

Finance and Operations Committee

Minutes

Date: Wednesday 16 February 2022

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

The *COVID-19 Omnibus (Emergency Measures) Act 2020* enables councils to hold meetings electronically. This measure is intended to ensure the safety of members of the public, Councillors and Council staff.

The Council Meeting Room has limited capacity for public attendance. Accordingly, members of the public were encouraged to watch the live broadcast of the meeting at www.benalla.vic.gov.au

In accordance with the Governance Rule 6.4 an audio recording was made of the proceedings of the meeting.

PO Box 227
1 Bridge Street East
Benalla Victoria 3671
Tel: 03 5760 2600
council@benalla.vic.gov.au

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Minutes

Chair	Councillor Justin King
Councillors	Councillor Danny Claridge Councillor Peter Davis Councillor Don Firth Councillor Bernie Hearn (Mayor) Councillor Punarji Hewa Gunaratne Councillor Gail O'Brien

In attendance	Dom Testoni	Chief Executive Officer
	Robert Barber	General Manager Corporate
	Tom Arnold	Community Development Coordinator
	Jessica Beaton	Governance Coordinator

In accordance with sub-rule 2.16 of the Benalla Rural City Council Governance Rules 2020, the General Manager Corporate will chair the meeting and invite nominations from the Councillors present for a temporary Chair.

The meeting opened at 6pm.

Acknowledgment of Country

The following acknowledgment of country was read aloud by the chair:

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

It is noted that Cr Justin King has requested a leave of absence from 12 February to 20 February 2022.

Cr Davis / Cr Firth:

That the apology be accepted and a leave of absence granted.

Carried

The General Manager Corporate invited nominations from the Councillors present for a temporary Chair of the 16 February 2022 Finance and Operations Committee meeting.

Cr Hearn/ Cr Claridge:

That Cr O'Brien be appointed as temporary Chair of the 16 February 2022 Finance and Operations Committee meeting.

Carried

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 Firth / Cr Davis:

That the Minutes of the Finance and Operations Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 1 December 2021 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Carried

Disclosures of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were disclosed to the meeting.

Business

1. Public Question Time

It is recorded that Sabine Smyth tabled two questions.

Will council consider publicising upcoming council committee and general agenda items in the paper, or on social media?

The General Manager Corporate answered that this was a good idea. Meetings and their agendas have been promoted on social media in the past, however, this has not been the case recently. Regular promotion on social media of upcoming meetings and their agendas will recommence.

What is the standard process of dealing with submissions from the public, who is responsible for dealing with them and acknowledging the issues raised (If you need a specific example, take the two submissions made on the community engagement policy for the finance and operations committee)?

The General Manager Corporate answered that in accordance with the *Benalla Rural City Council Governance Rules 2020*, people making submissions must be advised in writing of the decision made in relation to their submission. In the case of the Community Engagement Policy, the two submitters will be advised of the Council’s decision following next week’s Council Meeting where adoption of the policy will be considered.

<p>Cr Claridge / Cr Firth: That the questions and answers be noted.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>
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2. Draft *Community Engagement Policy* and *Community Engagement Framework and Toolkit* – Consideration of Submissions

The report considered submissions received on the on the draft *Benalla Rural City Council Community Engagement Policy* and draft *Community Engagement Framework and Toolkit*.

Cr Gunarante / Cr Hearn:

That the *Benalla Rural City Council Community Engagement Policy* and *Community Engagement Framework and Toolkit* be considered for adoption at the Council Meeting on 23 February 2022.

Carried

Closure of Meeting

The meeting closed at 6.14pm.

Confirmed this ninth day of March 2022.

Signed: _____
Cr Gail O'Brien – Temporary Chair

