

Benalla Rural City Council

# Finance and Planning Committee

## Minutes

Date: Wednesday 10 December 2025

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

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# Minutes

<b>Chair</b>	Councillor David Blore	
<b>Councillors</b>	Councillor Bernie Hearn (Mayor)	
	Councillor Justin King (Deputy Mayor)	
	Councillor Peter Davis	
	Councillor Puna Hewa Gunaratne	
	Councillor Jillian Merkel	
<b>In attendance</b>	Peter Keane	Chief Executive Officer
	Robert Barber	General Manager Corporate
	Courtney Naughton	Manager Economic Development and Sustainability
	Nilesh Singh	Manager Development
	Jess Pendergast	Governance Coordinator

## Opening and Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair opened the meeting at 6pm 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.

## Governance Matters

The Committee 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 Committee Meeting was livestreamed via the Council's website. An audio recording was be made of the proceedings.

Members of the public can watch the recorded broadcast of the meeting at **[www.benalla.vic.gov.au](http://www.benalla.vic.gov.au)**

## Disclosures of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were disclosed.

### 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](http://www.benalla.vic.gov.au) pending confirmation at the meeting.

**Cr Davis / Cr Gunaratne:**

**That the Minutes of the Finance and Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 5 November 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.**

**Carried**

## **Business**

### **1. Planning Permit Application For Building And Works To The Existing Office Building At 18 Bridge Street East, Benalla**

The report discussed the planning application received for buildings and works at 26 Bridge Street East, Benalla to replace the door and window and repaint a section of the front façade.

**Cr Hearn / Cr King:**

- 1. That the report be noted.**
- 2. That a report on Planning Permit Application for Buildings and Works to the Existing Office Building at 18 Bridge Street East, Benalla be presented to the Finance and Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday 25 March 2026.**

**Carried**

### **2. Building and Planning Approvals – October 2025**

The report detailed planning permit applications and building approvals for October 2025.

**Cr Gunaratne / Cr Merkel:**

**That the report be noted.**

**Carried**

### **3. 2025/2026 Major Events Grant Program**

The report presented a funding application for the 2025/26 Major Event Funding Program.

**Cr King / Cr Davis:**

**That the Finance and Planning Committee, acting under its delegated authority of the Council allocates \$2,000 grants from the 2025/26 Major Event Funding program to the Benalla Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club and the Molyullah Recreation and Public Hall Reserve Committee.**

**Carried**

#### **4. Urgent Business**

No urgent business was submitted to the meeting.

#### **Closure of Meeting**

The meeting closed at 6.22pm.

**The minutes were confirmed on the eighteenth day of February 2026.**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cr David Blore – Chair**