

Council Meeting

Minutes

Date: Wednesday 29 May 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
	Courtney Naughton	Manager Economic Development and Sustainability
	Tom Arnold	Community Development and Recreation Coordinator
	Nathan Gasperoni	Environmental Sustainability 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 Justin King requested a leave of absence from 4 June 2024 to 11 June 2024.

Cr Davis / Cr O'Brien:

That a leave of absence be granted to Cr Justin King form 4 June 2024 to 11 June 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 item 4.2.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

Cr Davis / Cr Hearn:

That the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on 24 April 2024 and 1 May 2024 be confirmed as true and accurate records of the meetings.

Carried



1. Public Question Time

The Council's *Governance Rules 2020* provide the opportunity for members of the public to lodge written questions of broad interest to the Council and the community.

It is recorded that Paul O'Brien tabled the below question.

In reference to the BIRC Redevelopment survey what analysis has been done as to why there is a perplexing disparity and imbalance of 85 percent of paper respondents who voted for Ackerly Ave as compared to 17 percent of online respondents.

The Chief Executive Officer answered that all surveys were considered equal as a part of the community consultation process. Online and paper surveys were available to encourage responses from a broad mix of community members and sporting clubs. No analysis was undertaken.

2. Petitions

No petitions were submitted to the meeting.

Record of Committees

3.1 Recommendations from Finance and Planning Committee

The recommendations of the Finance and Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 15 May 2024 were presented.

Cr King / Cr Hearn:

That the recommendations of the Finance and Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 15 May 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 were presented.

April 2024

3 April 2024	Communications Advisory Committee Meeting
3 April 2024	Assembly of Councillors – Business Review Meeting
8 April 2024	Benalla Local Safety and Traffic Liaison Committee Meeting
17 April 2024	Assembly of Councillors – Business Review Meeting
22 April 2024	Benalla Street Art Advisory Committee Meeting
24 April 2024	Assembly of Councillors – Business Review Meeting

Cr Hearn / Cr King:

That the report be noted.

Carried

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Officer Reports

4.1 Draft *Benalla Rural City Council Climate and Environmental Strategy 2024-2029*

The report presented the draft *Benalla Rural City Council Climate and Environment Strategy 2024-2029*.

Submissions relating to the *Benalla Rural City Council Climate and Environment Strategy 2024-2029* will be heard at a Finance and Planning Committee meeting on 31 July 2024.

Cr Claridge / Cr Gunaratne:

That the *Benalla Rural City Council Climate and Environment Strategy 2024-2029* be placed on public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days.

Carried

Councillor Gail O'Brien declared a general conflict of interest in the following item.

4.2 2023/2024 Quick Response Grants Program

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

Cr Hearn / Cr King:

That the 2023/2024 Quick Response Grant application from Benalla Health be excised.

Carried

Cr Hearn / Cr King:

That \$500 grants from the 2023/2024 Quick Response Grant program be allocated to North Eastern Archers, Benalla Squash Club and Benalla Sustainable Future Group.

Carried

Councillor Gail O'Brien left the meeting at 5.53pm.

Cr Hearn / Cr King:

That a \$500 grant from the 2023/2024 Quick Response Grant program be allocated to Benalla Health.

Carried

Councillor Gail O'Brien returned to the meeting at 5.55pm.

4.3 CEO Credit Card For The Quarter Ended 31 March 2024

The report detailed expenditure associated with the corporate credit card issued to the Chief Executive Officer for the quarter ended 31 March 2024.

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

Carried

4.4 Councillor Expenses For The Quarter Ended 31 March 2024

The report detailed expenditure associated with Councillors' mobile phone usage, attendance at professional development courses, conferences and seminars, and reimbursement of expenses incurred.

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

Carried

4.5 Mayor and Councillors' Attendance at Committees and Civic Functions

The Mayor and Councillors attendance at meetings and events during the period from 8 April 2024 to 12 May 2024 were presented.

It is noted that Councillor Justin King was not in attendance at the Goorambat Social Gathering on 3 May 2024.

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

Carried

4.6 Council Actions Pending

Council Actions Pending were presented.

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

Carried

PC

5. Reports by Councillors

Councillor Gail O'Brien reported on her attendance at:

- Social Inclusion Action Group Community events held in Tatong, Goorambat, Baddaginnie and Devenish.

Councillor Don Firth reported on his attendance at:

- Benalla Lakeside Market listening post on Saturday 25 May 2024.

Councillor Justin King reported on his attendance at:

- Social Inclusion Action Group Community events held in Tatong and Devenish.
- ANZAC Day Dawn and ANZAC Day march services held on Thursday 25 April 2024.
- Benalla Festival Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday 8 May 2024.

Councillor Punarji Hewa Gunaratne reported on his attendance at:

- Benalla Migrants Association's South Asian New Year Celebrations on Saturday 13 April 2024.
- NESLA Sinhala and Tamil New Year Celebration held in Wangaratta on Saturday 20 April 2024.
- Benalla Sustainable Future Group Annual General Meeting on Friday 24 May 2024.

Councillor Peter Davis reported on his attendance at:

- Social Inclusion Action Group Community event held in Goorambat on Friday 3 May 2024.
- Volunteer Week Celebrations held at Benalla Visitor Information Centre on Tuesday 21 May 2024.

Councillor Danny Claridge reported on his attendance at:

- MAV State Council Meeting with Cr Hearn in Melbourne on Friday 17 May 2024.
- North East Local Government Waste and Recycling Forum in Wangaratta on Monday 20 May 2024.
- Benalla Family Research Group meeting on Tuesday 21 May 2024.

Cr King / Cr Gunaratne:
That the reports 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 Confidential Reports by Councillors
- 9.2 Confidential Council Actions Pending

Cr Davis / Cr King:

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 Davis / Cr king:

That the meeting be reopened to the public.

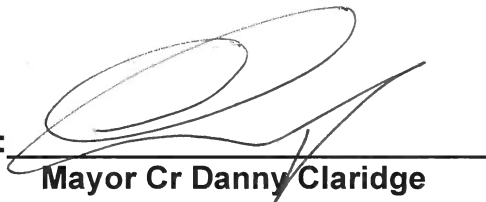
Carried

Closure of the meeting

The Council Meeting closed at 6.28pm.

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

Signed:



Mayor Cr Danny Claridge