



GANNAWARRA
Shire Council

Council Meeting

MINUTES

Wednesday, 26 June 2024

6:00 PM

Kerang Senior Citizen Community Rooms

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**MINUTES OF GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE KERANG SENIOR CITIZEN COMMUNITY ROOMS, KERANG
ON WEDNESDAY, 26 JUNE 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 Travis Collier	Patchell Ward
Cr Garner Smith	Yarran Ward
Cr Keith Link	Yarran Ward

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Chief Executive Officer**
- Director Corporate Services**
- Executive Assistant to Chief Executive Officer**

Gallery: 1

Media: 0

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor read the Acknowledgment to Country.

2 OPENING DECLARATION

The Deputy Mayor read the Opening Declaration.

3 APOLOGIES

Cr Kelvin Burt – Patchell Ward

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Travis Collier

Seconded: Cr Charlie Gillingham

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15 May 2024 be confirmed.

CARRIED

5 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Charlie Gillingham in Item 7.2 – Community Grants Program – Dot point 1,2,5.

Cr Jane Ogden in Item 7.2 – Community Grants Program – Dot point 1.

Cr Ross Stanton on Item 7.2 – Community Grants Program – Dot point 3.

6 BRIEFING SESSIONS

6.1 RECORDS OF COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS - 10 MAY 2024 TO 4 JUNE 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 Jane Ogden

Seconded: Cr Travis Collier

That Council note the records of Councillor Briefings 10 May 2024 to 4 June 2024.

CARRIED

7 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION

7.1 ADOPTION OF THE 2024/2025 BUDGET AND FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has prepared the 2024/2025 Annual Budget (the Budget), in accordance with Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act). The Budget seeks to achieve the actions and activities set out in the Council Plan by balancing the demand for services and infrastructure with the community's capacity to pay.

The proposed increase in rate revenue for the 2024/2025 financial year is 2.75% in line with the order by the Minister for Local Government under the Fair Go Rates System.

A key financial performance indicator for the budget is that there is an underlying result of \$389k surplus. This means Council is showing a small surplus in the operating budget and sufficient funds are available for asset renewal.

There are no new borrowings, the indebtedness ratio is 3.45%, the asset renewal ratio is 263.95%.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Keith Link

Seconded: Cr Charlie Gillingham

That Council

1. Adopt the 2024/2025 Budget, having advertised the proposed budget, having received and reviewed feedback;
2. Adopt the 2024/2025 Fees and Charges Schedule, having advertised the draft fees and charges schedule, having received and reviewed feedback;
3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to change Council's 2024/2025 Fees and Charges Schedule where statutory fees and charges are altered by the State Government.

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

Against: Crs Keith Link and Garner Smith

THE ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION BECAME THE MOTION AND WAS CARRIED

ALTERNATE MOTION

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Garner Smith

Seconded: Cr Keith Link

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

That Council

1. Adopt the 2024/2025 Budget, having advertised the proposed budget, having received and reviewed feedback;
2. Adopt the 2024/2025 Fees and Charges Schedule, having advertised the draft fees and

- charges schedule, having received and reviewed feedback;
3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to change Council's 2024/2025 Fees and Charges Schedule where statutory fees and charges are altered by the State Government.
 4. Request a report at the August Council meeting on:
 - a. The net savings forecast in this budget due to exiting Community Care Services (CCS) compared to the 2022/2023 financials.
 - b. How much of the cost of exiting CCS is being paid back in this budget and the projections for future budgets
 - c. the source of all monies used to pay all employee entitlements and redundancies due to exiting CCS.

LOST

That Council agree to adjourn the meeting at 6.08pm and reconvened at 6.12pm.

Cr Ross Stanton advised that Cr Ogden's Point of Order would stand and he would not allow the last 3 dot points of Cr Smith's Alternate Motion as it is not relevant to business on the Agenda.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Moved: Cr Garner Smith

Cr Garner Smith moved a Motion of Dissent in the Mayor's ruling. The Mayor's ruling will read that the Mayor's ruling to disallow as I have read and distributed as per below be included in the minutes and is reversed and the motion is accepted as a motion:

That Council

1. Adopt the 2024/2025 Budget, having advertised the proposed budget, having received and reviewed feedback;
2. Adopt the 2024/2025 Fees and Charges Schedule, having advertised the draft fees and charges schedule, having received and reviewed feedback;
3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to change Council's 2024/2025 Fees and Charges Schedule where statutory fees and charges are altered by the State Government.
4. Request a report at the August Council meeting on:
 - a. The net savings forecast in this budget due to exiting Community Care Services (CCS) compared to the 2022/2023 financials.
 - b. How much of the cost of exiting CCS is being paid back in this budget and the projections for future budgets
 - c. the source of all monies used to pay all employee entitlements and redundancies due to exiting CCS.

In Favour: Crs Keith Link and Garner Smith

Against: Crs Charlie Gillingham, Ross Stanton, Travis Collier and Jane Ogden

LOST

7.2 2024 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

In accordance with Council's Governance Local Law 2011, a motion was moved by Cr Jane Ogden, seconded by Cr Charlie Gillingham, that In accordance with section 73(3) of the Local Government Act 1989, Council appointed Cr Travis Collier as acting Chair for Item 7.2.

Cr Collier assumed the role as Acting Chair at 6.33pm.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2024 Community Grants program saw 37 applications submitted totalling \$171,374.10.

A group panel assessment process has been undertaken consisting of representation from a range of service areas of Council. This assessment process took 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 of funding that are within Council's budget for the program.

At 6.33pm, Cr Jane Ogden and Cr Charlie Gillingham left the meeting.

RESOLUTION**Moved: Cr Ross Stanton****Seconded: Cr Keith Link**

That Council:

1. Endorse funding of \$4,570.90 from the 2024 Community Grants Program to Northern District Community Health;

CARRIED

At 6.35pm, Cr Jane Ogden returned to the meeting.

RESOLUTION**Moved: Cr Jane Ogden****Seconded: Cr Garner Smith**

That Council:

2. Endorse funding of \$1,145.90 from the 2024 Community Grants Program to Kerang Lakes Community Development Group;

CARRIED

At 6.37pm, Cr Charlie Gillingham returned to the meeting.

At 6.37pm, Cr Ross Stanton left the meeting.

RESOLUTION**Moved: Cr Jane Ogden****Seconded: Cr Charlie Gillingham**

That Council:

3. Endorse funding of \$5,000 from the 2024 Community Grants Program to Murrabit Advancement Association Inc;

CARRIED

At 6.39pm, Cr Ross Stanton returned to the meeting.

RESOLUTION**Moved: Cr Charlie Gillingham****Seconded: Cr Garner Smith**

That Council:

4. Endorse a total of \$39,023.40 for the remaining recommended projects within the 2024 Community Grants Program, as per the attachment;

CARRIED

At 6.40pm, Cr Charlie Gillingham left the meeting.

RESOLUTION**Moved: Cr Jane Ogden****Seconded: Cr Ross Stanton**

That Council:

5. Endorse the recommended allocation of \$71,715.00 in funding support to be referred to the Community Resilience Committee for consideration of funding as part of the Flood Recovery Program;

CARRIED

At 6.42pm, Cr Charlie Gillingham returned to the meeting.

RESOLUTION**Moved: Cr Ross Stanton****Seconded: Cr Keith Link**

That Council:

6. Write to all applicants confirming the outcome of the Community Grants Program;

CARRIED**RESOLUTION****Moved: Cr Ross Stanton****Seconded: Cr Keith Link**

That Council:

7. Display a list of the grant recipients on Councils website.

CARRIED

Cr Travis Collier vacated the Chair at 6.43pm where Cr Ross Stanton, Mayor resumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

7.3 2024 COUNCIL MEETING DATE

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 once the caretaker period dates were released for the upcoming Local Government Elections that the September Council meeting would fall during caretaker period and another earlier date should be considered by Council.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Travis Collier

Seconded: Cr Charlie Gillingham

That Council adopt the amended date for the September Council meeting as 16 September 2024.

CARRIED

7.4 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE - 7 MAY 2024 MEETING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) met on Tuesday, 7 May 2024. The agenda included reports related to financial, governance, compliance, and risk management matters.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Garner Smith

Seconded: Cr Charlie Gillingham

That Council receive and note the summary of the discussions of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held 7 May 2024.

CARRIED

In accordance with Council's Governance Local Law 2011, a motion was moved by Cr Travis Collier and seconded by Cr Jane Ogden, that In accordance with section 73(3) of the Local Government Act 1989, Council appointed Cr Charlie Gillingham as acting Chair for Item 7.5 – Review of Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy.

Cr Stanton vacated the chair at 6.52pm and Cr Gillingham assumed the role as Acting Chair at 6.52pm.

7.5 REVIEW OF GANNAWARRA AQUATIC STRATEGY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Notice of Motion 92, endorsed at the May Council Meeting sought a review of the Aquatic Strategy in relation to the timing of delivery of the new and upgraded aquatic facilities in Kerang and Cohuna. The projects timing has been altered, noting the \$80,000 in the 2024/2025 budget to support the development of concept designs, and the need for Council to seek external funding for the delivery of structural designs and a business case before a clear understanding of cost to deliver and operate the facilities is known.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ross Stanton

Seconded: Cr Jane Ogden

That Council:

1. Adopt the revised Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy;
2. Seek funding to undertake detailed design and business cases for the three identified aquatic projects at Cohuna and Kerang.

ALTERNATE MOTION

Moved: Cr Keith Link

Seconded: Cr Garner Smith

That Council agree that Item 7.5 – Review of Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy lay on the table, and will not be further discussed at this meeting but will be re-considered at the Council meeting scheduled to be held on 17 July, 2024.

In Favour: Crs Keith Link and Garner Smith

Against: Crs Charlie Gillingham, Ross Stanton, Travis Collier and Jane Ogden

LOST

THE ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION BECAME THE MOTION AND WAS CARRIED

7.6 COUNCIL POLICY NO. 150 - FAIR ACCESS POLICY AND ACTION PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sport is a highly visible and valued feature of Gannawarra Shire's culture and identity. The sport and recreation sector provides opportunities for enriching our communities through the promotion of respect and fair mindedness for all people, whilst also supporting the physical and mental wellbeing of all Victorians.

The Fair Access Policy is to respond to the Victorian Government's Fair Access Policy Roadmap, which seeks to address known barriers experienced by women and girls in accessing and using community sports infrastructure.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jane Ogden

Seconded: Cr Travis Collier

That Council:

1. Endorse Draft Policy No. 150 – Fair Access Policy for community feedback from 27 June 2024 until 22 July 2024, and;
2. Endorse the accompanying Fair Access Action Plan for community feedback from 27 June 2024 until the 22 July 2024.

CARRIED

7.7 COUNCIL POLICY NO. 148 - FLAGS REVIEW

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A revised Policy No.148 Flags and Community Flag schedule addresses feedback from the community regarding the flying of flags outside of Council buildings. This includes feedback from the Kerang Elders and Emerging Leaders Group regarding the flying of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island flags at half-mast outside of Council buildings.

The report also addresses community responses to a recommendation presented at the April 2024 Council Meeting for the Rainbow Flag to be flown on Council-managed flagpoles on the International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersex discrimination, and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) annually as a statement of solidarity and inclusivity towards the LGBTQIA+ community.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Travis Collier

Seconded: Cr Jane Ogden

That Council:

1. Adopt the reviewed Policy No. 148 – Flags and the Community Flag Schedule.

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

Against: Crs Keith Link and Garner Smith

CARRIED

8 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

9 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

10 QUESTION TIME

Nil

11 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

12 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil

The Meeting closed at 7.29pm.

The Minutes of this Meeting were confirmed at the Meeting of the Gannawarra Shire Council held on 17 July 2024.

**Mayor Ross Stanton
CHAIRPERSON**