

Strathbogie Shire Council

Council Meeting Minutes / Decisions

Tuesday 21 January 2025

Minutes

Council Meeting

21 January 2025 at 4:00pm

A meeting was 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

Deputy Mayor Cr Jeffery
Cr Binks
Cr Carlson
Cr Halsall
Cr Holloway
Cr Stevens

Municipal Monitor

Marg Allan

Officers

Tim Tamlin
Amanda Tingay
Rachael Frampton
Kerry Lynch

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

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Meeting Procedure

1 Welcome

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

Mayor, Cr Claire Ewart-Kennedy
Michelle Harris, Interim Media and Communications Manager
Brian Doyle, Acting Director Sustainable Infrastructure

6 Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

Interim Chief Executive Officer Tim Tamlin disclosed a conflict of interest in relation to Item 15.1, Chief Executive Officer Recruitment.

7 Confirmation of Minutes/Decisions of Previous Meetings

The minutes have been circulated to Councillors and posted on Council website [Council Meetings and Minutes | Strathbogie Shire](#) pending confirmation at this meeting.

MOVED: Cr Carlson
SECONDED: Cr Holloway

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10 December 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

24/25-28

CARRIED

8 Petitions

8.1 Form Euroa Swimming Club - Volunteers to Extend Opening Hours of Euroa Swimming Pool

A petition was received on 17 December 2024, from Greg Rowe on behalf of the Euroa Swimming Club, requesting Council support for extended utilisation of the Euroa Swimming Pool, through the utilisation of a group of volunteers to support extension of the operating hours.

The petition was signed by eighteen people.

A redacted copy of the petition was attached to the report.

MOVED: Cr Stevens
SECONDED: Cr Binks

- 1. Receive and note the petition in relation to council support for extended utilisation of the Euroa Swimming Pool through the utilisation of a group of volunteers;**
- 2. That the petition be referred to the Director Community and Planning for consideration and response.**

24/25-29

CARRIED

9 Mayor and Councillor Reports

9.1 Deputy Mayor Report - Cr Scott Jeffery

Just a brief update from me given the very short timeframe I had to prepare myself for this meeting in the Mayor's absence.

A few very short words though and I hope everyone had the opportunity to have a break over Christmas. I'm very energised coming back into the start of the new year and our first Council meeting for 2025, and I look forward to working with all of you and Council staff this year. It's going to be a busy but exciting chapter in Strathbogie's Shire future .

9.2 Councillor Reports

Cr Holloway

I would like to report that over the past several weeks, several councillors including myself and Cr Jeffery have been engaged in a deep dive review of the Shire's budget, to include projected spend for next year and actual trends of spending over the past four years.

We are doing this in order to assist with creating a strategic framework in which to assess operational spend for the upcoming mid year review, the upcoming 2025-26 budget (which is just around the corner!) and future budgets.

I have been extremely impressed with the engagement and cooperation in this process extended by council staff, specifically our Interim Chief Executive Officer, Director People and Governance, and the Chief Financial Officer.

It goes without saying that good strategy can only be crafted where a detailed granular knowledge of the landscape is present, and I believe we are doing so in this effort.

We have already found quite a few detailed budgetary cost and revenue areas where possible efficiencies or synergies may be achieved, and we'll look to work these out in the future.

Over the upcoming weeks and months, we expect to work hand in hand with staff to realise some positive outcomes and I believe the efforts we expend will be positive and we will achieve better budgetary outcomes in the future.

10 Public Question Time

Council Reference: TM 04-2025 and TM 05-2025

Question One

This Shire was formed in November 1994, and now 30 years later (Nov 2024). (a) What has this Shire Achieved ?

Response

There has been many achievements by Strathbogie Shire Council over the last 30 years.

A summary of these achievements are included in annual reports that are made publicly available to the community each year. Copies of the Annual Reports back to the year 2014 – 2015 are available on Council's website.

Question Two

Weekly times article of Jeff Kennett talking of what was and to be from amalgamated Councils..... 'A Fresh look at local Council'.

Is this Shire to move to another Council a new amalgamation?

Response

I'm sure you appreciate that this is a matter for the State Government as set out in the *Local Government Act 2020*. To my knowledge this is not currently being considered by the State Government.

Council Reference: MM 06-2025 and MM 07-2025

Question One

Council Pools

What is the cost for the Belgravia Leisure (located in Bayswater) running our pools?

Response

At the June 2024 Council meeting, Council endorsed Belgravia Health Leisure Group Pty Ltd for the management and operation of Council's four (4) aquatic centres for the 2024-2025 season at a cost of \$452,893 (excluding GST).

Question Two

Roads

Why are all our roads still a 'wreck and ruin' from over 15 years of asking for council to maintain them and also the High Grasses along them?

Response

Council sets up its asset management plans and manages its road infrastructure depending on various factors including traffic volume, and this then dictates the service levels each of these roads get, which of course relates to the intervention standards.

This is in our Road Management Plan and you can find that on our website, so if those standards are not being met we encourage people to let us know if they see a road defect and the like and Council can undertake the works to rectify the matter.

I would encourage you to bring to Council any matter of concern so we can investigate and action as appropriate. That can be done by lodging a request to our customer service team in person, by telephone or online which of course you can do 24/7 hours a day.

Thank you for raising these matters with Council.

11 Officer Reports

11.1 Strategic and Statutory Planning

11.1.1 Planning Applications Received and Planning Applications Determined 1 November to 3 December 2024

AUTHOR Manager Planning and Investment

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report lists all Planning Applications Received and Planning Applications Determined from 1 November to 3 December 2024. Due to the timing of this Council Meeting, the Planning Application data for the remainder of December 2024 was not available. This data will be provided once reporting for the new Greenlight software system has been fully developed.

It is noted that there were seventeen (17) new planning applications received, and eighteen (18) planning applications decided on during the reporting period.

The latest available Planning Permit Activity Performance (PPARS) figures for November 2024 have not been included in this report as there are currently inaccuracies in the monthly report. Officers are working with PPARS to rectify this and will provide these figures at a future council meeting once the report has been updated. An update on current Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) appeals was attached to the report for information.

The contents of this report are provided for information purposes only, the listing of current planning applications on public display can be found on Council's website.

The provision of this standard monthly report is consistent with Council's adopted Planning Applications Referral to Council Policy.

MOVED: Cr Stevens
SECONDED: Cr Carlson

That Council:

- 1. Receive the report**
- 2. Note that there were seventeen (17) new planning applications received, and eighteen (18) planning applications decided on from 1 November to 3 December 2024.**

24/25-30

CARRIED

11.2 Community

11.2.1 Longwood For the Love of Ale Festival 2025 Event Grant Application

AUTHOR Visitor Economy and Events Co-ordinator

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council adopted a community funding model at the April 2024 Council Meeting. This model sets out the strategic direction and associated guidelines for the distribution of community funding for Strathbogie Shire Council. Event Grants provide grants of up to \$5,000 to eligible organisations and associations for events that align with the objectives of the Council Plan 2021-25.

Council has received one Event Grant application this month for consideration from the Longwood Football Netball Club. The application seeks support for the *For the Love of Ale Festival 2025*, scheduled for Saturday, 22 February 2025.

The festival showcases local produce and promotes the Shire to both the community and visitors, with approximately 75% of attendees coming from outside the Shire. Many visitors stay in nearby towns or camp locally, contributing to the visitor economy by supporting local attractions, shops, and eateries.

Council's 2024-25 Budget allocates \$50,000 annually for Event Grants under the Community Funding Model. Following assessment, the application has been deemed of excellent standard, and officers recommend funding.

MOVED: Cr Clark Holloway
SECONDED: Cr Gregory Carlson

That Council:

1. Approve the Event Grant application from Longwood Football Netball Club to the value of \$5000, to support the delivery of the For the Love of Ale Festival 2025
2. Work with grant recipients to reduce overall waste produced at the event through the implementation of the objectives of both the Waste Wise Events Policy and Sustainable Strathbogie 2030 in being "A Zero Waste Shire".

24/25-31

CARRIED

11.3 Infrastructure

11.4 Corporate

11.4.1 Determination of Committee Representative - Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance

AUTHOR Acting Coordinator Waste and Environment

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 Councillor representatives for external and other committees was determined at the Statutory Council meeting on 19 November 2024. This report seeks the appointment of a Councillor representative and a substitute on the Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance until November 2025.

MOVED: Cr Carlson
SECONDED: Cr Stevens

That Council:

- 1. Appoints Councillor Holloway as the Council representative on the Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance until November 2025**
- 2. Appoints Councillor Halsall as the Council substitute representative on the Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance until November 2025.**

24/25-32

CARRIED

11.4.2 Audit and Risk Committee Annual Committee Performance Report January 2024 to December 2024

AUTHOR Coordinator Governance and Records Management

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director People and Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with section 54(4a) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Audit and Risk Committee will undertake an annual assessment of its own performance against the Audit and Risk Committee Charter. This assessment is being reported in accordance with section 6.2 of the Charter.

The review includes meetings held during the year, attendance by Committee members, key matters considered by the Committee and an analysis of our performance against the Committee's Work Plan.

The Committee's Annual Performance report was endorsed by the Audit and Risk Committee at its meeting held on 29 November 2024, provided to the Interim Chief Executive Officer before presentation at an informal Councillor briefing prior to this report being presented to Council in accordance with Section 54 (4b) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

The Strathbogie Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee Annual Committee Performance Report January 2024 to December 2024 was attached to the report.

MOVED: Cr Holloway
SECONDED: Cr Halsall

That Council:

Receive and note the Strathbogie Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee Annual Committee Performance Report January 2024 – December 2024.

24/25-33

CARRIED

11.4.3 Contracts, Works, Variations and Grants Awarded Under Delegation – 21 November 2024 to 31 December 2024

AUTHOR Chief Financial Officer

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director People and Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to inform Council and the community of the status of request for the publicly advertised tenders, invitations for written quotations and quotations provided using collaborative and/or third-party contracts and approved which have been awarded under delegation for the period 1 December 2024 to 31 December 2024. This report specifically relates to works that form part of Council's 2024-25 adopted Budget.

This report also details any grants awarded as per Council's adopted Community Funding Model. Council adopted a Community Funding Model at the July 2023 Council Meeting authorising the Chief Executive Officer to award Quick Response Grants.

MOVED: Cr Holloway

SECONDED: Cr Binks

That Council note:

- 1. There was one Contract variation awarded under delegated authority by the Chief Executive Officer**
- 2. There was one Contract awarded under delegated authority by Director(s)**
- 3. There was one low value Contract Variation of up to 15% of original contract value awarded under delegation in December 2024, and**
- 4. There were three quick response grant applications received during the reporting period.**

24/25-34

CARRIED

11.4.4 Record of Informal Meetings of Councillors - December 2024

AUTHOR Governance Officer

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director People and Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with Section (114) of the Strathbogie Shire Council Governance Rules, if there is a meeting of Councillors that:

- is scheduled or planned for the purpose of discussing the business of Council or briefing Councillors
- is attended by at least one member of Council staff; and
- is not a Council meeting, Delegated Committee meeting or Community Asset Committee meeting, these are known as Informal Meetings of Councillors.

The Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a summary of the matters discussed at the meeting are:

- tabled at the next convenient Council meeting
- recorded in the minutes of that Council meeting.

The details of the Record of Informal Meetings of Councillors for the period 29 November 2024 to 31 December 2024 were attached to the report.

MOVED: Cr Stevens

SECONDED: Cr Halsall

That Council:

Notes the Record of Informal Meetings of Councillors from 29 November 2024 to 31 December 2024.

24/25-35

CARRIED

11.5 Communications, Engagement and Advocacy

Nil

12 Notice of Motion

Nil

13 Notice of Rescission

Nil

14 Urgent Business

Nil

15 Confidential Business

15.1 Chief Executive Officer Recruitment

To be Confidential in accordance with Section 66(2)(A) and Part 1, Section 3 Definitions of the *Local Government Act 2020* –

- (h) confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a);

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC TO CONSIDER MATTERS DEEMED CONFIDENTIAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 66(2)(A) AND PART 1, SECTION 3 DEFINITIONS OF THE *LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020*

MOVED: Cr Carlson
SECONDED: Cr Stevens

That Council:

In conformance with Section 66(2)(A) and the definitions for confidential matters under Part 1, Section 3 Definitions of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), resolve to close the meeting to the public to discuss:

Chief Executive Officer Recruitment

24/25-36

CARRIED

The meeting was closed to the public and staff and livestreaming of the meeting ceased at 4:38 pm.

MOVED: Cr Binks
SECONDED: Cr Holloway

That Council:

Reopen the meeting to the public.

24/25-37

CARRIED

The meeting re-opened to the public and staff and livestreaming of the meeting recommenced at 4:51 pm.

Confirmation of Confidential Business Decisions

MOVED: Cr Carlson
SECONDED: Cr Holloway

That the decisions made in camera be ratified by Council.

24/25-38

CARRIED

For the minutes of this meeting Council is about to commence the recruitment process for a permanent Chief Executive Officer.

Advertising will commence soon with the support of an external recruitment agency.

Recruiting a permanent Chief Executive Officer is one of the most important priorities and decisions for the new Council, and we look forward to working with an inspirational leader who will champion our community and ensure delivery of our strategic plan.

16 Next Meeting

The next monthly meeting of the Strathbogie Shire Council will be held on 18 February 2025 at the Euroa Community Conference Centre commencing at 4:00 pm.

17 Closure of Meeting

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4:52 pm.

Confirmed as being a true and accurate record of the Meeting.

.....
Chair

.....
Date