

Council Meeting

Minutes

Date: Wednesday 2 August 2023

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 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
	Greg Robertson	Manager Facilities and Information Technology
	Tracey Beaton	Acting 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.

Statement of Commitment

The Councillors will recite 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.

Councillor Peter Davis entered the room at 5.33pm.

Governance Matters

This Council 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

No conflicts of interest were disclosed to the meeting.

Apologies and Leave of Absences

It is noted that Councillor Danny Claridge is on an approved leave of absence.

Councillor Don Firth submitted an apology for the meeting.

Cr Davis / Cr King:

That the apologies be accepted.

Carried

Confirmation of the previous Meeting Minutes

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

Cr O'Brien / Cr King:

That the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on Wednesday 28 June 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Carried

1. Public Question Time

The Council's *Governance Rules 2020* provide the opportunity for members of the public to lodge written questions of broad interest to the Council and the community.

It is recorded that Kelvin Granger and Dean Hurlston from Council Watch Inc tabled the following question regarding 'cost-shifting'.

Can Council please advise the dollar (\$) amount of 'cost shifting from the State Government' they estimate they incurred in 2022/23 Financial Year?

The Chief Executive Officer answered that it is not possible to quantify the dollar amount of 'cost-shifting' in the 2022/23 financial year.

It is recorded that Alan Monger from the Benalla Historical Society tabled the following question regarding the Benalla Costume and Kelly Museum.

On behalf of the Benalla Historical Society, I seek clarification about security of tenure of the museum buildings?

The Chief Executive Officer answered that I can confirm that the advice that was communicated to Alan Monger last week is correct and that Council's solicitor is drafting a licence agreement.

Cr Davis / Cr O'Brien:

That the questions and answers be noted.

Carried

2. Petitions

No petitions were submitted to the Council Meeting.

Record of is Committees

3.1 Recommendations from Finance and Planning Committee

The recommendations of the Finance and Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 19 July 2023 were presented.

Cr King / O'Brien:

That the recommendations of the Finance and Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 19 July 2023 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.

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

June 2023

5 June 2023	Benalla Local Safety and Traffic Liaison Committee
6 June 2023	Accessibility Reference Group
7 June 2023	Communications Advisory Committee
7 June 2023	Assembly of Councillors Briefing
20 June 2023	Audit and Risk Committee
21 June 2023	Assembly of Councillors Briefing
27 June 2023	Assembly of Councillors Briefing

Cr King / O'Brien:

That the report be noted.

Carried

Officer Reports

4.1 Authorisation of Signing and Sealing of Documents

No documents were submitted for signing and sealing.

4.2 2023/24 Quick Response Grants Program

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

Cr Davis / Cr O'Brien:

1. That \$500 grant from the 2023/2024 Quick Response Grant program be allocated Parents and Friends Association – Australian Christian College.

Carried

4.3 Mayor and Councillors' attendance at Committees and Civic Functions

The Mayor and Councillors attendance at meetings and events during the period from 19 June 2023 to 23 July 2023 were presented.

It is noted that Councillor Gail O'Brien attended the:

- Benalla Migrant Camp Exhibition on 30 June 2023.
- Homelessness meeting at Waminda House on 20 July 2023.

Cr Davis / Cr King:

That the report be noted.

Carried

4.4 Council Actions Pending

Council Actions Pending were presented.

Cr O'Brien / Cr King:

That the report be noted.

Carried

5. Reports by Councillors

Councillor Gail O'Brien reported on her attendance at the:

- NAIDOC Week Flag Raising Ceremony at the Benalla Civic Centre and the Smoking Ceremony at the Benalla Lakeside Community Centre on 4 July 2023.

Councillor Justin King reported on his attendance at the:

- Climate and Environment Strategy Workshops held in June 2023.

Councillor Punarji Gunaratne reported on his attendance at the:

- Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Meeting Procedures Workshop in Melbourne on 23 June 2023.
- Benalla Lions Club Junior Public Speaking Competition as a judge on 23 July 2023.

Councillor Bernie Hearn reported on her attendance at the:

- Opening of the Benalla Clothing Swap Event on 28 June 2023.

Cr O'Brien / Cr Davis:
That the reports be noted.

Carried

6. Notices of Motion

No notices of motion were received.

7. Notices of Rescission Motion

No notices of rescission motion were received.

8. Urgent Business

No urgent business was submitted to the meeting.

Confidential Business

It is 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 Tender: Project Collaborative Digital Innovation (CODI)
- 9.2 Confidential Reports by Councillors
- 9.3 Confidential Council Actions Pending

Cr Davis / Cr O'Brien:

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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10. Reopening of the meeting to the public

Cr O'Brien / Cr King:

That the meeting be reopened to the public.

Carried

Closure of the meeting

The meeting closed at 6.09pm.