



**GANNAWARRA**  
*Shire Council*

## **Council Meeting**

# **MINUTES**

**Wednesday, 28 June 2023**

**10:00am**

**Senior Citizens Centre**

**Kerang**

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**Order Of Business**

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**MINUTES OF GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCIL  
COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT THE SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE, KERANG  
ON WEDNESDAY, 28 JUNE 2023 AT 10:00AM**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Cr Charlie Gillingham (Mayor)</b>	<b>Avoca Ward</b>
	<b>Cr Jane Ogden (Deputy Mayor)</b>	<b>Patchell Ward</b>
	<b>Cr Travis Collier</b>	<b>Patchell Ward</b>
	<b>Cr Ross Stanton</b>	<b>Murray Ward</b>
	<b>Cr Garner Smith</b>	<b>Yarran Ward</b>
	<b>Cr Keith Link</b>	<b>Yarran Ward</b>

**IN ATTENDANCE:**    **Chief Executive Officer  
Manager Governance**

**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**

Cr Kelvin Burt was noted as an apology.

**4      CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**RESOLUTION**

Moved:    Cr Ross Stanton

Seconded: Cr Travis Collier

**That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17 May 2023 be confirmed.**

**CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION**

Moved:    Cr Ross Stanton

Seconded: Cr Jane Ogden

**That Council close the meeting to members of the public in accordance with Section 66(1) and 66(2) of the Local Government Act 2020 to allow for consideration of confidential information.**

**CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Ross Stanton

Seconded: Cr Travis Collier

**That Council move out of Closed Council into Open Council.**

**CARRIED**

**5 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Cr Charlie Gillingham declared a General Conflict of Interest in relation to Item 12.1.

Cr Jane Ogden declared a General Conflict of Interest in relation to Item 12.1.

Cr Garner Smith declared a General Conflict of Interest in relation to Item 7.4.

## **6 BRIEFING SESSIONS**

### **6.1 RECORDS OF COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS - 11 MAY TO 20 JUNE 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 Ross Stanton

**That Council note the records of Councillor Briefings 11 May to 20 June 2023.**

**CARRIED**

## **7 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION**

### **7.1 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE - 9 MAY 2023 MEETING**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) met on Tuesday, 9 May, 2023. The focus of the ARC meeting was to review the progress on the financial position of the Council through the Quarterly Budget Report, the Fees and Charges and Proposed Budget. The progress on the external audit through the VAGO Audit Strategy for 2022/2023 was discussed, as were other reports related to governance, compliance and risk management matters.

#### **RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Garner Smith

Seconded: Cr Travis Collier

**That Council receive and note the summary of the discussions of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held 9 May 2023.**

**CARRIED**

## 7.2 ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED 2023/2024 BUDGET

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has prepared the Proposed Annual Budget 2023/2024 in accordance with Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act). After actioning the Communications Plan, feedback was received from four people for the Proposed Budget 2023/2024 which are presented for consideration.

### RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ross Stanton

Seconded: Cr Jane Ogden

**That Council having advertised the Proposed Annual Budget 2023/2024 and having considered all feedback received in respect of such Budget, resolves;**

1. To adopt as presented the Gannawarra Shire Council Annual Budget 2023/2024 for the purpose of Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, with the following adjustments:
  - 1.1 Capital Works – Carry over projects that are already funded with this component of the works to be completed in 2023/2024 rather than 2022/2023 for:-
    - ICT – Joint Council Asset Management Software grant \$250k
  - 1.2 Operating Income - Adjustments to the following income items for:-
    - Rates and Charges – increased supplementary valuations which have increased the rates income by \$146k for 2023/24 based on a 3.50% rate increase;
    - Reduction in operating grants due to anticipated early payment of Federal Assistance Grants annual allocation for 2023/24 in June 2023 \$1.433m. This is offset by an increase in operating grants for 2022/23;
    - Deferral of recognition of ICT – Joint Council Asset Management Software grant \$250k in line with project delivery in 2023/24;
    - Removal of L2P grant funding \$50k in line with Council decision in March 2023 to decline further extension of this program;
  - 1.3 Operating Expenditure - Adjustments to the following expenditure items for:-
    - Removal of L2P expenditure \$59k in line with Council decision in March 2023 to decline further extension of this program;
2. That \$15,203,000 be declared as the amount which Council intends to raise by general rates (or annual service charge later described in this resolution), which amount is calculated as follows:

General Rates	\$11,884,000
Municipal Charge	\$654,000
Waste & Recyclables Collection	\$2,665,000
3. That a General Rate be declared for the period commencing on 1 July, 2023 and concluding on 30 June, 2024.
4. That it be further declared that, subject to paragraph 5 of this Part, the General Rate be raised by the application of a uniform rate.
5. That a percentage of 0.4520% be specified as the percentage of the uniform rate (which percentage may be alternatively expressed as 0.004520 cents in the \$). At the time of

preparing this report, Council was still awaiting finalisation of supplementary valuations on flood affected properties. This will affect the calculation of the rates in the dollar for the purposes of rates compliance with the Essential Services Commission.

6. That it be confirmed that the General Rate for all rateable land within the municipal district be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of each rateable land by that percentage (so that the amount payable be 0.004520 cents in the \$ of the Capital Improved Value).
7. That it be recorded that Council considers that a differential rate will provide equitable distribution of the rate burden across all levels of the community.

7.1 That a differential rate be declared for that rateable land having the characteristics specified below which will form the criteria for the differential rate so declared:

7.1.1 Dryland Farm Rate to apply to all properties which satisfy the meaning of 'farm land' as defined in the Valuation of Land Act 1960 and which are not in declared irrigation districts.

7.1.2 Irrigation District Farm Rate to apply to all properties which satisfy the meaning of 'farm land' as defined in the Valuation of Land Act 1960 and which are greater than 10HA in declared irrigation districts.

7.1.3 Commercial/Industrial land is any land which is:-

- Occupied for the principal purpose of carrying out the manufacture or production of, or trade in, goods or services; or
- Unoccupied but zoned commercial or industrial under the Gannawarra Planning Scheme.

7.2 That the differential rate be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of the rateable land categorised in 7.1 by the percentage indicated on the following table:

Dryland Farm	0.1642%
Irrigation District Farm	0.3097%
Commercial/Industrial	0.4773%
Cultural and Recreational	0.2260%

7.3 It be further recorded that the objectives of the differential rate is to provide equitable distribution of the rate burden across all levels of the community.

8. That an annual service charge be declared for the period commencing on 1 July, 2023 and concluding on 30 June, 2024;

8.1 That the annual service charge be declared for the waste, recycling or resource recovery services within the municipal district;

8.2 That the annual service charge be the sum of \$660 per 240 litre domestic garbage bin and 240 litre recycling service and \$460 per 120 litre domestic garbage bin and 240 litre recycling service for each rateable property (or part) in respect of which an annual service charge may be levied within the Shire and where a service is available and \$660 per 240 litre domestic garbage bin and 240 litre recycling service and \$460 per 120 litre domestic garbage bin and 240 litre recycling service

- for each residential property (or part) in respect of which an annual service charge may be levied for properties within the townships of Kerang, Cohuna, Leitchville, Koondrook, Quambatook, Murrabit, Mystic Park and Lalbert; and
- 8.3 That the following criteria be the criteria which forms the basis of the annual service charge so declared:
- 8.4 That the annual service charge apply to each rateable residential property other than vacant land within the townships listed above and other properties by agreement and that where more than one bin is required, the charge be based on the above charges multiplied by the number of bins.
- 8.5 That the annual service charge be the sum of \$95 per 240 litre domestic green waste bin for each rateable property (or part) in respect of which an annual service charge may be levied within the Shire where the service is provided.
9. That an annual municipal charge be declared for the period commencing 1 July, 2023 and concluding on 30 June, 2024;
- 9.1 That the annual municipal charge be declared for the provision of Council administrative support services within the Shire of Gannawarra;
- 9.2 That the annual municipal charge be the sum of \$100 for each property in respect of which an annual municipal charge may be levied; and
- 9.3 That the following criteria be the criteria which forms the basis of the annual municipal charge so declared - that the annual municipal charge apply to each rateable property within the Shire of Gannawarra.
10. That the rates and charges must be paid:
- 10.1 In full by 15 February, 2024; or
- 10.2 By four equal instalments by the following dates: 2 October, 2023, 30 November, 2023, 29 February, 2024 and 31 May, 2024.
11. That in accordance with Section 172 of the Local Government Act 1989, the rate of interest which is payable on the rates and charges which have not been paid on or before the dates specified is currently set at 10% per annum from the date the rates and charges are declared.
12. In accordance with Section 4(4) of the Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963, that the rate for all rateable properties within the municipal district that meet the definition of cultural and recreation land be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of each rateable land by 50% of the general rate percentage so that the amount payable be 0.002260 cents in the \$ of the Capital Improved Value.
13. The Director Corporate Services of Council be authorised to levy and recover the general rates and annual service charges described earlier in this resolution in



accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

**14. That Council adopts the Capital Works Plan for 2023/2024.**

**15. That Council respond to the feedback provided to the Proposed Budget 2023/2024.**

**CARRIED**

### **7.3 COUNCIL POLICY REVIEW**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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

- Policy No. 092 – Councillor Allowances and Support
- Policy No. 107 – Public Interest Disclosure

#### **RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Travis Collier

Seconded: Cr Garner Smith

**That Council endorse the following reviewed policies:**

- 1. Policy No. 092 – Councillor Allowances and Support; and**
- 2. Policy No. 107 – Public Interest Disclosure.**

**CARRIED**

Cr Garner Smith left the room at 10:20am.

#### **7.4 PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATION P23005**

##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report is being presented to Council to determine a planning application for the use and development of the land for a 2,000 standard cattle unit (SCU) beef cattle feedlot in accordance with the endorsed plans at 602 Mead Road, Macorna North.

The application was advertised to surrounding property owners and occupiers and five written objections were received.

The proposal is considered to be appropriate for the site and consistent with the provisions of the Gannawarra Planning Scheme. The application has therefore been recommended for approval.

##### **RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Ross Stanton

Seconded: Cr Keith Link

**That Council lay this item on the table until the next meeting.**

**CARRIED**

Cr Garner Smith returned to the room at 10:21am.

#### **7.5 2023 LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY**

##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Held annually, the optional State-wide Community Satisfaction Survey (CCS) ask the opinions of local people about where they live and work, and provides participating Councils with an insight into how they are performing.

Conducted by Local Government Victoria (LGV), this survey assesses the performance of councils across a range of measures and provides insight into the ways to provide improved or more efficient service delivery. The survey also provides councils with a means to fulfil some statutory reporting requirements for the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.

The report found that Council's overall performance has not changed from the 2022 survey, whilst improvements have occurred in categories relating to consultation/engagement, lobbying and community decisions. However, responses relating to sealed local road maintenance and enforcement of local laws declined compared to the 2022 survey.

##### **RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Keith Link

Seconded: Cr Garner Smith

**That Council note the results of the 2023 Community Satisfaction Survey for Gannawarra Shire Council.**

**CARRIED**

**8 URGENT BUSINESS**

Nil

**9 NOTICES OF MOTION**

Nil

**10 QUESTION TIME**

Author	Question	Response
Wesley	When is Council going to enforce 2 hour parking in Victoria Street Kerang and 1 hour parking in the plaza car park Kerang, as both sign posted?	Officers will patrol the restricted parking areas and issue fines where necessary. In addition, media will be sent out asking shop owners/occupiers to be mindful of the works occurring in Victoria Street and to seek alternative parking to ensure customers are able to find suitable parking

**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 meeting to which they are the appointed delegate.

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## **12 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

### **MOTION**

Moved: Cr Jane Ogden

Seconded: Cr Ross Stanton

**That Council close the meeting to members of the public in accordance with Sections 66(1) and 66(2) of the Local Government Act 2020 to allow for consideration of confidential information.**

**CARRIED**

### **RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Travis Collier

Seconded: Cr Keith Link

**That Council moves out of Closed Council into Open Council.**

**CARRIED**

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### **RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Garner Smith

Seconded: Cr Keith Link

**That Council**

- 1. Cease the delivery of Community Care services by 31 October 2023 including;**
  - (a) Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP)**
  - (b) State Home and Community Care Program for Younger People (HACC-PYP)**
  - (c) Veterans Home Care (VHC)**
  - (d) Brokered Services**
  - (e) Gannawarra Non-Emergency Transport Service (GNETS)**
  - (f) Transport Accident Commission (TAC)**
  - (g) National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)**
  - (h) Workcover;**
  - (i) Regional Assessment Service (RAS);**
- 2. Commits to working with the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments to transition out effectively ensuring the interests of clients, carers, families, staff, and the broader community are maintained;**
- 3. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer, or their nominee, to undertake or commission all tasks and activities related to the implementation of this Council decision including advising staff and the community of the decision where required and including the extension of service delivery beyond 31 October 2023 where clients have not been successfully transitioned to another service provider.**
- 4. That this decision no longer be confidential.**

**CARRIED**

**The Meeting closed at 11:28am.**

**The Minutes of this Meeting were confirmed at the Meeting of the Gannawarra Shire Council held on 19 July 2023.**

**Mayor Charlie Gillingham**  
**CHAIRPERSON**