



MINUTES

Council Meeting

6.00pm Tuesday 22 March 2022

VENUE:
Linton Shire Hall
Council Chamber
68 Sussex St, Linton

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING
6.00pm Tuesday 26 April 2022

Copies of Golden Plains Shire Council's Agendas & Minutes
Can be obtained online at www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au

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**MINUTES OF GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE LINTON SHIRE HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBER, 68 SUSSEX ST, LINTON
ON TUESDAY, 22 MARCH 2022 AT 6.00PM**

PRESENT: Cr Helena Kirby (Deputy Mayor), Cr Les Rowe, Cr Owen Sharkey, Cr Brett Cunningham, Cr Gavin Gamble (Mayor), Cr Ian Getsom, Cr Clayton Whitfield

IN ATTENDANCE: Eric Braslis (CEO), Phil Josipovic (Director Infrastructure and Development), Steven Sagona (Director Community Services), Simon Rennie (Director Corporate Services), Rosie Wright (Coordinator Governance and Risk), Sophie Brown (Acting Governance and Legal Services Officer)

1 OPENING DECLARATION

We the Councillors of Golden Plains Shire declare that we will undertake, on every occasion, to carry out our duties in the best interest of the community and that our conduct shall maintain the standards of the code of good governance so that we may faithfully represent and uphold the trust placed in this Council by the people of Golden Plains Shire

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Golden Plains Shire spans the Traditional lands of the Wadawurrung and Eastern Maar people. We acknowledge them as the Traditional Owners and Custodians. Council pays its respects to Wadawurrung Elders past, present and emerging. Council also respects Eastern Maar Elders past, present and emerging.

Council extends that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People who are part of the Golden Plains Shire.

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Owen Sharkey
Seconded: Cr Ian Getsom

Cr Rowe requested a leave of absence from 1 April 2022 to 3 May 2022.

CARRIED

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ian Getsom
Seconded: Cr Brett Cunningham

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 22 February 2022 be confirmed.

CARRIED

5 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

NIL

6 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Mayor made the following statement:

"We have quite a few questions tonight. Public question time will run for 30 minutes. We have a time keeper. We considered questions received with notice from the public, and I will see if each person who submitted a request is with us here tonight as we go through them. I will also note we only have the half an hour so if those people asking the questions would prefer, Mr Braslis can read the question if they'd prefer not to read it themselves. If the person is not in attendance tonight with the question, their questions will be responded to by a letter from the Mayor tomorrow, and if you do run out of time you are welcome to follow up with the Council directly tomorrow to get the answers."

The following public question was read by Jill Wheeler.

Question

"Can Council make an annual allocation in the budget for the restoration and maintenance of historic buildings in the Shire?"

Given that Council adopted a Heritage Policy as part of its new Arts, Culture & Heritage Policy in 2021, which I was on the committee to formulate that, I wish to ask how Council will implement the Heritage Policy? In particular, with reference to page 14 of that policy, headed Strategic Objectives, Strategy 2; Our Stories, Council's Commitment is to: 'create a sense of place and identity by developing and preserving history and heritage that reflects and contributes to the Shire's unique built and natural environments'. Under Key Actions, the policy cites, amongst other things, that Council will: 'ensure the maintenance of and access to council-owned heritage assets'.

The two historic buildings in Linton for which our society is the Committee of Management are two such 'council-owned heritage assets'. These are the former Nelsons Undertakers Building (which is our headquarters and Resource Centre) and the 1874 Library next door.

Over nearly a decade now we have managed to apply for and get small community grants, some of them through the Shire, and several larger Commonwealth Government grants. The total we have got from the commonwealth government so far is \$18,000, to assist with preservation of these heritage buildings that we manage. However, although this has enabled some repairs and refurbishment, the grants are small and piecemeal compared with the work that is needed.

Given that the Shire will always be the only level of government that has a commitment to our local communities, can Council ensure that its new Heritage Policy is implemented by the allocation of funds towards the preservation of its historic infrastructure to achieve its goal that: 'the unique cultural history of local places in Golden Plains Shire is celebrated, preserved, shared and enhanced'? I wish to stress that the economic spin-off from heritage preservation is the enhancement of tourism activity and revenue within the Shire, which is Key Action, point 4, under Strategy 2: Our Stories, that is, that Council will: 'develop tourist activity that will responsibly reflect and promote Golden Plains Shire's historic and cultural assets'."

Response

The following response was read by Phil Josipovic, Director Infrastructure and Development:

"Ultimately budget decisions are a matter of Council. At present, we do not have a heritage buildings specific budget, but we do have a building maintenance and minor works budget that is allocated each year. This provides funding to maintain all council buildings without differentiating between heritage and non-heritage. More significant refurbishment or renewals requiring significant investment are typically considered during Council's annual budget process and funded on a priority basis.

The Arts, Culture & Heritage Strategy recognises the importance of preserving history and heritage, including that of council-owned heritage buildings. To this extent, the Strategy is one of many inputs considered by Council in determining budget allocations for buildings maintenance, and in helping to identify possible external grants.

Ultimately, budget decisions by Council will attempt to appropriately balance competing priorities for limited funds, having regard to various strategic objectives including those contained in the Arts, Culture & Heritage Strategy.”

The following public question was read by Eugene Grigg Surrey.

Question

“I went to a Recreation Reserve meeting recently and I read the minutes of the previous meeting which was in October, and in it said that in the Council budget there was money to beautify the entrances to Bannnockburn, Rokewood and Linton recreation reserves. That hasn’t been done to date from what I understand so I’m wanting to know what are the dates that this might happen?”

Response

The following response was read by Phil Josipovic, Director Infrastructure and Development:

“The works to improve the Rokewood and Linton Recreation Reserve Access Roads have been issued to a contractor. Commencement scheduled in approximately 3 weeks time pending delivery of drainage materials, including wingwalls.

Supply issues across the industry, particularly on civil projects, there has been some difficulty in that regard due to the pandemic and delays in production and delivery, but we are hoping to commence in 3 weeks time.

With the Bannockburn Recreation Reserve we are finalising the detailed design and we hope to go out for quote for those works within the next few weeks. All these works are planned to be completed this financial year. I should also add that the projects are significantly funded through the federal government’s local roads and community infrastructure program.”

The following public question was read by Eugene Grigg Surrey.

Question

“The Town Maintenance Policy states that “Footpaths ,roadsides and drainage systems are to be regularly monitored and cleared of debris and litter”, and I’d like to ask what is the Council’s program for this to be enabled?”

Response

The following response was read by Phil Josipovic, Director Infrastructure and Development:

“I acknowledge that our proactive maintenance isn’t up to the level it should be and we are currently working pretty hard to try and update our pro-active maintenance schedule to ensure these works are better programmed on an annual basis.

However, with regard to Linton at present we have commenced to clean some of the drain areas that the question has referred to previously with officers and we have also started to conduct some weed spraying around those drains. A street sweeper will be in Linton in the next few weeks to clean out some of the drains and then a follow up clean manual clean where necessary to be completed after that.”

The following public question was read by Kylie Turville.

Question

“The status of the Northern Streetscapes Project. Just an update with that, and whether communities will be able to provide feedback on the next version of the plans for each town?”

Response

The following response was read by Phil Josipovic, Director Infrastructure and Development:

“The consultant has submitted the Final Framework Plan and is currently undergoing a final internal review, which is due to be presented to Council in April for adoption. I can say the final framework plan has incorporated community feedback and has give due regard to all the feedback we’ve received throughout the three townships.”

The following public question was read by Kylie Turville.

Question

“In regards to the playground equipment at the recreation reserve – there was a plan for that to be installed and replaced in February. The shade sail was removed approximately 12 months ago and that work still hasn’t been completed. I’m just wondering about the timeline for when that will be done?”

Response

The following response was read by Phil Josipovic, Director Infrastructure and Development:

“Absolutely acknowledge the playground was due to be installed by about February this year, however we struggled to get a suitable contractor and also the playground equipment at present is presenting a challenge again due to delays with both staff not being available and production down significantly. We were faced with the decision given the school holidays were upon us, we decided to delay the works until after the school holidays so we are hoping the schedule now is to have it all completed by June.”

The following public question was read by a member of the public.

Question

“I understand that the establishment of a Commity of Management for the Linton Shire Offices was unsuccessful and there has now been an outcome where 3 groups will be occupying the site, I understand this to be the Historical Society, the Craft Group and the Food Pantry.

At this point, there has been no details released to the community on what this means, for example, how much space does each group have, can the community still have access to it, as it should for community related events, who will oversee the whole building that is in community access, repairs, costs etcetera.

Also I’d like to suggest that the Linton Community Planning Group should be part of the process to ensure that the allocation of groups and space fits the community needs. There is already some concern that community members will be 'locked out' of the space that should be free for all communities and groups to utlise for events such as exhibitions, health and wellbeing initiatives, youth activities and so on. This includes any rooms, space within the building including the kitchen, bathrooms etcetera. I understand there is talk that the Historical Society has the chambers, the Food Pantry has the office area, and craft group have another room.

May I please request the details of the arrangements and the proposed usage by each group. A copy of the submissions will be greatly appreciated and I am sure these would be readily available. I did actually submit that question and had a response from somebody within Council and I can read that out.”

Response

The following was read, from an email response sent by Stephen Moschner, Community Facilities Officer:

“Thank-you for your enquiry regarding the Linton Shire Offices. I can confirm that the EOI process is complete and we are in the contractual phase. With this we are speaking to the successful groups and going through the management agreements, keys, days of operations etcetera. Only

once this is complete will we be doing some public communications as to the outcome of the EOI process. At this stage your enquiry is about a week or two in advance of any communications. Please stand by and we will be releasing this through your local paper, Facebook and website. Thank-you for your enquiry."

The following public question was read by Eric Braslis, CEO, on behalf of Chris Grigg:

"Given that Golden Plains Shire is still conducting Council meetings in this chamber and scheduled for more, why is Council asking community groups to take over management of the said chamber?"

Response

The following response was read by Steven Sagona, Director Community Services:

"Community management of this building including this chamber is intended to provide a greater level of activation of this building and of this space than would be the case if Council retained full responsibility for it and simply ran a Council meeting every few months.

The community management model was proposed by and agreed on as a way of moving forward with an interested group of residents late in 2020, prior to broader communications and then the Expression of Interest processes being undertaken. There are some parallels in the way that this building will be managed with other community facilities in the Shire including the Northern Community Centre in Haddon, the Dereel Community Centre and the Harrison Reserve and Community Hall in Enfield. The key objective is to activate the public space in a way that encourages residents to really participate in a variety of activities while utilising the asset to a greater extent than it would be otherwise, and particularly given there are 3 Council meetings scheduled here for this year and approximated perhaps 12 or so hours of total usage. The idea of having community management of it is to activate the facility more than it otherwise would be."

The following public question was read by Eric Braslis, CEO, on behalf of Chris Grigg:

"Given that the Council facility in Smythesdale known as The Well is used for similar meetings as the Linton chamber yet offers community use managed by the Council, why cant the Linton facility be managed for both Shire and community use in the same way - with bookings taken and managed by The Well?"

The following response was read by Steven Sagona, Director Community Services:

"Yes the proposal for this building is a different model than The Well at Smythesdale, but again consistent with a number of other community facilities in the Shire. The management model for this facility provides local groups and residents with the ability to utilise and activate the building based on a diverse range of community needs rather than bookings and fees being managed through Council. This was the preferred model that the initial group of Linton community members had requested be facilitated by Council via an open EOI process, and agreements with the 3 groups are now being finalised. We will then communicate the details around that and then those agreements will be implemented for the purpose of a 12 month trial."

7 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION

7.1 CITIZEN RECOGNITION AWARD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Golden Plains Shire is proud to recognise the fantastic achievements and contributions made by young people in the community. We are fortunate today to present a Citizen Recognition Award, which includes a certificate of recognition to Joe Petty.

Joe Petty is being recognised for his achievement in sport.

- Joe is 11 years old, lives in Inverleigh and has been competing in Touch Football since he was 9 years old.
- Joe has recently competed in the Your Podiatrist Touch Football Cup Tournament in Mount Gambier.

7.2 DELEGATES REPORT - 23 FEBRUARY 2022 TO 22 MARCH 2022**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

	Cr Gamble	Cr Cunningham	Cr Getsom	Cr Kirby	Cr Rowe	Cr Sharkey	Cr Whitfield
Council Meeting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Councillor Briefing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Strategic Councillor Briefing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
Portfolios	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Cr Gavin Gamble

23 February 2022	Austin's Wine Launch in Sutherlands Creek
24 February 2022	Mayor's Award Presentation at Bannockburn P-12 College
24 February 2022	Committee for Ballarat Round Table Dinner
25 February 2022	Grampians Central West Local Government Waste Forum Meeting
25 February 2022	Peri Urban Group of Rural Councils – Delegation Meeting with Minister Paul Fletcher MP
1 March 2022	G21 Transport Pillar Meeting
1 March 2022	ABC Geelong Launch
2 March 2022	G21 Environment Pillar Meeting
4 March 2022	Central Highlands Councils Victoria Mayors & CEOs Meeting
5 March 2022	Golden Plains Farmers' Market
6 March 2022	Inverleigh Dachshund Derby
7 March 2022	G21 Sport & Recreation Pillar Meeting
9 March 2022	Peri Urban Group of Rural Councils – Delegation Meeting with the Hon Mary-Anne Thomas MP
11 March 2022	Central Victorian Goldfields World Heritage Bid: Information Session
11 March 2022	Peri Urban Group of Rural Councils – Delegation Meeting with the Hon Martin Pakula MP and Opposition Roundtable at Parliament House
16 March 2022	Franklin Bridge Official Opening
18 March 2022	Friends of the Barwon River Annual General Meeting
19 March 2022	Bannockburn Skate Park Upgrade Official Opening
19 March 2022	Dereel Community Open Day

Cr Brett Cunningham

28 February 2022	Tourism Greater Geelong and The Bellarine Board Planning Day
3 March 2022	G21 Economic Development Pillar Information Session
4 March 2022	CCTV Steering Committee Meeting
6 March 2022	G21 and Tourism Greater Geelong and The Bellarine – Geelong Motor

Revival

7 March 2022	G21 Sport & Recreation Pillar Meeting
16 March 2022	International Women's Day 2022 Staff Event
17 March 2022	Climate Emergency Plan Engagement Workshop
19 March 2022	Bannockburn Skate Park Official Opening
19 March 2022	Dereel Community Open Day

Cr Ian Getsom**Cr Helena Kirby**

3 March 2022	Active Ageing and Inclusion Advisory Group Meeting
9 March 2022	Regional Advisory Group Colac Meeting
11 March 2022	Central Victorian Goldfields World Heritage Bid: Information Session
16 March 2022	International Women's Day 2022 Staff Event
19 March 2022	Bannockburn Skate Park Official Opening
19 March 2022	Dereel Community Open Day

Cr Les Rowe**Cr Owen Sharkey**

25 February 2022	Peri Urban Group of Rural Councils – Delegation Meeting with Minister Paul Fletcher MP
11 March 2022	Peri Urban Group of Rural Councils – Delegation Meeting with the Hon Martin Pakula MP and Opposition Roundtable at Parliament House

Cr Clayton Whitfield

6 March 2022	Inverleigh Dachshund Derby
18 March 2022	Friends of the Barwon River Annual General Meeting

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Clayton Whitfield
 Seconded: Cr Helena Kirby

That Council receive and note the Delegates Report – 23 February 2022 to 22 March 2022.

CARRIED

7.3 DRAFT CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE STRATEGY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A key component in the Council Plan 2021-2025 is to: 'improve the customer experience and build commitment and accountability to service standards and timely responsiveness.'

The Draft Customer Experience Strategy 2022-2026 (the Strategy) will give Council an overarching philosophy as well as an explicit action plan to improve its customer experience. The central aim of the Strategy is to strengthen consistency and ensure staff are all 'on the same page' when it comes to the experiences delivered to customers. It is recommended that the draft Strategy be placed on public exhibition for feedback from our community on 23 March prior to adoption in the April Council meeting.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Brett Cunningham

Seconded: Cr Clayton Whitfield

That Council endorse the Draft Customer Experience Strategy 2022-2026 for public exhibition commencing 23 March 2022.

CARRIED

7.4 COVID-19 HARDSHIP ASSISTANCE AND RECOVERY PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides Council with an update on the assistance provided to customers experiencing financial difficulties as a result of COVID-19 impacts, with a total of \$27,500 of rebates paid to customers in 2021-22 at 28 February 2022.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Owen Sharkey

Seconded: Cr Brett Cunningham

That Council note the assistance provided to our customers through the COVID-19 financial hardship policy in 2021-22.

CARRIED

7.5 REVOKE TEMPORARY RESIDENCY AND SHEDS IN THE LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL ZONE AND RURAL LIVING ZONE POLICY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2017, Council endorsed a policy to ensure unlawful establishments of sheds on vacant land and the temporary accommodation of sheds while a house is being constructed are minimised.

This policy is now due to be reviewed. The Golden Plains planning scheme is the legal document which sets out the requirements for sheds and dwellings, and as Council cannot have a policy which is conflict with a legal document, it is recommended that the policy be revoked.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Clayton Whitfield
Seconded: Cr Brett Cunningham

That Council revoke the Temporary Residency and Sheds in the Low Density Residential Zone and Rural Living Policy as the policy is redundant.

CARRIED

7.6 REVOKE GAMING POLICY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2012, Council developed a Gaming policy with a purpose of articulating Council's position in relation to Electronic Gaming Machines (EGM's) which could potentially be proposed within and in close proximity to the Golden Plains municipality.

As the policy is not included within the Golden Plains planning scheme, the policy has no weight and therefore cannot be utilised to determine planning applications.

As the policy is due to be reviewed, it is therefore recommended that the policy be revoked, and that Council seek Strategic Planning to prepare a Planning Scheme Amendment to include local provisions and requirements within Schedule 1 to Clause 52.28 – Gaming, noting that this policy review is not part of the current strategic planning work plan. A revised gaming policy could be developed to guide use on Council owned land in lease negotiations.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Clayton Whitfield
Seconded: Cr Brett Cunningham

That Council:

1. Revoke Gaming Policy 10.6 as the policy does not carry any weight under the Golden Plains Planning Scheme.
2. Requests the development of an Amendment to Schedule 1 of Clause 52.28 – Gaming to incorporate local standard provisions and requirements.
3. Prepare for Council consideration a revised gaming policy which covers the type of uses that Council will support on Council owned land, to be used in consideration of future lease agreements.

CARRIED

7.7 COUNCIL COMMITTEE DELEGATES - DEPUTY MEMBER FOR GEELONG REGIONAL LIBRARY CORPORATION (GRLC) BOARD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council is required to determine a representative to act as the deputy member for the Geelong Regional Library Corporation (GRLC) Board. The purpose of this report is to recommend the appointment of Cr Les Rowe to act as the deputy member for the Geelong Regional Library Corporation Board.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Owen Sharkey
Seconded: Cr Clayton Whitfield

That Council appoints Cr Les Rowe to serve as the deputy member for the Geelong Regional Library Corporation (GRLC) Board.

CARRIED

8 NOTICES OF MOTION

8.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATION (RATING STRATEGY)

I, Councillor Owen Sharkey, give notice of intention to rescind a previous resolution of Council made at the ordinary Meeting of Council on 22 February 2022, and to consider the motion at the scheduled ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 22 March 2022.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Owen Sharkey
Seconded: Cr Les Rowe

That Council rescind the previous resolution of Council adopted at the Ordinary Meeting on 22/02/2022.

LOST

Due to an administrative error, the incorrect previous resolution of Council was published in the Agenda for the 22 March 2022 meeting. The previous resolution of Council adopted at the Ordinary Meeting on 22/02/2022 was as follows.

Resolution of 22/02/2022

7.4 Rating Strategy 2020-2024 Review

That Council adopt a Rating Strategy for 2022-2026 as follows:

- 100% Residential
- 130% Business Bannockburn
- 100% Business Other
- 87.5% Farm Broadacre
- 95% Farm Intensive
- 100% Farm < 40 ha
- 205% Vacant Land
- 100% Vacant Land (non-developable)
- \$250 Municipal Charge

9 PETITIONS

Nil

10 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS FOR DECISION**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Les Rowe
Seconded: Cr Ian Getsom

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2020:

10.1 Response to Commonwealth Aged Care Reforms

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 3(1) - a, g and g(ii) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released, private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that— and or (ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

10.2 Regional Renewable Organics Network - Waste Supply Agreement

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 3(1) - g(ii) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with or (ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

10.3 Reappointment of Audit and Risk Committee Independent Members

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 3(1) - f of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.

CARRIED**RESOLUTION**

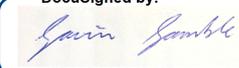
Moved: Cr Owen Sharkey
Seconded: Cr Ian Getsom

That Council moves out of Closed Council into Open Council.

CARRIED

The Meeting closed at 8.04pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Council Meeting held on 26 April 2022.

DocuSigned by:

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CHAIRPERSON