



STRATHBOGJIE SHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE STRATHBOGJIE SHIRE COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2013, COMMENCING AT 6.00 P.M. AT THE EUROA COMMUNITY CONFERENCE CENTRE

Councillors: Colleen Furlanetto
Malcolm Little
Alister Purbrick
Patrick Storer
Debra Swan
Robin Weatherald
Graeme (Mick) Williams

Outgoing Mayor: Debra Swan

Officers: Steve Crawcour - Chief Executive Officer
Roy Hetherington - Director, Asset Services
David Woodhams – Director, Corporate and Community
Phil Howard – Director, Sustainable Development
Gary Abley – Manager, Organisational Development

Apologies:

BUSINESS

1. Welcome
2. Introduction of Temporary Chair
3. Acknowledgement of Traditional Land Owners
4. Report by Outgoing Mayor
5. Fixing of the Annual Councillor Allowance and Fixing of the Annual Allowance for the Mayor
6. Councillors' Expense Entitlement
7. Election of Mayor for the Forthcoming Year
8. Response by Incoming Mayor
9. Incoming Mayor to assume Chair for remainder of Meeting
10. Election of Deputy Mayor for Forthcoming Year
11. 2014 Council Meeting Timetable
12. Councillor Committees Representation – 2013/2014

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BUSINESS

1. Welcome

2. Introduction of Temporary Chair

In accordance with Meeting Procedures Local Law, No.1, the Chief Executive Officer acted as Temporary Chair until the position of Mayor was filled.

3. Acknowledgement of Traditional Land Owners

In keeping with the spirit of Reconciliation, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we are meeting today. We recognise indigenous people, their elders past and present.

4. Report by Outgoing Mayor

The outgoing Mayor, Debra Swan, commented on major achievements of Council and significant events held during the municipal year just concluded. A copy of the Mayor's report is attached.

5. Fixing of the Annual Councillor Allowance and Annual Allowance for the Mayor in accordance with Section 73B, 74, 74A and 74B of the Local Government Act 1989

A Council must pay to each of its Councillors the allowance specified in any Ministerial Order in Council made for the purpose of Sections 73B, 74, 74A and 74B of the Local Government Act 1989.

The Victorian Government sets upper and lower limits for all allowances paid to Councillors and Mayors. For the purpose of these allowance limits, Councils are currently divided into three Categories, based on the income and population of each Council. Strathbogie Shire Council is grouped with other small rural Shires and listed as a 'Category 1' Council.

For 2012/2013, following the review of Councillor allowances, as required under Section 74(1) of the Local Government Act, Council determined that an annual amount of \$17,969, plus the additional allowance of 9% (the equivalent of the superannuation guarantee contribution) would be paid to Councillors. The Mayoral allowance was set at \$40,000, plus the additional allowance of 9%. These figures included the 2.5% adjustment factor, as required under Section 73B of the Local Government Act. A Mayor is not entitled to receive an allowance as a Councillor if he or she is receiving an allowance as a Mayor. Furthermore, a Councillor elected as a Deputy Mayor is only entitled to be paid the Councillor's allowance.

Council has previously established that a second-hand vehicle would be provided for use by the Mayor and/or Councillors, and for use as a 'pool' vehicle for staff, if available. At the meeting to ascertain Mayor and Councilor allowances in February 2013, the Mayor determined that she would contribute \$200 per month for the cost of the mayoral vehicle.

5. Fixing of the Annual Councillor Allowance and Annual Allowance for the Mayor in accordance with Section 73B, 74, 74A & 74B of the Local Government Act 1989 (cont.)

Under section 73B of the Local Government Act 1989, provision is made for an annual adjustment factor to be applied to Mayor and all Councillor allowances.

In determining the allowance for the Councillors and Mayor for 2013/2014, the adjustment factor, if any, as directed by the Order in Council, will be applied to the allowance for the 2012/2013 period, therefore, the allowances for 2013/2014 will be –

Councillor Allowance

- \$17,969 (plus any adjustment factor advised by an Order in Council, and an additional allowance of 9.25% being the equivalent of the superannuation guarantee contribution)

Mayoral Allowance

- \$40,000. (plus any adjustment factor advised by an Order in Council, and an additional allowance of 9.25% being the equivalent of the superannuation guarantee contribution).

RECOMMENDATION

For determination.

CRS WILLIAMS/LITTLE –

That the Councillors and Mayoral allowance be as listed above.

01/14

ON BEING PUT, THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

6. Councillors' Expense Allowance

Within Section 75 of the Act, provision exists for the reimbursement of expenses to Councillors in the following manner.

A Council may reimburse Councillors or members of Council Committees for necessary out-of-pocket expenses incurred while performing duties as a Councillor or Committee member.

Council has adopted a Councillors' Expense Entitlement Policy covering:

- Family Care
- Travelling expenses
- Study Grants
- Fax/Phone/Computer Equipment
- Insurances
- Conferences and other approved meetings
- Stationery and other Councillor support
- Procedures for claiming of Expenses

6. Councillors' Expense Allowance (cont.)

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be noted.

02/14 CRS WEATHERALD/SWAN : That the Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

7. Election of Mayor for forthcoming year

Section 71(1) of the Local Government Act 1989 requires that Councillors must elect a Councillor to be Mayor of the Council.

Council's Meeting Procedure Local Law No. 1 determines that the office of Mayor shall be for a term of 12 months from the date of the election of that office. Any Councillor is eligible for the election or re-election to the office of Mayor.

A nomination for Mayor must be seconded by another Councillor. If more than one nomination for Mayor is received, Council's Local Law No. 1 determines that voting for the Mayor be conducted by a show of hands.

Nominations for Mayor were called for by the Temporary Chair.

COUNCILLORS FURLANETTO/STORER NOMINATED COUNCILLOR SWAN FOR THE POSITION OF MAYOR.

COUNCILLOR WEATHERALD NOMINATED HIMSELF FOR THE POSITION OF MAYOR. AS THERE WAS NO SECONDER FOR THIS NOMINATION, AS REQUIRED BY COUNCIL'S MEETING PROCEDURE LOCAL LAW, THE NOMINATION LAPSED.

DUE TO THERE BEING NO FURTHER NOMINATIONS, COUNCILLOR SWAN WAS DULY ELECTED MAYOR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

8. Response by Incoming Mayor

The Mayor thanked her fellow Councillors for their nomination and support and vowed to continue to represent the Shire to the best of her ability.

9. Incoming Mayor to assume Chair for remainder of Meeting

10. Election of Deputy Mayor for forthcoming year

Council's Meeting Procedure Local Law No. 1 determines that the office of Deputy Mayor (if relevant) shall be for a term of 12 months from the date of the election of that office. Any Councillor is eligible for the election or re-election to the office of Deputy Mayor.

A nomination for Deputy Mayor must be seconded by another Councillor. If more than one nomination for Deputy Mayor is received, Council's Local Law No. 1 determines that voting for the Deputy Mayor be conducted by a show of hands.

Nominations for Deputy Mayor were called for by the Chair.

COUNCILLORS LITTLE/WILLIAMS –

That there be no position of Deputy Mayor.

03/14

ON BEING PUT, THE MOTION WAS LOST

COUNCILLORS WEATHERALD/STORER NOMINATED COUNCILLOR FURLANETTO FOR THE POSITION OF DEPUTY MAYOR.

04/14

ON BEING PUT, THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

11. 2014 Council Meeting Timetable

Council meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month (except January), at the Euroa Community Conference Centre, commencing at 6.00 p.m.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council Meeting Timetable remain as is.

05/14 CRS FURLANETTO/WEATHERALD : That the Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

12. Councillor Committees Representation – 2013/2014

Councillor representation on the following Committees is intended to create an indirect association with various organisations and for Council to provide input, if and when required. Councillor representation (including a substitute representative, if appropriate) on the attached Committees is now sought.

RECOMMENDATION

For determination.

CRS WILLIAMS/WEATHERALD –

That the Councillor representations, as listed attached, be endorsed by Council.

06/14

ON BEING PUT, THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6.38 P.M.

Confirmed as being a true and accurate record of the Meeting

.....
Chair

.....
Date

COUNCILLOR COMMITTEES REPRESENTATION – 2013/2014

SPECIAL COMMITTEES		COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE	
Planning Committee		Chair – Cr Little All Councillors	
Audit Committee (2 members)		Cr Williams <i>Cr Weatherald (substitute)</i>	
Nagambie Waterways Recreational and Commercial Stakeholders Advisory Committee		Cr Purbrick <i>Cr Swan (substitute)</i>	
COMMITTEE	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE	COMMITTEE	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE
Municipal Association of Victoria	Mayor <i>Cr Furlanetto(substitute)</i>	Hume Region Local Government Network	Mayor
Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee	Mayor (Chair)	Goulburn Valley Regional Waste Management Group (Resource GV)	Cr Weatherald <i>Cr Furlanetto (substitute)</i>
Goulburn Valley Regional Library Corporation	Cr Furlanetto	Goulburn Valley Community Road Safety Council	Cr Williams <i>Cr Storer (substitute)</i>
Goulburn Valley Highway Shepparton Bypass Group	Mayor	Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance	Cr Weatherald <i>Cr Furlanetto (substitute)</i>
Goulburn Murray Local Learning and Employment Network	Cr Furlanetto	L2P (Learners to Probationary Licence) Program Committee	Cr Storer <i>Cr Little (substitute)</i>
Victorian Local Governance Association	Cr Furlanetto		

Out Going Mayor's Speech By Councillor Debra Swan, November 2013

- Thank you to all my fellow councillors, our CEO, management and staff for their support over the past year, as a team, apart from the occasional deviation to strange places, we have all learnt a lot about each other and worked well together and made good strong decisions. I can truly say with so many councils caving to the pressure of forming workable relationships with staff and councillors we are looking pretty good amongst our peers and it is very important that the stability we have created continues if we are to progress as a vibrant and growing municipality.
- Over the past year we have created a new council plan, economic plan and revised many of our policies including our healthy community policy, long term financial plan and rating strategy.
- Like all councils we continue to be frustrated with misunderstandings and lack of meaningful communication with the community. As stated last year when taking on the Mayoral role, this is a 2 way street and we are looking to find new ways to communicate. We used online surveys, community meetings in all our main towns, letter drops, local media and round table discussions plus introduced a number of small working groups for projects that had strong community feeling where possible. We continue to work on this with a study being done right now on how our community wants to be communicated with. Much of this worked well but we still took a great deal of criticism on a couple of issues around trees and horse statues when community opinion was mixed and we had to make a decision.
- We are constantly under the pump to reduce rate increases, do more with less people and make decisions that please everyone. Impossible task!!! As you elected leaders we have had to make some difficult decisions that we believe are in the best interests of the whole shire; the emotional angst caused can be a great burden on us all because we care greatly for the people we serve and are doing the best we can. Funny how so many people are quick to criticise yet finish with, I wouldn't do your job for all the tea in china.
- We have been proven time and time again, through a number of official studies, we are financially sound and sustainable and have a great future together if we can maintain the effort we are putting in at the moment.
- It's true that our finances run close to the bone but contrary to local gossip we are managing very well with what we have!! During the year we have undergone a number of staff restructures and started working with our neighbouring shires on shared services, reduced our vehicle fleet and all our departments have gone back to the drawing board to produce business plans that provide maximum productivity and savings. I also congratulate our staff and management for recognising our need to keep costs under control with EBA's set at 3% over 3 years. Everyone in this organisation is constantly looking for ways to better serve our communities.

- The year started with protests about trees in Euroa and is ending with a working group that represents all the stakeholders who we hope will keep working on plans to reinvigorate the sevens creek park and pay tribute to its history, enhanced by the farmers market, honouring our hero's project and the return of the show and shine. The Sale yards have a working group sorting out how to improve the facility and manage its viability into the future not only as a piece of infrastructure but also as a community fundraiser and meeting place for our valued farming community. The swaggie tree has been protected and managed and Memorial Oval is on track for improvements with much more to come.
- Sure, there were things that could have been done better and we need to learn from but there are also a lot of things that were done well.
- Nagambie has been bypassed and the planning for a revitalised main street has continued with input from community group representatives that should see the first stages start early to mid next year. Waterways compliance has been revised with new processes and regulations to improve compliance of Nagambie Lake as a family friendly and a safe place to holiday. We have also cemented our shires history as the "horse Capital of Victoria" with amazing events, including the show jumping in Euroa, Carriage driving championships in Longwood and the unveiling of the Black Caviar Statue in Euroa.
- Avenel Recreation Reserve has new buildings and the town celebrated their 175th birthday in style,
- Ruffy had a music festival that could be heard across the ranges and had their main street tidied up. Violet town started the year assisting as a staging area for the Boho fires, they planted trees to honour fallen heroes and are now working on a new library plan.
- Grey town opened their community building through the hard work of the community action group. There have been wonderful events across the shire, community funding distributed and communities leaders recognised on Australia day.
- Our roads and bridges are being improved as we can afford, we are working with local land care groups on road side management, our community activities and home care continue to be appreciated our youth services have done some great work, our parks and gardens are looking good and we are continuing to gain accolades for many areas of our staff from their peer groups and other levels of government in waste management, our nerds group and mobile information centre program.
- We have much more work to do and many things to learn and improve on, but we are on the right track and doing well
- Every year we double the rates money with grants to put into our communities, we live in one of the most beautiful places in Victoria, we are a safe, well connected shire of small towns and villages who value their history, hero's, environment and community. We welcome visitors and encourage growth through appropriate economic development.

- It was never going to be perfect; that is simply not the nature of local government, but I am proud of all the achievements and direction set for the future, proud of living in Strathbogie shire, central Victoria - we are a great place to live.
- PROUD TO HAVE SERVED THE COMMUNITY AS YOUR MAYOR in the past year.