



GANNAWARRA
Shire Council

Council Meeting

MINUTES

Wednesday, 20 September 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, 20 SEPTEMBER 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 Garner Smith	Yarran Ward

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

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Mayor Charlie Gillingham read the Acknowledgement of Country.

2 OPENING DECLARATION

The Deputy Mayor read the Opening Declaration.

3 APOLOGIES

Cr Keith Link was noted as an apology.

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Travis Collier

Seconded: Cr Kelvin Burt

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16 August 2023 be confirmed.

CARRIED

5 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil

6 BRIEFING SESSIONS

6.1 RECORDS OF COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS - 9 AUGUST TO 12 SEPTEMBER 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 Jane Ogden

Seconded: Cr Ross Stanton

That Council note the records of Councillor Briefings 9 August to 12 September 2023.

CARRIED

7 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION

7.1 CHRISTMAS CLOSURE 2023

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 2:00 pm Friday, 22 December 2023 and re-open on Tuesday, 2 January 2024.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Travis Collier

Seconded: Cr Kelvin Burt

That Council:

- 1. Acknowledge the closure of Council offices to the public over the Christmas/New Year period from 2:00pm on Friday 22 December 2023 through to and including Monday 1 January 2024, with business resuming as usual on Tuesday 2 January 2024.**
- 2. Advertise the office closure in the local newspaper, website, and social media.**

CARRIED

7.2 PETITION - REQUEST TO COMPLETE REPAIRS TO UNNAMED ROAD CONNECTING PRATT ROAD TO ROBERTSON ROAD / WEST ROAD AND GRADING ON AN ANNUAL BASIS**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A petition requesting Council to complete repairs to unnamed road connecting Pratt Road to Robertson Road / West Road and undertake grading annually was tabled at the August 2023 Council Meeting.

Officers have reviewed the petition request and recommend an alternative proposal aimed at enhancing accessibility for larger vehicles in the area by utilising Pratt Road, which is presently under the management and maintenance of the Council.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ross Stanton

Seconded: Cr Kelvin Burt

That Council:

- 1. Resolves to retain the status of the unnamed road connecting Pratt Road to Robertson Road / West Road as unmaintained.**
- 2. Request Council officers explore an alternative proposal to enhance accessibility for larger vehicles in the area utilising Pratt Road, in consultation with adjacent landowners and the individuals who have endorsed the petition.**
- 3. Give the road a grade to add camber and slope, avoiding native vegetation removal or damage to culverts, providing this work does not expose Council to any legal liabilities.**

CARRIED

7.3 2023 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2023 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 2023. The audit position is unqualified at this stage and is subject to consideration by the Auditor-General.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Garner Smith

Seconded: Cr Kelvin Burt

That Council:

- 1. Acknowledge that the 'in principle' 2023 Financial Statements, and 'in principle' 2023 Performance Statement have been presented to and endorsed by the Audit and Risk Committee at its meeting on 12 September 2023.**
- 2. Approve the 'in principle' 2023 Financial Statements and 'in principle' 2023 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' 2023 Financial Statements, and 'final statement' 2023 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

7.4 COUNCIL POLICY REVIEW - NO. 132 CHILD SAFE

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 policy that have been recently reviewed:

- Policy No. 132 – Child Safe

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jane Ogden

Seconded: Cr Travis Collier

That Council endorse the following reviewed policy:

- 1. Policy No. 132 – Child Safe**

CARRIED

7.5 GOVERNANCE RULES REVIEW

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council is required to develop, adopt and keep in force Governance Rules, pursuant to Section 60 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act). The Governance Rules also incorporate Council's Election Period Policy.

The Governance Rules were last reviewed and endorsed by Council at the August 2022 Council meeting. Since then, a number of required changes have been identified. These changes are presented to Council for final endorsement after a period of community engagement.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Garner Smith

Seconded: Cr Ross Stanton

That Council:

- 1. Revoke Gannawarra Shire Council's Governance Rules, adopted by Council on 17 August 2022.**
- 2. Adopt Gannawarra Shire Council Governance Rules as presented and attached to this report.**

CARRIED

7.6 CONTRACT G05-2023 FLOOD RECOVERY WORKS PACKAGE 4 AND 5

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In October and November 2022, the Gannawarra Shire experienced a major flood event, which caused significant damage to Council's infrastructure.

This report seeks to appoint a contractor for G05-2023 Flood Recovery Works Package 4 & 5, to a lump sum contract, as part of a series of package of works contracts to complete the full scope of road rehabilitation works. This will allow Council to complete the critical public infrastructure rehabilitation works necessary to reinstate its road network to pre-disaster condition.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ross Stanton

Seconded: Cr Kelvin Burt

That Council Award contract G05-2023 Flood Recovery Works Package 4 & 5 to Northern Constructions (Aust) Pty Ltd for the lump sum amount, not subject to rise and fall, of \$1,046,807.88 excluding GST.

CARRIED

7.7 CONTRACT G06-2023 FLOOD RECOVERY WORKS PACKAGE 6 AND 7**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In October and November 2022, the Gannawarra Shire experienced a major flood event, which caused significant damage to Council's infrastructure.

This report seeks to appoint a contractor for G06-2023 Flood Recovery Works Package 6 and 7, to a lump sum contract, as part of a series of package of works contracts to complete the full scope of road rehabilitation works. This will allow Council to complete the critical public infrastructure rehabilitation works necessary to reinstate its road network to pre-disaster condition.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Garner Smith

Seconded: Cr Jane Ogden

That Council award contract G06-2023 Flood Recovery Works Package 6 and 7 to Harril Pty Ltd for the lump sum amount, not subject to rise and fall, of \$86,540 excluding GST.

CARRIED

7.8 CONTRACT G07-2023 FLOOD RECOVERY WORKS PACKAGE 8 AND 9**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In October and November 2022, the Gannawarra Shire experienced a major flood event, which caused significant damage to Council's infrastructure.

This report seeks to appoint a contractor for G07-2023 Flood Recovery Works Package 8 and 9, to a lump sum contract, as part of a series of package of works contracts to complete the full scope of road rehabilitation works. This will allow Council to complete the critical public infrastructure rehabilitation works necessary to reinstate its road network to pre-disaster condition.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jane Ogden

Seconded: Cr Travis Collier

That Council award contract G07-2023 Flood Recovery Works Package 8 and 9 to Harril Pty Ltd for the lump sum amount, not subject to rise and fall, of \$307,180.00 excluding GST.

CARRIED

7.9 CONTRACT G08-2023 FLOOD RECOVERY WORKS PACKAGE 10,11 AND 12

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In October and November 2022, the Gannawarra Shire experienced a major flood event, which caused significant damage to Council's infrastructure.

This report seeks to appoint a contractor for G08-2023 Flood Recovery Works Package 10, 11 and 12 to a lump sum contract, as part of a series of package of works contracts to complete the full scope of road rehabilitation works. This will allow Council to complete the critical public infrastructure rehabilitation works necessary to reinstate its road network to pre-disaster condition.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ross Stanton

Seconded: Cr Kelvin Burt

That Council ward contract G08-2023 Flood Recovery Works Packages 10, 11 and 12 to Harril Pty Ltd for the lump sum amount, not subject to rise and fall, of \$986,884.10 excluding GST.

CARRIED

7.10 CONTRACT G09-2023 FLOOD RECOVERY WORKS PRIORITY PACKAGE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In October and November 2022, the Gannawarra Shire experienced a major flood event, which caused significant damage to Council's infrastructure.

This report seeks to appoint a contractor for G09-2023 Flood Recovery Works Priority Package, to a lump sum contract, as part of a series of package of works contracts to complete the full scope of road rehabilitation works. This will allow Council to complete the critical public infrastructure rehabilitation works necessary to reinstate its road network to pre-disaster condition.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ross Stanton

Seconded: Cr Kelvin Burt

That Council award contract G09-2023 Flood Recovery Works Priority Package to RECivil Pty Ltd for the lump sum amount, not subject to rise and fall, of \$681,909.62 excluding GST.

CARRIED

8 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

9 NOTICES OF MOTION

9.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - 88

MOTION

Moved: Cr Garner Smith

Seconded: Cr Kelvin Burt

Given that the ongoing benefits to the Gannawarra community of the proposed VNI west interconnector are negligible, the Gannawarra council support for this project is dependent on the electricity generated by the renewable energy projects within Gannawarra Shire being supplied to Gannawarra residents and businesses at the feed in Tariff.

AMENDMENT

Moved: Cr Ross Stanton

Seconded: Cr Jane Ogden

That Council explore and develop the opportunities to increase local access to locally produced renewable energy through community benefit sharing arrangements and micro grid facilities with individual renewable energy developers, either directly or in partnership with retailers, through local Power Purchase Agreements, behind the meter arrangements, or retail offerings.

CARRIED

Cr Smith called for a division:

In Favour: Crs Ross Stanton, Travis Collier, Jane Ogden, Kelvin Burt and Charlie Gillingham

Against: Cr Garner Smith

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ross Stanton

Seconded: Cr Jane Ogden

That Council explore and develop the opportunities to increase local access to locally produced renewable energy through community benefit sharing arrangements and micro grid facilities with individual renewable energy developers, either directly or in partnership with retailers, through local Power Purchase Agreements, behind the meter arrangements, or retail offerings.

CARRIED

80 QUESTION TIME

Nil

91 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.

102 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil

The Meeting closed at 7:04pm.

The Minutes of this Meeting were confirmed at the Meeting of the Gannawarra Shire Council held on 18 October 2023.

Mayor Charlie Gillingham

CHAIRPERSON