

MINUTES

Council Meeting

6:00 PM Tuesday 25 February 2025

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

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING
6:00 PM Tuesday 25 March 2025

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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, 25 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 6:00 PM**

PRESENT: Mayor Sarah Hayden, Cr Helena Kirby, Cr Owen Sharkey, Cr Brett Cunningham, Cr Des Phelan, Cr Emma Robbins, Cr Gavin Gamble

IN ATTENDANCE: Shane Walden (CEO), Phil Josipovic (Director Infrastructure and Environment), Lynne Gray (Director Corporate Services), Jo Wilson (Director Community, Planning & Growth), Molly Wilmott (Coordinator Governance & 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.

The Mayor read a brief statement regarding CEO Walden thanking him for his service.

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Brett Cunningham

Seconded: Cr Owen Sharkey

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 17 December 2024 and the Special Council Meeting held on 23 December 2024 be confirmed.

CARRIED

5 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil

CR CUNNINGHAM STATEMENT

Cr Cunningham read a short statement.

6 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

7 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION**7.1 REVIEW OF INSTRUMENT OF APPOINTMENT AND AUTHORISATION - PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The appointment of authorised officers under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act) cannot be delegated and must be made through resolution of Council. The Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (the Instrument) under the Act was last reviewed and adopted by Council in November 2024. A review of the instrument is now completed and updated to include staff members who have joined Council.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Helena Kirby

Seconded: Cr Emma Robbins

In the exercise of the powers conferred by s147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and other legislation referred to in the attached Instrument of Appointment (the 'instrument'), Council resolves that:

1. The members of Council staff referred to in the instrument as shown in Attachment 1 be appointed and authorised as set out in the instrument;
2. The Chief Executive Officer is authorised to sign the instrument; and
3. The previous instrument dated 26 November 2024 is revoked.

CARRIED

7.2 AMPLITEL PTY LTD LEASE AGREEMENT APPROVAL REQUEST

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council officers developed a Heads of Agreement with Amplitel Pty Ltd, acting on behalf of Telstra, regarding the proposal to lease a portion of land located in the Meredith Council Works Depot. The proposed Lease will exceed 10 years, and per the Local Government Act 2020, the Council must undertake community consultation. The community consultation is complete, and this report discusses the results.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Emma Robbins

Seconded: Cr Helena Kirby

That Council:

1. Support the proposal by Amplitel Pty Ltd to lease a portion of land located within the boundary of the Golden Plains Shire Council Meredith Works Depot for a period of 30 years.
2. Authorise the CEO to sign the lease.

CARRIED

7.3 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM POLICY REVIEW

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's Community Grants Policy has recently been reviewed pursuant to section 5.2 of the Policy and Procedures Framework. Some updates were proposed during the review process mainly to reflect Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) recommendations on controlling fraud in local government grant programs as best practice.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Emma Robbins

Seconded: Cr Brett Cunningham

That Council adopt the proposed Community Grants Program Policy as attached.

CARRIED

7.4 COUNCILLOR EXPENSES AND MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT - QUARTER 1 AND QUARTER 2

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report provides a record of expenditure made on behalf of Councillors in the performance of their duties for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of 2024/25. This report also includes quarterly updates on Councillor attendance at both scheduled and unscheduled meetings of Council, to provide transparency on Council decision making.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Emma Robbins
Seconded: Cr Owen Sharkey

That Council note the contents of the Councillor Expenses and Attendance Report for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of 2024/25.

CARRIED

7.5 UPDATE OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCE RECOVERY SERVICES POLICY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides advice to Council regarding adopting the updated Waste Management and Resource Recovery Services Policy ("the Policy"). The following key policy updates have been made in accordance with Council's previously endorsed glass transition plan service specifications:

- A standard three [3] bin service to all residential properties as well as commercial properties that elect to use Council waste collection service.
- The third bin service is the new 140 L glass bin collected every four weeks.
- The reduction of frequency of the recycling bin service to fortnightly.

When a FOGO service is introduced (anticipated to be 2026), it is possible that changes to the general waste service will be required. As such, a more extensive review and update of the Policy will be required at that time and will necessitate public consultation and Council endorsement.

The current proposed changes reflect Council's already approved specifications and formal Council decisions on preferred model of service delivery to implement the glass service.

This report seeks Council support to adopt the updated Waste Management and Resource Recovery Services Policy.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Owen Sharkey
Seconded: Cr Gavin Gamble

That Council adopt the updated Waste Management and Resource Recovery Services Policy.

CARRIED

7.6 PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C105GPLA ORMOND STREET BANNOCKBURN REZONING - POST EXHIBITION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to summarise the outcome following exhibition of Planning Scheme Amendment C105gpla Ormond Street Rezoning. The amendment was exhibited between 21 November 2024, and 23 December 2024.

Minor changes to Amendment C105pla are recommended in response to submissions. It is important to note however that officers do not recommend the inclusion of 54 Ormond Street into the rezoning which was requested by one of the submissions. It is therefore necessary for Council to request the Minister for Planning to appoint an independent planning panel to impartially consider the position of all parties and consider the outstanding objections.

Councillors have previously been provided with a full copy of the submissions for consideration.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Emma Robbins

Seconded: Cr Helena Kirby

That Council:

1. Authorise officers to make changes to Amendment C105gpla in accordance with this report.
2. Refer all submissions to an independent Planning Panel pursuant to section 23(1)(b) of the Planning and Environment Act.
3. Authorise officers/suitable persons to represent Council at the Planning Panel hearing generally in accordance with the response to submissions outlined in this report.

CARRIED

7.7 COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025 IMPLEMENTATION - QUARTER 2 (2024-25)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To update Council on the progress made in implementing Year 4, Quarter 2 actions of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Owen Sharkey

Seconded: Cr Brett Cunningham

That Council note the implementation of the Year 4, Quarter 2 actions (1 October 2024 to 31 December 2024) of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

CARRIED

7.8 OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks Council receive the signed oath/affirmation taken by the Councillor elected to the Golden Plains Shire Council following the countback undertaken by the VEC on 13 January 2025 that resulted in the election of Cr Gavin Gamble.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Brett Cunningham
Seconded: Cr Emma Robbins

That Council receive the signed oath/affirmation taken by Councillor Gavin Gamble on Friday, 17 January 2025.

CARRIED

7.9 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE REPORTING FRAMEWORK (LGPRF) MID-YEAR REPORT

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 the LGPRF measures is reported to management, the Audit and Risk Committee (the Committee) and Council on a six-monthly basis. Additionally, the Performance Statement (which is a sub-set of these indicators) are included in the Golden Plains Shire Council Annual Report.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Owen Sharkey
Seconded: Cr Brett Cunningham

That Council receive and note the mid-year report on the Local Government Performance Report for the period 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024.

CARRIED

7.10 BANNOCKBURN INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Bannockburn Integrated Water Management (IWM) Plan has been developed to support Golden Plains Shire Council (GPSC), and the wider Barwon IWM Forum network, in managing the impacts and demands of urbanisation and population growth in Bannockburn. Urbanisation and population growth cause significant changes to the water cycle, and without planning and collaboration across the water cycle service providers and stakeholders, these changes can degrade waterways and landscapes, and impact water security.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Emma Robbins

Seconded: Cr Brett Cunningham

That Council adopt the Bannockburn Integrated Water Management Plan.

CARRIED

7.11 DELEGATES' REPORT & INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS RECORDS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At each Council meeting, Councillors have the opportunity to update their colleagues and the community about attendances at various Delegated Boards/Committees/Meetings that they attended on behalf of the Council and can acknowledge significant community events or Council functions/engagement opportunities that they have attended over the past month. This report contains records of informal meetings of Councillors as defined under Rule 1 of Chapter 5 of Council's Governance Rules.

MANDATORY BOARDS / COMMITTEES / MEETINGS

- Audit Committee
- G21 - Board of Directors
- Ballarat Regional Alliance of Councils
- Peri Urban Group of Rural Councils
- CEO Review Committee
- Municipal Association of Victoria
- Geelong Regional Library Corporation
- Tourism Greater Geelong and the Bellarine Board
- Golden Plains Emergency Management Committee
- Council Meeting, Strategic Briefing, Councillor Briefing and Portfolio Meetings

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / EVENTS

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Emma Robbins

Seconded: Cr Brett Cunningham

That Council receive and note the Delegates' Report and Informal Meetings of Councillors for the past month.

CARRIED

7.12 DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN TO BE SUBMITTED FOR MUNICIPAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN EXEMPTION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Councils are required by section 26 of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (the Act) to develop a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan every four years, within 12 months of a general election of the Council. Golden Plains Shire's next Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan is due on or before 26 October 2025. The Act recognises the significant role of councils in improving the health and wellbeing of their communities.

Section 27 of the Act provides councils the option to seek an exemption from producing a standalone Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan by including public health and wellbeing matters in a Council Plan or Strategic Plan. Officers have initiated the work required to seek approval from the Minister to have our health and wellbeing plan included in the 2025 – 2029 Golden Plains Shire Council Plan.

Councils wishing to have their plan integrated need to seek an exemption from the Secretary, Department of Health.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Gavin Gamble
Seconded: Cr Emma Robbins

That Council endorses the draft Council Plan for submission to the Secretary, Department of Health, for approval of the integration of the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan.

CARRIED

7.13 COUNCILLOR INTERNAL RESOLUTION PROCEDURE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In October 2024 the *Local Government Act 2020* was amended to include a new Model Councillor Code of Conduct which became law for all Victorian councils on 26 October 2024. The *Local Government Act 2020* was also changed to require all councils to implement an Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure to provide an additional pathway for resolving conflicts between Councillors. The Internal Resolution Procedure must comply with the requirements of Schedule 1A of the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020* and must be adopted by 1 July 2025.

Previously, Councils were required to adopt their own Councillor Code of Conduct. With the Model Councillor Code of Conduct in place and, provided the Councillor Internal Resolution Procedure is adopted, the Councillor Code of Conduct 2021 and the Councillor Dispute Resolution Policy 2021 are redundant and should be revoked.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Brett Cunningham

Seconded: Cr Emma Robbins

That Council:

1. Adopt the Councillor Internal Resolution Procedure as required by the *Local Government Act 2020* and in compliance with the requirements of Schedule 1A of the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020*;
2. Revoke the Councillor Code of Conduct 2021; and
3. Revoke the Councillor Dispute Resolution Policy 2021.

CARRIED

7.14 QUARTER 2 FINANCE REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Quarter 2 Finance Report outlines the financial results for the period ending 31 December 2024. It compares the Council's adopted budget and forecast which includes budget carry forwards from the 2023-24 financial year and additional funding received to complete projects.

This report includes a summary of Council's financial performance and position for the 2024-25 year up to 31 December 2024 and an update on capital projects as of 31 December 2024. The financial statements also include a high-level full-year forecast.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Owen Sharkey

Seconded: Cr Gavin Gamble

That Council note the Quarter 2 Finance Report for the six month period from 1 October until 31 December 2024.

CARRIED

7.15 COUNCIL COMMITTEE DELEGATIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Councillor Gamble was successfully returned as a Councillor following Councillor Glenn's resignation. This change necessitates updating the Council Committee Delegations.

Three months into the term, the intention is not to implement major changes; rather, it is to appoint Councillor Gamble to committees.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Owen Sharkey

Seconded: Cr Gavin Gamble

That Council:

1. Adopts the Appointment of Councillors to various internal and external organisations and committees for the 2024-2025 period, as follows:

Committee/Board or Membership Representative Position	Delegate(s)	Proxy
Audit and Risk Committee	Mayor Cr Hayden Cr Sharkey	Not Applicable
Councillor Contracts Committee (Chair)	Cr Kirby	Not Applicable
Councillor Contracts Committee (Delegates)	Cr Robbins Cr Gamble	Not Applicable
Golden Plains Disability Advisory Committee	Cr Hayden	Cr Gamble
CEO Employment & Remuneration Committee	All	Not Applicable
Geelong Regional Library Corporation	Cr Sharkey	Cr Robbins
G21 – Board of Directors	Mayor Cr Hayden	Not Applicable
Greater Ballarat Alliance of Councils	Mayor Cr Hayden	Cr Robbins
Peri Urban Group of Councils	Mayor Cr Hayden	Cr Sharkey
Municipal Association of Victoria	Cr Phelan	Cr Robbins
Tourism Greater Geelong and Bellarine Board	Cr Cunningham	Cr Gamble
Rural Councils Australia	Cr Kirby	Cr Robbins
Geelong Heritage Centre Collection Advisory Committee	Cr Cunningham	Cr Kirby
G21 – Health and Wellbeing Pillar	Mayor Cr Hayden	Cr Cunningham
G21 – Culture and Economic Development Pillar	Cr Robbins	Cr Gamble
G21 – Sustainability Pillar	Cr Gamble	Cr Robbins
G21 – Planning and Transport Pillar	Cr Cunningham	Cr Gamble

CARRIED

7.16 ESSENTIAL SERVICES VOLUNTEER FUND

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On Friday, 13 December 2024, the Victorian Government announced that the Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) will be replaced with the new Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) from 1 July 2025. The ESVF implementation will be a significant increase over the existing levy (FSPL), particularly in the primary production (farming) areas. On a sector-by-sector basis, the increase could be as high as 1.85 times the existing levy; this could be higher for individual properties.

All ratepayers will incur this tax, and in Golden Plains Shire, this could mean up to an additional \$2 million in property-based tax revenue due to the levy. This is a significant burden for ratepayers on top of their existing rates and the Vacant Residential Land Tax.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Des Phelan

Seconded: Cr Helena Kirby

That Council write to the Treasurer (the Hon. Jaclyn Symes MP) and Victorian Government Local Members (the Hon. Michaela Settle MP (Eureka) and the Hon. Christine Couzens MP (Geelong) regarding:

1. concerns about the impact of the proposed Essential Services Volunteer Fund on the Golden Plains Shire community; and
2. seek that, if implemented, the Essential Services Volunteer Fund be managed directly by the Victorian Government, not via Local Government.

CARRIED

8 NOTICES OF MOTION

8.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - INDEPENDENT ROADS SERVICE REVIEW AND REPORT

I, Councillor Owen Sharkey, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on 25 February 2025, I intend to move the following motion:-

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Owen Sharkey

Seconded: Cr Des Phelan

That Council:

1. receive an Initial Report on any independent monitoring of the council-managed road and drainage network at the April Scheduled Council Meeting. The Initial Report shall include an assessment of the potential benefits and drawbacks of conducting a further review and costing for an Independent Roads Service Review and Report;
2. notes the scope of the potential Independent Roads Service Review and Report should consider key aspects such as the adopted Road Management Plan intervention levels, compliance to intervention levels, plant and equipment, staffing levels and maintenance schedules and practices; and
3. will consider the findings and costings for proceeding with the Independent Roads Service Review and Report as part of the budget deliberations for the Financial Year 2025-26.

CARRIED

9 PETITIONS

Nil

10 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS FOR DECISION

Nil

ADDITIONAL ITEM

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Brett Cunningham
Seconded: Cr Emma Robbins

That, in accordance with section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 the meeting be closed to members of the public for the consideration of items of business which are confidential as they relate to personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.

CARRIED

ITEM REGARDING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RESIGNATION

This item was considered in the confidential part of the meeting and in accordance with the resolution, has been included in the public minutes of the meeting.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Brett Cunningham
Seconded: Cr Des Phelan

That Council resolves that CEO Walden ceases his tenure as CEO of Golden Plains Shire Council as of 4:00pm tomorrow, 26 February 2025.

CARRIED

MOTION TO RE-OPEN THE MEETING

RESOLUTION

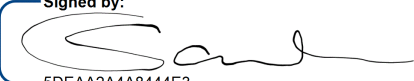
Moved: Cr Brett Cunningham
Seconded: Cr Des Phelan

That the meeting be re-opened to members of the public.

CARRIED

The Meeting closed at 8.05pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Council Meeting held on 25 March 2025.

Signed by: 
.....5DEAA2AAA844E3.....

CHAIRPERSON