

Finance and Operations Committee

Minutes

Date: Wednesday 27 July 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.

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

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



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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
	Jane Archbold	Manager Community
	Jessica Beaton	Governance Coordinator

The meeting commenced at 5.30pm.

Acknowledgment of Country

The chair recited the following acknowledgment 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

It is noted that Councillor Peter Davis has requested a leave of absence from Monday 18 July to Sunday 31 July 2022.

Cr Claridge / Cr Hearn:

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

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 Hearn:

That the Minutes of the Finance and Operations Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 15 June 2022 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

No questions were submitted to the meeting.

2. Presentation: Benalla Centrelink Campaign

Hamish McPherson from the Benalla Centrelink Campaign presented on the closure of Benalla Centrelink and the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) offices.

Cr Hearn / Cr Claridge:

- 1. That the Council reach out to Centrelink to send a representative to present to the Council.**
- 2. That the Council continue to advocate to the Federal Government for the re-opening of the Benalla Centrelink and National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) offices.**

Carried



3. 2022/2023 Community Sponsorship Program

The report presented funding applications under the 2022/23 Community Sponsorship Program.

Cr Hearn / Cr O'Brien:

That \$500 grants from the 2022/2023 Community Sponsorship Program be allocated to Tomorrow Today Education Foundation, Benalla All Blacks Football Netball Club, Better Benalla Rail Inc. and Swanpool Community Cinema.

Carried

4. 2022 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey

The report presented results from the *2022 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey*.

Cr Gunaratne / Cr Claridge:

That the report be noted.

Carried



5. Benalla Rural City Council Governance Rules 2020 Update

The report discussed the revised *Governance Rules 2020*.

It is noted that Councillor Gunarante proposed the following amendments to the revised *Governance Rules 2020*:

- That the “Council resolution” definition, as detailed below, be included in section 1.5 *Definitions* to ensure transparency.

Council Resolution	The resolution of the Council (Council by resolution) means the following: (a) a resolution made at a Council meeting; (b) a resolution made at a delegated committee meeting under delegation.
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- That point four under section 3.3.6 *Date, time and place of Council Meetings* be amended to read “Council by resolution may determine certain meetings must be held solely as face-to-face (in-person) meetings” to ensure consistency.
- That the time frame in point 10 under section 3.2.8 *Attendance, Apologies and Absences* be reduced to six hours. Point 10 to be amended to read “A councillor must inform the Mayor in writing six hours prior to the commencement of the meeting that they will be attending online. The Mayor must similarly inform the CEO and, if applicable, the meeting chair.”

Cr Gunaratne / Cr Claridge:

That the Finance and Operations Committee, acting under its delegated authority of the Council, resolve:

- 1. That the revised *Governance Rules 2020* (as amended) be endorsed for public exhibition.**
- 2. That the *Governance Rules 2020* be considered for adoption at the Council Meeting on Wednesday 31 August 2022.**

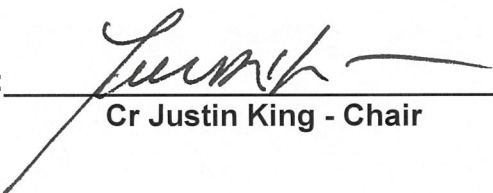
Carried



Closure of Meeting

The meeting closed at 6.10pm

Confirmed this twenty fourth day of August 2022.

Signed:  _____
Cr Justin King - Chair