

Council Meeting

Minutes

Date: Wednesday 14 December 2022

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

Council Meetings are live streamed and recorded. 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
	Jane Archbold	Manager Community
	Tom Arnold	Community Development Coordinator
	Jessica Beaton	Governance Coordinator

The Council Meeting opened at 6pm.

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.

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.*



Disclosures of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were disclosed to the meeting.

Apologies

It is noted that Councillor Peter Davis and Councillor Gail O'Brien are on an approved leave of absence.

Cr King / Cr Claridge:

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

Carried

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

Cr Gunaratne / Cr King:

That the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on 16 November 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Carried

1. Public Question Time

No questions were submitted to the Council Meeting.

2. Petitions

No petitions were submitted to the Council Meeting.

Record of Committees

3.1 Recommendations from Delegated Committee

The recommendations of the Finance and Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 7 December 2022 were presented.

Cr Claridge / Cr King:

That the recommendations of the Finance and Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 7 December 2022 be adopted.

Carried

3.2 Assemblies of Councillors, Advisory and External Committees

The record of Assemblies of Councillors since the report presented at the meeting on 16 November 2022 was presented.

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

November 2022

2 November 2022	Assembly of Councillors
22 November 2022	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
30 November 2022	Communications Advisory Committee Meeting

Cr Claridge / Cr King:

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 Annual Grant Program Guidelines

The report discussed the proposed draft *Quick Response Grants and Community Grant Guidelines* for the delivery of Council's Annual Grant Program.

Cr King / Cr Claridge:

1. That the *Community Sponsorship Program* be renamed *Quick Response Grants*.
2. That *Quick Response Grant* applications be presented to the Council for consideration at a Finance and Planning Committee Meeting (to be approved or rejected under delegated authority of the Council) or at a Council Meeting.
3. That *Youth Participation Grants* and *Major Events Funding* follow the same approval process as *Quick Response Grants* and be available year-round.
4. That the following Annual Grant Program guideline documents be adopted:
 - *Quick Response Grants and Community Grants Program Guidelines*
 - *Youth Participation Grant Guidelines*
 - *Major Events Funding Guidelines*.

Carried

4.3 Waste Reduction Working Group

The report presented for consideration the establishment of a Waste Reduction Working Group.

Cr King / Cr Firth:

1. That the *Waste Reduction Working Group Terms of Reference* be adopted.
2. That the Waste Reduction Working Group be established in accordance with the *Waste Reduction Working Group Terms of Reference*.
3. That Councillor Danny Claridge be appointed as the councillor representative on the Waste Reduction Working Group for the 2022/23 Council year.
4. That the Benalla Sustainable Future Group be invited to nominate a representative to the Waste Reduction Working Group.
5. That local service clubs be invited to nominate representatives to the Waste Reduction Working Group.

Carried



4.4 October 2022 Flood Event Emergency Works Expenditure

The report provided an update of the Council's expenditure on emergency works associated with the October 2022 flood event.

Cr Claridge / Cr Firth:

That the report be noted.

Carried

4.5 Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Funding Update

The report presented an update on the Australian Government's *Local Roads and Community Infrastructure* (LRCI) Program funding.

Cr King / Cr Firth:

That the report be noted.

Carried

4.6 Mayor and Councillor's Attendance at Committees and Civic Functions

The Mayor and Councillors attendance at meetings and events during the period from 7 November 2022 to 4 December 2022 were presented.

Cr King / Cr Gunarante:

That the report be noted.

Carried

4.7 Council Actions Pending

Council Actions Pending were presented.

Cr King / Cr Gunarante:
That the report be noted.

Carried

5. Reports by Councillors

Cr Claridge reported on his attendance at the:

- Thirty sixth State Gliding Centre annual general meeting on Saturday 3 December 2022.

Cr Firth acknowledged the:

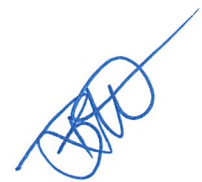
- Increased footpath works that have been completed in the Benalla community following the \$600,000 2022/23 *Budget* allocation.

Cr King reported on his attendance at the:

- nbn's Satellite Muster Truck demonstration on Monday 28 November 2022.

Cr King / Cr Claridge:
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 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 Confidential Reports by Councillors

9.2 Confidential Council Actions Pending

Cr King / Cr Firth:

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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A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

10. Reopening of the meeting to the public

Cr King / Cr Claridge:

That the meeting be reopened to the public.

Carried

Closure of the meeting

The Council Meeting closed at 6.55pm.

Confirmed this eighth day of February 2023.

Signed: _____
Chair – Cr Bernie Hearn (Mayor)

