

Council Meeting

Minutes

Date: Wednesday 26 June 2024

Venue: Civic Centre (Council Meeting Room)
13 Mair Street, Benalla

In accordance with Rule 6.4 of the *Governance Rules 2020* the Council Meeting was livestreamed via the Council's website and an audio recording was made of the proceedings.

Members of the public are encouraged to watch the live broadcast of the meeting at www.benalla.vic.gov.au

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Minutes

Chair	Councillor Danny Claridge (Mayor)	
Councillors	Councillor Peter Davis	
	Councillor Don Firth	
	Councillor Bernie Hearn	
	Councillor Punarji Hewa Gunaratne	
	Councillor Justin King	
	Councillor Gail O'Brien	
In attendance	Dom Testoni	Chief Executive Officer
	Robert Barber	General Manager Corporate
	Cathy Fitzpatrick	Manager Finance
	Adrian Gasperoni	Manager Assets and Infrastructure
	Tom Arnold	Community Development and Recreation Coordinator
	Jess Pendergast	Governance Coordinator

Opening and Acknowledgment of Country

The Chair opened the meeting at 5.30pm and recited the following Acknowledgement of Country.

We, the Benalla Rural City Council, acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we are meeting. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and to Elders from other communities who may be here today.

Apologies

No apologies were submitted to the meeting.

Councillor Punarji Hewa Gunaratne requested a leave of absence from 1 August 2024 to 31 August 2024.

Cr Hearn / Cr King:

That a leave of absence be granted to Cr Punarji Hewa Gunaratne form 1 August 2024 to 31 August 2024.

Carried

Statement of Commitment

The Councillors recited the following Statement of Commitment:

I declare,

that as a Councillor of Benalla Rural City

I will undertake on every occasion

to carry out my duties in the best interests of the community

and that my conduct shall maintain the standards of our Councillor Code of Conduct

so that I may faithfully represent

and uphold the trust placed in the Council

by the people of Benalla and District.

Governance Matters

The Council Meeting was conducted in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Benalla Rural City Council Governance Rules 2020*.

Recording of Council Meetings

In accordance with Rule 6.4 of the *Governance Rules 2020* the Council Meeting was livestreamed via the Council's website and an audio recording was made of the proceedings and made available for public access, with the exception of matters identified as confidential items in the agenda.

Disclosures of Conflict of Interest

See items 2.1, 4.4 and 9.1.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes were circulated to Councillors and posted on the Council website www.benalla.vic.gov.au pending confirmation at the meeting.

Cr Davis / Cr Hearn:

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 29 May 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Carried

1. Public Question Time

It is recorded that Grace Beer tabled the below question.

If the State government promotes exclusion of a minority again (as in 2020-2022), where will our local government Council stand?

Cr Davis / Cr Hearn:

That standing orders be suspended to allow for discussion on the item.

Carried

Standing orders were suspended at 5.35pm.

Cr Hearn / Cr King:

That standing orders resume.

Carried

Standing orders resumed at 5.37pm.

The Mayor answered that Council will continue to comply with Government legislation of the day.

Cr Hearn / Cr Firth:

That the question and answer be noted.

Carried

It is noted that Councillor Justin King declared a material conflict of interest and left the meeting at 5.38pm.

2. Petitions

2.1 The Council to Include Squash Courts in the *Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment Project*

A petition containing 615 signatories was received requesting the Council include six squash courts in the *Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment Project*.

Cr Hearn / Cr O'Brien:

1. That the petition be received.

2. That a report be presented to the Finance and Planning Committee.

Carried

Councillor Justin King returned to the meeting at 5.39pm.



Record of Committees

3.1 Recommendations from Finance and Planning Committee

The recommendations of the Finance and Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 19 June 2024 were presented.

Cr Hearn / Cr Davis:

That the recommendations of the Finance and Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 19 June 2024 be adopted.

Carried

3.2 Assemblies of Councillors, Advisory and External Committees

Under Council's *Governance Rules 2020* the Chief Executive Officer is required to provide a written record of the Assemblies of Councillors at a scheduled Council Meeting.

The record of Assemblies of Councillors, Advisory and External Committees was presented.

May 2024

8 May 2024	Communications Advisory Committee Meeting
8 May 2024	Assembly of Councillors – Business Review
13 May 2024	Benalla Street Art Advisory Committee Meeting
21 May 2024	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting

June 2024

3 June 2024	Benalla Local Safety and Traffic Liaison Committee Meeting
5 June 2024	Communications Advisory Committee Meeting
5 June 2024	Assembly of Councillors – Business Review
12 June 2024	Assembly of Councillors – Business Review

Cr Hearn / Cr King:

That the report be noted.

Carried

Officer Reports

4.1 Benalla Rural City Council 2024/2025 Budget

The report presented the *2024/25 Budget* for adoption.

The *2024/25 Budget* is based on sound financial principles, prudent debt management and responsible asset management.

As detailed in the *2024/25 Budget*, the Council continues to face challenges to its long-term financial sustainability. Rate capping, the escalation of costs for materials and services, ageing infrastructure and the changing nature of government funding all put at risk the financial sustainability of small rural councils and their ability to meet community expectations for new and improved infrastructure and services.

To address the Council’s underlying deficit position, service delivery will continue to be examined to identify efficiencies, other levels of government will be advocated to increase funding and other potential revenue sources explored, including ongoing residential development and the attraction of business and industry to expand and vary Benalla Rural City’s rate base.

Cr Davis / Cr King:

1. Adoption of the *2024/25 Budget*

That the Council:

- having considered the results of the community engagement undertaken by Council, the *2024/2025 Budget* presented to this meeting be adopted by Council in accordance with section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
- note the *2024/25 Budget* also incorporates a Budget for the 2025/2026, 2026/2027 and 2027/2028 Financial Years.

2. Fees and Charges

- That each of the fees, charges and penalties referred to in the Schedule of Fees of Charges (the Schedule) contained in the Budget be fixed in the respective amounts specified in the Schedule.

3. Declaration of Rates and Charges

Amount Intended to be Raised:

An amount of \$23,041,000 (or such greater amount as is lawfully levied as a consequence of this Recommendation being adopted) be declared as the amount which Council intends to raise by general rates, the municipal charge and the waste management charge (described later in this Recommendation), which amount is calculated as follows:

General Rates	\$15,790,000
Municipal Charge	\$2,250,000
Waste Management Charge	\$4,534,000

4. General Rates

- 4.1 That the Council declare a general rate in respect of the 2024/2025 Financial Year.**
- 4.2 That the Council further declared that the general rate be raised by the application of differential rates.**
- 4.3 That the differential rate be respectively declared for rateable land having the respective characteristics specified below, which characteristics will form the criteria for each differential rate so declared.**
- 4.3.1 Residential Land (Benalla)**
Any land which is:
- a) used or adapted to being used primarily for residential purposes; and
 - b) located within the Benalla urban area.
- 4.3.2 Residential Land (Rural Township)**
Any land which is:
- a) used or adapted to being used primarily for residential purposes; and
 - b) located outside the Benalla urban area in an area zoned TZ (Township Zone) or LDRZ (Low Density Residential Zone) under the Benalla Planning Scheme.
- 4.3.3 Business Land**
Any land which is:
- a) used or adapted to being used primarily for commercial or industrial purposes; and
 - b) not Rural Land – Farmland.
- 4.3.4 Vacant Land (Benalla)**
Any land:
- a) on which no habitable building is erected; and
 - b) which is located within the Benalla urban area.
- 4.3.5 Vacant Land (Rural Township)**
Any land:
- a) on which no habitable building is erected; and
 - b) is located outside the Benalla urban area in an area zoned TZ (Township Zone) or LDRZ (Low Density Residential Zone) under the Benalla Planning Scheme.
- 4.3.6 Rural Land – Non-Farming**
Any land which is:
- a) not Rural Land – Farmland; and
 - b) located in an area zoned RLZ (Rural Living Zone), FZ (Farm Zone), RCZ (Rural Conservation Zone) or UFZ (Urban Floodway Zone) under the Benalla Planning Scheme.
- 4.3.7 Rural Land – Farmland**
Any land which is:
- a) not less than 2 hectares in area; and
 - b) used primarily for the business of grazing (including agistment), dairying, pig-farming, poultry farming, fish farming, tree farming, bee-keeping, viticulture, horticulture, fruit growing, the growing of crops of any kind or combination of any such activities.

4.4 Differential rate will be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of each rateable land (categorised by the characteristics described in paragraph 4.3 of this Resolution) by the relevant percentages indicated in the following table:

Property Category	Cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value
Residential (Benalla)	0.003314
Residential (Rural Township)	0.002589
Business properties	0.005406
Vacant Land (Benalla)	0.004821
Vacant Land (Rural Township)	0.002405
Rural Land (Non-Farming)	0.002416
Rural Land (Farmland)	0.001893

4.5 considers that each differential rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of Council functions, and that:

4.5.1 the respective objectives of each differential rate be those specified in the Schedule to this Resolution; and

4.5.2 the respective types or classes of land which are subject to each differential rate be those defined in the Schedule to this Resolution; and

4.5.3 the respective uses and levels of each differential rate in relation to those respective types or classes of land be those described in the Schedule to this Resolution; and

4.5.4 The relevant:

a) uses of;

b) geographical locations of;

c) planning scheme zoning of; and

d) types of building on

the respective types or classes of land be those identified in the Schedule to this Resolution.

4.6 Confirm that no amount is fixed as the minimum amount payable by way of general rate in respect of each rateable land within the municipal district.

4.7 In accordance with Section 4(1) of the *Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963*, the amount of rates payable in respect of each of the rateable lands to which that Act applies be determined by having regard to the services provided by Council in relation to such lands and having regard to the benefit to the community derived from such recreational lands. This amount shall be 0.003853 multiplied the Capital Improved Value of that rateable land.

5. Municipal Charge

5.1 That the Council declare a Municipal Charge in respect of the 2024/2025 Financial Year.

5.2 That the Municipal Charge be declared to cover some of the Council’s administrative costs.

5.3 That the Municipal Charge be in an amount of \$277.50 for each rateable property within the municipal district.

6. Waste Management Charge

- 6.1 That the Council declare a waste management charge in respect of the 2024/2025 Financial Year.**
- 6.2 That the waste management charge be declared for the collection and disposal of refuse, and be levied in respect of all rateable land within the municipal district.**
- 6.3 That the waste management charge be in the sum of, and be based on the criteria, specified below:**

Type of Receptable Made Available for Provision of Service	Per Rateable Property
Urban Areas	
80 lt Organic - 80 lt Waste with Recycle	\$412.50
120 lt Organic - 80 lt Waste with Recycle	\$456.00
240 lt Organic - 80 lt Waste with Recycle	\$549.00
80 lt Organic - 120 lt Waste with Recycle	\$503.00
120 lt Organic - 120 lt Waste with Recycle	\$595.00
240 lt Organic - 120 lt Waste with Recycle	\$685.50
80 lt Organic - 240 lt Waste with Recycle	\$777.50
120 lt Organic - 240 lt Waste with Recycle	\$867.50
240 lt Organic - 240 lt Waste with Recycle	\$959.50
Rural Areas	
80 lt Waste with Recycle	\$412.50
120 lt Waste with Recycle	\$595.00
240 Waste with Recycle	\$959.50
Additional Collection Options	
Additional Bin - Organic	\$272.00
Additional Bin - Waste	\$217.50
Additional Bin – Recycle	\$232.50
Weekly Collection – Waste	\$239.00
Weekly Collection - Recycle	\$197.00

7. Incentive

That no incentive be declared for the early payment of the general rates, municipal charge or waste management charge previously declared.

8. Extra Instalment Options

That the Council may, in addition to payment quarterly on the dates specified in section 167 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, by further Resolution, specify other options as to the manner in which the general rates, Municipal Charge and waste management charge may be paid.

9. Consequential

- 9.1 That it be recorded that the Council requires any person to pay interest on any amounts of rates and charges which:**
 - 9.1.1 that person is liable to pay; and**
 - 9.1.2 have not been paid by the date specified for their payment,**
- such interest to be calculated in accordance with section 172(2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*.**

- 9.2 That the General Manager Corporate be authorised to levy and recover the general rates, municipal charge and waste management charge in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* and *Local Government Act 2020*.
10. That all submitters on the proposed *2024/25 Budget* be written to thanking them for their submission and advising of the Council's decision to adopt the *2024/25 Budget*.
11. That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to effect minor administrative and wording changes to the *2024/25 Budget* if required.

A division of the vote was called.

Votes recorded in favour of the motion:

Councillor Danny Claridge

Councillor Peter Davis

Councillor Don Firth

Councillor Bernie Hearn

Councillor Justin King

Councillor Gail O'Brien

Votes recorded against the motion:

Councillor Punarji Hewa Gunaratne

The motion was **carried**.

The Schedule

Residential (Benalla)

Objective: The objective of this differential rate is to ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council, including (but not limited to) the:

- construction and maintenance of infrastructure assets
- development and provision of health and community services
- provision of general administration and support services.

Types and Classes:

Any land which is:

- used or adapted to being used primarily for residential purposes; and
- located within the Benalla urban area.

Use and Level of Differential Rate:

- The money raised by the differential rate will be applied to the items of expenditure described in the Budget. The level of the differential rate is the rate that Council considers is necessary to achieve the objectives specified above.

Geographic Location:

- Situated in the Benalla urban area.

Use of Land:

- Any residential use permitted under the Benalla Planning Scheme.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

- The characteristics of planning scheme zoning are applicable to the determination of land which will be subject to the rate applicable this category. The zoning applicable to each rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the Benalla Planning Scheme, will be LDRZ – Low Density Residential Zone, GRZ – General Residential Zone, UFZ – Urban Floodway Zone or MUZ – Mixed Use Zone. Residences established in other zones with existing non-conforming rights or planning approval are also eligible for inclusion in this category.

Types of Buildings:

- The types of buildings on the land within this differential rate are all buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to the expiry of the 2024/25 financial year.

**Residential (Rural Township)**

Objective: The objective of the Residential (Rural Township) differential rate is that the reduced benefits received by the lower density properties.

Types and Classes:

Any land which is:

- used or adapted to being used primarily for residential purposes; and
- located outside the Benalla urban area in an area zoned TZ (Township Zone) or LDRZ (Low Density Residential Zone) under the Benalla Planning Scheme.

Use and Level of Differential Rate:

- The money raised by the differential rate will be applied to the items of expenditure described in the Budget. The level of the rate for land in this category is considered to provide for an appropriate contribution to Council's budgeted expenditure, having regard to the characteristics of the land.
- The level of the differential rate is the rate that Council considers is necessary to achieve the objectives specified above.

Geographic Location:

- Situated in a Rural Township location.

Use of Land:

- Any residential use permitted under the Benalla Planning Scheme.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

- The characteristics of planning scheme zoning are applicable to the determination of land which will be subject to the rate applicable to this category. The zoning applicable to each rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the Benalla Planning Scheme, will be TZ – Township Zone or LDRZ – Low Density Residential Zone. Residences established in other zones with existing non-conforming rights or planning approval are also eligible for inclusion in this category.

Types of Buildings:

- The types of buildings on the land within this differential rate are all buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to the expiry of the 2024/25 financial year.

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Business

Objective: The objective of the Business differential rate is to recognise the benefits derived by this class of property, including higher infrastructure investment and general support services.

Types and Classes:

Any land which is:

- used or adapted to being used primarily for commercial or industrial purposes; and
- not Rural Land – Farmland.

Use and Level of Differential Rate:

- The money raised by the differential rate will be applied to the items of expenditure described in the Budget. The level of the differential rate is the rate that Council considers is necessary to achieve the objectives specified above.

Geographic Location:

- Wherever located in the municipal district.

Use of Land:

- Any business use permitted under the Benalla Planning Scheme.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

- The characteristics of planning scheme zoning are applicable to the determination of land which will be subject to the rate applicable to this category. The zoning applicable to each rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the Benalla Planning Scheme will be, C1Z – Commercial 1 Zone, C2Z – Commercial 2 Zone, IN1Z – Industrial 1 Zone, IN2Z – Industrial 2 Zone, TZ – Township Zone, IN3Z – Industrial 3 Zone or MUZ – Mixed Use Zone. Businesses established in other zones (i.e. GRZ – General Residential Zone) with existing non-conforming rights or planning approval are also eligible for inclusion in this category.

Types of Buildings:

- The types of buildings on the land within this differential rate are all buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to the expiry of the 2024/25 financial year.

**Vacant Land (Benalla)**

Objective: The objective of the Vacant Land (Benalla) is to encourage development of this class of land.

Types and Classes:

Any land;

- on which no habitable building is erected; and
- which is located within the Benalla urban area.

Use and Level of Differential Rate:

- The money raised by the differential rate will be applied to the items of expenditure described in the Budget. The level of the rate for land in this category is considered to provide for an appropriate contribution to Council's budgeted expenditure, having regard to the characteristics of the land.
- The level of the differential rate is the rate that Council considers is necessary to achieve the objectives specified above.

Geographic Location:

- Situated in the Benalla urban area.

Use of Land:

- Any use permitted under the Benalla Planning Scheme.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

- The characteristics of planning scheme zoning are applicable to the determination of land which will be subject to the rate applicable to this category. The zoning applicable to each rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the Benalla Planning Scheme, will be LDRZ – Low Density Residential Zone (situated adjacent to the Benalla urban area), GRZ – General Residential Zone, UFZ - Urban Flood Zone or MUZ – Mixed Use Zone.

Types of Buildings:

- The types of buildings on the land within this differential rate are all buildings which are constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to the expiry of the 2024/25 financial year.

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Vacant Land (Rural Township)

Objective: The objective of the Vacant Land (Rural Township) differential rate is to encourage development of this class of property while taking into account the reduced benefits received by lower density properties.

Types and Classes:**Any land;**

- on which no habitable building is erected; and
- is located outside the Benalla urban area in an area zoned TZ (Township Zone) or LDRZ (Low Density Residential Zone) under the Benalla Planning Scheme.

Use and Level of Differential Rate:

- The money raised by the differential rate will be applied to the items of expenditure described in the Budget. The level of the rate for land in this category is considered to provide for an appropriate contribution to Council's budgeted expenditure, having regard to the characteristics of the land.
- The level of the differential rate is the rate that Council considers is necessary to achieve the objectives specified above.

Geographic Location:

- Situated in a Rural Township location.

Use of Land:

- Any use permitted under the Benalla Planning Scheme.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

- The characteristics of planning scheme zoning are applicable to the determination of land which will be subject to the rate applicable to this category. The zoning applicable to each rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the Benalla Planning Scheme, will be TZ – Township Zone or LDRZ – Low Density Residential Zone (situated in a Rural Township.)
- Properties located adjacent to established Township precincts, with a land area of generally less than 5ha and located in the Farm Zone – FZ, will be included in this category.

Types of Buildings:

- The types of buildings on the land within this differential rate are all buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to the expiry of the 2024/25 financial year.

Rural (Non-Farming)

Objective: The objective of the Rural - Non Farming differential rate is to recognise the reduced infrastructure investment and provision of services to this class of property.

Types and Classes:

Any land which is;

- not Rural Land – Farmland; and
- located in an area zoned RLZ (Rural Living Zone), FZ (Farm Zone), RCZ (Rural Conservation Zone) or UFZ (Urban Floodway Zone) under the Benalla Planning Scheme.

Use and Level of Differential Rate:

- The money raised by the differential rate will be applied to the items of expenditure described in the Budget by Council. The level of the rate for land in this category is considered to provide for an appropriate contribution to Council's budgeted expenditure, having regard to the characteristics of the land.
- The level of the differential rate is the rate that Council considers is necessary to achieve the objectives specified above.

Geographic Location:

- Situated in a rural location (excluding areas immediately adjacent to rural township precincts).

Use of Land:

- Any use permitted under the Benalla Planning Scheme.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

- The characteristics of planning scheme zoning are applicable to the determination of land which will be subject to the rate applicable to this category. The zoning applicable to each rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the Benalla Planning Scheme, will be RLZ – Rural Living Zone or FZ – Farming Zone or RCZ – Rural Conservation Zone or UFZ – Urban Floodway Zone.

Types of Buildings:

- The types of buildings on the land within this differential rate are all buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to the expiry of the 2024/25 financial year.

Rural (Farmland)

Objective: The objective of the Rural – Farmland differential rate is to recognise the reduced infrastructure investment and provision of services to this class of property. The differential rate also recognises the land stewardship and amenity that large rural holdings provide to the rural landscape.

Types and Classes:

Any land which is;

- not less than 2 hectares in area; and
- used primarily for the business of grazing (including agistment), dairying, pig-farming, poultry farming, fish farming, tree farming, bee-keeping, viticulture, horticulture, fruit growing, the growing of crops of any kind or combination of any such activities.

Use and Level of Differential Rate:

- The money raised by the differential rate will be applied to the items of expenditure described in the Budget by Council. The level of the rate for land in this category is considered to provide for an appropriate contribution to Council's budgeted expenditure, having regard to the characteristics of the land.
- The level of the differential rate is the rate that Council considers is necessary to achieve the objectives specified above.

Geographic Location:

- Wherever located in the municipal district.

Use of Land:

- Any use permitted under the Benalla Planning Scheme.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

- The characteristics of planning scheme zoning are applicable to the determination of land which will be subject to the rate applicable to this category. The zoning applicable to each rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the Benalla Planning Scheme will be FZ – Farming Zone, RCZ – Rural Conservation Zone or subject to an approved land use activity, RLZ – Rural Living Zone or LDRZ – Low Density Residential Zone or IN1Z – Industrial One Zone.

Types of Buildings:

- The types of buildings on the land within this differential rate are all buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to the expiry of the 2024/25 financial year.

4.2 Benalla Rural City Council *Fair Access Policy*

This report presented for consideration the *Fair Access Policy*.

Cr Hearn / Cr O'Brien:

1. That the *Fair Access Policy* be adopted.
2. That the *Fair Access Policy* be reviewed in June 2028.

Carried

4.3 2023/2024 Quick Response Grants

The report presented funding applications for 2023/24 Quick Response Grants.

Cr O'Brien / Cr Gunaratne:

That a \$500 grant from the 2023/2024 Quick Response Grant program be allocated to Probus Club of Benalla Rose City Inc.

Carried

It is noted that the following Councillors declared conflicts of interest in the below item:

- Councillor Justin King declared a general conflict of interest.
- Councillor Punarji Hewa Gunaratne declared a material conflict of Interest.

Councillor Punarji Hewa Gunaratne left the meeting at 6.28pm.

4.4 2023/2024 Community Grants Program Report

The report presented applications recommended for funding under the 2023/24 Community Grant Program.

Grant application details and proposed funding amounts were presented in table 1.

Table 1: Successful Grant Applications

No.	Applicant	Details	Amount Requested	Proposed Assistance
1.	Astronomy Benalla Inc.	Equipment Acquisition Plan - Stage 3. Various telescope upgrades.	\$1,840	\$1,840
2.	Baddaginnie Community Inc	Sun Blinds & Oven Repair for Baddaginnie Hall.	\$1,950	\$1,950
3.	Benalla Agricultural & Pastoral Society Inc.	Benalla Show - printing the schedule booklet.	\$2,500	\$ 2,500

No.	Applicant	Details	Amount Requested	Proposed Assistance
4.	Benalla All Blacks Football and Netball Club	New flooring for netball changerooms.	\$2,500	\$1,020
5.	Benalla And District Fire Brigades Group History Committee	Benalla and District Fire Brigade Group History Project – Electronic honour board.	\$1,200	\$1,200
6.	Benalla Gardens Tennis Club	Clubroom Upgrade – Kitchen and storage.	\$2,500	\$2,500
7.	Benalla Girl Guides Victoria (Girl Guides Victoria)	Repaint Girl Guides Hall.	\$2,500	\$2,500
8.	Benalla Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club	A new honour board.	\$2,500	\$2,500
9.	Benalla Little Athletics Centre Inc.	Equipment Upgrades for 2024/25 – Discus, shot puts, hurdles and other items.	\$2,500	\$2,500
11.	Benalla National & International Short Film Festival	Benalla Shorts 2024.	\$2,500	\$2,500
12.	Benalla Pony Club	Kitchen Upgrade	\$2,500	\$2,500
13.	Benalla Saints Past Players and Officials	Purchase of Hot Water Unit.	\$1,165	\$1,165
14.	Benalla Theatre Company Inc	Mystery on the Orient Express - Venue Hire.	\$2,500	\$2,500
15.	Cake Decorators	Demonstration AV equipment	\$2,500	\$1,439
16.	For the Good of Devenish	Devenish Museum and Hall – White Ant control.	\$2,500	\$2,500
17.	Goorambat & District Community Group	Community shared garden initiative, growing of vegetable and plants.	\$2,500	\$2,500
18.	Goorambat Football and Netball Club	4 high-efficiency outdoor heaters, strategically placed under the verandah of the club's facilities.	\$2,500	\$2,500
19.	Goorambat Public Hall Reserve Committee of Management	Refurbishing Main Hall Interior walls of Goorambat Hall.	\$2,500	\$2,500
20.	Goulburn And North East Arts Alliance	Annual Mural Music 2024.	\$2,500	\$2,500
21.	Molyullah Recreation & Public Hall Reserve Committee of Management	Community seating – Picnic tables for area surrounding hall.	\$2,500	\$2,000
22.	Molyullah Upper Ryans Creek Heritage	Provide a story board about the establishment of the Tucker Village Settlement and the draining of the Molyullah Swamp.	\$2,000	\$2,000
23.	Moorngag Hall and Recreation Reserve	Purchase of Bain Marie kitchen equipment.	\$1,980	\$1,980

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No.	Applicant	Details	Amount Requested	Proposed Assistance
24.	Munro Avenue Kindergarten	Purchase of outdoor sandpit play equipment	\$2,160	\$1,279
25.	North East Multicultural Association	Harmony Day Celebration Benalla March 2025.	\$2,500	\$2,500
26.	Robinson Martial Arts Association Inc.	Robinson Jiu Jitsu's YOWI-24 Program (Youth, Women, Indigenous) is aimed at providing self-defense training to more Victorian youths, women, and indigenous Victorians - The program will provide successful applicants with membership and the required uniform (Gi), free of charge.	\$2,500	\$1,650
27.	Rose City Country Music Club Inc.	Venue Hire.	\$2,000	\$2,000
28.	Swanpool & District Community Development Association (S&DCDA)	Hume & Hovell Memorial Cairn Plaque Replacement.	\$1,375	\$1,375
29.	Tatong Heritage Group Inc	Repairs to Information Booth in Tatong.	\$2,500	\$2,500
30.	Tatong Market & More Incorporated	Childrens' activities for market.	\$944	\$944
31.	Tatong Memorial Hall	Sewing machine for quilting.	\$2,500	\$2,500
32.	The Lions Club of Benalla Inc	Refurbishing Benalla's Street Seats	\$2,500	\$2,000
33.	Thoona Recreation Reserve	Thoona Recreation Reserve Water Tank.	\$1,600	\$1,600
34.	Warrenbayne Recreation Reserve Committee Inc.	Termite repairs to toilets, new flashing and skirting for hall.	\$2,500	\$2,500
35.	Winton Cemetery Trust	Sprayer with trailer.	\$1,796	\$1,796
Total			\$77,510	\$70,766

Councillor Justin King left the meeting at 6.37pm.

Cr Davis / Cr O'Brien:

- 1. That the unspent \$6,100 be reallocated from the Quick Response Grant Program to the Community Grants Program.**
- 2. That an allocation of \$70,766, as detailed in Table 1, be allocated from the 2023/2024 Community Grants Program.**

Carried

Councillor Justin King and Councillor Punarji Hewa Gunaratne returned to the meeting at 6.41pm.

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4.5 Benalla Rural City Council Election Period Policy

The report presented for consideration the reviewed and updated *Election Period Policy*.

Cr King / Cr O'Brien:

1. That *Election Period Policy* be adopted.
2. That *Election Period Policy* be reviewed in June 2028.

Carried

4.6 Proposed Establishment of the *Benalla Art Gallery Project Control Group*

The report presented for consideration the establishment of the *Benalla Art Gallery Project Control Group*.

Cr Firth / Cr Davis:

That standing orders be suspended to allow for discussion on the item.

Carried

Standing orders were suspended at 6.49pm.

Cr King / Cr Hearn:

That standing orders resume.

Carried

Standing orders resumed at 6.59pm.

Cr King / Cr Firth:

1. That the *Benalla Art Gallery Project Control Group* be established.
2. That the amended *Benalla Art Gallery Project Control Group Terms of Reference* be adopted.
3. That Cr Gail O'Brien and Cr Bernie Hearn be appointed as the councillor representatives on the *Benalla Art Gallery Project Control Group* for the 2023/24 Council year.

Carried

4.7 Mayor and Councillors' Attendance at Committees and Civic Functions

The Mayor and Councillors attendance at meetings and events for the period from 13 May 2024 to 9 June 2024 were presented.

It is noted that Councillor Bernie Hearn was not in attendance at Benalla Lakeside Market on 25 May 2024 and the Molyullah Community Catch up on 31 May 2024.

It is noted that Councillor Punarji Hewa Gunaratne was not in attendance at Councillor Only Time on 15 May 2024.

Cr Hearn / Cr O'Brien:
That the report be noted.

Carried

4.8 Council Actions Pending

Council Actions Pending were presented.

Cr Hearn / Cr King:
That the report be noted.

Carried

5. Reports by Councillors

Councillor Bernie Hearn reported on her attendance at:

- National Volunteer Week morning tea celebration at Benalla Visitor Information Centre on Tuesday 21 May 2024.
- Benalla GMCU Biggest Morning Tea Event on Wednesday 29 June 2024.

Councillor Gail O'Brien reported on:

- Benalla Rural City Council's Youth Coordinator, Steph Brack, receiving the Live4Life Community Champion award for 2023.
- Benalla container deposit scheme depot at 22 Irwin Road, Benalla.

Councillor Justin King reported on:

- Benalla Festival Advisory Committee. The Committee is now taking expression of interests from interested individuals, groups and organisations to run an event or activity as part of the Benalla Festival program.
- Benalla Rovers Soccer Club running youth soccer events on Friday nights at Churchill Recreation Reserve.

Councillor Punarji Hewa Gunaratne reported on his attendance at:

- IDAHOBIT Flag Raising Ceremony on Friday 17 May 2024.
- Benalla Rovers Soccer Club running youth soccer events on Friday nights at Churchill Recreation Reserve.
- Book launch for “A Benalla Story” a Children story book about Siva Singh at the Benalla Library on Saturday 22 June 2024.

Councillor Peter Davis reported on his attendance at:

- Official opening of the Arthur Baird Sculpture at the Benalla Library on Saturday 22 June 2024.

Councillor Danny Claridge reported on:

- Official opening of the Arthur Baird Sculpture at the Benalla Library on Saturday 22 June 2024.
- The Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Bill 2024 was passed by Parliament on Wednesday 19 June 2024.

Cr King / Cr Hearn:

That the report(s) be noted.

Carried

6. Notices of Motion

No notices of motion were submitted to the meeting.

7. Notices of Rescission Motion

No Notices of Rescission Motion were submitted to the meeting.

8. Urgent Business

No urgent business was submitted to the meeting.

Confidential Business

It was proposed that the following items be considered in confidential business pursuant to the *Local Government Act 2020* as they contain personal information or private commercial information that would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about a person, their personal affairs or expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking if released:

- 9.1 Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment project Steering Committee Nominations
- 9.2 Confidential Reports by Councillors
- 9.3 Confidential Council Actions Pending

Cr King / Cr Hearn:

That the meeting be closed to the public for the consideration of the confidential business item noted above pursuant to Sections 3(1) and Section 66(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Carried

10. Reopening of the meeting to the public

Cr Gunaratne / Cr Hearn:

That the meeting be reopened to the public.

Carried

Closure of the meeting

The Council Meeting closed at 7.26pm.

The Minutes were confirmed on the twenty sixth day of June 2024.

Signed: _____


Mayor Cr Danny Claridge