

Finance and Planning Committee

Minutes

Date: Wednesday 10 May 2023

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

Committee Meetings are live streamed and recorded. Members of the public are encouraged to watch the live broadcast of the meeting at www.benalla.vic.gov.au

Any person wishing to participate in public submissions in accordance with Rule 7.3 of the *Governance Rules 2020* should contact the Council by emailing council@benalla.vic.gov.au or telephoning Governance Coordinator Jess Pendergast on (03) 5760 2600.

In accordance with Rule 6.4 of the *Governance Rules 2020* an audio recording will be made of the proceedings of the meeting.

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Minutes

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Chair | Councillor Danny Claridge | |
| Councillors | Councillor Peter Davis | |
| | Councillor Don Firth | |
| | Councillor Bernie Hearn (Mayor) | |
| | Councillor Punarji Hewa Gunaratne | |
| | Councillor Justin King | |
| | Councillor Gail O'Brien | |
| In attendance | Dom Testoni | Chief Executive Officer |
| | Robert Barber | General Manager Corporate |
| | Jane Archbold | Manager Community |
| | Cathy Fitzpatrick | Manager Finance |
| | Adrian Gasperoni | Manager Assets and Infrastructure |
| | Courtney Naughton | Manager Economic Development and Sustainability |
| | Greg Robertson | Manager Facilities and Information Technology |
| | Nilesh Singh | Manager Development |
| | Tom Arnold | Community Development Coordinator |
| | Jess Pendergast | Governance Coordinator |
| | Wayne Rich | Compliance Coordinator |

Opening and Acknowledgment of Country

The Chair opened the meeting at 5.30pm 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.

DC

Apologies

No apologies were submitted to the meeting.

Governance Matters

The Committee Meeting is conducted in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Benalla Rural City Council Governance Rules 2020*.

Disclosures of Conflict of Interest

See item 6.

Confirmation of the previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes were circulated to Councillors and posted on the Council website www.benalla.vic.gov.au pending confirmation at the meeting.

Cr Davis / Cr Hearn:

That the Minutes of the Finance and Planning Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 5 April 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Carried

Business

1. Proposed Arthur Baird Memorial Sculpture – Hearing of Submissions

This report presented the submissions received on the *proposed Arthur Baird Memorial Sculpture*.

It is noted that Mr Barry O'Connor provided a written statement in support of his submission on the item.

**Cr King / Cr Gunaratne:
That submissions be received.**

Carried

2. Financial Report For The Quarter Ended 31 March 2023

The report presented the financial result compared to budget for third quarter ended 31 March 2023 and presents outcomes from the 2022/23 third quarter budget review.

**Cr Firth / Cr Hearn:
That the report be noted.**

Carried

3. Finance Department Activity Report For The Quarter Ended 31 March 2023

The report presented an overview of the functions of the Finance Department for the quarter ended 31 March 2023.

**Cr Davis / Cr King:
That the report be noted.**

Carried

DC

4. Capital Works Program Update As At 31 March 2023

The report presented an update on the Capital Works Program as at 31 March 2023.

Cr Hearn / Cr Davis:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That \$180,000 of capital works expenditure be reassigned from the Rural Councils Transformation Project to the Council Vehicle Fleet Purchase program.
3. That \$40,000 of capital works expenditure be reassigned from Landfill – Gas Extraction to Transfer Station – Green Waste Hardstand.

Carried

5. Assets and Infrastructure Department Activity Report For The Quarter Ended 31 March 2023

The report presented the activities of the Assets and Infrastructure department for the quarter ended 31 March 2023.

Cr Hearn / Cr King:

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

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the proposed *Additional Commercial Customer Access Card* and *Replacement Commercial Access Card* fees of \$30 be placed on public exhibition for a period for at least 28 days.

Carried

6. 2022/23 Community Grants Program

The report presented applications recommended for funding under the 2022/23 Community Grant Program.

Councillor Bernie Hearn and Councilor Punarji Hewa Gunarante disclosed a general conflict of interest in the above item.

DC

Cr Hearn / Cr Firth:

That the grant application from Waminda Community House Inc. be excised and considered separately.

Carried

Cr Gunarante / Cr King:

That the grant application from Benalla Migrants Association Inc. be excised and considered separately.

Carried

Cr Hearn / Cr Firth:

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

- 1. That \$59,916 be allocated from the 2022/2023 Community Grants Program to:**

| Applicant | Assistance |
|---|-------------------|
| Astronomy Benalla Inc | \$2,500 |
| Benalla Agricultural & Pastoral Society Inc | \$2,500 |
| Benalla and District Preschool Partnership | \$628 |
| Benalla and District Preschool Partnership | \$549 |
| Benalla Aviation Museum and Men's Shed | \$2,500 |
| Benalla Bushwalking Club | \$2,025 |
| Benalla Family Research Group Inc | \$1,299 |
| Benalla Garden Club Inc | \$933 |
| Benalla Historical Society Inc. | \$2,216 |
| Benalla Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club Inc | \$2,500 |
| Benalla Men's Shed | \$2,244 |
| Benalla Netball Association | \$2,500 |
| Benalla Saints Past Players and Officials | \$1,507 |
| Benalla Theatre Company Inc | \$2,500 |
| Benalla Yarn Bombers Incorporated | \$1,700 |
| For the Good of Devenish | \$2,500 |
| Goorambat Football Netball Club | \$2,310 |
| Goorambat Public Hall Reserve Committee of Management Inc | \$2,500 |
| Let Us Entertain You Inc (LUEY) | \$2,500 |
| Live Art Benalla and GANEEA | \$2,500 |

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| Lurg Hall and Reserve Committee of Management | \$2,500 |
| Moorngag Hall and Recreation Centre | \$1,905 |
| NESAY Inc | \$2,500 |
| Room at the Table Inc | \$1,500 |
| Rotary Club of Benalla Inc | \$1,250 |
| Swanpool Bowling Club Inc | \$2,500 |
| Tatong Community Centre and Recreation Reserve | \$2,500 |
| Thoona Memorial Hall and Public Hall | \$1,100 |
| U3A Benalla | \$1,250 |
| Warrenbayne Recreation Reserve Committee Inc. | \$2,500 |

2. That the Community Grants Program Guidelines and assessment criteria be reviewed prior to next years funding round.

Carried

Councilor Punarji Hewa Gunarante left the meeting at 6.56pm.

The grant application from Benalla Migrants Association Inc. was presented.

Cr Hearn / Cr King:

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

That a \$2,500 grant from the 2022/2023 Community Grants be allocated to Benalla Migrants Association Inc.

Carried

Councilor Punarji Hewa Gunarante returned to the meeting at 7pm.

Councillor Bernie Hearn left the meeting at 7pm.

The grant application from Waminda Community House Inc. was presented.

Cr Davis / Cr O'Brien:

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

That a \$2,500 grant from the 2022/2023 Community Grants be allocated to Waminda Community House Inc.

Carried

Councillor Bernie Hearn returned to the meeting at 7.02pm.

De

7. 2022/2023 Quick Response Grants

The report presented funding applications for 2022/23 Quick Response Grants.

Cr O'Brien / Cr King:

That \$500 grants from the 2022/2023 Quick Response Grant program be allocated to Benalla Heritage Network and CALMKids Yoga.

Carried

8. *Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy*

The report presented for consideration the *Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy and Child Safe Code of Conduct*.

Cr Hearn / Cr King:

- 1. That *Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy* and the *Child Safe Code of Conduct* be adopted.**
- 2. That the *Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy* and the *Child Safe Code of Conduct* be reviewed in May 2027.**

Carried

9. Facilities and Information Technology Department Activity Report For The Quarter Ended 31 March 2023

The report presented the activities of the Facilities and Information Technology Department for the quarter ended 31 March 2023.

Cr O'Brien / Cr Gunaratne:

That the report be noted.

Carried

PC

10. Proposed Fenced Dog Park at Churchill Reserve Benalla

The report discussed the proposed construction of a fenced off-leash dog park at Churchill Reserve Benalla.

Cr Gunarante / Cr King:

That the Council endorses the construction of a fenced off-leash dog park at Churchill Reserve, Benalla.

Carried

11. Building and Planning Approvals – March 2023

The report detailed planning permit applications and building approvals for March 2023.

Cr Hearn / Cr King:

That the report be noted.

Carried

12. Development Department Activity Report For The Quarter Ended 31 March 2023

The report presented the activities of the Development department for the quarter ended 31 March 2023.

Cr King / Cr Gunaratne:

That the report be noted.

Carried

13. Urgent Business

No urgent business was submitted to the meeting.

Closure of Meeting

The Committee Meeting closed at 7.46pm.

Confirmed this fourteenth day of June 2023.

Signed: _____



Cr Danny Claridge (Chair)