



GANNAWARRA
Shire Council

Council Meeting

MINUTES

Wednesday, 19 February 2025

6:00 PM

Senior Citizens Centre

Kerang

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**MINUTES OF GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE, KERANG
ON WEDNESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 6:00 PM**

PRESENT: Cr Garner Smith - Mayor
Cr Ross Stanton - Deputy Mayor
Cr Daniel Bolitho
Cr Lisa Farrant
Cr Keith Link
Cr Pat Quinn
Cr Charlie Gillingham

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive Officer
Executive Assistant to Chief Executive Officer

Gallery: 3

Media: 1

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Acknowledgement of Country vide was played.

2 OPENING DECLARATION

Cr Lisa Farrant read the Opening Declaration.

3 APOLOGIES

Nil

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Keith Link

Seconded: Cr Pat Quinn

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18 December 2024 be confirmed.

CARRIED

5 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil

6 BRIEFING SESSIONS

6.1 RECORDS OF COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS - 14 DECEMBER 2024 TO 12 FEBRUARY 2025

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 Ross Stanton

Seconded: Cr Daniel Bolitho

That Council note the records of Councillor Briefings from 14 December 2024 to 12 February 2025.

CARRIED

7 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION

7.1 QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT - QUARTER ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council continues to focus on long-term sustainability and working to build a foundation to support our community's needs well into the future, whilst navigating current financial challenges.

Council's projected income forecast shows a variance of \$0.319 million, while expenditure reflects a forecasted variance of \$3.026 million. The budgeted Operating Result of \$20.696 million surplus will decrease by \$9.576 million to an anticipated Operating Result of \$11.121 million surplus. This decrease is generated by flood funding expenditure carried over to 2024/25 as well as capital income reduced on multiyear projects transferred to 2025/26 for completion.

Council's Capital Works program is progressing with an anticipated variation in scheduled works of \$7.708 million. The adopted capital budget for 2024/25 is \$29.158 million and it is expected to decrease to \$21.450 million by 30 June 2025. This decrease is due to multiyear projects carried over to facilitate completion of these major project in 2025/26.

As of 31 December 2024, Council is anticipating an underlying result deficit of \$2.318 million.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Charlie Gillingham

Seconded: Cr Keith Link

That Council receive and note the report outlining the 2024/2025 Quarterly Budget Report as at 31 December 2024.

CARRIED

7.2 QUAMBATOOK RECREATION RESERVE FEATURE NAMING REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Proposal to name the unnamed feature located at the Quambatook Recreation Reserve in accordance with the commemorative naming proposal received from the Quambatook Community Development Association community group. The report provides the recommendation on geographic feature naming.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Charlie Gillingham

Seconded: Cr Ross Stanton

That Council:

1. Names the unnamed access track (lane) feature at Quambatook Recreation Reserve as Norma Way, nominated by the Quambatook community group via the naming proposal.

CARRIED

7.3 ROAD ADDITION TO COUNCIL'S PUBLIC ROAD REGISTER REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Proposal to add the road to the road register and approve expenditure to maintain the road at the appropriate standard to enable the provision of primary access to the new / existing residential properties. The report provides the recommendation and the evidence to demonstrate the need for access by the general public / community.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ross Stanton

Seconded: Cr Lisa Farrant

That Council:

1. Endorse the proposed action to add the 360-metre segment of the road (Main Street in Koondrook) to the Council's Road Register to formalise the road as an Unsealed Access-Major Road.

CARRIED

7.4 ASSETS RATIONALISATION REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This asset rationalisation proposal aims to support the sustainability of key Council services. The report evaluates vacant land and properties owned by the Council and seeks Councillors' interest in disposing of the identified properties via a publicly transparent process in consideration of the outcomes of the community engagement.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the Chief Executive Officer to proceed with the following proposed rationalisation of Council Assets to:

1. Dispose of the Quambatook Units (QUA001) building asset (at 9-11 Guthrie Street, Quambatook) and the associated land (LOTS 1&2 TP113426 (CA PT33&PT34) & LOTS 1-3 TP113502 (CA PT33&PT34&PT37) PARISH OF QUAMBATOOK) via the open market / competitive property sale process.
2. Permanently suspend the Kerang Saleyards on-site cattle sales service and identify feasible rationalisation options for the Kerang Sale Yards (KER010) asset located at 9 Markets Road, Kerang, along with the associated land LOT 2 PS437856 (CA PT7A & PT7B SEC 1) in the Parish of Kerang.
3. Dispose of the Vacant Block of residential land at 2 Patterson Street in Quambatook (LOT 2 PS17887 CA PT2 SEC 2 PARISH OF QUAMBATOOK) via the open market / competitive property sale process.
4. Dispose of the end-of-life Quambatook Senior Citizens Hall (QUA003) building asset (at 4 Olive Street, Quambatook) and the associated land (LOTS 5&6 BLOCK 2 PS3901 CA PT2 SEC 2 PARISH OF QUAMBATOOK) via the open market / competitive property sale process.

LOST

RESOLUTION**Moved: Cr Daniel Bolitho****Seconded: Cr Ross Stanton**

That Council

1. Endorse the Chief Executive Officer to proceed with the proposed rationalisation of Council Assets to permanently suspend the Kerang Saleyards on-site cattle sales service and identify feasible rationalisation options for the Kerang Sale Yards (KER010) asset located at 9 Markets Road, Kerang, along with the associated land LOT 2 PS437856 (CA PT7A & PT7B SEC 1) in the Parish of Kerang;
2. Endorse the Chief Executive Officer to proceed with the proposed rationalisation of Council Assets to dispose of the Vacant Block of residential land at 2 Patterson Street in Quambatook (LOT 2 PS17887 CA PT2 SEC 2 PARISH OF QUAMBATOOK) via the open market / competitive property sale process;
3. Request a report in six months' time, at the August 2025 Council meeting, to consider proceeding with the rationalisation of Council assets to dispose of the Quambatook Units (QUA001) building asset (at 9-11 Guthrie Street, Quambatook) and the associated land (LOTS 1&2 TP113426 (CA PT33&PT34) & LOTS 1-3 TP113502 (CA PT33&PT34&PT37) PARISH OF QUAMBATOOK) via the open market / competitive property sale process; and
4. Request a report in six months' time, at the August 2025 Council meeting, to consider proceeding with the rationalisation of Council assets to dispose of the end-of-life Quambatook Senior Citizens Hall (QUA003) building asset (at 4 Olive Street, Quambatook) and the associated land (LOTS 5&6 BLOCK 2 PS3901 CA PT2 SEC 2 PARISH OF QUAMBATOOK) via the open market / competitive property sale process.

CARRIED**THE ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION WAS LOST AND THE NEW MOTION WAS CARRIED**

7.5 DRAFT COUNCIL POLICY NO. 98 - ASSET NAMING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council Policy No. 98 – Asset Naming governs the process when selecting, approving or assigning names for roads, features and localities in the Gannawarra Shire municipality. 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:

- Council Policy No. 98 – Asset Naming

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Pat Quinn

Seconded: Cr Daniel Bolitho

That Council:

1. Endorse the Chief Executive Officer to proceed to engage the community in consultation regarding the proposal to adopt the following draft Council Policy No. 98 – Asset Naming.

CARRIED

7.6 POLICY NO. 102 - COMMUNITY GRANTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council officers undertake regular reviews of Council policies to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and that they are reflective of current practices. This report provides a reviewed version of Council Policy No.102 Community Grants for Council endorsement.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ross Stanton

Seconded: Cr Charlie Gillingham

That Council:

1. Endorse the revised Policy No 102 Community Grants.

CARRIED

7.7 POLICY NO. 092 - COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES AND SUPPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This policy supports councillors and members of delegated committees to perform their role, as defined in the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act), by ensuring that expenses reasonably incurred in the performance of their role are reimbursed.

This policy also provides guidance on:

- allowances
- entitlements
- processes for reimbursement
- reporting requirements.

The policy is intended to ensure that councillors and members of delegated committees are supported to perform their duties without disadvantage.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Charlie Gillingham

Seconded: Cr Daniel Bolitho

That Council adopt Policy No 092 Councillor Allowances and Support.

CARRIED

7.8 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) provides for councils to establish Community Asset Committees for the purpose of managing community assets within the municipality and requires the CEO to submit an annual report to Council in relation to the activities and performance of Community Asset Committees.

This report relates to the activities and performance of Quambatook Caravan Park Community Asset Committee and the Community Halls Community for 2023/24.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Daniel Bolitho

Seconded: Cr Charlie Gillingham

That Council receives and notes the report on activities and performance of the following Community Asset Committees:

1. Quambatook Caravan Park Community Asset Committee; and
2. Community Halls Community Asset Committee.

CARRIED

7.9 DELEGATION UPDATE - COUNCIL TO MEMBERS OF COUNCIL STAFF

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Gannawarra Shire Council has functions and duties which it must perform and powers which it may exercise, pursuant to the *Local Government Act 1989* (the 1989 Act), the *Local Government Act 2020* (the 2020 Act) as well as a range of other Acts and regulations. Legislation referred to in the attached instrument of delegation provides for Council to delegate certain powers, duties or functions to members of staff rather than having all functions and duties dealt with by Council resolution.

Delegations are regularly reviewed to reflect changes in legislation, regulations and Council's organisational structure.

This report addresses delegations to members of Council staff.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ross Stanton

Seconded: Cr Keith Link

That Council, in the exercise of the powers conferred by the legislation referred to in the attached instrument of delegation, resolves:

1. To delegate to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in the attached *Instrument of Delegation to Members of Staff*, the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument.
2. That the instrument comes into force immediately when signed by the Chief Executive Officer.
3. On the coming into force of the instrument all previous delegations to members of Council staff (other than the Chief Executive Officer) are revoked.
4. That the duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.

CARRIED

7.10 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING - 12 DECEMBER, 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) met on 12 December 2024. The agenda included reports related to financial, governance, compliance, and risk management matters including the 2024 annual financial and performance statements. This report provides a summary of the meeting discussions and outcomes and tables the Biannual Report in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the ARC Charter.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ross Stanton

Seconded: Cr Charlie Gillingham

That Council:

1. Receive and note the summary of the discussions of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held 12 December 2024; and
2. Receive and note the Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report.

CARRIED

7.11 G13-2024 GANNAWARRA URBAN STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN & DRAINAGE STUDY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council officers have sought tenders to deliver a comprehensive study of the Kerang township drainage infrastructure and to develop an Urban Storm Water Management Plan (USWMP) for the municipality to ensure compliance with the Environment Protection Act 2017 (Vic).

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Daniel Bolitho

Seconded: Cr Keith Link

That Council:

1. Award contract G13-2024 for development of the Gannawarra Urban Stormwater Management Plan to MakerENG Pty Ltd for the lump sum amount of \$89,250.00 excluding GST, not subject to rise and fall;
2. Award contract G13-2024 for the Kerang Drainage Study to MakerENG Pty Ltd for the lump sum amount of \$183,100.00 excluding GST, not subject to rise and fall.

CARRIED

8 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

9 NOTICES OF MOTION

9.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - 95 - INCONTINENCE BINS IN ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC TOILETS

RESOLUTION

I, Councillor Keith Link, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on 19 February 2025, I intend to move the following motion:-

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Keith Link

Seconded: Cr Pat Quinn

That Council:

1. Introduce one incontinence product disposal bin for a trial period of three months in an accessible public toilet block at the following locations:
 - Kerang Atkinson Park Public Toilet
 - Kerang RSL Drive Public Toilet
 - Kerang Scoresby St Public Toilet
 - Kerang Patchel Plaza Public Toilet
 - Cohuna Gateway Public Toilet
 - Cohuna Apex Park Public Toilet
 - Cohuna Ski Run Public Toilet
 - Koondrook All Abilities Playground Public Toilet, and
 - Leitchville Swimming Pool Public Toilet.
2. Provide a report to Councillors at a future Ordinary Council Meeting after the said three months to allow consideration of the impact of the trial and an appropriate budget allocation in forward budgets.

CARRIED

AMENDMENT TO THE ORIGINAL MOTION

Moved: Cr Gillingham

Seconded: Cr Stanton

That Council:

1. Introduce one incontinence product disposal bin for a trial period of three months in an accessible public toilet block at the following locations:
 - Kerang Atkinson Park Public Toilet
 - Cohuna Gateway Public Toilet
2. Provide a report to Councillors at a future Ordinary Council Meeting after the said three months.

LOST

THE AMENDMENT TO THE ORIGINAL MOTION WAS LOST AND THE ORIGINAL MOTION CARRIED

In Favour: Crs Charlie Gillingham and Ross Stanton

Against: Crs Pat Quinn, Daniel Bolitho, Lisa Farrant, Keith Link and Garner Smith

LOST

9 QUESTION TIME

Name	Andrea
Address	Koroop

Question 1

Over the new year, GSC made a decision to close the pool for 2 weeks instead of the usual 1 week. The impact on me was significant, I lost 40% of my fitness and have only recently regained that.

Given GSC first community priority is around wellbeing, I ask why GSC would choose to disadvantage some of the most vulnerable members of our community in this way, and how will GSC improve this going forward?

ANSWER:

Annually the Kerang Exercise Pool is closed over the Christmas/New Years break to enable the pool water quality to improve and any minor maintenance to occur, due to the high usage that the pool has during the year. As the facility is of a domestic design, with such a high attendance, it is important for the sustainability of the pool and service, that these short breaks are undertaken to enable Council to meet its legislative responsibilities as a public swimming pool operator.

Question 2

My second question is around the GSC Diversity policy.

Given people living in the Koondrook community don't have adequate footpaths to safely navigate a trip to the shops along a very busy road. I am interested to understand how the diversity policy is applied to people living with disability and what tangible outcomes can be shown from a disability perspective.

ANSWER:

Council's Diversity Policy focuses on supporting and encouraging diversity in the community. There are many constraints in delivering services across the municipality and Council strives to work with its partner agencies in delivering projects and services to strengthen wellbeing within Gannawarra. In relation to access to footpaths, Gannawarra has a large network of transport assets such as roads, footpaths and walking tracks to maintain, with limited resources to develop new assets. Without external funding Council is limited in delivering new footpaths in Koondrook and is currently working with the Koondrook Development Committee on local priorities for future development and funding.

11 DELEGATES REPORTS

11.1 DELEGATES REPORTS

COUNCILLOR COMMITTEES 2024/2025	
COMMITTEE	COUNCILLOR
Murray River Group of Councils (MRGC)	Cr Garner Smith, Mayor
Loddon Campaspe Group of Councils (LCGC)	Cr Garner Smith, Mayor
Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA)	Cr Daniel Bolitho
Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee (MFMPC)	Cr Lisa Farrant
Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC)	Cr Lisa Farrant
Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)	Cr Ross Stanton
Audit and Risk Committee (ARC)(x 2)	Cr Garner Smith Cr Ross Stanton
Transport Committee including Rail Freight Alliance	Cr Pat Quinn
Rural Councils Victoria (RCV)	Cr Charlie Gillingham
Timber Towns Victoria (TTV)	Cr Pat Quinn
Community Halls Community Asset Committee	Cr Keith Link

Councillors reported on the activities within their portfolios.

12 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil

The Meeting closed at 7.07pm

The Minutes of this Meeting were confirmed at the Meeting of the Gannawarra Shire Council held on 19 March 2025.

Cr Garner Smith
MAYOR

CONFIRMED MINUTES