

Council Meeting

Minutes

Date: Wednesday 31 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 opened at 6.02pm.

1. Opening and Acknowledgment of Country

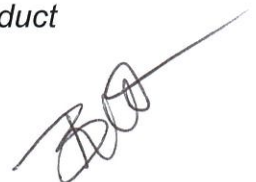
The chair recited the following Acknowledgement of Country.

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

No apologies were submitted to the meeting.

5. Benalla Rural City Council Governance Rules 2020 Update

The report presents for consideration the revised *Governance Rules 2020*.

Cr King / Cr Claridge:

- 1. That the *Governance Rules 2020* be adopted.**
- 2. That the *Governance Rules 2020* be reviewed in July 2024, prior to the General Election.**

Carried

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. King', is located in the bottom right corner of the page.

6. Reports by Councillors

- Councillor Gail O'Brien reported on her attendance at:
 - The *Bush Diwan* Exhibition Launch at the Benalla Art Gallery on Friday 26 August 2022. The Exhibition is inspired by the local story of Siva Singh who took on the duties of a Granthi or custodian of the Sikh scriptures in Benalla and surrounding regions. *Bush Diwan* presents works by artists who have responded to this pivotal moment in Sikh history in Australia by exploring the reclamation of identity, forming, gathering and laying foundations of community.
 - The Benalla Community and Business Connectivity Roundtable NBN Forum on Tuesday 30 August 2022. The forum provided an opportunity for input into the key strategies to best address the digital disadvantage faced by the Benalla community.
- Councillor Don Firth reported on the 2022 Benalla Festival:
 - The Benalla Festival Advisory Committee are working closely with the Gliding Club of Victoria to deliver an Airshow as a part of the 2022 Benalla Festival. The Airshow will be held on the first weekend of the Benalla Festival, on Saturday 5 November 2022 from 9am. Winton Raceway will be assisting the Airshow by offering parking to accommodate patrons attending the Airshow.
- Councillor Punarji Hewa Gunarante reported on his attendance at:
 - A meeting with two community members on Tuesday 2 August 2022 to discuss the establishment of a Landcare group for Benalla. Landcare is a movement of groups and individuals across Australia with a shared vision to protect, enhance or restore the natural environment in their local community through sustainable land management and conservation activities.
 - Bush Diwan Exhibition Launch at the Benalla Art Gallery on Friday 26 August 2022. The Exhibition is inspired by the local story of Siva Singh who took on the duties of a Granthi or custodian of the Sikh scriptures in Benalla and surrounding regions. Bush Diwan presents works by artists who have responded to this pivotal moment in Sikh history in Australia by exploring the reclamation of identity, forming, gathering and laying foundations of community.

Cr Davis / Cr Firth:

That the reports be noted.

Carried



7. Notices of Motion

No notices of motion were submitted to the meeting.

8. Notices of Rescission Motion

No notices of rescission motion were submitted to the meeting.

9. Urgent Business

No urgent business was submitted to the meeting.

10. Closure of the meeting

The Council Meeting closed at 6.13pm.

Confirmed this seventh day of September 2022.

Signed: _____



Chair – Cr Bernie Hearn (Mayor)