



GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

MINUTES

Council Meeting

6.00pm Tuesday 23 February 2021

VENUE:

**Golden Plains Civic Centre
Council Chambers
2 Pope Street, Bannockburn**

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING
6.00pm Tuesday 23 March 2021

Copies of Golden Plains Shire Council's Agendas & Minutes
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**MINUTES OF GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE GOLDEN PLAINS CIVIC CENTRE, COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
2 POPE STREET, BANNOCKBURN
ON TUESDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2021 AT 6.00PM**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Eric Braslis (CEO), Phil Josipovic (Director Infrastructure and Development), Philippa O'Sullivan (Director Corporate Services), Lisa Letic (Director Community Services), Annmaree Bowey (Coordinator Governance and Risk)

The Mayor made the following statement:

"Welcome everyone, my name is Cr Helena Kirby and I am the Mayor of the Golden Plains Shire Council. Tonight this Council Meeting is taking place from the Golden Plains Civic Centre Council Chambers however, in light of the current Coronavirus situation, closed to the public and being presented in a different way, via livestream.

As Chair of the Meeting I give my consent for this open Council meeting to be streamed live, recorded and published online, in accordance with Section 14 of Council's Governance Rules of 2020.

Myself as the Chair and/or the CEO, have the discretion and authority to at any time, direct the termination or interruption of the live streaming. Such direction will only be given in exceptional circumstances where deemed relevant. Circumstances may include instances where the content of debate is considered misleading, defamatory or potentially inappropriate to be published.

The stream will stop at the conclusion of the meeting.

Should technical issues prevent the continuation of the stream a recording will be made available on our website.

Those Councillors and staff in attendance in person tonight, are advised to practice social distancing and the hygiene recommendations of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Due to the Coronavirus situation, public presentations and submissions will be presented virtually. For those that do not wish to present their public presentations for Public Question Time, a written response will be provided. The maximum 3 minutes still applies."

Thank you.

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

Council acknowledge the traditional Wadawurrung owners of the land where we meet today. Council pays its respects to Wadawurrung Elders both past and present and 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 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Les Rowe

Seconded: Cr Ian Getsom

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 19 January 2021 be confirmed.

CARRIED

5 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Clayton Whitfield declared a general conflict of interest in Item 7.3 under Section 127 of the Local Government Act 2020 The nature of the interest being that Cr Whitfield submitted a vote in the Inverleigh Play space public consultation. Cr Clayton Whitfield left the meeting at 6:25pm and returned at 6:28pm. Cr Clayton Whitfield was absent whilst this matter was being discussed and considered.

Cr Owen Sharkey declared a general conflict of interest in Item 7.4 under Section 127 of the Local Government Act 2020. The nature of the interest being that Cr Sharkey sold the property to the applicant, with a conflicting view to the presented report, Cr Owen Sharkey left the meeting at 6:29pm and returned at 6:56pm . Cr Owen Sharkey was absent whilst this matter was being discussed and considered.

6 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

DEBORAH MORRISON

Question 1

In relation to the public votes received by Council. How are individuals that are identified as living outside the municipality allowed to have their votes counted? Ie Freshwater Creek, Warnambool, Geelong West, Mt Duneed and Winchelsea.

Response (DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES)

The Naming Rules for Places in Victoria recommends consulting the immediate and extended community when naming / renaming a feature. Votes from individuals outside the municipality may be counted as they are considered to be users of the site.

In addition, the form collected voters current residential address. Whilst currently residing outside the municipality, these voters may also own property (investment or farming) and / or a business within the Shire.

Question 2

How are votes allowed to be counted as valid if the location of the voter is not identified?

Response (DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES)

Whilst the suburb field was not completed by the voter, other information not made public such as the voter's full name and street name was supplied on the voting form enabling Council to determine the validity of the vote.

7 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION**7.1 MEETING RECORD****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

To receive any Meeting Records that disclose any conflict of interests declared since the previous Council meeting.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Clayton Whitfield
Seconded: Cr Brett Cunningham

That Council receive and note the Meeting Records from 20 January 2021 to 23 February 2021 as attached.

CARRIED

7.2 DELEGATES REPORT - 19 JANUARY 2021 TO 22 FEBRUARY 2021

	Cr Kirby	Cr Cunningham	Cr Gamble	Cr Getsom	Cr Rowe	Cr Sharkey	Cr Whitfield
Council Meeting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Councillor Briefing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Strategic Councillor Briefing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Conversation Posts							
- B'burn Farmer's Market		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
- Smythesdale Fiesta	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
- Virtual	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
- Coffee with the Councillor	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Portfolios	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Cr Helena Kirby

20 January	Draft Active Ageing & Inclusion Plan Conversation Post (Dereel)
21 January	Draft Active Ageing & Inclusion Plan Conversation Post (Bannockburn)
21 January	Introductory Meeting - GPSC & Centacare Ballarat
22 January	Interview with the Ballarat Courier
26 January	Shelford Australia Day event
26 January	Teesdale Australia Day event
26 January	Community Awards 2020
26 January	Cape Clear Australia Day event
30 January	Council Plan Listening Post (Dereel)
3 February	Committee for Ballarat Big Ideas Forum
5 February	Berrybank Wind Farm Community Engagement Committee meeting
5 February	Meeting with G21 CEO
9 February	Audit & Risk Committee meeting
11 February	Teleconference with Senator Sarah Henderson
12 February	Meeting with Andy Meddick MP
17 February	Virtual meeting with Libby Coker MP
18 February	Active Ageing & Inclusion Advisory Group meeting

Cr Brett Cunningham

26 January	Linton Australia Day event
26 January	Scarsdale Australia Day event
26 January	Community Awards 2020
9 February	Audit & Risk Committee meeting
11 February	G21 Economic Development Pillar meeting
15 February	Tourism Greater Geelong and the Bellarine Board meeting

Cr Gavin Gamble

26 January	Teesdale Australia Day event
26 January	Community Awards 2020
9 February	G21 Transport Pillar meeting

Cr Ian Getsom

20 January Draft Active Ageing & Inclusion Plan Conversation Post (Smythesdale)
26 January Linton Australia Day event
26 January Scarsdale Australia Day event
26 January Community Awards 2020

Cr Les Rowe**Cr Owen Sharkey**

21 January Geelong Regional Library Committee CEO Recruitment meeting
29 January Geelong Regional Library Committee CEO Recruitment meeting
29 January Geelong Regional Library Committee CEO Recruitment meeting
29 January Geelong Regional Library Committee CEO Recruitment meeting
10 February MAV Representative Briefing
18 February Geelong Regional Library Committee Board meeting

Cr Clayton Whitfield

21 January Draft Active Ageing & Inclusion Plan Conversation Post (Bannockburn)
26 January Shelford Australia Day event
26 January Community Awards 2020
5 February G21 Planning & Services Pillar meeting

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Owen Sharkey
Seconded: Cr Clayton Whitfield

That Council receive and note the Delegates Report – 19 January 2021 to 22 February 2021.

CARRIED

Cr Clayton Whitfield declared a general conflict of interest in Item 7.3 under Section 127 of the Local Government Act 2020 The nature of the interest being that Cr Whitfield submitted a vote in the Inverleigh Play space public consultation. Cr Clayton Whitfield was absent whilst this matter was being discussed and considered.

At 6:25 pm, Cr Clayton Whitfield left the meeting.

7.3 INVERLEIGH PLAY SPACE NAMING CONSULTATION RESULTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the Council meeting held on December 2020, Council endorsed the following names, Leigh River Park, Inverleigh Community Park, Inverleigh Play Park and Yerram Yaluk Bun for public consultation using the voting method as suggested by the Office of Geographic Names.

Voting was open to all residents of Golden Plains Shire between Wednesday, 16 December 2020 and Friday, 29 January 2021. Communication with the Community clearly stated that the name with the most votes at the conclusion of the consultation period will be forwarded to the Office of Geographic Names for gazettal.

A total of 120 votes were received with “Yerram Yaluk Bun” receiving the highest number of votes. A summary of all votes received has been provided for Councillor’s information in attachment 1.

Voters were given the opportunity to present a submission to Council in support of their vote and 8 residents indicated they would like to make a submission. Once the full submission details are received these will be provided to Council for their information.

As part of the voting process, residents were also given the opportunity to object to the names included in the vote. One objection was received, which was later withdrawn by the resident.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Owen Sharkey

Seconded: Cr Brett Cunningham

That Council:

1. Receive the voting results of the Inverleigh Play Space Naming consultation held between 16 December 2020 and 29 January 2021.
2. Hear and consider any submissions and objections received in accordance with section 5 of the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998*.
3. Make a final determination on the name at the March 2021 Council Meeting

.CARRIED

At 6:28 pm, Cr Clayton Whitfield returned to the meeting.

Cr Owen Sharkey declared a general conflict of interest in Item 7.4 under Section 127 of the Local Government Act 2020. The nature of the interest being that Cr Sharkey sold the property to the applicant, with a conflicting view to the presented report . Cr Owen Sharkey was absent whilst this matter was being discussed and considered.

At 6:29 pm, Cr Owen Sharkey left the meeting.

7.4 P20-106 36 OXLEY RISE, BATESFORD (TWO LOT SUBDIVISION AND COVENANT VARIATION)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to a planning permit application for the development of land for the purposes of a two lot subdivision and variation of covenant at 36 Oxley Rise, Batesford. The report was originally presented to the 15 December 2020 Ordinary Council meeting for a decision, however Council deferred the matter to the February Ordinary Council meeting at the request of the applicant. Since the December Council meeting the applicant has submitted an application to amend the Development Plan applying to the land. This report provides a background to the application and a summary of the relevant planning considerations. The Councillors have been provided with a full copy of the application and objections for consideration prior to making a decision.

Speakers

Mr Tim Sheringham (Applicant)
Mr David King (Lawyer for Applicant)

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Les Rowe
Seconded: Cr Brett Cunningham

That Council resolves to:

1. Approve the amended Development Plan entitled Spot Development Plan Amendment Revision 2 prepared by St Quentin Consulting dated 29/01/2020.
2. Issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Planning Permit P20-106 for the development of a two lot subdivision and variation to restrictive covenant AK191651C at 36 Oxley Rise, Batesford.

CARRIED

At 6:56 pm, Cr Owen Sharkey returned to the meeting.

7.5 P20-133 15 GURNEY CLOSE, BANNOCKBURN (USE OF THE LAND FOR DOMESTIC ANIMAL HUSBANDRY (KEEPING OF 5 DOGS))

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to a planning permit application for the use of the land for domestic animal husbandry at 15 Gurney Close, Bannockburn.

The application has been referred to a Council meeting for determination because there are objections to the application. This report provides a background to the application and a summary of the relevant planning considerations. Councillors have been provided with a full copy of the application and objections for consideration prior to making a decision.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Clayton Whitfield

Seconded: Cr Owen Sharkey

That Council resolve to issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Planning Permit for the use of the land for a domestic animal husbandry (keeping of 5 dogs), at 15 Gurney Close, Bannockburn subject to the attached recommended permit conditions.

CARRIED

Cr Sharkey called for a division

In Favour: Crs Helena Kirby, Les Rowe, Owen Sharkey, Gavin Gamble, Ian Getsom and Clayton Whitfield

Against: Cr Brett Cunningham

The motion was **CARRIED 6/1**

7.6 ACTIVE AGEING & INCLUSION PLAN 2020-2024 ADOPTION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Disability Act 2006 (Section 38) requires all Government organisations to have a Disability Action Plan (or similar).

A Disability Action Plan identifies actions to remove physical, civic and attitudinal barriers for people with a disability. It is also designed to increase employment opportunities and influence community attitudes.

The Active Ageing & Inclusion Plan provides the framework for Council to address current and future needs of older residents and people with disability and will assist to improve awareness of ageing, disablement and associated issues and will meet the requirements of the Act.

The Active Ageing & Inclusion Plan 2020-2024 has been developed following the review of the Council's existing Access and Inclusion Plan 2016-2019 and Ageing Well in Golden Plains Shire Strategy and Action Plan 2012-2016. The draft AA&I Plan was placed on public exhibition for a six-week period from 16 December 2020 through to 31 January 2021.

Thirty-three submissions were received with the key themes being confirmation of the proposed actions particularly in relation to increasing transport options, increasing activities for older adults and improving access to information about services. Requests for changes to the document have been addressed including updating the image of the Shire to represent more communities, removal of reference to the medical model of disability. In response to feedback a review of the timeframes has resulted in some actions being addressed earlier than proposed in the draft.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Clayton Whitfield

Seconded: Cr Brett Cunningham

That Council adopt the Active Ageing & Inclusion Plan 2020-2024 (Attachment 1).

CARRIED

7.7 FINANCE QUARTER TWO UPDATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As at 31 December 2020, the Income Statement reports total operating revenue of \$36.8m and total operating expenditure of \$21.1m, which results in a year to date surplus of \$15.6m. This is \$5.4m favourable compared to the original budget, and \$2.5m favourable to the revised budget.

The Capital Works Statement indicates total capital works expenditure of \$6.7m, which is \$0.02m below the original budget, and \$2.0m below the revised budget.

The Finance Quarterly Report was presented to the Audit and Risk Committee at the 9 February 2021 meeting for noting.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Owen Sharkey

Seconded: Cr Les Rowe

That Council note the content in the Quarterly Finance Report for the 6 months ended 31 December 2020.

CARRIED

7.8 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE REPORTING INDICATORS - QUARTER ONE AND TWO REPORT 20/21

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council is required under the *Local Government Act 2020* and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 to report on its performance in accordance with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF).

Council's performance against LGPRF measures is reported to management, the Audit & Risk Committee and Council on a six-monthly basis and included in the Golden Plains Shire Council Annual Report.

The six-monthly progress report for the period 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020 was provided to the Audit & Risk Committee meeting on 9 February 2021 and is now presented to Council for its information. (Attachment 1).

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Clayton Whitfield
Seconded: Cr Brett Cunningham

That Council receive the six-monthly report on the Local Government Performance Reporting Indicators (Attachment 1) for the period 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020.

CARRIED

7.9 COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021 IMPLEMENTATION - QUARTER TWO UPDATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is to update Council on the progress made in completing the 2020-21 actions contained in the Council Plan 2017-2021.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Brett Cunningham
Seconded: Cr Les Rowe

That Council note the report and recognise the achievements attained in the implementation of the actions contained in the Council Plan 2017-2021 for the second quarter from 1 October 2020 to 31 December 2020.

CARRIED

7.10 MELBOURNE CUP PUBLIC HOLIDAY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each year Council writes to the Minister for Small Business to request part-shire arrangements as an alternative to the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday. This has been under the direction of previous community consultation held in 2011 and sees the North of the Shire observe the nominated Ballarat Show Day and the Southern part of the Shire observing the nominated Geelong Show Day.

In 2020, due to COVID-19 both the Ballarat and Geelong Shows were cancelled initiating a discussion around reverting the holiday for all parts of the Shire to Melbourne Cup Day. As a resolution of Council and public consultation is required to alter these arrangements, there was insufficient time to make this change prior to the holiday dates scheduled.

The cancellation of the events combined with neighbouring Councils changing their nominated holiday dates caused confusion within the community and it was suggested that Council give consideration to the current public holiday arrangements and whether a change is required for future years.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Owen Sharkey

Seconded: Cr Les Rowe

That Council resolve to seek feedback from the community whether to observe the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday or another alternative for the next four years (2021-2024).

CARRIED

7.11 STATE ELECTORAL BOUNDARY - REDIVISION COUNCIL SUBMISSION - DRAFT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In planning for the next State Government election in November 2022, the [Electoral Boundaries Commission Act 1982](#) requires that a formal process called a 'redivision' must take place after every second Victorian State general election to ensure the number of electors within each district and region remains approximately the same over time.

As the last redivision was in 2013, a redivision must take place before the next State election. The 2013 re-division resulted in some changes for Golden Plains Shire namely that the previously titled electoral district, Ballarat East, which covered the rural fringes of Ballarat needed to gain voters and as such was re-named to Buninyong and extended to incorporate to the east (taking in Myrniong and part of Balliang), south (including Lethbridge and Mount Mercer) and southwest (including Smythesdale, Linton and Snake Valley). This district now included the bulk of Moorabool and Golden Plains Shires, which considered to have strong associations with Ballarat. In addition, a small slice of the Golden Plains Shire that was currently in the Polworth electoral district was re-distributed to the Buninyong electoral district.

Time frames to provide an initial submission is due by 1 March 2021. The proposed submission is provided in attachment 1 for Councils consideration.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Clayton Whitfield

Seconded: Cr Gavin Gamble

That Council:

1. Note the process of the State Government's electoral boundaries redivision to take place prior to the 2022 State Election.
2. Approve Council's submission to the Victorian Electoral Commission as provided in attachment 1.

CARRIED

7.12 VAGO INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE REPORT TO PARLIAMENT - SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DECEMBER 2020)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In June 2020, Golden Plains Shire Council staff and Councillors were invited to participate in a survey conducted by VAGO on Sexual Harassment in Local Government.

In the Audit Report, VAGO concluded that Councils were not providing workplaces which are free from sexual harassment and that more than one in four survey respondents had experienced sexual harassment in the last 12 months. VAGO have provided 11 recommendations (10 specific to Council) to Victorian local councils.

At Golden Plains Shire Council, we had a 30% response rate (63 staff), with 33.33% of respondents reported experiencing sexual harassment in the last 12 months. 75% of respondents don't believe that sexual harassment is a problem at Council and 83% believe that Council takes sexual harassment seriously, however it is important to ensure that staff understand that we have a zero-tolerance approach and that they will be supported if they do experience sexual harassment in the workplace.

Golden Plains Shire Council will develop a timetable to implement the recommendations as outlined in attachment 3 as part of a broader update of the People & Culture policies and procedures by December 2021, and ensure that sexual harassment training is built into our mandatory training program and regular monitoring surveys are undertaken.

This report was also presented at the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 9 February for their noting and support to be presented to Council.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Owen Sharkey

Seconded: Cr Brett Cunningham

That Council note the VAGO report into Sexual Harassment in Local Government, the summary report for Golden Plains Shire Council and the recommendations which will be incorporated into Council policies and procedures and rolled out to Council employees and Councillors.

.CARRIED

7.13 COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Councillor Code of Conduct 2021

The Councillor Code of Conduct 2021 has been developed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* (LGA20). Section 139(1) of the LGA20 requires Council to develop and adopt a Councillor Code of Conduct by 24 February 2021, which includes matters prescribed by the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020 (the (Regulations)).

The purpose of the Code is to set out the standards of conduct expected to be observed by Councillors in the performance of their duties and functions as a Councillor (s.139(2) LGA20).

The contents of the Code can be divided into three broad categories:

1. Matters prescribed by the Regulations	Expressly stated in the Regulations – Required
2. Provisions addressing any matters prescribed by the regulations	Relevant to matters expressly stated in the Regulations – Required
3. Any other matter Council considers appropriate	Optional

The LGA20 requires the Code to include the standards of conduct prescribed in Reg. 12, Sch. 1 of the Regulations (s.139(3)(a)&(b)). The Regulations set out the standards expected of Councillors in relation to:

- treatment of others
- elimination of discrimination, sexual harassment, and victimisation
- support for gender equality
- prevention of abusive, obscene or threatening behaviour
- consideration of the diversity of interest and needs of the municipal community, including having regard for their opinions, beliefs, rights and responsibilities

The Regulations also impose obligations on Councillors in relation to:

- ensuring good governance
- interactions with members of Council staff
- reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses
- development, adoption and implementation of Governance Rules
- complying with directions by the Minister in relation to governance processes
- not discrediting Council
- not deliberately misleading the Council or the Public on any matter.

Nothing in the LGA20 and the Regulations is intended to limit robust political debate or the inclusion of any other matter that Councillors consider will support the performance of their role.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Clayton Whitfield

Seconded: Cr Gavin Gamble

That Council:

1. Adopt the Councillor Code of Conduct 2021 in Attachment 1 subject to changing the words in clause 3.1 from “will promote the Golden Plains Shires Values” to “will endeavour to promote the Golden Plains Shire Councils values”.
2. Adopt the Councillor Dispute Resolution Policy 2021 in Attachment 2.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION

Moved: Cr Owen Sharkey

Seconded: Cr Les Rowe

That Council:

3. Endorse writing to the Minister to express concerns about the Local Government Victoria’s failure to provide a model Code of Conduct with the core elements prescribed in the Local Government Act 2020 and Local Government Regulations 2020 and as a result all 79 Councils were required to invest considerable time and resources to draft the contents of what could and should have been included in a model Code of Conduct.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Clayton Whitfield

Seconded: Cr Gavin Gamble

That Council:

1. Adopt the Councillor Code of Conduct 2021 in Attachment 1 subject to changing the words in clause 3.1 from “ will promote the Golden Plains Shires Values” to “will endeavour to promote the Golden Plains Shire Councils values”.
2. Adopt the Councillor Dispute Resolution Policy 2021 in Attachment 2.
3. Endorse writing to the Minister to express concerns about the Local Government Victoria’s failure to provide a model Code of Conduct with the core elements prescribed in the Local Government Act 2020 and Local Government Regulations 2020 and as a result all 79 Councils were required to invest considerable time and resources to draft the contents of what could and should have been included in a model Code of Conduct.

CARRIED

The amendment became the substantive motion

7.14 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Local Government Act 2020* (Section 55) requires that Council adopt a Community Engagement Policy on or before 1 March 2021.

The Policy has been developed by Council officers following their participation in sector-wide better practice forums and workshops led by Local Government Victoria on the development and implementation of a Community Engagement Policy and taking into consideration the unique attributes of Golden Plains Shire Council and the community.

The Draft Community Engagement Policy was presented in November 2020 for Council to consider and endorse for public exhibition and feedback.

Since that time, the Draft Community Engagement Policy has been made available to the public for viewing and comment with no submissions received.

As no submissions were received on the Draft, the Community Engagement Policy is presented without changes for adoption which will provide the framework and requirements for future engagement activities conducted by Golden Plains Shire Council.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Clayton Whitfield

Seconded: Cr Owen Sharkey

That Council adopt the Community Engagement Policy as attached.

CARRIED

7.15 GIFTS, BENEFITS & HOSPITALITY POLICY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In order to achieve compliance with Stage 3 Implementation of the phased introduction of the new *Local Government Act 2020*, Council must review and adopt its gift policy by the State Governments requirement date of 24 April 2021.

The Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy was last adopted by Council at its 17 December 2019 Council meeting.

The Golden Plains Shire Council Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy is modelled in accordance with the Victorian Public Sector Commission's (VPSC) Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality – Policy Guide and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality – Model Policy. Whilst it is not mandated for councils to adopt the DELWP model policy, Council has previously seen the opportunity to adopt a policy that is in line with contemporary public sector best practice guidelines and community expectations of public officials.

Following the recent review, proposed changes of significance include, but are not limited to inclusion of a statement that as a general principle Council, Councillors and staff should, where possible, decline any offer of gifts, benefits or hospitality in a way that does not cause offence, minor wording amendments for clarity and minor formatting and reference updates.

The Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy was presented to Audit and Risk Committee at its 9 February 2021 meeting. The committee resolved to forward the policy to Council for consideration and adoption at its 23 February 2020 Council Meeting.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Owen Sharkey

Seconded: Cr Les Rowe

That Council adopt the Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy as attached.

CARRIED

7.16 AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE REPORT - 2 DECEMBER 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is being submitted to Council to provide a summary of business considered at the 9 February 2021 meeting of the Audit & Risk Committee.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Brett Cunningham

Seconded: Cr Ian Getsom

That Council note the minutes from the Audit & Risk Committee meeting held on 9 February 2021.

CARRIED

7.17 COUNCILLOR EXPENSES AND MEETING ATTENDANCE - QUARTER TWO REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report provides a record of expenditure made on behalf of Councillors in the performance of their duties for the second quarter of 2020/21. This report also includes quarterly updates on Councillor attendance at both scheduled and unscheduled meetings of Council. Providing regular updates throughout the year on the Councillor attendance at meetings enables enhanced transparency rather than only one annual update as reported in Council's annual report.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Owen Sharkey
Seconded: Cr Clayton Whitfield

That Council note the contents of the Councillor Expenses and attendance report for the second quarter of 2020/21 being the quarter ended 31 December 2020.

CARRIED

8 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

9 PETITIONS

Nil

10 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS FOR DECISION

Nil

The Meeting closed at : 8.24 PM.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Council Meeting held on 23 March 2021.

.....
CHAIRPERSON