

**Strathbogie Shire Council**

# **Council Meeting Minutes / Decisions**

**Statutory Council Meeting  
Tuesday 19 November 2024**

# Minutes

## Statutory Meeting

**Tuesday 19 November 2024 at 6:00 pm**

**Meeting held at the Euroa Community Conference Centre and livestreamed on Council's website**

<https://www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/council/our-council/council-meetings-and-minutes/>

### **Councillors**

Cr Laura Binks  
Cr Gregory Carlson  
Cr Claire Ewart-Kennedy  
Cr Vicki Halsall  
Cr Clark Holloway  
Cr Scott Jeffery  
Cr Fiona Stevens

### **Municipal Monitor**

Marg Allan

### **Officers**

Tim Tamlin  
Amanda Tingay  
John Harvey  
Rachael Frampton  
Kerry Lynch

Interim Chief Executive Officer  
Director People and Governance  
Director Sustainable Infrastructure  
Director Community and Planning  
Governance Officer

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# Meeting Procedure

## 1 Welcome

*In accordance with Governance Rule 12.1 of Strathbogie Shire Council's Governance Rules, the Interim Chief Executive Officer presided over proceedings until the election of the Mayor concluded.*

## 2 Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the places we live, work and play. We recognise and respect the enduring relationship they have with their lands and waters, and we pay respects to the Elders past, present and emerging. Today we are meeting on the lands of the Taungurung peoples of the Eastern Kulin nation, whose sovereignty here has never been ceded.

## 3 Privacy Notice

This public meeting is being streamed live via our website ([Council Meetings and Minutes | Strathbogie Shire](#)) and made available for public access on our website along with the official Minutes/Decisions of this meeting. All care is taken to maintain your privacy; however, as a visitor in the public gallery, it is assumed that your consent is given in the event that your image is broadcast to the public. It is also assumed that your consent is given to the use and disclosure of any information that you share at the meeting (including personal or sensitive information) to any person who accesses those recordings or Minutes/Decisions

## 4 Governance Principles

Council considers that the recommendations contained in this Agenda gives effect to the overarching governance principles stated in Section 9(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*. These principles are as follows:

1. Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law
2. priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations
3. the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted
4. the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making
5. innovation and continuous improvement are to be pursued
6. collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought
7. the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured
8. regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making
9. the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

## 5 Apologies/Leave of Absence

Nil

## 6 Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

Nil

## **7 Introduction and Welcome by Temporary Chair**

### **7.1 Introduction and Welcome by Temporary Chair (Interim Chief Executive Officer) Temporary Chair to provide an overview of the 2024 Council Election Results**

Voting for the 2024 Strathbogie Council elections was held by postal vote and conducted by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Voting closed at 6.00pm on Friday 25 October 2024. Counting of the votes and calculations for an unsubdivided Council for seven Councillor representatives was determined using the proportional representation voting system.

At the conclusion of the counting of votes, the Election Manager from the Victorian Electoral Commission declared the following candidates selected at 2.30pm on Friday 8 November 2024. The Councillors-elect are listed in alphabetical order:

- Laura Binks
- Gregory Carlson
- Claire Ewart-Kennedy
- Vicki Halsall
- Clark Holloway
- Scott Jeffery
- Fiona Stevens

## **8 Public Question Time**

### **Public Question Time**

Please note in accordance with Clause 35.1 of the Strathbogie Shire Council Governance Rules public question time did not occur during a Meeting called to elect a Mayor following a Council election declaration.

## **9 Officer Reports**

### **9.1 Corporate**

#### **9.1.1 Determination of Mayoral Term of Office**

**AUTHOR** Director People and Governance

**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR** Director People and Governance

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Section 25 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) provides that at a meeting of the Council that is open to the public, the Councillors must elect a Councillor to be the Mayor of the Council and must be determined by resolution of Council whether the Mayor is to be elected for a one year or two-year term.

Strathbogie Shire Council has historically appointed a Mayor for one (1) year. It is considered prudent to retain this practice given the growing demands on the Mayoral role under the Act.

#### **MOTION**

**Moved:** Councillor Binks  
**Seconded:** Councillor Stevens

**That the Mayoral term be set for a period of one (1) year.**

24/25-01

**CARRIED**

### 9.1.2 Election of the Mayor

**AUTHOR** Director People and Governance

**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR** Director People and Governance

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under section (12) of Strathbogie Shire Council's Governance Rules, the Chief Executive Officer must facilitate the election of the Mayor in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020* (section 25(3)(a) and (b)).

A Mayor is to be elected no later than one month after the date of a general election.

The role and functions of the Mayor are set out in Section (18) of the *Local Government Act 2020* and include:

- the holder of this office is the chair at Council meetings
- is the leader of the councillors
- acts as the principal spokesperson for Council
- and carries out civic and ceremonial duties on behalf of Council.

The Interim Chief Executive Officer called for nominations for the position of Mayor:

- Councillor Clark Holloway nominated Councillor Claire Ewart-Kennedy
- Councillor Ewart-Kennedy accepted the nomination.
- Councillor Laura Binks nominated Councillor Fiona Stevens
- Councillor Stevens accepted the nomination.

As no further nominations were received, the Interim Chief Executive Officer called for a vote by show of hands, in order of nomination.

Councillor Claire Ewart-Kennedy, having received a majority of the votes, was elected Mayor for a period of one year.

Mayor Councillor Ewart-Kennedy thanked her fellow Councillors, Council Officers and the public gallery indicating she was very humbled to accept the honour of being elected Mayor.

Councillor Ewart-Kennedy acknowledged her commitment to public service and working with a unified Council to represent all communities across the Municipality.

The Mayor, Cr Claire Ewart-Kennedy took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

### 9.1.3 Determination of the Establishment of the Office of Deputy Mayor

**AUTHOR** Director People and Governance

**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR** Director People and Governance

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council may establish an office of Deputy Mayor under the *Local Government Act 2020* and under Rule (13) of the Strathbogie Shire Council Governance Rules.

The position of Deputy Mayor supports the Mayoral role and if Council establishes this office, the Deputy Mayor must perform the role of the Mayor and may exercise any of the powers of the Mayor if:

- (a) the Mayor is unable for any reason to attend a Council meeting or part of a Council meeting; or
- (b) the Mayor is incapable of performing the duties of the office of Mayor for any reason, including illness; or
- (c) the office of Mayor is vacant.

#### MOTION

**Moved:** Councillor Carlson  
**Seconded:** Councillor Binks

**That Council:**

1. **Establish the Office of Deputy Mayor**
2. **Determine the term of office for the Deputy Mayor to be for one (1) year.**

24/25-02

**CARRIED**



### **9.1.4 Election of the Deputy Mayor**

**AUTHOR** Director People and Governance

**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR** Director People and Governance

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Following an election, Councillors elect the Mayor from amongst themselves and may chose to elect a Deputy Mayor.

If a Council chooses to establish an office of Deputy Mayor, the Deputy Mayor must be elected by an absolute majority of Councillors at a meeting that is open to the public.

Where a Council has established an office of Deputy Mayor, Deputy Mayors must perform the role of the Mayor, and may exercise the Mayoral powers, in any of the following circumstances:

- when the Mayor is unable for any reason to attend a Council meeting, or part of a Council meeting
- when the Mayor is incapable of performing the duties of the office of Mayor for any reason, including illness
- when the office of Mayor is vacant.

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor:

- Councillor Greg Carlson nominated Councillor Scott Jeffery
- Councillor Jeffery accepted the nomination
- Councillor Vicki Halsall nominated Councillor Fiona Stevens
- Councillor Stevens accepted the nomination.

As no further nominations were received, Mayor Councillor Ewart-Kennedy called for a vote by show of hands, in the order the nominations were received.

Councillor Scott Jeffery, having received a majority of the votes, was elected Deputy Mayor for a period of one year.

### 9.1.5 Oath or Making an Affirmation of Office

**AUTHOR** Director People and Governance

**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR** Director People and Governance

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At a ceremony held on 12 November 2024, Councillors-elect took the oath or made an affirmation of office before the Interim Chief Executive Officer Tim Tamlin and completed the required declarations in accordance with section (30) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Part (2) of the *Oaths and Affirmations Act 2018* and Regulation (6) of the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020.

#### MOTION

**Moved:** Councillor Binks  
**Seconded:** Councillor Stevens

**That Council:**

1. Acknowledge the taking of the oath or making an affirmation of office, and the signing and dating of each before the Interim Chief Executive Officer on Tuesday 12 November 2024
2. In accordance with section (30) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, include a record of the ceremony in the minutes of the Statutory Meeting of the Council held on 19 November 2024.

24/25-03

**CARRIED**

### 9.1.6 Determination of Councillor Allowances

**AUTHOR** Director People and Governance

**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR** Director People and Governance

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with Section 39 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the Councillor Expenses Policy, Councillors are entitled to receive an allowance whilst performing their duties. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are also entitled to receive a higher allowance.

The Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal made a Determination providing an annual adjustment to the values of the allowance payable to Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors. The adjusted allowances took effect from 1 July 2024.

#### MOTION

**Moved:** Councillor Binks  
**Seconded:** Councillor Carlson

**That Council, in accordance with the advice received from Local Government Victoria set allowances as follows:**

- 1. The Councillor allowance is:**
  - \$27,291 paid at the current Determination
- 2. The Deputy Mayor allowance is:**
  - \$42,245 until 17 December 2024
  - \$43,360 from 18 December 2024 to 17 December 2025
  - \$44,473 from 18 December 2025
- 3. The Mayoral allowance is:**
  - \$84,498 until 17 December 2024
  - \$86,722 from 18 December 2024 to 17 December 2025
  - \$88,945 from 18 December 2025
- 4. From 1 July 2024, the Remote Area Travel Allowance will be \$47.70 per day for eligible councillors, up to a maximum of \$5,937.50 per annum**
- 5. That under section 39(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020* the Mayor, Deputy Mayor or Councillor may elect to receive the allowance, receive part of the allowance or receive no allowance**
- 6. Allowances will be paid to Council in accordance with the Councillor Expenses Policy.**

24/25-04

**CARRIED**

### 9.1.7 Provision of Mayoral Motor Vehicle

**AUTHOR** Director People and Governance

**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR** Director People and Governance

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has previously determined that a vehicle would be provided for use by the Mayor and/or Councillors. The offer of the provision of a vehicle is at the discretion of the elected Mayor.

Council may also determine whether the Mayor sacrifices an amount for the additional cost of having full private use of the mayoral vehicle.

#### MOTION

**Moved:** Councillor Binks  
**Seconded:** Councillor Carlson

**That Council:**

1. Determine that a motor vehicle be made available for the Mayor with full private use
2. Determine the monthly contribution to the upkeep of that vehicle to be deducted from the Mayor's allowance, at \$235 per calendar month for the use of the vehicle.

24/25-05

**CARRIED**

### 9.1.8 Determination of Board/Committee Representations 2024-25

**AUTHOR** Director People and Governance

**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR** Director People and Governance

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council appoints Councillors to Council committees and as delegates to represent Council on external and other committees, generally for a term of one year.

The Councillor representative's role is to attend meetings on behalf of Council and to provide Council with briefings and updates on the matters/issues raised for further discussion by the Council as a whole.

The Strathbogie Shire Council representatives on internal and external committees are listed in the attachment below

#### MOTION

**Moved:** Councillor Binks

**Seconded:** Councillor Halsall

**That Council:**

**Appoints Councillors to Council committees and as delegates to represent Council on external and other committees as set out in the attachment below:**

#### **2024-25 Committee and Board Representatives**

##### **Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Committee:**

- Mayor Cr Claire Ewart-Kennedy
- Cr Scott Jeffery
- Cr Greg Carlson

##### **Audit and Risk Committee:**

- Mayor Cr Claire Ewart-Kennedy
- Cr Clark Holloway
- Cr Scott Jeffery (substitute)

##### **Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV):**

- Mayor Cr Claire Ewart-Kennedy
- Cr Vicki Halsall (substitute)

##### **Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA):**

- Cr Laura Binks

**Rural Councils Victoria (RCV):**

- **Cr Laura Binks**
- **Cr Fiona Stevens**

**Hume Region Local Government Network:**

- **Mayor Cr Claire Ewart-Kennedy**

**Goulburn Valley Regional Library Corporation:**

- **Cr Greg Carlson**

**Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue Advisory Committee:**

- **Cr Fiona Stevens**

24/25-06

**CARRIED****ATTACHMENT**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Council Representation</b>	<b>Elected Representative</b>
Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor</li> <li>• Two Councillors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor Cr Claire Ewart-Kennedy</li> <li>• Cr Scott Jeffery</li> <li>• Cr Gregory Carlson</li> </ul>
Audit and Risk Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor</li> <li>• One Councillor</li> <li>• One substitute Councillor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor Cr Claire Ewart-Kennedy</li> <li>• Cr Clark Holloway</li> <li>• Cr Scott Jeffery (substitute)</li> </ul>
Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor</li> <li>• One substitute Councillor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor Cr Claire Ewart-Kennedy</li> <li>• Cr Vicki Halsall (substitute)</li> </ul>
Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One Councillor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cr Laura Binks</li> </ul>
Rural Councils Victoria (RCV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two Councillors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cr Laura Binks</li> <li>• Cr Fiona Stevens</li> </ul>
Hume Region Local Government Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor Cr Claire Ewart-Kennedy</li> </ul>
Goulburn Valley Regional Library Corporation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One Councillor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cr Gregory Carlson</li> </ul>
Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue Advisory Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One Councillor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cr Fiona Stevens</li> </ul>

## **10      Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Strathbogie Shire Council will be held on Tuesday 10 December 2024 at Euroa Community Conference Centre at 6:00 pm.

## **11      Closure of Meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6:27 pm.