



HEPBURN SHIRE COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL PUBLIC MINUTES

Tuesday 25 March 2025

Council Chamber
24 Vincent Street Daylesford

6:00PM

A LIVE STREAM OF THE MEETING CAN BE VIEWED
VIA [COUNCIL'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL](#)

MINUTES

Tuesday 25 March 2025

Council Chamber

24 Vincent Street Daylesford

Commencing at 6:00PM

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS	4
2	SAFETY ORIENTATION	4
3	OPENING OF MEETING	4
4	APOLOGIES	5
5	DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST	5
6	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	5
6.1	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	5
7	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME	7
7.1	PETITIONS	8
7.2	REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL	8
7.3	PUBLIC QUESTIONS.....	9
8	OFFICER REPORTS	15
8.1	FUTURE HEPBURN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN	15
8.2	VCAT PROCEEDINGS - ENDEAVOUR GROUP	20
9	ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS.....	26
10	COUNCILLOR AND CEO REPORTS	27
10.1	MAYOR'S REPORT.....	27
10.2	COUNCILLOR REPORTS.....	27
10.3	CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT	33
11	CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS.....	37
11.1	CLOSURE OF MEETING TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.....	37
12	CLOSE OF MEETING	39

BRADLEY THOMAS

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Tuesday 25 March 2025

CONDUCTING HYBRID COUNCIL MEETINGS

In the spirit of open, transparent and accountable governance, this meeting will be live-streamed on Council's YouTube page. The meeting will also be recorded and made available on Council's website as soon as practicable after the meeting.

Council's meeting will be conducted tonight in accordance with:

- The Local Government Act 2020
- The Minister's Good Practice Guideline MGP-1: Virtual Meetings
- Council's Governance Rules; and
- The Model Councillor Code of Conduct.

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

Hepburn Shire Council acknowledges the Dja Dja Wurrung as the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters on which we live and work. On these lands, Djaara have performed age-old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal. We recognise their resilience through dispossession and it is a testament to their continuing culture and tradition, which is strong and thriving.

We also acknowledge the neighbouring Traditional Owners, the Wurundjeri to our South East and the Wadawurrung to our South West and pay our respect to all Aboriginal peoples, their culture, and lore. We acknowledge their living culture and the unique role they play in the life of this region.

2 SAFETY ORIENTATION

Emergency exits and convenience facilities at the venue to be highlighted to members of the public in attendance.

3 OPENING OF MEETING

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Cr Shirley Cornish, Cr Tim Drylie, Cr Lesley Hewitt, Cr Don Henderson, Cr Pat Hockey, Cr Brian Hood

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr Bradley Thomas - Chief Executive Officer, Mr Bruce Lucas - Director Infrastructure and Delivery, Ms Brooke Holmes - Director Performance and Transformation, Mr Ron Torres - Director Development and Community, Mr Chris Whyte - Manager Technology and Transformation, Ms Dannielle Kraak - Acting Manager Governance and Risk

The meeting opened at 6:06pm.

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

"WE THE COUNCILLORS OF HEPBURN SHIRE

DECLARE THAT WE WILL UNDERTAKE ON EVERY OCCASION
TO CARRY OUT OUR DUTIES IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY
AND THAT OUR CONDUCT SHALL MAINTAIN THE STANDARDS OF THE CODE OF
GOOD GOVERNANCE
SO THAT WE MAY FAITHFULLY REPRESENT AND UPHOLD THE TRUST PLACED IN THIS
COUNCIL BY THE PEOPLE OF HEPBURN SHIRE”

4 APOLOGIES

Cr Tony Clark

5 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Lesley Hewitt declared a material conflict of interest in relation to the Confidential Agenda item 1.2.

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Go to 00:04:33 in the meeting recording to view this item.

STATEMENT BY THE MAYOR, COUNCILLORS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

On behalf of the Council the current elected Councillor group would like to express our regret to our community of Hepburn Shire for the negative impact that the Hepburn Hub at The Rex project has had on us all.

We recognise that some actions during the project have led to feelings of mistrust, and we regret the distress this caused.

We acknowledge that certain actions taken in the past did not align with the values of our Council and needs of our community. The Hepburn Hub at The Rex project did not deliver the outcomes promised, and we are sorry for the harm this caused.

We acknowledge the impact of past decisions, including the on-going impact this has had on the organisation and community. Council has taken active steps to address past shortcomings and has implemented numerous measures that prevent poor project management and improved our governance and transparency.

We recognise that restoring the trust that has been damaged with our community will take time, but we are dedicated to listening to the concerns of our community and working to create positive partnerships.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Go to 00:06:11 in the meeting recording to view this item.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 25 February 2025 (as previously circulated to Councillors) be confirmed.

MOTION

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 25 February 2025 (as previously circulated to Councillors) be confirmed.

Moved: Cr Lesley Hewitt

Seconded: Cr Brian Hood

Carried

Voted for: Cr Shirley Cornish, Cr Tim Drylie, Cr Lesley Hewitt, Cr Don Henderson, Cr Pat Hockey and Cr Brian Hood

Voted against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

7 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME

Go to 00:06:52 in the meeting recording to view this item.

This part of the Ordinary Meeting of Council allows for the tabling of petitions by Councillors and Officers and 30 minutes for the purposes of:

- Tabling petitions
- Responding to questions from members of our community
- Members of the community to address Council

Community members are invited to be involved in public participation time in accordance with Council's Governance Rules.

Individuals may submit written questions or requests to address Council to the Chief Executive Officer by 10:00am the day before the Council Meeting.

Some questions of an operational nature may be responded to through usual administrative procedure. Separate forums and Council processes are provided for deputations or for making submissions to Council.

Questions received may be taken on notice but formal responses will be provided to the questioners directly. These responses will also be read out and included within the minutes of the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to make them publicly available to all.

BEHAVIOUR AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council supports a welcoming, respectful and safe environment for members of the community to participate at Council Meetings regarding issues that are important to them. Council's Governance Rules sets out guidelines for the Mayor, Councillors, and community members on public participation in meetings. It reinforces the value of diversity in thinking, while being respectful of differing views, and the rights and reputation of others.

Under the Governance Rules, members of the public present at a Council Meeting must not be disruptive during the meeting.

Respectful behaviour includes:

- Being courteous when addressing Council during public participation time and directing all comments through the Chair
- Being quiet during proceedings
- Being respectful towards others present and respecting their right to their own views

Inappropriate behaviour includes:

- Interjecting or taking part in the debate
- Verbal abuse or harassment of a Councillor, member of staff, ratepayer or member of the public
- Threats of violence

7.1 PETITIONS

No petitions were tabled.

7.2 REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Members of our community who have submitted a request in accordance with Council's Governance Rules will be heard.

There were no requests to address Council.

7.3 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The CEO read questions received in accordance with Council's Governance Rules and the Mayor responded on behalf of Council.

Question 1 – John Brereton

When will know what services and works will be cut to address the [projected cash] shortfall?

Question 2 – Cynthia Goudie

For a year and a half Council has deliberated on service cuts. When will the community have your results?

Question 3 – Jeff Millet

What is the process undertaken by council with the community, that decides which services will be cut and when?

Response – Mayor Don Henderson

Councillors and Council Officers are currently working through the proposed reduction of services to deliver the \$2.6M in ongoing operational savings. This work will be presented to the community for consultation in late April or early May as part of the proposed Council Plan, Budget and associated documents.

Council's proposed reduction of services will be reflective of various inputs and feedback including community responses on services in the Financial Vision survey in July 2024 and input from the deliberative engagement panel for the Council Plan 2025-2029.

Question 4 – Heather Mutimer

The 'Financial Vision' adopted at the Special Meeting on the 10/9/2024 states as consistent with community feedback, the following (pp16-17)

"The Financial Vision details that the funding of asset renewal is a priority, and capital works spend is limited to effectively renewal works only. Asset renewal focuses on managing and maintaining existing community facilities, excluding new capital works. ... or building redevelopment..."

In light of the above statement from the 'Financial Vision' and considering council's current and future dire financial situation as outlined in Council's submission to the Essential Services Commission (ESC), how can Council seriously justify proceeding with these contentious new plans for the Daylesford Town Hall Hub, a capital works project which is anticipated to cost \$15-20 million or more?

Question 5 – Cynthia Goudie

Council advertised a revamp of the Shire Offices. Government grants will not be allocated unless Council can contribute, which it cannot. How will this be funded?

Response – Mayor Don Henderson

Council has been working with community through a Project Advisory Group, established in early 2024, to develop and progress the Daylesford Community Facilities Project at the Daylesford Town Hall. We are currently inviting community feedback on the schematic designs which will inform progression of the design process.

It is correct to suggest that the project will not be able to proceed to construction without significant grant funding and we would envisage a Council contribution, including the funds in the financial reserve from the sale of the Rex Building, as part of the funding model.

As the project is developed and Quantity Surveyors cost the project, a funding model will be required as part of the consideration to proceed.

It is important that we ensure communities have appropriate facilities into the future and it is incumbent on Council to ensure that long term planning for major projects continues. This will strengthen our ability to attract external funding for important community facilities.

As our financial position as outlined in the Financial Vision recovers in the years ahead, we do need to be able to support these important asset renewal projects.

Question 6 – Heather Mutimer

What has been the total spending to date on this project and projected to be spent by the 30th June 2025 for example plans, architect fees etc. and where has this money come from?

Response – Mayor Don Henderson

The 2024/25 annual budget allocated \$300,000 from reserve funding, for the concept design phase of this project, with \$107,000 spent to date.

Question 7 – Andrew Robertson

I have recently read the Inspectorate report, or at least a draft of the report, into the Rex project. Now that the report, together with Council responses to the recommendations of the report, is publicly available, will Council show respect to the community by making an official apology for the serious errors of Council officer[s] and lack of oversight from Councillors during that period?

Question 8 – Andrew Robertson

Given that other levels of government have made apologies for past significant errors and mistakes, if Council will not make such an apology can you advise why not?

Rather than launching into an enquiry into how the draft Inspectorate report became public, from a practical community perspective a sincere apology seems to be a more appropriate response.

Question 9 and 10 – Harold Hepburn

Will council now issue a formal written apology to the Shire community for the millions of ratepayer dollars wasted on the Rex? If not, why not?

Response – Mayor Don Henderson

Please refer to Councils earlier statement tonight.

Question 11 – Sophie Ellis

Many in the Creswick Community are increasingly concerned about the safety of pedestrians, local kids, elderly people walking, families riding bikes etc, who have to use Ascot Road and Luttett Road, which remains without a pedestrian pathway (up to Elizabeth St). A petition was submitted to Council on 20 February last year, along with letters of support from various organisations and businesses seeking to extend a gravel walking and cycling track along Creswick-Ascot Road Creswick from Gillies Road to the Township of Creswick to:

- increase safety of children and adult pedestrians/cyclists
- increase safety of pedestrians on a busy tip-run route, which also frequents trucks and cars doing over 60km/h despite being a 60km zone; and
- support healthy active lifestyles, linking residents and tourists to town, schools, kinder, shops, railway station and places of significance e.g. the Long Point Nature Reserve. Council voted unanimously in favour of the proposal at that meeting (now over a year ago).

What progress has council made in relation to progressing this and making it a reality?

Response – Mayor Don Henderson

During 2024, Council investigated funding opportunities for some staged works in response to the petition and did submit a funding application for some staged works in Victoria street, under the TAC School Safety Improvement program, regrettably this application was not successful.

Some initial scoping works were also completed in late 2024, in light of grant funding opportunity under the Active Transport Fund. This initial scoping identified the project likely requires 3km of path, inclusive of two creek crossings and is likely to cost in the order of \$800,000 to \$1,000,000. This meant we were not able to meet the funding eligibility criteria under the Active Transport Fund.

Further work to consider a business case and cost benefit is being progressed as officer time allows with the delivery of Councils currently funded capital works program and forward design program.

Question 12 – Jeff Millet

The CEO has assured us for the past few years that the shires finances were improving. The ESC application states that the shire will become insolvent if a 10% rate increase isn't implemented for the next financial year - only three months away. Can the CEO explain his previous assurances? They appear to mislead residents pertaining to the financial viability of the shire.

Response – Mayor Don Henderson

The CEO comments in relation to Council's finances over the past few years have indeed been accurate. Council has demonstrated that the financial position for Hepburn Shire, like many other Councils, will need careful management into the future.

The Financial Vision as adopted by Council indicates a path to financial sustainability. The comments contained in the application to the ESC support this fact and note that if the Financial Vision isn't implemented then Council in the medium term would be classified as insolvent unless other steps are undertaken. Council fully implies to implement the Financial Vision.

Council is clear that it is fully solvent, and able to pay any and all debts as they come due.

Question 13 – Ken Warren

For the 2023-2024 Budget I made a joint submission with two other community members. In this submission we raised the issue of funding for the Creswick Bike Trails project - commenting that there were huge borrowings and reliance of State Government grant funding. We asked the following question:

"With State Government curtailing it's spending and blow outs in their major projects how can it be guaranteed that the State government funding will be forthcoming to complete this initiative and how much of it is rate payer funded if any".

The answer supplied was as follows:

"Further government funding is actively being sought in relation to the Creswick Trails, however currently the State government funding is \$2.56m, with a Council contribution of \$7 m."

What has been the total cost of the Creswick Trails project to date and how much has been funded by 1. borrowings, 2. grants, 3. Council funds?

Response – Mayor Don Henderson

Total capital spend to date: \$8.63 million

Funded by:

State Government grants - \$2.56 million

Borrowings as per 2023/24 adopted budget - \$4.887 million

Contributions Monetary - \$0.354 million

Council Contribution - \$0.829 million

Council advocated strongly for additional grant funding following the cancellation of the Commonwealth Games. We are very disappointed that the expected additional grant funding has not been committed.

Question 14 – Ken Warren

What is the expected annual operational costs for the ongoing maintenance and managing of the Creswick Trails?

Response – Mayor Don Henderson

The 2024/25 budget for trails maintenance is \$223K which includes two full time staff members responsible for auditing and maintaining the trails and a minor allocation for materials and specialist contractor works.

Question 15 – Fay Magee

Can Council Officers please provide a statement showing the spread of criteria for participants selected for the current Deliberative Engagement Panel, including postcode?

Response – Mayor Don Henderson

Recruitment of the panel was conducted by an independent external partner, Conversation Co. A total of 82 expressions of interest were received through the Hepburn Together project page and 44 residents were randomly selected as a stratified sample to reflect the demographic makeup of Hepburn Shire.

Key demographic identifiers were: age, gender, location, and identification with demographic descriptors (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, disability, sexuality

and home ownership) with targets calculated to be proportionate to Census 2021 data. Participants were also able to select an interest area from the following options:

- Land use planning
- Community Services - Aquatics, Libraries, Youth and Aged Services etc
- Economy, Tourism, Arts and Culture
- Sustainability

The panel was balanced to have equal numbers across interest areas where demographics allowed.

Elected representatives from any level of government, paid employees of any political party, council employees in decision-making roles, and Councillors were ineligible to participate in the community panel.

Question 16 – Fay Magee

The Panel was to be made up of 44 participants - is this the resulting number after applying all criteria?

Response – Mayor Don Henderson

A total of 82 expressions of interest were received. The strong community interest in participating in the deliberative panel was pleasing to see. This resulted in 44 applicants being appointed. However, this number reduced to 37 as a result of clashes with availability.

The final deliberative panel still represents the diverse demographic makeup of Hepburn Shire and the wide range of interest areas, and will be effective in helping to shape our strategic direction which reflects the needs, aspirations, and priorities of our community.

Council looks forward to considering the outcomes of the deliberative process.

8 OFFICER REPORTS

8.1 FUTURE HEPBURN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Go to 00:29:01 in the meeting recording to view this item.

Cr Hewitt left the meeting at 6:33pm due to a conflict of interest with the following item.

CHANGE TO ORDER OF BUSINESS

MOTION

That Council, in accordance with the Governance Rule 25.1, reorder tonight's order of business, so that confidential item 1.2 VCAT Proceedings is considered at item 8.2 of the open public agenda.

Moved: Cr Brian Hood

Seconded: Cr Shirley Cornish

Carried

Cr Lesley Hewitt returned to the meeting at 6:36pm and was advised of the outcome.

DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY

In providing this advice to Council as the Principal Strategic Planner, I Matt Rogers have no interests to disclose in this report.

ATTACHMENTS

- Nil

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Notes that the preparation of an implementation plan is progressing. However, this body of work has several complex considerations and will require additional time to complete, including further discussions with senior planning advisors at the Department of Transport and Planning; and,*
- 2. Notes that a detailed implementation plan will be presented to Council for endorsement, including an estimated budget for each structure plan and rural strategy, by no later than May 2025.*

MOTION

That Council:

- 1. Notes that the preparation of an implementation plan is progressing. However, this body of work has several complex considerations and will*

require additional time to complete, including further discussions with senior planning advisors at the Department of Transport and Planning; and,

2. *Notes that a detailed implementation plan will be presented to Council for endorsement, including an estimated budget for each structure plan and rural strategy, by no later than May 2025.*

Moved: Cr Lesley Hewitt

Seconded: Cr Brian Hood

Carried

Voted for: Cr Shirley Cornish, Cr Tim Drylie, Cr Lesley Hewitt, Cr Don Henderson, Cr Pat Hockey and Cr Brian Hood

Voted against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In September 2024, Council resolved to adopt the Future Hepburn township structure plans and rural land use strategy, marking a significant achievement for Hepburn Shire strategic planning.

The resolution included a requirement that a detailed implementation plan was prepared for Council endorsement by no later than March 2025. This body of work has taken longer than expected, given the several complex considerations involved. Furthermore, the recent State Government release of Plan for Victoria and its accompanying housing targets has required a review of any implications on Council's endorsed strategies. Whilst the Plan for Victoria has been found to be aligned with the Future Hepburn strategies, further discussions are needed with senior planning advisors at the Department of Transport and Planning to ensure that Council's implementation plan has in-principle support.

It is expected that an implementation plan will be presented for endorsement by no later than May 2025.

BACKGROUND

At the 3 September 2024 Special Council Meeting, Council unanimously resolved to adopt the Future Hepburn township structure plans and rural land use strategy. This represented one of the most significant achievements for Hepburn Shire strategic planning over the last twenty years.

The Council resolution included the following item:

"3. Notes that officers will prepare a detailed implementation plan, including an estimated budget, for each structure plan and rural strategy having regard to Council's financial plan and other relevant considerations. The

implementation plans will be prepared and be presented to Council for endorsement by 31 March, 2025.”

Implementation plans provide guidance to Council officers, the community, external agencies, and stakeholders about the timing and means of delivery for adopted Future Hepburn actions. An implementation plan is required to meet State Government requirements in terms of content and format. It will essentially act as an overarching document to the six endorsed strategies, linking them together and listing and prioritising implementation actions and activities.

Since September 2024, the preparation of an implementation plan has been undertaken for the endorsed rural land use strategy and the five township structure plans. Over 200 actions have been identified to deliver these strategies. These integrate Future Hepburn’s strategic directions into operational work. Broadly, these can be grouped into planning scheme changes, strategic planning project work, and advocacy and partnership actions.

KEY ISSUES

The Council resolution of 3 September 2024 requires the preparation and presentation of a detailed implementation plan to Council for endorsement in March 2025. This is still being finalised, and additional time is required to complete this complex body of work and present it to Council for endorsement. It is anticipated that this will be presented to either the April or May Council meeting.

A range of options are being explored for a Future Hepburn Implementation Plan taking account of:

- short and long-term financial implications;
- community engagement needs;
- the relative policy priorities within Future Hepburn ;
- the strategic planning office resource capacity and the technical and legal expertise required;
- the continuation of the current work program separate to the implementation of the endorsed strategies, such as completing the Integrated Transport Strategy, advocacy and response to renewable energy projects, and interim planning protection for Lalgambook; and
- the implications of the recent release of the State Government’s Plan for Victoria, housing targets, and the review of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

An essential aspect of the preparation of the implementation plan is to obtain in-principle support from State senior planning advisors on the prioritisation and timing of the various implementation actions, particularly those related to planning scheme amendments. These discussions are ongoing, but so far have been positive. It is

important to finalise these discussions before presenting the final implementation plan to Council for endorsement.

COUNCIL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Council Plan 2021-2025

Embracing our past and planning for the future

3.2 Embrace and enhance the existing character of our towns and rural settings through community inclusive strategic planning to strengthen planning controls on growth and development

A dynamic and responsive Council

5.2 Actively communicate, inform and engage with our community about events and decision-making

The *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and Ministerial Guidelines and Practice Notes.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In line with the September 2024 Council resolution, financial implications and cost of implementation will be detailed in the final report for endorsement. Various scenarios are being considered by officers, particularly in terms of the staging of planning scheme amendments. For example, by grouping a number of planning scheme amendments together and processing them concurrently, the initial project cost can be high, but cost savings can be achieved through combined planning panel lodgement costs and Council representation at hearings. Progressing individual, smaller amendments can be less costly initially, but this process can extend implementation over several years and potentially be more costly with the number of individual planning panel hearings.

COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

There are no community or stakeholder engagement implications associated with this report. Community and stakeholder engagement requirements were detailed in Council's Resolution on 2 September 2024, and are also dictated by the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, and Ministerial Guidelines.

RISK AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Planning scheme amendments are subject to the procedural requirements of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. To be successful however, the Minister for Planning needs to authorise their commencement, and provide final approval. The decision of the Minister will take into account the recommendations of an

independent panel. This means that a planning scheme amendment must have a robust strategic basis, align with State policy, and be evidence based.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no sustainability implications associated with this report.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

There are no gender equity implications associated with this report.

8.2 VCAT PROCEEDINGS - ENDEAVOUR GROUP

Go to 00:37:43 in the meeting recording to view this item.

Cr Hewitt left the meeting at 6:42pm due to a conflict of interest with the following item.

The Chief Executive Officer determined to release information to the public on the following item.

DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY

In providing this advice to Council as the Manager Planning and Building, I Amy Boyd have no interests to disclose in this report.

ATTACHMENTS

- Nil

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council, having considered the information contained within this report adopt Option 2 as outlined in the report, being:

- 1. Retain a Barrister to provide a written submission only to the hearing and advise VCAT that Council will not be in attendance at the hearing;*
- 2. Prepare a media release and information for stakeholders, advising of Council's position; and,*
- 3. That the Chief Executive Officer communicate the effect of this resolution to the extent necessary to give effect to it.*

MOTION

That Council, retain a Barrister to provide a written submission only to the hearing and advise VCAT that Council may not be in attendance at the hearing but will provide an officer where appropriate.

Moved: Cr Tim Drylie

Seconded:

The motion lapsed for want of a seconder.

MOTION

That Council, having considered the information contained within this report adopt Option 2 as outlined in the report, being:

- 1. Retain a Barrister to provide a written submission only to the hearing and advise VCAT that Council will not be in attendance at the hearing;*
- 2. Prepare a media release and information for stakeholders, advising of Council's position; and,*
- 3. That the Chief Executive Officer communicate the effect of this resolution to the extent necessary to give effect to it.*

Moved: Cr Brian Hood

Seconded: Cr Pat Hockey

Carried

Voted for: Cr Brian Hood, Cr Don Henderson, Cr Pat Hockey and Cr Shirley Cornish

Voted against: Cr Tim Drylie

Abstained: Nil

Councillor Cornish called for a division:

Voted for: Cr Shirley Cornish, Cr Don Henderson, Cr Pat Hockey and Cr Brian Hood

Voted against: Cr Tim Drylie

Abstained: Nil

Carried

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council objected to the granting of a liquor licence in early 2023 following an application for a packaged liquor licence (Dan Murphy's) at 63 Central Springs Road, Daylesford.

Along with Council, a significant number of community members objected.

A hearing lasted over four weeks through the Liquor Licensing Commission (not VCAT). Council engaged a Barrister to represent it at that hearing. Community members mostly represented themselves and a number of lay and expert witnesses were heard. Council did not call any expert witnesses at that hearing.

Dan Murphy's has now challenged the Liquor Commission's decision at VCAT. That is, this matter is a contest between Dan Murphy's and the Liquor Commission. This matter is not about a decision of Council. Council's status is merely as a party to the appeal, similar to that of the community member parties.

Officers are seeking a Council decision on Council's extent of involvement and representation for the upcoming VCAT hearing. Two options were considered as part of this report and a recommendation from officers is provided.

BACKGROUND

The Liquor Commission determined in August 2024 that a permit should not be granted for a packaged liquor outlet at 63 Central Springs Road, Daylesford.

The commission was required to consider the following:

1. whether granting the Licence would be conducive to or encourage harm, or contribute to minimising harm;
2. whether granting the Licence would detract from or be detrimental to the amenity of the area in which the premises are situated;
3. whether granting the Licence would facilitate the development of a diversity of licensed facilities reflecting community expectations; and
4. whether granting the Licence would contribute to the responsible development of the liquor, licensed hospitality and live music industries.

In making its decisions the Commission made the following comments:

- *The Commission finds that granting the Licence would be conducive to or encourage harm, specifically to minors....*
- *There was evidence that there is a problem with underage drinking in Daylesford.*
- *The number of minors in Daylesford is not trivial, irrespective of whether the proportion of minors in Daylesford is relatively small compared with other communities.*
- *And, as noted above, the harm that may be caused to minors by consuming alcohol is significant.*
- *The Commission accepts that there are other ways that minors can obtain alcohol in Daylesford. In particular, the Commission accepts that the advent of online purchasing of alcohol poses its own risks. Parliament has responded to those risks in various ways. However, the Commission does not accept that the existence of particular risks of minors obtaining alcohol purchased online means that the grant of a licence that would create its own additional risks is immaterial or irrelevant.*
- *The Commission finds that the location of the Premises near the swimming pool, which attracts minors of secondary school age, is relevant to the question of whether the granting of the Licence would be conducive to or encourage harm to minors.*
- *The Commission holds significant concern over the proximity of the Premises to the bus stop, which many secondary school students use. The Commission's concern is not one of exposure to signage, which is addressed below, but rather the prospect that the congregation of youth at the bus stop is apt to increase the risk of secondary supply taking place, given that students, some of whom will be 18 years old and many of whom will be minors, will be dropped by the school bus across the road from the Premises on weekdays after school.*

- *The Commission’s function is to make its own assessment, on the evidence before it, as to whether the Premises would be conducive to or encourage harm.*
- *including, specifically, harm to minors. In making that decision, the evidence of the lack of a 24-hour police presence in Daylesford and the Hepburn Shire is relevant, combined with other matters that the Commission has considered and outlined above, to the prospect that the Premises would be conducive to harm to minors.*
- *The Commission concludes that granting the Licence would be conducive to or encourage harm, specifically to minors. In particular, the Commission concludes that there is an appreciable risk that granting the Licence would result in an increase of secondary supply of alcohol to minors in Daylesford and (therefore) an increase in alcohol consumption by minors and (therefore) increased harm from the misuse and abuse of alcohol by minors. This conclusion is driven by the accumulation of a number of factors outlined above, deriving from the “particular local, social, demographic and geographic circumstances” of Daylesford.*

The full decision can be found here: [Daylesford-Dan-Murphy's-Decision-and-Reasons-2024-08-14.pdf](#)

Subsequently the Endeavour Group have appealed the Commission’s decision to VCAT.

KEY ISSUES

The parties to the appeal

A hearing is set down for 15 days in late July/August. Parties to the appeal include:

Applicant for Review – Endeavour Group (Dan Murphys)

Responsible Authority/Government Agency – Liquor Commission

Objectors – Council and community (approx. 12 community members have requested to be heard at the hearing)

It is expected the applicant will have a number of expert witnesses to defend their case. The commission has not yet indicated if they will be calling any witnesses. The objectors have indicated that they themselves may give evidence and may call on independents also.

Council has indicated that, at this stage, it does not intend to call any expert witnesses.

What are the issues being considered?

VCAT will review the application afresh and all matters can be re-examined as part of this process. The definition of harm is central to the matters.

What is the role of Council at the hearing?

Council is an objector party in this proceeding, and it is the Liquor Commission who is being reviewed. From a procedural perspective we have the same role as a community member.

However, VCAT and the Commission have looked to Council as having a support role and often sought advice from Council on matters to do with the site and location and information about our community. The community has also put significant reliance on Council to continue to defend the position that the Council and community are not supportive of the application.

WHAT ARE OUR OPTIONS AND ASSOCIATED COSTS AND RISKS/CONSIDERATIONS?

OPTION 1

Retain Barrister for the lead up to and duration of the fifteen-day hearing.

Cost - **\$92,000** approximately

Risks/Considerations - Significant cost, but consistent with approach to date. This aligns with Community expectation (Community being those who have objected to the application). Still requires a senior staff member (Manager or Director to be present at the hearing each day, diverting the senior staff member from other pressing matters.

OPTION 2

Retain Barrister to provide a written submission only to the hearing and advise VCAT that Council will not be in attendance at the hearing.

Cost - **\$5000 to \$8000** approximately

Risks/Considerations - Least costly option, apart from withdrawing completely from the proceedings. Council will be out of the room during the hearing so will not provide additional comment or cross examine the expert witnesses. Open ourselves up to criticism from VCAT and community members involved (this is a very real risk and likely to cause some community dissatisfaction). Saves officer time, which can be redirected to other significant planning legal and enforcement matters. (As stated earlier in this report, the VCAT hearing is a contest between Dan Murphy's and the Liquor Commission.)

COUNCIL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Council Plan 2021-2025

A healthy, supported, and empowered community

2.4 Assist our community to increase access to healthy food to improve nutrition, reduce chronic disease, improve mental wellbeing and strengthen the local food production system

2.5 Improved mental wellbeing within the community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In providing officers with direction on Council's involvement at the VCAT hearing, a significant consideration for Councillors is Council's challenging financial environment. Option 1 will almost completely consume this year's allocated budget for VCAT and legal advice, considering that there are a number of other significant VCAT and enforcement matters in the pipeline.

COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

There are no community or stakeholder engagement implications associated with this report. This is a formal legal process and no additional community input is sought.

RISK AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

The risks are conveyed in the report above and include financial and reputational risks.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no sustainability implications associated with this report.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

There are no gender equity implications associated with this report.

Cr Hewitt returned to the meeting at 7:14pm.

9 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

10 COUNCILLOR AND CEO REPORTS

10.1 MAYOR'S REPORT

Go to 01:08:20 in the meeting recording to view this item.

Councillor Don Henderson

Presented a verbal report.

10.2 COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Lesley Hewitt

March 2025 started off well with the 20th Heather Mutimer Honour Roll being celebrated at the Mechanics in Trentham. Heather Mutimer gave a well-considered speech reflecting on the history of the honour roll and the thinking behind getting it established. Five exceptional women were inducted. They were Mary Harvey, Lynda Poke, Mary-Faeth Chenery and Jessie Leggatt. Jessie Leggatt was inducted posthumously and her largely unknown story, including her extensive philanthropy locally and at the University of Melbourne confirmed Heather Mutimer's point about the many talented and hard-working women who have contributed to the story of our Shire being unknown or forgotten. Congratulations to the Shire events team – Lucy Curry Chene and Adam Ford and the IWD Honour roll committee, Sue Craven, Lisa Gervasoni and Sue Learmonth for their work. Congratulations too, to the Daylesford librarians for their exceptional work in putting on rainbow story time, which this year include a performance by DJ Ron as well as book readings by Frock Hudson. The books read all have positive messages about being kind, accepting difference, not being rude, violent or aggressive and working things through – some things that we adults could take more notice of. Toddlers and pre-schoolers are not known for sitting for great lengths of time and clearly the librarians know their stuff introducing physical activity with DJ Ron. The library was packed to capacity with children and their families which leads me to segue to the Daylesford Town Hall draft plans which include a new library. The plans are on view in the library and there are two drop-in sessions scheduled. Rather than just post negatively on social media please go and look at the plans, provide the feedback, attend one of the drop-in sessions. This stage is budgeted but any construction is dependent on grant funding, but I make the point that one of the takeaways from the failed Rex project is the importance of undertaking proper planning initially.

That leads me to how the month ended. The mayor has already dealt with the leak of a draft of the Local Inspectorate Report but there has also been the publication of the ESC application for rate increase and the start of the Council Plan process. Some people have conflated these issues, combining them with their own personal grudges and been threatening and abusive to various staff and officers and to some Councillors. Again, no-one is above criticism but there are ways of doing this that are

not harmful to people. And I'm reminded of the message on one little girl's T-shirt at the Rainbow story time 'Be Kind' and she was.

Finally, a shout out to Wendy McKillop who recently stood down after 24 years as the editor of the Glenlyon News. Thanks, Wendy, for your contribution – this community only works when people step up to do things for each other and develop the community.

A list of my diary activities is below.

Councillor Diary Activities

Daylesford and District Historical Society - 2/2/25

Councillor Briefing – 3/3/25; 11/3/25; 24/3/25

Western Renewables Link Community Meeting – 3/3/25

Eastern Hill Residents Group Meeting – 4/3/25

Heather Mutimer Honour Roll – 5/3/25

Rainbow Story Time Daylesford Library – 8/3/25

Chill Out Parade - 9/3/25

Tales of Drummond Hall – 14/3/25

The Block Tour – 21/3/25

Book town Festival opening Night Clunes – 21/3/25

Book town Clunes – 23/3/25

Council Meeting – 25/3/25

Councillor Pat Hockey

March has been a busy time in the shire with some major events, including the International Women's Day Awards in Trentham, ChillOut Festival, the Clunes Historic Vehicle Show and a number of community meetings (and no doubt others I have omitted to mention). Chill-Out was great fun, but not without its poignancy when I considered the many years of oppression and closed-minds that folk have had to contend with and still do in many parts.

Significantly in Creswick I attended a meeting with the residents group who have been impacted by the extraordinary success of Djuwang Baring (Creswick Trails). I look forward to supporting this group to ameliorate some of the impacts they are seeking to have addressed.

At the same time, some really significant planning meetings have occupied a significant amount of my time as the Councillors oversee the budgetary planning for some difficult years ahead. At a community level I loved meeting the crew at the

Shrove Tuesday event in Clunes at the Masonic Lodge and the raffles in particular were great fun.

In addition to these public events and planning meetings, I have had many interactions with officers on local matters around Clunes and I would like to publicly thank officers for their prompt attention to these matters.

It continues to be the case that it is the ordinary day-to-day matters that most occupy my conversations with the community. As always I urge residents in the shire to reach out by phone or email or just grab me for a chat when you see me out and about.

Councillor Brian Hood

Presented a verbal report.

Councillor Shirley Cornish

Presented a verbal report.

Councillor Tim Drylie

Good evening, everyone. I want to share some key updates from this past month.

I attended the International Women's Day Honour Roll Event at The Mechanics Trentham and was particularly impressed by the speeches from Daylesford College students. Their reflections on the theme of *For ALL women and girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment.* were insightful and inspiring, and it was fantastic to see young people engaging in these important conversations. Congratulations to all involved on a successful evening and to the award recipients. Heather Mutimer's ongoing contributions to the community and her speech on the night were inspiring. A special mention to Mary-Faeth Chenery for her significant work in affordable and community housing as president of Safe Place Homes and WINC. These awards are important in recognising and amplifying the work of women in our community.

I also attended the ChillOut Festival Parade with fellow councillors and staff. The atmosphere was incredible, and the turnout was fantastic. It was a privilege to be part of the celebration and highlight the Djuwang Baring Creswick Trails on our council float. This event is a cornerstone for the LGBTIQ+ community, local businesses, and the broader community, especially in the face of growing conservative pressures that threaten diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. I am deeply concerned about the erosion of democratic rights when fiscal constraints are used as a justification for decisions that diminish essential services and community support. It is critical that financial challenges do not come at the expense of inclusion, equity, and the well-being of our diverse communities and environment.

At the Eastern Hill Residents Group Meeting, we heard from community members about their experiences with the Djuwang Baring Trails rollout. While the project has been very successful, some residents have raised concerns, and I appreciate the

ongoing dialogue to ensure a fair and responsive approach. Community feedback remains essential in refining how we manage and implement projects.

The rise of vigilante threats on local online groups in response to recent criminal activity is deeply troubling, as is the increase in hate speech and harassment directed at vulnerable groups, including First Nations people, the LGBTIQA+ community, and even councillors and staff. This behaviour has no place in our community. I encourage residents to report such incidents to social media platforms and, where necessary, to the police. Everyone deserves to feel safe and respected, and we are committed to fostering a community that upholds these values.

Finally, I want to briefly address the unauthorised release of the Local Government Inspectorate's draft report into The Rex development. As the Mayor has stated, this has understandably caused concern. Council has made significant governance improvements since 2018, including stronger financial oversight, the establishment of a Major Projects Unit, and increased scrutiny through the Audit and Risk Committee. These measures ensure greater accountability and transparency in project management and financial decision-making. My focus has always been on acting in the best interests of the community, and I remain committed to responsible governance.

Looking ahead, I want to highlight the upcoming deliberative engagement panel sessions now that community members are in place for our Council Plan work. I look forward to hearing feedback and ensuring that community voices continue to shape the direction of our Shire.

Manum Wa Wa – meaning “thank you” in the language of the Bunurong people, the Traditional Owners of the land where the MAV Conference was held.

I recently attended the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Conference at Cape Schanck, where local government leaders gathered to discuss the future of councils, financial sustainability, governance, resilience, and community trust.

The key themes were adaptive leadership, financial responsibility, ethical governance, inclusivity, and the role of councils in shaping the future.

Key Insights:

Leadership and Governance – Minister for Local Government Nick Staikos reinforced the importance of strong governance, financial sustainability, and community engagement. He acknowledged rate capping concerns, the growing responsibilities on councils, and the need to address public trust in local government.

Ethical Leadership and Trust – Dr Graeme Emonson PSM emphasized that ethical leadership is everyone's responsibility. He spoke about:

- Trust as the foundation of governance, which is easily eroded but hard to rebuild.

- The need for fairness, accountability, and courage in decision-making.
- The impact of misinformation, political polarization, and declining public confidence in institutions, and how councils must demonstrate integrity to counteract this.

Financial Resilience and Sustainability – Domenic Isola (Local Government Finance Specialist) highlighted the need for smarter financial planning. He urged councils to look beyond rate revenue, emphasizing strategic asset management, cost efficiencies, and alternative funding models to sustain services and infrastructure.

Future of Local Government and Financial Autonomy – Marcus Spiller (SGS Economics) warned that current funding models are unsustainable and advocated for:

- Rolling back rate capping gradually.
- Increasing Commonwealth financial assistance grants.
- Expanding councils' revenue base to ensure long-term sustainability.

Diversity, Inclusion and Resilience – We heard powerful messages from:

- Reuben Berg (First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria) on the Treaty process and the importance of local councils building meaningful relationships with Traditional Owners.
- Cr Dr Anjalee de Silva on the impact of online hate speech and misogyny on women in politics, highlighting how it discourages women from participating in public life.
- Cr Mohamed Semra, who spoke on resilience in the face of racial discrimination, urging councils to ensure leadership reflects the diversity of their communities.

Community-Centric Leadership and Political Change –

- George Megalogenis described the collapse of the two-party system, the rise of independents and crossbenchers, and the importance of councils maintaining trust and stability amid political shifts.
- Jess Scully encouraged councillors to balance short-term pressures with long-term vision, urging us to set ambitious yet realistic goals while remaining adaptable to community needs.

Governance Challenges and Integrity Risks – David Wolf (Parliamentary Workplace Standards and Integrity Commission) provided insights into governance failures, warning that:

- Poor leadership and toxic cultures undermine councils.

- A strong 'speak-up' culture is critical to preventing integrity issues.
- Councils must proactively build public confidence through transparency and accountability.

The MAV Conference reinforced that local government is at the forefront of community leadership, and our decisions today will shape the communities of tomorrow.

I look forward to applying these insights as we strengthen our governance, support financial sustainability, and build a more inclusive and resilient Hepburn Shire.

Thank you.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Mayor's and Councillors' reports.

MOTION

That Council receives and notes the Mayor's and Councillors' Reports.

Moved: Cr Shirley Cornish

Seconded: Cr Pat Hockey

Carried

Voted for: Cr Shirley Cornish, Cr Tim Drylie, Cr Lesley Hewitt, Cr Don Henderson, Cr Pat Hockey and Cr Brian Hood

Voted against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

10.3 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Go to 01:31:50 in the meeting recording to view this item.

The Chief Executive Officer Report informs Council and the community of current issues, initiatives and projects undertaken across Council.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER UPDATE

Over the past few weeks, our beautiful begonias have been on full display at the Wombat Hill Botanic gardens, and they look absolutely stunning. Mel, our wonderful head Gardener, has been taking such great care of them, especially since they can be a bit fussy with the weather. You can see how proud Mel is of her beautiful work below. If you haven't had a chance to visit, it's definitely worth a visit before they finish for the season.

Gardening Australia also recently aired a feature segment which focuses on our amazing plant profiles and significant trees in the gardens. If you missed the show, you can also find the episode on iView (series 36, episode 2).



Still up in the Wombat Hill precinct, the Day Basin project is progressing well. Recent works include the plumbing trenching, and the concrete footing for the stone rill has been poured where possible, and the stone rill has been delivered to site. The RFQ for the tower works will be released shortly, and we hope to have a preferred contractor selected in the near future.

Filming of The Block kicked off earlier this month in Daylesford, and we're excited about the opportunities this will bring to our Shire. It will serve to highlight the unique offerings of our communities to a national audience. Hosting The Block presents a significant opportunity for our Shire, promising tangible economic benefits while showcasing our stunning landscape. The Block Executive Producer Julian Cress was quoted saying "It's a very exciting place for us to bring The Block to Daylesford, it's been a destination for Australian and international tourists for a century now, and it has really cemented itself as one of the top weekend destinations in the country." Councillors and the Executive Leadership Team are looking forward to a tour of this site in late March.

Council marked International Women's Day this evening with a free community event at the Mechanics at Trentham, celebrating the remarkable achievements of local women and marking the 20th anniversary of the Heather Mutimer Honour Roll. The Honour Roll, which celebrates the exceptional contributions of women in our community, inducted five new members this year: Mary Harvey, Jessie Leggatt (Posthumous), Donna Kelly, Mary-Faeth Chenery and Lynda Poke.

Over the long weekend in March, Daylesford hosted the ChillOut Festival, Australia's favourite regional LGBTQIA+ celebration. For many years, the ChillOut Festival has lit up the streets of Daylesford, creating a fun-filled atmosphere for everyone to enjoy.



Designs and artistic renders have been developed for the Daylesford Community Facilities project, and Council is seeking the community's feedback on the initial design. A community engagement period will run from Monday 10 March to Sunday 13 April. During this time, the community can access engagement materials on the [Participate Hepburn website](#), or from Council's libraries and customer experience hubs. Community members can discuss the project in-person with Council officers or members of the PAG at any of the three scheduled drop-in sessions.

Council is applying for a total rate cap of 10% for 2025/2026 which includes a 7% increase to the existing 3% rate cap that was announced on 23 December 2024 by the Minister for Local Government. This move is being made to ensure the financial viability and long-term sustainability of Council, and Council formally submitted to the Essential Services Commission this [month](#).

Council was proud to announce that we have been successful in securing [grant](#) funding of \$400,000 for a battery storage and solar PV installation at The Mechanics Trentham.

Our latest round of Biodiversity Grants Program and Sustainable Hepburn Grants Programs applications just closed, with assessment outcomes being announced shortly. We wish the applicants all the best with their submissions, and we look forward to seeing the results of the successful recipient's community initiatives.

Council issued a [media release](#) in relation to the unauthorised release of the Local Government Inspectorate (LGI) draft report on the Hepburn Hub at The Rex project, and detailed significant improvements that had been made to governance and transparency measures on the past six years.

Some of the meetings I have attended include:

- Joint State/Local Government Monthly CEO Forum
- Governance and Integrity Steering Committee meeting
- MAV CEO Connect weekly meetings
- Executive Leadership Team weekly meetings
- Meeting with the EPA
- Greater Ballarat Alliance of Councils CEOs meeting
- Council Plan workshop with Councillors
- Loddon Campaspe Group of Council's Regional Forum
- Meeting with clubs at Doug Lindsay Recreation Reserve
- Councillor Briefing
- Meeting with MAV to review the Grants Commission allocation methods
- Tourism Midwest Victoria Board meeting
- Central Highlands Regional Priorities meeting

- Meeting with Wombat Post representatives to discuss the Rex project
- Meeting with RDV and Hepburn Shire Council Executive teams
- Meeting with Wombat Post representatives to discuss the Rex project
- VLGA Connect interview
- Meetings with direct reports

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Chief Executive Officer's Report for March 2025.

MOTION

That Council receives and notes the Chief Executive Officer's Report for March 2025.

Moved: Cr Brian Hood

Seconded: Cr Lesley Hewitt

Carried

Voted for: Cr Shirley Cornish, Cr Tim Drylie, Cr Lesley Hewitt, Cr Don Henderson, Cr Pat Hockey and Cr Brian Hood

Voted against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

11 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

11.1 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Go to 01:33:36 in the meeting recording to view this item.

Pursuant to section 66(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) Council or delegated committee must keep a meeting open to the public unless the Council or delegated committee considers it necessary to close the meeting to the public because a circumstance specified in subsection (2) applies.

The circumstances detailed in section 66(2) of the Act are:

- a) the meeting is to consider confidential information; or
- b) security reasons; or
- c) it is necessary to do so to enable the meeting to proceed in an orderly manner.

RECOMMENDATION

That in accordance with sections 66(1) and 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020, the meeting to be closed to members of the public for the consideration of the following confidential items:

1.1. GLENLYON RECREATION RESERVE PAVILION REDEVELOPMENT – APPOINTMENT OF PROJECT ADVISORY GROUP

Because it is personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs;

The ground applies because the report contains the assessment of individual applicants and would, if released, unfairly identify unsuccessful applicants and the scoring allocated to each applicant.

1.2. VCAT PROCEEDINGS – ENDEAVOUR GROUP

Because it is legal privileged information, being information to which legal professional privilege or client legal privilege applies.

The ground applies because the agenda item concerns legal advice regarding Council's attendance at an upcoming VCAT hearing.

MOTION

That in accordance with sections 66(1) and 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020, the meeting to be closed to members of the public for the consideration of the following confidential item:

GLENLYON RECREATION RESERVE PAVILION REDEVELOPMENT – APPOINTMENT OF PROJECT ADVISORY GROUP

Because it is personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs;

The ground applies because the report contains the assessment of individual applicants and would, if released, unfairly identify unsuccessful applicants and the scoring allocated to each applicant.

Moved: Cr Shirley Cornish

Seconded: Cr Brian Hood

Carried

Voted for: Cr Shirley Cornish, Cr Tim Drylie, Cr Lesley Hewitt, Cr Don Henderson, Cr Pat Hockey and Cr Brian Hood

Voted against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

The Meeting closed to the public at 7:42pm for the hearing of the confidential item and did not reopen to the public.

The confidential meeting opened at 7:42pm.

The Council determined to release the following information to the public on the item as detailed below.

1.1 GLENLYON RECREATION RESERVE PAVILION REDEVELOPMENT – APPOINTMENT OF PROJECT ADVISORY GROUP

The item to remain confidential as it is personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.

12 CLOSE OF MEETING

The Meeting closed at 07:50pm.