

# MINUTES

## Council Meeting

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**6.05pm Tuesday 19 November 2024**

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

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING  
6.00pm Tuesday 26 November 2024

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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, 19 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 6.05PM**

**PRESENT:** Cr Helena Kirby, Cr Owen Sharkey, Cr Brett Cunningham, Cr Lachlan Glen, Cr Sarah Hayden, Cr Des Phelan, Cr Emma Robbins

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Shane Walden (CEO), Lynnere Gray (Director Corporate Services), Emma Wheatland (Acting Director Community, Planning & Growth), Phil Josipovic (Director Infrastructure and Environment), Molly Willmott (Coordinator of Governance and Risk)

## **1 OPENING DECLARATION**

Good evening. I'd like to formally welcome everyone to tonight's Council Meeting for the Election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

My name is Shane Walden, CEO of Golden Plains Shire Council. In accordance with Council's Governance Rules, I will be temporary Chairperson for the beginning of the meeting.

Tonight this Council Meeting, which is open to the public, is taking place in the Council Chambers at the Golden Plains Shire Council Civic Centre in Bannockburn.

This meeting is being livestreamed in accordance with Council's Governance Rules, and I welcome any viewers joining us online. As the meeting is open to the public to attend, if the livestream ceases at any time, the meeting will continue.

## **2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

Golden Plains Shire spans the Traditional lands of the Wadawurrung (Wada-were-rung) and Eastern Maar people. 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 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION**

### **5.1 DETERMINATION OF LENGTH OF TERM**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This recommendation is to confirm the length of term of the Mayor and, if one is elected, Deputy Mayor for the period 2024/25. 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.

#### **RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Des Phelan

Seconded: Cr Brett Cunningham

That Council resolves that the term of Mayor and, if the position has been established, Deputy Mayor for 2024/25 will be for a period of one (1) year until the next Scheduled Council Meeting for the Mayoral Elections in November 2025.

**CARRIED**

## 5.2 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 14 November 2024. 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).

#### Nominations

Shane Walden, Chief Executive Officer, advised that in accordance with Council's Governance Rules, two (2) nominations had been received for the position of Mayor of the Golden Plains Shire Council for the 2024/25 term.

#### Cr Brett Cunningham

Cr Brett Cunningham accepted the nomination.

Votes received for Cr Cunningham: Cr Cunningham, Cr Kirby.

#### Cr Sarah Hayden

Cr Sarah Hayden accepted the nomination.

Votes received for Cr Hayden: Cr Hayden, Cr Sharkey, Cr Glen, Cr Phelan, Cr Robbins.

Shane Walden, Chief Executive Officer, advised that a majority of Councillors voted to elect Cr Sarah Hayden as Mayor of the Golden Plains Shire Council for 2024/25.

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

*"Good Evening everybody, well I stand before you tonight deeply humbled and profoundly grateful for the trust you have placed in me to serve as Mayor for our Council.*

*This is a privilege I do not take lightly, and I pledge to serve our community with integrity, transparency and unwavering dedication.*

*Firstly, I want to thank all my fellow Counsellors for your confidence and trust. Each one of you brings unique insights, skills and passions to this Council and I am eager to work closely with each and every one of you to achieve outcomes that truly benefit the people we serve.*

*This role is not about me or one individual, it is about collaboration, team work and shared vision for our great communities future.*

*To the outgoing Mayor, Brett, thank you for your leadership, your dedication and the hard work that you have invested in this role. Your contributions have laid a strong foundation for us to build upon and I hope to continue the legacy of progress you have helped to establish.*

*I also extend my gratitude to the Council staff who work tirelessly behind the scenes to support our community and help bring our shared vision to life. Your expertise and dedication are invaluable and I look forward to working alongside you in the months and years ahead.*

*To our CEO, Shane, over the past few weeks you have been there answering my calls, returning my emails, ready to chat on the phone when needed, particularly over the last few days and I am looking forward to building that relationship into the future. Thank you so much.*

*As Mayor, my priority will be to ensure that every voice in our community is heard and respected. Whether you live in the heart of town, or in the most rural areas, your concerns, aspirations and hopes matter.*

*I am committed to fostering a spirit of openness and accountability ensuring that we remain a Council of the people and for the people.*

*We have exciting opportunities ahead and we also face challenges that require thoughtful,*

*proactive and united responses. Together we will focus on creating sustainable growth, enhancing local infrastructure, supporting small businesses, and ensuring that our community remains vibrant, inclusive and welcoming for all.*

*I also want to acknowledge the incredible spirit of our community. It's the people who make our region so special. Your energy, resilience, and commitment to each other inspires me daily.*

*This victory is not just mine, it belongs to all of us who believe in the promise of our Community and the power of working together to create a brighter future.*

*To those who voted for me, thank you for your support of me. To those who did not, I want you to know that I am committed to working with each and every one of you and looking forward to your support.*

*My mission is to ensure that every voice in our community is heard, that no one is left behind and that we build a future where opportunity and equity are accessible to all.*

*Together we will tackle the issues that matter most to our residents and ensure Golden Plains is the best place to live and work.*

*Thank you once again for this tremendous honour, I am truly so humbled. I look forward to working with all of you to a building a stronger, brighter future for our community.*

*To my family have been my rock throughout this journey, thank you for your unwavering love and support and encouragement of me.*

*Let tonight be a celebration of what lies ahead. This is a new chapter for all of us.*

*Thank you for this incredible honour, now let's move together forward and get to work.*

*Good night and thank you so much."*

### **5.3 POSITION OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This item is to resolve a decision on the establishment of the position of Deputy Mayor for 2024/25. Section 20A(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) provides that a Council may establish an office of Deputy Mayor, noting this is not compulsory.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council determine to establish the position of Deputy Mayor for the coming term.

#### **ALTERNATIVE MOTION**

Moved: Cr Owen Sharkey

Seconded: Cr Lachlan Glen

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

**This motion was carried.**

## 5.4 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with Golden Plains Shire Council's Governance Rules, nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor were required to be submitted in writing to the Chief Executive Officer by 5pm on Thursday 14 November 2024. The election shall take place in accordance with the process under the Governance Rules and the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

Council resolved not to establish the office of Deputy Mayor for the coming term in item 5.3 therefore this item lapsed.

## 5.5 OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks Council receive the signed oath/affirmation taken by all Councillors elected to the Golden Plains Shire Council following the 2024 Council Elections.

### RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Brett Cunningham

Seconded: Cr Des Phelan

That Council receive the signed oath/affirmation taken by the Councillors named below on Tuesday, 12 November 2024;

Cr Lachlan Glen

Cr Sarah Hayden

Cr Des Phelan

Cr Brett Cunningham

Cr Emma Robbins

Cr Helena Kirby

Cr Owen Sharkey.

**CARRIED**

## 5.6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FORMER COUNCILLORS

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A number of Councillors from the 2020-2024 Council have not returned as members of the Council for the 2024-28 term and it is fitting to recognise their service to the community.

### RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Lachlan Glen


Seconded: Cr Owen Sharkey

That Council acknowledge and thank Les Rowe, Gavin Gamble, Clayton Whitfield, and Ian Getsom, for their service as Councillors on the previous term of Council.

**CARRIED**

**The Meeting closed at 6:47pm.**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the scheduled Meeting of the Golden Plains Shire Council held on 26 November 2024.**

Signed by:  
  
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**CHAIRPERSON**