

Council Meeting

Minutes

Date: Wednesday 3 August 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.

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

In accordance with Rule 6.4 of the *Governance Rules 2020* 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

The Council Meeting commenced at 5.31pm.

1. Opening and Acknowledgment of Country

The chair 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

It is noted that the following Councillors are on an approved leave of absence:

- Councillor Peter Davis from 18 July to 15 August 2022
- Councillor Gail O'Brien on 3 August 2022.

Cr Claridge / Cr King:

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

Carried

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 pending confirmation at the meeting.

Cr King / Cr Firth:

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 29 June 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Carried

6. Public Question Time

No questions were submitted to the meeting.



7. Petitions

No petitions were submitted to the meeting.

8. Record of Committees

8.1 Finance and Operations Committee

The recommendations of the Finance and Operations Committee meeting held on Wednesday 27 July 2022 were provided to Councillors.

Cr King / Cr Claridge:

That the recommendations of the Finance and Operations Committee meeting held on Wednesday 27 July 2022 be adopted.

Carried

8.2 Planning and Development Committee

The recommendations of the Planning and Development Committee meeting held on Wednesday 27 July 2022 were provided to Councillors.

Cr Claridge / Cr King:

That the recommendations of the Planning and Development Committee meeting held on Wednesday 27 July 2022 be adopted.

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 submitted at the meeting on 29 June 2022 was presented.

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

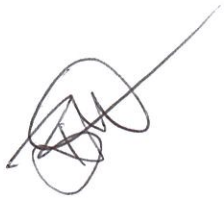
June 2022

| | |
|--------------|--|
| 2 June 2022 | Lakeside Precinct Accessibility Access Working Group |
| 6 June 2022 | Benalla Local Safety and Traffic Liaison Committee |
| 8 June 2022 | Benalla Festival Advisory Committee Meeting |
| 8 June 2022 | Assembly of Councillors - Business Review |
| 14 June 2022 | Accessibility Reference Group |

Cr Claridge / Cr King:

That the report be noted.

Carried



Officer Reports

9.1 Authorisation of Signing and Sealing of Documents

No documents were submitted for signing and sealing.

9.2 Benalla Art Gallery Acquisition Trust Fund

The report presented for consideration the proposed reforms to the Benalla Art Gallery Acquisition Trust Fund.

Cr Claridge / Cr Firth:

That the reforms proposed for the Benalla Art Gallery Acquisition Trust Fund be approved and that each Councillor and the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to execute all documents necessary to amend the Trust's governing rules and to appoint a new trustee to the Trust.

Carried

9.3 Mayor and Councillors' Attendance at Committees and Civic Functions

The Mayor and Councillors attendance at meetings and events from the period 20 June 2022 to 24 July 2022 were provided to Councillors for consideration.

It is noted that Councillor King attended the Denny Street Courtyard Project Community Consultation meeting on 2 July 2022.

Cr Claridge / Cr King:

That the report be noted.

Carried



9.4 Council Actions Pending

Council Actions Pending were provided to Councillors.

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

Carried

10. Reports by Councillors

- Councillor Gunarante reported on his attendance at:
 - MAV Community Leadership Workshop in Melbourne on Thursday 21 July 2022. The workshop was designed to help Councillors understand their roles and responsibilities as community leaders and how Councillors can work together collectively to achieve better community outcomes.
 - Lions Club Junior Public Speaking Club Final as a Judge on Sunday 24 July 2022.
- Councillor Firth reported on his attendance at:
 - Benalla Youth Service Providers Network meeting on Thursday 28 July 2022.
 - Benalla Festival Advisory Committee meeting on Wednesday 20 July 2022. The 2022 Benalla Festival Program will be announced in the coming weeks. The Festival will be held over two weeks and will include rural township events.
- Councillor Hearn reported on her attendance at:
 - Indi Local Government Roundtable meeting on Friday 15 July 2022.
 - Benalla Rotary changeover dinner as a guest speaker on Thursday 21 July 2022.
 - Benalla Rose City Probus Club as a guest speaker on Thursday 21 July 2022.
 - Opening of the Benalla Men's Shed in Waller Street, Benalla on Wednesday 20 July 2022.

Cr King / Cr Firth:
That the report(s) 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 King / Cr Claridge:

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



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15. Reopening of the meeting to the public

Cr Firth / Cr King:

That the meeting be reopened to the public.

Carried

16. Closure of the meeting

The Council Meeting closed at 5.57pm.

Confirmed this seventh day of September 2022.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B Hearn', written over a horizontal line.

Chair – Cr Bernie Hearn (Mayor)