

Council Meeting

Minutes

Date: Wednesday 24 April 2024

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

In accordance with Rule 6.4 of the *Governance Rules 2020* the Council Meeting was livestreamed via the Council's website and an audio recording will be made of the proceedings.

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

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Minutes

Chair Councillor Danny Claridge (Mayor)

Councillors Councillor Peter Davis
Councillor Don Firth
Councillor Bernie Hearn
Councillor Punarji Hewa Gunaratne
Councillor Justin King
Councillor Gail O'Brien

In attendance Dom Testoni Chief Executive Officer
Robert Barber General Manager Corporate
Tom Arnold Community Development Coordinator
Keith Biglin Project Manager
Jess Pendergast Governance 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.

Apologies

No apologies were submitted to the meeting.

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.

Governance Matters

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

Recording of Council Meetings

In accordance with Rule 6.4 of the *Governance Rules 2020* the Council Meeting was livestreamed via the Council's website and an audio recording was made of the proceedings.

Disclosures of Conflict of Interest

See item 4.1.

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 this meeting.

Cr Davis / Cr Hearn:

That the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on 20 March 2024 and 3 April 2024 be confirmed as true and accurate records of the meetings.

Carried

1. Public Question Time

No public questions were submitted to the meeting.

2. Petitions

No petitions were submitted to the meeting.

Record of Committees

3.1 Recommendations from Finance and Planning Committee

The recommendations of the Finance and Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 10 April 2024 were presented.

Cr Hearn / Cr Firth:

That the recommendations of the Finance and Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 10 April 2024 be adopted.

Carried

3.2 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, Advisory and External Committees were presented.

March 2024

4 March 2024	Benalla Street Art Advisory Committee Meeting
5 March 2024	Benalla Art Gallery Committee Meeting
6 March 2024	Assembly of Councillors Briefing
13 March 2024	CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Meeting
13 March 2024	Assembly of Councillors Briefing

Cr Davis / Cr King:

That the report be noted.

Carried

Officer Reports

Councillor Justin King declared a material conflict of interest in the following item and left the meeting at 5.34pm.

4.1 Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment Project

The report presented for the Council's consideration a preferred site for the *Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment* project.

Cr Hearn / Cr Firth:

1. That the Council give in principle support for the Benalla P-12 College Barkly Street Campus as the preferred site location for the *Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Redevelopment project*.
2. That the Chief Executive Officer negotiate with the Department of Education for the Council to acquire crown land at 51-54 Barkly Street, Benalla.
3. That the *Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Project Steering Committee* be established.
4. That the amended *Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Project Steering Committee Terms of Reference* be adopted.
5. That Cr Don Firth and Cr Bernie Hearn be appointed as the Councillor representatives on the *Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Project Steering Committee* for the remainder of the 2023/24 Council year.
6. That invitations to join the *Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Project Steering Committee* be extended to:
 - Hume Region Community Infrastructure, Place, Sport and Recreation Victoria
 - Basketball Victoria
 - President Benalla Basketball Association
 - Chair of the Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Committee of Management.
7. That an expression of interest process be undertaken to obtain two community member *Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Project Steering Committee* representatives.

Carried

Councillor Justin King returned to the meeting at 6.04pm.

4.2 Draft *Fair Access Policy*

The report presented for consideration the draft *Fair Access Policy*.

Cr King / Cr O'Brien:

That the draft *Fair Access Policy* be endorsed for public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days.

Carried

4.3 2023/24 Quick Response Grants

The report presented funding applications for 2023/24 Quick Response Grants.

Cr Firth / Cr King:

That a \$500 grant from the 2023/2024 Quick Response Grant program be allocated to Tatong Anglers Group Inc.

Carried

4.4 Benalla Rural City Council Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Committee – Appointment of Independent Advisor

The report discussed the appointment of an Independent Advisor to the Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Committee.

Cr Davis / Cr Hearn:

That Chris Eddy be appointed as the Independent Advisor on the *Benalla Rural City Council Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Committee* for a two-year term commencing 24 April 2024.

Carried

4.5 Mayor and Councillors' Attendance at Committees and Civic Functions

The Mayor and Councillors attendance at meetings and events as for the period from 4 March 2024 to 7 April 2024 were presented.

Cr King / Cr Hearn:

That the report be noted.

Carried

4.6 Council Actions Pending

Council Actions Pending were presented.

Cr King / Cr O'Brien:

That the report be noted.

Carried

5. Reports by Councillors

Cr Don Firth reported on his attendance at:

- Benalla Street Art Festival events held over 21-28 March 2024.

Cr Gail O'Brien reported on her attendance at:

- Benalla Street Art Festival events held over 21-28 March 2024.

Cr Peter Davis reported on his attendance at:

- Social Inclusion Action Group Community events that were held over the month of April in Benalla Rural City rural townships. Councillor Davis thanked community members for attending the meetings to find out about new mental health and wellbeing local, community funding opportunities and programs.

Cr Punarji Hewa Gunaratne reported on his attendance at:

- EndoMarch Morning Tea at the Benalla CWA Hall on Friday 22 March 2024.
- Benalla Migrants Association's South Asian New Year event on Saturday 13 April 2024.
- Sinhala and Tamil New Year celebration held at the Wangaratta CWA Hall on this Saturday 20 April 2024.

Cr Danny Claridge reported on his attendance at:

- Benalla Street Art Festival events held over 21-28 March 2024.
- Social Inclusion Action Group Community events that were held over the month of April in Benalla Rural City rural townships.
- Benalla P-12 College whole school ANZAC Assembly on Tuesday 23 April 2024.

Cr King / Cr Davis:

That the reports be noted.

Carried

6. Notices of Motion

No notices of motion were submitted to the meeting.

7. Notices of Rescission Motion

No notices of rescission motion were submitted to the meeting.

8. Urgent Business

No urgent business was submitted to the meeting.

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 or private commercial information that would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about a person, their personal affairs or expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking if released:

- 9.1 Appointment of Independent Member to the Audit and Risk Committee
- 9.2 Confidential Reports by Councillors
- 9.3 Confidential Council Actions Pending

Cr Davis / Cr Hearn:

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

10. Reopening of the meeting to the public

Cr Davis / Cr Hearn:

That the meeting be reopened to the public.

Carried

Closure of the meeting

The Council Meeting closed at 6.44pm.

The Minutes were confirmed on the twenty ninth day of May 2024.

Signed: _____
Mayor Cr Danny Claridge