

# Council Meeting

## Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday 27 April 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 had 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](http://www.benalla.vic.gov.au)**

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



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# Minutes

**Chair** Councillor Bernie Hearn (Mayor)

**Councillors** Councillor Danny Claridge  
Councillor Peter Davis  
Councillor Don Firth  
Councillor Punarji Hewa Gunaratne  
Councillor Justin King  
Councillor Gail O'Brien

**In attendance** Dom Testoni Chief Executive Officer  
Robert Barber General Manager Corporate  
Jessica Beaton Governance Coordinator

## 1. Opening and Acknowledgment of Country

The chair opened the meeting at 5.33pm 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.*

## 2. 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.*



### 3. Disclosures of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were disclosed to the meeting.

### 4. Apologies

No apologies were submitted to the meeting.

### 5. 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](http://www.benalla.vic.gov.au) pending confirmation at the meeting.

**Cr Davis / Cr King:**

**That the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on Wednesday 23 March and Wednesday 20 April 2022 be confirmed as true and accurate records of the meetings.**

**Carried**

### 6. Public Question Time

It is noted that Sabine Smyth tabled two questions.

*Has the Council's Committee charged with the Implementation of the Former Benalla Migrant Camp Conservation Management Plan made any recommendations into this Budget 2022-2023?*

The Chief Executive Officer answered that the Committee has supported an application to the living heritage grant for \$195,000 to restore BAC Hut 65 and the toilet block.

*Has any funding been set aside to review the Benalla Airport Masterplan - an unfunded project that should be listed in the budget?*

The Chief Executive Officer answered that in accordance with the adopted *Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2031/32* in October 2021 a sum of \$100,00 was allocated to the review and update of the Benalla Airport Masterplan and included in the *2022/23 Budget*. The proposed *2022/23 Budget* is currently on public exhibition.

**Cr Claridge / Cr O'Brien:**

**That the questions and answers be noted.**

**Carried**

## 7. Petitions

### 7.1 Petition: Declare Churchill Reserve A Time Share Off Leash Area

A petition containing 613 signatories was received requesting the Council immediately rescind the newly introduced rule and declare Churchill Reserve a time share off leash area.

**Cr O'Brien / Cr King:**

- 1. That the petition be received.**
- 2. That a report be presented to Planning and Development Committee on 18 May 2022.**

**Carried**

## 8. Record of Committees

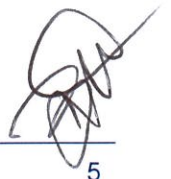
### 8.1 Finance and Operations Committee

The reports and recommendations of the Finance and Operations Committee held on Wednesday 13 April 2022 were provided to Councillors.

**Cr Gunarante / Cr O'Brien:**

**That the reports and recommendations of the Finance and Operations Committee meeting held on Wednesday 13 April 2022 be adopted.**

**Carried**



## 8.2 Planning and Development Committee

The reports and recommendations of the Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 20 April 2022 were provided to Councillors.

**Cr Davis / Cr Claridge:**

**That the reports and recommendations of the Planning and Development Committee meeting held on Wednesday 20 April 2022 be adopted.**

**Carried**

*A division of the vote was called*

*Votes in favour of the motion:*

Cr Danny Claridge

Cr Peter Davis

Cr Don Firth

Cr Punarji Gunaratne

Cr Justin King

Cr Gail O'Brien

Cr Bernie Hearn

*Votes against the motion:*

No votes were recorded against the motion.

The motion was **Carried**.





### 8.3 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 since the report presented at the meeting on 23 March 2022 was provided in the Agenda.

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

#### March 2022

1 March	Community Plan Implementation Steering Committee
2 March	Benalla Festival Advisory Committee
2 March	Assembly of Councillors – Business Review
4 March	Australia Day Advisory Committee
9 March	Assembly of Councillors – 2022/23 Budget Workshop One
23 March	Assembly of Councillors – 2022/23 Budget Workshop Two
30 March	Assembly of Councillors

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

**Carried**



## 9. Officer Reports

### 9.1 Authorisation of Signing and Sealing of Documents

No documents were submitted to the meeting for signing and sealing.

### 9.2 Local Government Performance Reporting Framework – Report of Operations for Half-Year Ending 31 December 2021

The report presented the half-year service performance indicator results under the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.

**Cr Davis / Cr King:**

**That the report be noted.**

**Carried**

### 9.3 *Council Plan 2021-2025* Progress Report for Half-Year Ending 31 December 2021

The report provided a progress report on the implementation of the *Council Plan 2021-2025*.

**Cr Firth / Cr O'Brien:**

**1. That the report be noted.**

**2. That the *Council Plan 2021-2025* remain unchanged for the 2022/23 Financial Year.**

**Carried**





#### 9.4 Mayor and Councillors' Attendance at Committees and Civic Functions

The Mayor and Councillors attendance at meetings and events from the period 12 March 2022 to 15 April 2022 were provided to Councillors for consideration.

**Cr Davis / Cr King:**

**That the report be noted.**

**Carried**

#### 9.5 Council Actions Pending

Council Actions Pending were provided to Councillors.

**Cr King / Cr Gunaratne:**

**That the report be noted.**

**Carried**



## 10. Reports by Councillors

- Cr Claridge reported that he attended a meeting with the Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy The Hon. Chris Bowen MP on Friday 8 April 2022. If elected, The Hon. Chris Bowen revealed he would hold a round table meeting with Mayors in June 2022 to accelerate climate action and would invite representatives from the Local Government Association to participate and discuss the national framework. If elected the Labour government would investigate installing community batteries in local communities.
- Cr O'Brien reported that she attended the Life4Live Committee meeting on 27 April 2022. The Live4Life program addresses youth mental health support and education and has been facilitated by Benalla FCJ College, Benalla P-12 College and the Benalla Flexible Learning Centre for five years. In that period, over 1000 teachers, parents and carers have completed Youth Mental Health First Aid training.

The program provides Youth Mental Health First Aid training to students in years 8 and 11. Students in years 9 and 10 are provided with the opportunity to join the Live4Life Crew to assist with the running of the program. The Live4Life Crew launch will be held on Wednesday 11 May 2022 and this year has the largest number of Live4Life Crew applicants.

Youth Mental Health First Aid training for community members, parents and carers is scheduled to be held later in 2022.

- Cr King reported that he attended the FReeZA Cinema Pop Up Event held on Saturday 16 April 2022. It was a great event and enjoyed by all. It was fantastic to see the community embracing an event run by the Council and great to receive positive feedback.
- Cr King acknowledged the community members who attended the Ceramic Mural Design Concept Public meeting on Wednesday 30 March 2022. As a result of the public meeting a Working Group will be formed.
- Cr Davis reported that he attended the FReeZA Cinema Pop Up Event held on Saturday 16 April 2022. It was great to see the community enjoying the event and thanked the work of the Community Development Team for their efforts in organising the event.
- Cr Gunaratne reported that he met with two community members on Tuesday 26 April 2022 who gifted him with a climate change scarf. The colours that appear on the scarf represent global temperatures recorded since 1919. Cr Gunaratne encouraged the community to read the Council's *Climate Change Adaption Action Plan 2013-2025* prior to its review later in 2022.

**Cr Claridge / Cr Davis:**  
**That the reports be noted.**

**Carried**



**11. Notices of Motion**

No notices of motion were submitted to the meeting.

**12. Notices of Rescission Motion**

No notices of rescission motion were submitted to the meeting.

**13. Urgent Business**

No urgent business was submitted to the meeting.

**14. 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 that would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about a person or their personal affairs if released:

- 14.1 Recommendations from the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee
- 14.2 Confidential Reports by Councillors
- 14.3 Confidential Council Actions Pending

**Cr Davis / Cr Firth:**

**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**





**15. Reopening of the meeting to the public**

**Cr Davis / Cr Gunaratne:**

**That the meeting be reopened to the public.**

**Carried**

**16. Closure of the meeting**

The meeting closed at 6.10pm.

**Confirmed this twenty Fifth day of May 2022.**

**Signed:**



**Chair – Cr Bernie Hearn (Mayor)**