



GANNAWARRA
Shire Council

Council Meeting

MINUTES

Wednesday, 21 February 2024

6:00 PM

Senior Citizens Centre

Kerang

Order Of Business

1	Acknowledgement of Country	3
2	Opening Declaration.....	3
3	Apologies	3
4	Confirmation of Minutes	3
5	Declaration of Conflict of Interest	3
6	Briefing Sessions.....	4
6.1	Records of Councillor Briefings - 13 December 2023 to 6 February 2024.....	4
7	Business Reports for Decision	5
7.1	Quarterly Budget Report - Quarter Ending 31 December 2023	5
7.2	2024 Council Meeting Dates	6
7.3	CARE Partnership Statement of Commitment	6
7.4	Council Stormwater Drainage Report	7
8	Urgent Business.....	7
9	Notices of Motion 90.....	8
9.1	Notice of Motion 90	8
10	Question Time.....	9
11	Delegates Reports	12
11.1	Delegates Reports	12
12	Confidential Items	12

**MINUTES OF GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE, KERANG
ON WEDNESDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 6:00 PM**

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive Officer
Manager Governance

Gallery: 2

Media:0

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor read the Welcome to 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 Travis Collier

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20 December 2023 be confirmed.

CARRIED

5 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil

6 BRIEFING SESSIONS

6.1 RECORDS OF COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS - 13 DECEMBER 2023 TO 6 FEBRUARY 2024

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 Keith Link

That Council note the records of Councillor Briefings 13 December 2023 to 6 February 2024.

CARRIED

Unconfirmed Minutes

7 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION

7.1 QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT - QUARTER ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The financial position of the Council remains stable.

Income shows a forecasted variance of (\$3.503m) and a \$1.504m variance for expenditure. The budgeted Operating Result of \$30.298 million surplus will decrease by \$15.751 million to an anticipated Operating Result of \$14.547 million surplus. This decrease is due to the deferral of grant income anticipated to be recognised into 2023/24 and reduced capital grants for flood works.

Council's Capital Works program is progressing with an anticipated variation in scheduled works of \$12.629 million. The adopted capital budget for 2023/24 is \$38.691 million and it is expected to decrease to \$26.062 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.

At 31 December 2023 Council is anticipating an underlying result deficit of \$3.468 million. Taking into account the \$3.4m advance payment of the Victorian Grants Commission that was recognised in 2022/23, Council's 30 June 2024 underlying result would reduce to a \$0.068 deficit.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the report outlining the 2023/2024 Quarterly Budget Report as at 31 December 2023

Cr Garner Smith moved an amendment to the original recommendation as follows:

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Garner Smith

Seconded: Cr Keith Link

That Council

- 1. Lay this matter on the table until the next Council meeting;**
- 2. Request a report, at the next council meeting, with the quarterly financial report, on the financial effect of ceasing Community Care Services including all actual and forecast reduction in income and all actual and forecast reduction in expenses, including employee costs, for the current financial year.**

CARRIED

7.2 2024 COUNCIL MEETING DATES

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.

Subsequent to the adoption of the 2024 meeting schedule it was identified the November meeting would fall during a caretaker period and a deferred date should be considered by Council.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Travis Collier

Seconded: Cr Kelvin Burt

That Council adopt the amended date for the November Council meeting as 27 November 2024.

CARRIED

7.3 CARE PARTNERSHIP STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has been an active member of the Loddon Mallee Collective Action for Respect and Equality (CARE) partnership since the partnership was first established in 2021. Women's Health Loddon Mallee has recently reviewed the CARE Partnership Statement of Commitment and are seeking Council's recommitment to the CARE partnership. Gender based violence continues to have a real impact on the lives of Gannawarra residents

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jane Ogden

Seconded: Cr Travis Collier

That Council reaffirm Gannawarra Shire Council's commitment to the Women's Health Loddon Mallee Collective Action for Respect & Equality (CARE) Partnership.

CARRIED

7.4 COUNCIL STORMWATER DRAINAGE REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A series of recent storm events delivered 70 per cent of the region's annual rainfall during December 2023 and January 2024. This resulted in widespread urban inundation of road networks, with some residences and businesses impacted, and was declared an emergency event by the Federal Government.

Council budgets annually for capital drainage improvements, this is supplemented by an operational budget to carry out routine maintenance throughout its 71 km network Shire wide.

A number of opportunities for improvements have been identified and will form a program of works to alleviate urban flooding from storm events. Council Officers preparing this report have presented a list of projects to be incorporated into Council long term financial plan.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Kelvin Burt

Seconded: Cr Keith Link

That Council receive and note the stormwater drainage report outlining the events of the December 2023/January 2024 period.

CARRIED

8 URGENT BUSINESS

The Mayor received a letter from Cr Jane Ogden advising that she intends to take a Leave of Absence from 1st March, 2024 for a period of 3 months for personal reasons.

The Mayor advised Council and the leave of absence request was approved.

9 NOTICES OF MOTION 90

9.1 NOTICE OF MOTION 90

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Keith Link

Seconded: Cr Garner Smith

That Council write to VCAT to voice Council's disappointment with the time taken to make a decision on the 'Orr's Road Free Range Piggery' hearing which will now not proceed.

CARRIED

Unconfirmed Minutes

10 QUESTION TIME

Name	Thomas Findlay
Address	Kerang
Question 1	
What is Council doing about the lack of town storm water drainage.	
ANSWER	
Council officers have been collating data following these rain events to identify locations where improvements can possibly be implemented to reduce the impacts of future events. A draft list of projects has been developed to be incorporated into Council's long term financial plan.	
Question 2	
What is the funding limit from Council to repair storm water drainage.	
ANSWER	
Council has a funding allocation in the Capital Works budget. The current financial year stormwater network and town pumping renewal has an allocation of \$274,000 and kerb & channel replacement has an allocation of \$174,000.	
Each year Council has an operational allocation for drainage cleaning and maintenance. The current financial year has an allocation of \$490,000.	

Name	Deb Findlay
Address	Kerang
Question 1	
Is the housing Development being approved in Redgum Drive. If so, where does their stormwater go.	
ANSWER	
Future expansions of redgum estate must comply with a number of conditions, which include stormwater storage and discharge and Council is currently in discussions for acquiring the GMW drain.	
Plans for the next stage of development have not been approved.	
Question 2	
Why can't the South End of Kerang have a pipe run direct to the river?	
ANSWER	
Council officers have been collating data following these rain events to identify locations where improvements can possibly be implemented to reduce the impacts of future events. A draft list of	

projects has been developed to be incorporated into Council's long term financial plan and is presented as part of tonight's Council agenda.

Some of these projects target the southern end of Kerang, including investigating the possibility of installing a pipe under the Murray Valley Highway into the current GMW drain which Council is in the process of acquiring.

Name	Amanda Gibbon
Address	Kerang
Question 1	
<p>What is the forward plan and finish by dates for ALL Kerang township drain / gutter systems to be fixed to ensure heavy rain waters flow quickly away and not have all households' indoor drains gurgling with flood waters rising up to their doors as most insurance will not payout on rising waters, which Kerang seems to have.</p>	
ANSWER	
<p>Council officers have been collating data following these rain events to identify locations where improvements can possibly be implemented to reduce the impacts of future events. A draft list of projects has been developed to be incorporated into Council long term financial plan. A proposed plan of works is before Council at the Council meeting tonight.</p>	
Question 2	
<p>What was or is planned for the railway dam on Mokana Street and Canonsgate Avenue that is now filled up with water and will be breeding mosquitoes by the time the council meets on 21st February 2024.</p> <p>Or have you already placed fish into it to keep the breeding to a minimum? Or arranged to have organic stuff added to kill of the mozzie problem?</p>	
ANSWER	
<p>The old railway dam is utilized to capture the overflow of stormwater during heavy rain events and is being used as a retention basin.</p> <p>The railway dam has now been drawn down to reduce the level of water in readiness for a future rain event and to remove the hazard of retaining excess water attracting mosquitoes.</p>	

Name	Denis Robinson
Address	Kerang
Question 1	
<p>When can residents of Wise Street, Rosella Court, Redgum Drive, Marne Street and Mitchell Street expect to see a major upgrade to their storm water drainage system.</p>	

ANSWER

Council currently has a draft plan of improvements to alleviate flooding in a number of areas of the stormwater network including Wise Street, Rosella Court, Redgum Drive, Marne Street and Mitchell Street.

A commencement date of works cannot be given until the plans are finalized and funding is allocated in future capital works.

Question 2

What auxiliary pumping preparations will be activated to clear storm water flooding in Wise Street, Rosella Court, Redgum Drive, Marne Street and Mitchell Street in the event of heavy rainfall in the immediate future.

ANSWER

Council has purchased additional large capacity trailer mounted pumps to assist in removing stormwater in heavy rain events.

Name	Caroline
Address	Kerang

Question 1

I would like to know if the Gannawarra Shire is going to consider either cleaning out the drains or find a solution to the flooded street, 3 times since Christmas Day.

ANSWER

Maintenance cleaning of sections of Council's 71 km drainage network is conducted each year in response to observed problems and customer inquiries.

Council most recently completed drain cleaning in December 2023 this was followed up by further cleaning in January 2024. A report to Council at tonight's Council meeting outlines the future work program funded under the Capital Works budget.

91 DELEGATES REPORTS

11.1 DELEGATES REPORTS

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

Councillors gave verbal updates on attendance at meetings to which they are appointed.

12 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil

The Meeting closed at 6.53pm.

The Minutes of this Meeting were confirmed at the Meeting of the Gannawarra Shire Council held on 20 March 2024.

Mayor Ross Stanton

CHAIR