



STRATHBOGIE SHIRE COUNCIL

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Strathbogie Shire Council held on Tuesday 11 November 2014, commencing at 5.00 p.m. at the Euroa Community Conference Centre.

Councillors: Debra Swan (assumed Chair following re-election as Mayor)
Colleen Furlanetto
Malcolm Little
Alister Purbrick
Patrick Storer
Robin Weatherald (*left meeting at 5.12 p.m.*)
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

Apologies:

BUSINESS

1. Welcome
2. Introduction of Temporary Chair
3. Acknowledgement of Traditional Land Owners
4. Report by Outgoing Mayor
5. Election of Mayor for the Forthcoming Year
6. Response by Incoming Mayor
7. Incoming Mayor to assume Chair for remainder of Meeting
8. Election of Deputy Mayor for Forthcoming Year
9. 2015 Council Meeting Timetable
10. Councillor Committees Representation – 2014/2015

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BUSINESS

1. Welcome

The Outgoing Chair, Debra Swan, welcomed all to the meeting. She then advised that the Chief Executive Officer would assume the role of Temporary Chair until the election of Mayor for the forthcoming year, and called for endorsement of the Temporary Chair by Councillors.

CRS WEATHERALD/WILLIAMS –

That the Chief Executive Officer be declared Temporary Chair until the election of the Mayor for the forthcoming year.

01/15

ON BEING PUT, THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

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 is 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 Outgoing Mayor's report is attached to the Minutes of the meeting.

CRS LITTLE/FURLANETTO –

That the Outgoing Mayor's report be accepted and noted.

02/15

ON BEING PUT, THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

5. 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.

5. Election of Mayor for forthcoming year (cont.)

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.

CRS FURLANETTO/STORER –

That Councillor Swan be nominated for the role of Mayor for the forthcoming year.

CRS WILLIAMS/LITTLE –

That Councillor Furlanetto be nominated for the role of Mayor for the forthcoming year.

Councillor Furlanetto declined the nomination.

The Temporary Chair called for any further nominations.

There being no further nominations, the Temporary Chair put forward the following Motion -

That Councillor Debra Swan be duly elected Mayor for the forthcoming year.

03/15

ON BEING PUT, THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

5.12 p.m.

Councillor Weatherald left the meeting

6. **Response by Incoming Mayor**

Councillor Swan thanked her fellow Councillors for their faith in re-electing her to the role of Mayor, and also thanked the Chief Executive Officer, Directors and staff for their continued support and assistance.

7. **Incoming Mayor to assume Chair for remainder of Meeting**

8. **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.

8. Election of Deputy Mayor for forthcoming year (cont.)

Nominations for Deputy Mayor were called for by the Chair.

CRS WILLIAMS/LITTLE –

That a Deputy Mayor not be elected for the forthcoming year,

04/15

ON BEING PUT, THE MOTION WAS LOST

CRS STORER/PURBRICK –

That Councillor Furlanetto be elected Deputy Mayor for the forthcoming year.

05/15

ON BEING PUT, THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

9. 2015 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.

06/15 CRS LITTLE/WILLIAMS : That the Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

10. Councillor Committees Representation – 2014/2015

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 was sought.

RECOMMENDATION

For determination.

CRS STORER/LITTLE –

That the Councillor Committees Representation remain as per the current listings.

07/15

ON BEING PUT, THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 5.20 P.M.

Confirmed as being a true and accurate record of the Meeting

.....
Chair

.....
Date

COUNCILLOR COMMITTEES REPRESENTATION – 2014/2015

SPECIAL COMMITTEES		COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE	
Planning Committee		Chair – Cr Little All Councillors	
Audit Committee		Cr Williams <i>Cr Weatherald (substitute)</i>	
Nagambie Waterways Recreational and Commercial Stakeholders Advisory Committee		Chair – Cr Purbrick Cr Swan	
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 Action Group	Cr Williams <i>Cr Little (substitute)</i>	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	Sustainable Development Reference Group	Cr Williams Cr Swan <i>Cr Purbrick (substitute)</i>

My Mayoral Year 2014 - Outgoing Speech

The first thing I need to say is thank you to all my fellow councillors, our CEO Steve Crawcour, our Directors and all our hard working staff. Being the Mayor can be quite daunting at times and you have supported and assisted me through all the ups and downs...

Councillors are not elected into these roles for their expertise or qualifications, we are elected to represent our community, advocate on their behalf, set the strategic direction for the benefit of the whole shire and at time are required to make difficult decisions around planning and management of community funds. This is can be very stressful when you have lots of varied opinions throughout the shire to weigh up. I am not going to stand here and tell you we always get it right, but I am going to tell you, considering we did not get to choose who we were working with we have come together as a team who and through good discussion, have made a real difference to the way this shire operates and changed our collective future from one of unsustainability to now being held up as a model for the small rural shires. With the efforts and support of our CEO we have restructured the organisation a number of times to find efficiencies and reduce expenditure so we can still manage to provide the services our community needs without putting such massive upward pressure on our ratepayers. We have pushed ahead with shared services with Shepparton – making sure the governance and legalities around that will be protected beyond our term as councillors and are continually looking at new areas to find efficiencies from our “graders without boarders” through to legal services, IT, administration – it’s all on the table and we need to think outside the square – we have just presented at the Municipal Association Victoria to share our experiences in this area.

In years past Strathbogrie shire did not have a high profile – people use to say where Strathbogrie, never heard of it! Not now! We are the Euroa electorate and the birthplace of Black Caviar, the Horse Capital of Victoria and the home of 3 brave VC recipients. As a council we have worked hard to raise our profile by putting up our hands to be involved in state wide issues and organisations such as the Municipal Association of Victoria representing the 12 councils of the North East and yes sometimes that means you have been over exposed to my face in the media. Both Cr Furlanetto and myself are on MAV committees so our voice is heard on subjects of Human Services, State wide planning and more recently CR Williams and our CEO became part of the Emergency Services committee; we all participate in committee’s that support and drive improvements to the Goulburn Valley and North East from libraries and waste management to waterways and disability access. In our council I am happy to say being a councillor is not just about turning up to meetings every Tuesday – it’s about making the effort to be involved in issues that are bigger than ourselves. Now when we attend events and forums we find people, both councillors and state representatives coming up to talk to us about what we are doing in the sector. I would like to make special mention of the work Cr Furlanetto has done in regard to Prevention of Violence and her participation on the Victorian Disability Board along with all the other committees she is involved in. Everyone in this council participates to the best of their ability to help grow our economy and improve the lives of our residents. I am also proud to say both our CEO Steve Crawcour and Cr Pat Storer are white ribbon ambassadors – it’s all about being respectful toward each other – sadly this can be lacking in our lives at times and is not always well demonstrated in leaders

We have differences of opinion and can be very frustrated by the diversity of personality traits we have, but on the whole we are a very stable and dedicated council who are not just here to make ourselves feel important. We actually care about all of you and make decisions with the very best of intentions. Our story is a good news one and we need to share that more with our communities so they can also be proud of where they live and look confidently forward to a bright future.

This year has seen us reduce the predicted rate increase in our long term financial plan, maintain low borrowing, get some major projects off the ground – the Memorial Oval project – The roof over the sale yards, the new travellers stop in the Seven Creeks Park – secure funding for initial works on the 6 stage Nagambie Main Street Revitalisation Project - Southern entry – the Violet Town Library development is underway, Avenel's new sporting facilities and many, many more small projects, some of which are supported through our action group network and community grants, in and around the shire. Our communities have also been amazingly active working on events and activities for all to share – I thank all the volunteers, groups and organisations who have given up their time to make a difference in the lives of others.

Though our alliance with Shepparton, Murrindindi and Mitchel shire to form Goulburn River Valley Tourism (GRVT) we are seeing increases in funding and destination planning that supports events and increases visitation that in turn drives economic development, employment and social inclusion. Our planning applications are on the increase with huge multimillion dollar investments in both commercial, agricultural and domestic infrastructure that... as we grow this will assist us to spread the rate burden and improve our services plus provide more needed infrastructure for our communities.

Our future is as bright as we want it to be and it's up to all of us to make the most of it; we must work together for common goals if we are to really grasp the opportunities when they come, we must advocate together for the things we need – public hospital beds, ambulance services, public transport that works, activities and infrastructure for our youth, our active seniors and elders, safe roads up into the hills, secure water, flood mitigation, reduced fire risk, economic growth that maintains our lifestyle and builds a place we can all find, in both built and environmental values, sustainable and enjoyable.....a place we are proud of. We need to communicate better, invite and value local knowledge and understand the issues we each deal with..... It's a two way street!!!

It's time to let go of the angst of the past and work toward positive growth together. Local government is a clunky organisation struggling under the weight of red tape, over regulation, legislation and cost shifting. We are a child of the State and it is never going to be perfect but it isn't all bad either. Some people say that this democratic government system we live in no longer works and that may be true, but it is what we have and we must make the best of it. Let's find our common goals, talk to each other, really listen and learn about each other, value and respect our differences and be grateful for the things we have more than we complain about the things we don't.

Last year we banged heads and we will again from time to time but I believe right now there is a will to do better – I want to grasp that and go for it so let's look to the future and give it our best shot!

Thank you to all.

Debra Swan
Mayor - 2013/2014
Strathbogie Shire Council