



STRATHBOGIE SHIRE COUNCIL

**MINUTES/DECISIONS OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE STRATHBOGIE
SHIRE COUNCIL HELD, VIRTUALLY, ON TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2020,
COMMENCING AT 6.00 P.M.**

Chair:	Amanda McClaren (Mayor)	(Lake Nagambie Ward)
Councillors:	Robert Gardner	(Lake Nagambie Ward)
	Malcolm Little	(Hughes Creek Ward)
	John Mason	(Seven Creeks Ward)
	Chris Raeburn	(Honeysuckle Creek Ward)
	Alistair Thomson	(Mount Wombat Ward)
	Graeme Williams OAM	(Seven Creeks Ward)
Officers:	Julie Salomon	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
	David Roff	Director, Corporate Operations (DCO)
	Kristin Favaloro	Executive Manager, Communications and Engagement (EMCE)
	Emma Kubeil	Acting Director, Community and Planning (ADCP)

BUSINESS

1. Welcome

The Mayor provided the following introduction –

Today all Councillors are working from home as are our Council Officers – or they are in a closed office space.

This is so we can participate without having to wear a mask.

We understand wearing a mask may create accessibility concerns for some members of our community and we hope, by participating in today's meeting remotely, we can overcome this.

I wanted to take the opportunity to outline that voting at today's meeting will be held by a show of hands.

All Councillors will raise their hands to vote for any motion. For and against cards will be used by Councillors – to make it really clear to our community how they are voting on motions.

You will see a card with the GREEN words FOR on it for those voting for motions and a card with the RED word AGAINST on it held by Councillors voting against a motion.

If a Councillor has a conflict of interest in a matter, then they will be asked to leave the meeting and no discussion on the matter will commence until we are sure they have done so.

I will announce when the Councillor has rejoined the meeting after the matter has been considered and the vote concluded.

If we have technical difficulties during today's meeting, which means we are unable to broadcast to the public we will adjourn the meeting for 15 minutes.

If the issue is not resolved after this time but we maintain a quorum of Councillors under our Local Law, we will continue the meeting.

If we cannot maintain a quorum I will have to close the meeting and will call another Council meeting to consider the unfinished business on the agenda.

Thank you for joining us today.

2. Acknowledgement of Traditional Land Owners
'I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are meeting. I pay my respects to their Elders, past and present'
3. Apologies / Leave of Absence

Dawn Bray	Executive Manager, Governance and Customer Service (EMGCS)
Melissa Crane	Acting Manager, Planning and Investment (AMPI)
4. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

Nil.
5. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings
- Ordinary Council Meeting Tuesday 15 September 2020

MOVED: COUNCILLOR MASON
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS

161/20 CARRIED
6. Petitions

Nil.

7. Reports of Mayor and Councillors and Delegates

The Mayor, Councillor Amanda McClaren, presented the following report -

Today is the final meeting for this Council term and the final meeting for six Councillors who are not standing in the upcoming Local Government elections.

Many of these Councillors have represented our Shire for many years – so I ask you to please bear with me tonight, I might take a little longer to get through my introduction as I acknowledge and thank them for their contribution.

Before I start I would like to pay tribute to the members of the Euroa Forlonge Country Women's Association who have announced they are closing the local branch - the only CWA Branch in our Shire.

There has been a branch of the CWA in Euroa since 1928.

At times there has been more than 100 members – so many members that there were two branches until the original Euroa branch disbanded about 12 years ago.

The news our local branch is closing brings me personal sadness – I am a member myself. More than this, I believe it will be greatly missed in our community.

The CWA is a vibrant, self-funded, volunteer philanthropic organisation that focusses on friendship, personal development and advocacy.

There is no doubt the Euroa Forlonge branch has made a significant difference in our community.

It has supported local projects, advocated on community issues and supported women in crisis – locally, nationally and internationally.

So on behalf of Strathbogie Shire Council, I would like to thank all CWA members for their contribution to our community.

Today is my final meeting as Mayor of Strathbogie Shire Council.

Over the past four years I have been honoured and extremely proud to represent Council and our community.

It has been a privilege to serve our Strathbogie Shire community and today I wanted to touch on some of the things that make me proud of our Council during this term.

- Roving Council meetings – taking Council meetings right across our Shire.
- Conversation cafes – meeting with the community to understand their needs, concerns and priorities before drafting our Council Plan
- Developing the Strengthen Strathbogie advocacy plan that attracted state and federal funding into the Strathbogie Shire
- Supporting the Uluru Statement of the Heart for Aboriginal constitutional recognition and reform both locally and at a State level.
- Signing the Refugee Welcome Scroll.

- Supporting the Strathbogie Shire's hugely successful 'Bogie Bulk Buy' Program and seeing the community Solar System awarded to the Nagambie Bowls Club.
- Gaining funding for a feasibility study into the development of a Post Traumatic Wellness Centre for Veterans and Emergency Services.
- Being one of the first 35 Shires to sign up to the Climate Council's Cities Power Partnership.
- Supporting our Shire's Community Action Groups, the Nagambie Waterways Committee and the various sporting and recreation reserve committees.
- Working to promote our Shire as a wonderful place to live, work and invest.
- Supporting the hundreds of community events around the Shire.
- Advocating for our Shire and ensuring we are heard by State and Federal government.

At this time I would also like to thank and acknowledge the hard work of Kate Stothers and Deb Bower. As councillors they made a significant impact in the Honeysuckle and Lake Nagambie wards respectively.

As six of our Councillors are not restanding I would also like to acknowledge each of our Councillors for their contributions during this term.

So starting with Cr Graeme 'Mick' Williams OAM who has been involved with the municipality for more than 55 years.

The first 34 years as a grader driver and member of the outdoor crew and the following 23 years as a Councillor. Mick's knowledge and support has been invaluable to all of us.

Mick served as Mayor for a six-month period in 2002 and was further elected Mayor in December 2010 and served two terms.

He is an Emeritus Mayor and has been awarded as Order of Australia Medal for his truly significant contribution to the Local Government sector and our community.

Cr Malcolm Little has spent 12 years on Council and during this time he has played a significant role in representing the Hughes Creek Ward, otherwise known as the 'gateway to the Shire' and leading the Planning Committee.

I thank him for his commitment to the Shire.

Deputy Mayor Cr John Mason's work to support community projects including the Friendlies Oval and pedestrian bridge linking the town's sporting facilities should be acknowledged.

Cr Mason has put his hand up twice to be the Deputy Mayor during this term and I thank him for his support and his commitment to the municipality in this role.

Cr Alistair Thompson's passion and contribution to good governance and the significant Zero to One Roads Program must be acknowledged. I thank Cr Thomson for his financial acumen and leadership in this area.

The Zero to One unsealed roads upgrade program has seen \$1.6 million invested in roads upgrades across the Shire.

Cr Bob Gardner and Cr Chris Raeburn have been with us for a shorter period of time and I thank them both for their commitment and contributions over the last 9 and 7 months, respectively.

Thank you Councillors for your contribution to the Strathbogie Shire this term.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Council Officers who work tirelessly for our community.

In the Corporate Operations area we have seen strong improvement to our financial reporting and procurement systems.

Our compliance team has recently led the establishment of a new Community Local Law, which was amended to reflect community views and expectations.

I would like to thank the operations team for its work on our roads, parks and gardens and our waste team, which is achieving some of the best results in the State.

To the Community and Planning team thank you for your hard work.

In this team we have seen youth projects, major events, tourism campaigns and improved connections and collaboration with our business community.

Our Planning and Investment Team is committed to managing our Shire in a sustainable way, while supporting us to flourish and our project and assets team have achieved wonderful things for our communities.

The Governance and Customer Service teams have also seen a stronger focus on good governance and our Customer Service and Records Teams – which are our first point of contact for our community – is so often acknowledged for their excellent service.

The People and Culture Team has put a renewed focus on culture and accountability within the organization. In particular I would like to thank this team for its work in supporting the recruitment of our new CEO Julie Salomon.

Recruiting to this position is high pressure and a seriously challenging mission – but I am confident we have a leader who is firmly focussed on our community.

To the Communications and Engagement Team in less than six months we have seen significant changes – I am looking forward to seeing what happens in the future.

Finally I want to finish by saying – my four years on Council has been full of both opportunities and challenges. But I am confident we leave Strathbogie Shire positioned to achieve great things.

I know through my role as Chair for the Regional Development Australia Hume Region committee I will continue to work with Strathbogie Shire to further enhance the regional and economic development of our region.

Strathbogie Shire is a truly special place.

Our events, tourism, wine and produce offerings, amazing natural resources, the indigenous culture of the Taungurung and Yorta Yorta, our historic and military links, mean each of our townships has its own unique offering.

I don't think we could have developed a more accurate vision when we developed – Together we are building a flourishing community.

I have seen our community drive growth, change and important projects – together.

I urge our community to continue to get involved, to put up your hand, and continue providing the advice and support Council needs to make good decisions.

I am confident in Strathbogie Shire and I look forward to seeing what our prosperous future holds.

Councillor John Mason presented the following report –

It's a difficult night for us all, I think, as we disperse and move on, and I'm not going to repeat a lot of the ground the Mayor has already covered. To me, it has been an absolute honour and privilege to have served our community and I believe I am a much better person for it. The people I have met, the training, the briefings and the incredible staff I've worked with who have always been there, not just for myself, but for all of the Councillors.

And I'd also like to thank my fellow Councillors for the incredible journey I have been on, and I'm sure they have also been on as well.

I would also like to acknowledge Councillor Mick Williams OAM - 24 years as a Councillor. When I came in, totally green, as a Councilor, he was there for me. He stepped up as a mentor and the advice he gave me I'll never forget - the many journeys we did throughout the Shire, which turned into history lessons. The history I learnt about the Shire was incredible and I do believe the community should get involved a lot more with the Council. It is such a learning curve – incredible for me.

Councillor Malcolm Little presented the following report -

This Council, I believe, has left a financially sound legacy to build a future on. The future includes, but is not limited to, the COVID-19 problems and the capping of the Violet Town Transfer Station, and maybe work with Kirwans Bridge. There are challenges ahead, but we move on. I do congratulate all the candidates who have put their hands up and want to be part of a rapidly developing Shire. I know the successful candidates will do a magnificent job. They, too, should aim to lead, in four years, a highly successful Shire encompassing tourism, population growth, business development and sound infrastructure – all under a sound environmental 'umbrella'.

I thank the Executive Management Team and all the staff for their ongoing efforts under difficult COVID-19 conditions. It's been a pleasure working with you all over 11 years, and I wish you the best of everything for the future.

My fellow Councillors – I thank you all for your efforts and, again, I wish you well for wherever you may be headed. We've had a worthwhile trip together, and an enjoyable one.

Thank you to Di Burls for your continued help and guidance to myself and all Councillors.

My fellow Councillor who I have worked with for the past 11 years – Councillor Mick. Good luck to you and thank you for your ongoing support.

And our Mayor – thank you for your leadership and guidance over your four-year term. You have done it all with style, and I have enjoyed working with you, Amanda – and good luck to you.

And, finally, to our new CEO. With all the challenges we are facing, which I know you are all aware of, I am absolutely sure you will find a bright light at the end of the COVID tunnel. Good luck to you, Julie, and well done on your initial work with the Strathbogie Shire.

Councillor Graeme Williams presented the following report -

Good evening, everybody. This has been a long era of years for me - nearly 24 years as a Councillor and 34 on the grader, but I have enjoyed my Council life, I can assure you, and it's been a wonderful journey. I have seen lots of things happen – from day one to today. How things have gone forward and how things have changed. I think the Mayor covered most of the things, and I don't need to back up on tonight, because I think she covered it really well; and I must congratulate the Mayor on her four years and a wonderful job she has done as Mayor. Well done, Amanda, and congratulations.

I would like to thank my community who voted for me seven times in a row. I couldn't be here without their support, and I always think it's the community who put us there as they trust us to work for them, and which we have.

I would also like to thank my fellow Councillors, not just my fellow Councillors here today, but the Councillors I have worked with since 1997. It's been a long journey, but a satisfying journey as far as I'm concerned.

Probably the ones that really do the work are the staff and I must say, the CEO's I've been under, and especially Julie here now, and with the staff – how lucky we have been. The staff are the ones that bring all the information back to Council. We give direction and policy, but they bring it back to us. I have really enjoyed working with staff and what made it so easy for me was 34 years with the outdoor staff and you get to know and trust them. I must say today's staff, and those I have worked with since 1997, are all doing a great part for the Shire.

I must admit I don't like pulling people's names out of a hat, but I'm not pulling this one out of the hat. I would like to thank the Shire PA for all the Councillors in the time I have been here, in Di Burls. I don't know what I would've done without Di – she is such a great support and would do anything to help us all, not only for me, but the whole Council, and you've heard what other Councillors have said tonight.

On signing off tonight, thank you everybody. I wish the new Councillors all the best. I know they'll do a good job, I know that Julie will put them on the right track and the staff that we have supporting them, and it's lovely to see you here tonight, Emma, and congratulations on your role and what you have done for us in the planning, too.

Thank you very much, everybody, and I hope that our new Council goes forward because as I said earlier today, and I've said it before – it's a team effort that makes the Council work, and it's the Councillors and staff all working together

Councillor Alistair Thomson presented the following report -

I would like to wish the new Council and all of the staff well for the future. The Strathbogie Shire is an amazing place – it's valued by everyone who lives here, it's valued by the people who are elected as its Council, and I know it's valued by the staff.

8. Public Question Time

As per Clause 112.2 of Council's Election Period Policy, the Public Question Time component of Council's Business is suspended during the election (caretaker) period.

9. Officer Reports

10. Notices of Motion

As per Clause 112.3 of Council's Election Period Policy, no Notices of Motion will be accepted by the Chief Executive Officer for a Council meeting held during the election (caretaker) period.

11. Notices of Rescission

Nil.

12. Urgent Business

Nil.

13. Confidential Business

Nil.

Council does not generally permit individuals to make audio recordings of meetings. Individuals are required to make a written request addressed to the Council (Director, Corporate Operations) should they seek to obtain permission to do so.

NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of Strathbogie Shire Council will be determined following the election of a new Council on Saturday 24 October 2020

REPORTS INDEX

		Page No.
9.	OFFICER REPORTS	
9.1	Planning Applications Received - 1 to 30 September 2020	1
9.2	Adoption of 2019/20 Annual Financial Report	2
9.3	Adoption of Performance Statement 2019/20 and Governance and Management Checklist 2019/20	4
9.4	Business Management System	5
10.	NOTICES OF MOTION	6
	Nil.	
11.	NOTICES OF RESCISSION	6
	Nil.	
12.	URGENT BUSINESS	6
	Nil.	
13.	CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS	6
	Nil.	

9. OFFICER REPORTS

9.1 Planning Applications Received - 1 to 30 September 2020

Responsible Officer: Manager Planning and Investment (Acting)

SUMMARY

Listings of Planning Applications Received for the period 1 to 30 September 2020
– provided for information.

MOVED: COUNCILLOR LITTLE
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS

That the report be noted.

162/20 CARRIED

9.2 Adoption of 2019/20 Annual Financial Report

Author: Director Corporate Operations

Responsible Director: Director Corporate Operations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Government Act 1989 (the Act) states it is essential there is a legislative framework that provides for councils to be accountable to their local communities in the performance of functions and the exercise of powers and the use of resources. It is a statutory requirement under the Act that councils prepare and report on medium and short term plans to discharge their duties of accountability and transparency to their communities.

The Act specifically requires that Council pass a resolution giving its approval in principle to the Annual Financial Report prior to formally submitting to the Auditor-General Victoria and the Hon. Shaun Leane MP, Minister for Local Government. The Act further requires that Council must authorise two Councillors to approve the Report.

The Audit Committee, at its meeting on Friday 9 October 2020, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989, having reviewed the Annual Financial Report consisting of the Financial Statements and Notes, recommends the 2019/20 Annual Financial Report be considered for approval by Council.

Section 132 of the 1989 Local Government Act applies to this report, with similar provisions in the 2020 Act (Section 99) applicable from 24 October 2020.

Draft copies of the Annual Financial Report have been circulated to Councillors with this report for their consideration, and are tabled for information purposes.

***MOVED: COUNCILLOR THOMSON
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR LITTLE***

That Council:

- 1. Notes the Recommendation of the Audit Committee to approve the Financial Statements;***
- 2. Approve in principle the 2019/20 Annual Financial Report;***
- 3. Authorise Councillors McClaren and Gardner to sign the 2019/20 Annual Financial Report;***
- 4. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to make minor amendments to the 2019/20 Annual Financial Report, if required, and brief Council if amendments are made;***
- 5. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to certify the 2019/20 Annual Financial Report; and***

9.2 Adoption of 2019/20 Annual Financial Report (cont.)

- 6. Upon receipt of the Auditor's Certified Report, submit the Annual Report to the Hon. Shaun Leane MP, Minister for Local Government and make the Annual Report available for public inspection.**

163/20 CARRIED

9.3 Adoption of Performance Statement 2019/20 and Governance and Management Checklist 2019/20

Author: Director Corporate Operations

Responsible Director: Director Corporate Operations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Government Performance Reporting Framework is a **mandatory system of performance reporting for all Victorian councils**. It ensures that councils are measuring and reporting on their performance in a consistent way to promote transparency and accountability in the local government sector.

The Local Government Act 1989 (the Act) requires that Council pass a resolution giving its approval to the Performance Statement 2019/20 and Governance and Management Checklist prior to formal submission to the Auditor-General Victoria and the Minister. The performance statement provides our community with audited results against the prescribed performance indicators and measures.

The Act further requires that Council must authorise two Councillors to approve the Report.

Draft copies of the Performance Statement 2019/20 and Governance and Management Checklist have been circulated to Councillors with this report for their consideration, and are tabled for information purposes.

Council's Audit and Risk Committee considered both documents at its meeting on Friday 9 October 2020 and endorsed them for adoption by Council

**MOVED: COUNCILLOR THOMSON
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR LITTLE**

1. ***That Council adopt, in principle, the –***
 - a) ***Performance Statement 2019/20.***
 - b) ***Governance and Management Checklist 2019/20.***
2. ***That Council authorise Councillors McClaren and Gardner to sign the 2019/20 Performance Statement.***
3. ***That the above Statements be included in the Annual Report and submitted to the Hon. Shaun Leane MP, Minister for Local Government.***

164/20 CARRIED

9.4 Business Management System

The October 2020 Business Management System Report includes reports as follows:-

- Building Department – September 2020 Statistics
- Planning Department – Planning Application Approvals – Development Cost (Capital Improved Value) - September 2020
- Customer Enquiry Analysis Report – Report for September 2020
- Waste Management Reporting ~ Year to Date - September 2020
- Actioning of Council Reports Resolutions – Council Meeting 15 September 2020
- Outstanding Actions of Council Resolutions to 30 September 2020
- Review of Council Policies and Adoption of new Policies – September/October 2020
- Record of Assemblies of Councillors
- Record of Minutes of Meetings of Special Committees of Council received in the past month

By reporting on a monthly basis, Council can effectively manage any risks that may arise. The Business Management System will also incorporate Council's corporate goals and objectives.

***MOVED: COUNCILLOR MASON
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR LITTLE***

That the report be noted.

165/20 CARRIED

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

11. NOTICES OF RESCISSION

Nil.

12. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

13. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Nil.

COUCILLOR WILLIAMS PUT FORWARD A REQUEST TO THE CHAIR SEEKING PERMISSION TO MOVE A MOTION TO HAVE DI BURLS RECOGNISED IN THE MINUTES TONIGHT FOR HER SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL

THE MAYOR ACCEPTED THE MOTION

***MOVED: COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR LITTLE***

That Di Burls be recognised in the Minutes tonight for her support and contribution to Council.

166/30 CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of Strathbogie Shire Council will be determined following the election of a new Council on Saturday 24 October 2020

IN CLOSING, THE MAYOR CONVEYED HER THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO ALL OF THE COUNCILLORS AND ALL OF THE OFFICERS

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6.44 P.M.

Confirmed as being a true and accurate record of the Meeting

.....

Chair

.....

Date