

Council Meeting

Minutes

Date: Wednesday 11 September 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 were 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
Grant Banks Interim Manager Economic Development and Sustainability
Greg Robertson Manager Facilities and Information Technology
Tom Arnold Community Development and Recreation Coordinator
Nathan Gasperoni Environment and 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.



Statement of Commitment

The Councillors will recite 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 4.6.

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 Hearn / Cr Davis:

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7 August 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Carried

DC

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.

No questions were submitted to the Council Meeting.

2. Petitions

No petitions were submitted to the Council Meeting.

Record of Committees

3.1 Recommendations from Finance and Planning Committee

The recommendations of the Finance and Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 28 August 2024 were presented.

Cr Davis / Cr Hearn:

That the recommendations of the Finance and Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 28 August 2024 be adopted.

Carried

DC

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.

Copies of the Minutes from the following meetings were provided to councillors under separate cover.

August 2024

1 August 2024	Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment (BIRC) Steering Committee
5 August 2024	Benalla Local Safety and Traffic Liaison Committee
6 August 2024	Benalla Street Art Advisory Committee
7 August 2024	Communications Advisory Committee
12 August 2024	Benalla Festival Advisory Committee
15 August 2024	Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment (BIRC) Steering Committee
20 August 2024	Audit and Risk Committee
21 August 2024	Assembly of Councillors – Briefing Review

Cr Hearn / Cr King:

That the report be noted.

Carried

DC

Officer Reports**4.1 Benalla Rural City Council Climate and Environment Strategy 2024-2029**

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

The *Benalla Rural City Council Climate and Environment Strategy 2024-2029* has been developed using a comprehensive deliberative engagement program. All stakeholders who participated in the process are thanked for their valuable contribution.

Cr King / Cr O'Brien:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Council undertake further review of the *Benalla Rural City Council Climate and Environment Strategy 2024-2029* based on the feedback and submissions received.

Carried

4.2 Intention to Lease Land at Benalla Airport and 93-101 Waller Street, Benalla

The report finalised the matter of the intention to lease land to Mr Martin Jacobson for the development of aircraft hangarage at the Benalla Airport, and the intention to lease land to the Benalla Woodworkers Incorporated at 93 – 101 Waller Street, Benalla.

Cr Davis / Cr Hearn :

1. That, in accordance with Section 115 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, a lease agreement be entered into with Martin Jacobson for Hangar Site 29 at the Benalla Airport, Samaria Road, Benalla for a term of five years commencing 1 January 2025 with an option for four further terms of five years.
2. That, in accordance with Section 115 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, a lease agreement be entered into with the Benalla Woodworkers Incorporated at 93–101 Waller Street, Benalla for a term of 25 years commencing 13 September 2024.
3. That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to execute both lease documents on behalf of the Council.

Carried

DC

4.3 Fawckner Drive Precinct Masterplan Update

The report provided an update on the *Benalla Fawckner Drive Precinct Masterplan* since it was adopted by the Council at its meeting on 14 February 2024.

Cr Hearn / Cr O'Brien:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Council allocate \$400,000 towards the Pump Track and supporting elements.
3. That the Council allocate \$55,000 to support the multipurpose hardstand area and supporting elements.

Carried

4.4 2024/2025 Quick Response Grants

The report presented funding applications for 2024/25 Quick Response Grants.

Cr O'Brien / Cr King:

1. That a \$391 grant from the 2024/2025 Quick Response Grant program be allocated to The Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc. Thoona Branch.
2. That a \$400 grant from the 2024/2025 Quick Response Grant program be allocated to For the Good of Devenish.
3. That a \$500 grant from the 2024/2025 Quick Response Grant program be allocated to the Swanpool Community Cinema.

Carried

4.5 Benalla Rural City Council Debt Management Policy

The report presented the reviewed and updated *Benalla Rural City Council Debt Management Policy*.

Cr O'Brien / Cr King:

1. That the *Debt Management Policy* be adopted.
2. That the *Debt Management Policy* be reviewed in August 2028.

Carried

4.6 Benalla Rural City Council Capital Works Program Project Funding

The report discussed items for consideration under the *2024/25 Capital Works Program*.

Cr Justin King declared a material conflict of interest and Cr Gail O'Brien declared a general conflict of interest in the above item and left the meeting at 6.45pm.

DC

Cr Hearn / Cr Davis:

- 1. That the 2024/25 Capital Works Program forecast be increased by \$7.82 million to \$18.836 million as detailed in Table 1.**
- 2. That an additional Council cash contribution of \$1.030 million to the 2024/25 Capital Works Program be approved.**
- 3. That an additional \$6.790 million of Australian and Victorian Government funding of the 2024/25 Capital Works Program be noted.**

Carried

Cr Justin King and Cr Gail O'Brien returned to the meeting at 6.52pm.

4.7 Mayor and Councillors' Attendance at Committees and Civic Functions

The Mayor and Councillors' attendance at meetings and events during the period from 29 July to 1 September 2024 were presented.

It is noted that Councillor Gail O'Brien was in attendance at the following events:

- Three Echoes Launch at the Benalla Art Gallery on 16 August 2024
- Churchill Reserve Committee of Management meeting on 20 August 2024.

Cr Firth / Cr Davis:

That the report be noted.

Carried

4.8 Council Actions Pending

Council Actions Pending were presented.

Cr Hearn / Cr Davis:

That the report be noted.

Carried

5. Reports by Councillors

Councillor Justin King report on his attendance at:

- Hands On Trades Career Expo and Lunch event at Winton Motor Raceway on 15 August 2024.

Councillor Bernie Hearn report on her attendance at:

- Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment Streeting Committee meeting on 2 September 2024. The committee attended the Wangaratta Barr Reserve to view the Wangaratta Indoor Sports and Aquatic Centre on 10 September 2024.

Councillor Gail O'Brien report on her attendance at:

- Benalla Health and Wellbeing Partnership Meeting at Odyssey House on 5 August 2024.
- Benalla Homelessness Response Group 'The Welcome Kitchen' event in Benalla on 8 September 2024.

Cr Firth / Cr King:

That the reports be noted.

Carried

DC

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 Hearn / Cr Davis:

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 Firth / Cr Davis:

That the meeting be reopened to the public.


Carried

Closure of the meeting

The Council Meeting closed at 7.07pm.

The minutes were confirmed on the sixteenth day of October 2024.

Signed:



Mayor Cr Danny Claridge