secondary assessment of initial Rapid Impact Assessment of flood works.

The financial position of the Council remains stable.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Charlie Gillingham

Seconded: Cr Kelvin Burt

That Council receive and note the report outlining the 2023/2024 Quarterly Budget Report as at 30 September 2023.

CARRIED

8 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

9 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

10 QUESTION TIME

Author	Question	Response
Wesley	Can you please inform me the number of fines Council has issued for overstaying the time limit in Victoria St, Kerang and 1 hour parking in the Plaza Car Park, Kerang, as both are sign posted?	Council have not issued any infringement notices for parking in the past 12 months. Local Laws have taken a proactive approach in educating the public with reoccurring media around parking restrictions and consultation with local traders.
Sarah	I live in Victoria St, Kerang about a 5 minutes' walk away and it's really just so dark to walk on the footpath that you can't see where you're going, and I have stumbled a few times on the path. Is there any way to get some lights on that dark road because it's scary, you can't see anything even if someone is waking around. And it's not just me but there are many older people that live around me too?	If you believe additional lighting is required, you can make a request to Council and officers will assess the area and consider the works are part of a future Capital Budget bid. Request can be made on Council's website.
Sarah	That fire station in Kerang with its overbearing siren that is so loud surely something needs to be done about it please. Other towns don't have the same loud sirens, why do we have to put up with it?	The management and responsibility of Township Fire Stations sirens are the responsibility of the Country Fire Authority (CFA). Council has passed this concern onto the CFA on your behalf and requested if a Siren is still required. And if not, could the CFA consider alternate measures.

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
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 6.32pm.

The Minutes of this Meeting were confirmed at the Meeting of the Gannawarra Shire Council held on 20 December 2023.

Mayor Ross Stanton
CHAIRPERSON