



MINUTES

Council Meeting

6.00pm Tuesday 21 November 2023

VENUE:
Golden Plains Civic Centre
Council Chambers
2 Pope Street, Bannockburn

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING
6.00pm Tuesday 28 November 2023

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Can be obtained online at www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au

Order Of Business

1 Opening Declaration..... 3

2 Acknowledgement of Country 3

3 Apologies and Leave of Absence 3

4 Declaration of Conflict of Interest..... 3

5 Public Question Time 3

6 Business Reports for Decision 3

6.1 CEO Acknowledgement of 2022/23 Mayor..... 3

6.3 Determination of Length of Term..... 4

6.4 Election of Mayor 4

6.2 Position of Deputy Mayor 7

**MINUTES OF GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE GOLDEN PLAINS CIVIC CENTRE, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 2 POPE STREET,
BANNOCKBURN
ON TUESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 6.00PM**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Eric Braslis (CEO), Phil Josipovic (Director Infrastructure and Environment), Emma Wheatland (Acting Director Community, Planning and Growth), Lynnere Gray (Director Corporate Services), Rosie Wright (Coordinator Governance and Risk)

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 Peoples.

Council acknowledges them as the Traditional Owners and Custodians and pays its respects to both Wadawurrung and Eastern Maar Elders past, present and emerging.

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

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

4 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil

5 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

6 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION

6.1 CEO ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF 2022/23 MAYOR

The administration would like to acknowledge the 2022/23 Mayor, Cr Brett Cunningham, thanking him for his service to the community over the past 12 months and present a token of appreciation.

PROCEDURAL MOTION**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Helena Kirby
Seconded: Cr Brett Cunningham

That item 6.2 'Position of Deputy Mayor' be moved to after item 6.4 'Election of Mayor'.

CARRIED

6.3 DETERMINATION OF LENGTH OF TERM**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

To note the length of term of the Mayor and, if one is elected, Deputy Mayor for 2023/24. Under the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) Council may elect a Mayor and Deputy Mayor for a term of either one (1) or two (2) years. As this is the final year of the current Council term, the term is not able to be for a period of two years.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Gavin Gamble
Seconded: Cr Clayton Whitfield

That Council notes that the term of Mayor and, if the position is established, Deputy Mayor for 2023/24 will be until the next Council Election on 26 October 2024.

CARRIED

6.4 ELECTION OF MAYOR**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In accordance with Golden Plains Shire Council's Governance Rules, nominations for the position of Mayor were required to be submitted in writing to the Chief Executive Officer by 5pm on Thursday 16 November 2023. The election of the Mayor shall take place in accordance with the process under the Governance Rules and the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

Eric Braslis, Chief Executive Officer, advised that a majority of Councillors voted to elect Cr Brett Cunningham as Mayor of the Golden Plains Shire Council for 2023/24.

Mayor Cr Cunningham assumed the Chair and made the following speech:

Thank you, fellow Councillors, for your unified support of my re-election of the position of Mayor for the final term of this elected Council, your acknowledgment of my leadership and continued support is greatly appreciated.

Upon election last year to the position of Mayor, I made the commitment to be a full time Mayor which allowed me to direct all my energy and focus on continuing the groundwork undertaken by previous Mayors, Cr Kirby & Cr Gamble, to ensure established internal and external connections and relationships continue to be maintained and fostered along with looking for further opportunities to network and advocate on behalf of Council and our Shire.

Having served in the role of Mayor of the Golden Plains Shire has been a privilege and an honour and a highlight of my professional career. It's a role that is both rewarding and challenging. I still remember, following being elected to the position of Mayor, I hit the ground running along with my fellow Councillors visiting and communicating with residents of our Shire that were severely impacted by floods.

During this time as a Council and a community we worked to together to provide support, assistance and guidance during this natural disaster. I wanted to particularly acknowledge the work of our Council staff, and emergency management crews that all worked an enormous number of hours to provide the support and assistance that was required.

I also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the selfless and ongoing commitment from the many volunteers and members of SES and CFA across the Shire. Also, I would like to acknowledge the commitment and applicable works undertaken by Council's outdoor teams including our grader drivers. During the floods, a total of 41 roads throughout the Shire were closed completely and unable to be used. However, with applicable Council staff and departments working 24/7 around the clock, most of these roads were open and fully functional by January / February.

Regarding significant achievements and notable highlights throughout 2022/2023 I would encourage Golden Plains Shire residents to review Council's Annual Report which confirms Council's continued commitment to serving its community and delivering over 70 individual services to residents. From infrastructure improvements to environmental sustainability, community engagement to economic growth from major achievements to major changes, each chapter tells a story of our collective efforts and the positive impact we have had on the lives of our residents.

As Councillors, we continued to consult and engage with the community as we believe community engagement has been a cornerstone of our efforts, with numerous events, workshops and forums organised to encourage participation and inclusivity.

But tonight is not about looking back. It is about looking forward to the challenges which lay ahead in the areas of implementing continued economic growth across the Shire, managing future population growth (along with the required infrastructure) and ensuring we provide initiatives and services to support the health and wellbeing of our residents throughout the Shire.

In this year's budget, myself and fellow Councillors made a formidable commitment to approving increased funding to begin the huge task of addressing drainage and road issues across our Shire.

It was extremely pleasing to read of the Federal Government's announcement of Roads to Recovery funding which will rise gradually from \$500 million to \$1 billion per year, and Black Spot funding will increase from the current annual commitment of \$110 million to \$150 million per year.

This additional investment in the Commonwealth's two cornerstone local roads investment programs will lead to safer and more productive roads across Australia. The Federal Government has also committed to delivering the funding local Councils need to improve road safety, and in a way that reduces the burden on them, allowing more money to be spent on projects and less on administration.

Also moving forward, Council will continue to have a strong focus on environment, sustainability and responding to ongoing recycling issues by moving to a fourth kerbside bin in line with State

Government regulations.

Council will continue to undertake and deliver sound leadership in the areas of financial and applicable governance. Council will continue its commitment to deliver sound financial management allowing for the provision of over 70 individual services that are accessed by residents of our Shire and to continue to work hard to invest in the health and wellbeing of our community.

In closing, I also make the pledge as I did during my Council Election campaign to continue to implement a professional style of leadership that holds not only myself but fellow Councillors accountable for our actions and behaviours. This leadership pledge extends to not only our community but also within our Council organisation where we will continue to assist with implementing a positive workplace culture.

Good leadership begins at the top of any successful organisation or business and it was extremely pleasing to be informed that the Allan Labour Government will introduce legislation to improve the performance and accountability of Councillors across the state, so Victorians can have confidence in their Local Government representatives.

Good governance is critical to ensure Councils make sound decisions and deliver the services their communities need and the introduction of strengthened powers to address Councillor misconduct will discourage poor behaviour.

A model Code of Conduct for Councillors with tougher sanctions for misconduct will provide a uniform set of standards and reduce the regulatory burden on Councils which will no longer need to establish their own codes.

In closing , I look forward to the coming year working together with my fellow Councils ,CEO Eric Braslis, executive Council officers and Council staff, to continue to serve our communities, deliver sound governance, financial management and to continue to make the Golden Plains Shire a great place to live.

Also as any Councillors that have served as Mayor know it can get pretty full on at times with meetings and events needed to be attended, some days starting in the dark and ending in the dark and you need to have a great support team behind you.

To my family and in particular my beautiful wife a big thank you for your continued support and assistance and for your understanding when due to Council related commitments on many occasions I have been an apology.

To the community thank you for your continued support and I look forward to serving another term as Mayor of the Golden Plains Shire working for, representing and advocating on your behalf.

Thank you.

6.2 POSITION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To resolve on the establishment of the position of Deputy Mayor for 2023/24. Section 20A(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) provides that a Council may establish an office of Deputy Mayor, though this is not compulsory.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Owen Sharkey

Seconded: Cr Ian Getsom

That Council resolve not to establish the office of Deputy Mayor for the coming term.

The motion was CARRIED.

A division was called.

In Favour: Crs Les Rowe, Owen Sharkey, Ian Getsom and Clayton Whitfield

Against: Crs Gavin Gamble, Helena Kirby and Brett Cunningham

CARRIED 4/3

The Meeting closed at 6.37pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Council Meeting held on 28 November 2023.

DocuSigned by:
Brett Cunningham
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CHAIRPERSON