



Murrindindi
Shire Council

Scheduled Meeting of Council

Minutes

24 July 2024
Alexandra Chambers
Perkins Street
6:00PM

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1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND COUNCILLORS' PLEDGE

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

The meeting will be opened with the Mayor reading the following on behalf of the Murrindindi Shire Council:

“Murrindindi Shire Council is proud to acknowledge the Taungurung and Wurundjeri people as the traditional custodians of the land we now call Murrindindi Shire.

We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, who are the keepers of history, traditions, knowledge and culture of this land.”

1.2 Councillors' Pledge

“The Councillors, democratically elected to represent our community as the Murrindindi Shire Council, are committed to working together in the best interests of the people who live in our municipality, those who conduct business here and those who visit.”

2 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

2.1 Privacy Note

This public meeting is being streamed live via our Facebook page and website. A recording of the meeting along with the official Minutes of the meeting will also be published on our website.

2.2 Apologies and Request for Planned Leave

Apologies:

Cr S Carpenter & Cr I Gerencser

Present:

Councillors D Gallagher (chair), J Walsh, E Lording, S McAulay (virtual), K Haslam

In attendance:

Acting Chief Executive Officer: Michael Chesworth
Director Community & Development: Andrew Paxton
Director Assets & Environment: Caroline Lintott

2.3 Disclosure of Interest or Conflict of Interest

Nil.

2.4 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of Council held on 26 June 2024

RESOLUTION

Cr J Walsh / Cr E Lording

That Council confirm the minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of Council held on 26 June 2024.

CARRIED

2.5 Petitions

Nil.

2.6 Community Recognition

Nil.

2.7 Matters Deferred from Previous Meeting

Nil.

2.8 Urgent Business

Nil.

3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

3.1 Open Forum

Nil.

3.2 Questions of Council

Nil.

4 REPORTS - COMMUNITY & DEVELOPMENT GROUP

4.1 Murrindindi Kindergarten and Childcare Strategy

Department	Community & Development
Presenter	Andrew Paxton, Director Community and Development
Approved by	Andrew Paxton, Director Community and Development
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	1. Attachment 1 - Murrindindi Kindergarten and Childcare Strategy [4.1.1 - 49 pages]

Executive Summary

This report presents the final draft of the Kindergarten and Childcare Strategy 2024-2029 to Council, establishing the direction for childcare and kindergartens across the Shire.

RESOLUTION

Cr E Lording / Cr J Walsh
That Council endorse the Murrindindi Kindergarten and Childcare Strategy 2024-2029 as contained in attachment 4.1.1.

CARRIED

5 REPORTS - PEOPLE & CORPORATE PERFORMANCE GROUP

5.1 37 Extons Road, Kinglake Central - Transfer of Land

Department	Community & Development
Presenter	A Paxton, Director Community & Development
Approved by	A Paxton, Director Community & Development
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	Nil

Executive Summary

Land at 37 Extons Road, Kinglake was donated to Council following the 2009 bushfires with the specific purpose being to enable the reconstruction of the Middle Kinglake Primary School and Early Years Learning Centre. The land was rezoned to a Public Use Zone, by the Minister to reflect its purpose. Council leased the land to the Department of Education in 2011 and the School and Early Years Centre were constructed and have been operational for many years.

The total land area donated was ultimately found to be in excess of the requirements for the intended purpose and the Education Department relinquished its lease over the excess land

(approximately 1.77 hectares to the west of the property) in 2014. As the land is not required for the purpose it was donated, being educational purposes, Council has commenced a process to consider transferring the unused portion of the land back to the donor, who owns land immediately to the north.

This report considers the planning and other statutory requirements to enable the land transfer and seeks Council's endorsement to give public notice of its intent to transfer the land. It is proposed that Council consider any submissions from the public at its August 2024 meeting.

RESOLUTION

Cr J Walsh / Cr K Haslam

That Council:

- 1. Give public notice of its intention to transfer the undeveloped portion of 37 Extons Road, shaded in red in the diagram in this report, to the original donor without consideration**
- 2. Consider any public submissions received following the public notice at the August 2024 Council Meeting**
- 3. Note that subject to Council resolving to transfer the land at a future Council meeting, it will be recommended to request the Minister for Planning to prepare an amendment to the Murrindindi Planning Scheme under Section 20(4) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to rezone part of the land from the Public Use Zone 7 to the Farming Zone.**

CARRIED

5.2 Audit and Risk Committee - Independent Member Appointment

Department	People & Corporate Performance
Presenter	M Chesworth, Director People & Corporate Performance
Approved by	M Chesworth, Director People & Corporate Performance
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s):	Nil

Executive Summary

This report recommends to Council the appointment of an external independent member to Council's Audit and Risk Committee in accordance with the requirements under the *Local Government Act 2020*.

RESOLUTION

Cr Haslam/Cr Walsh

That Council appoint Mr Alan Studley as an Audit and Risk Committee Independent Member for a three-year term ending 30 June 2027.

CARRIED

5.3 Council Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance

Department	Governance and Risk
Presenter	M Chesworth, Director People and Corporate Performance
Approved by	M Chesworth, Director People and Corporate Performance
Purpose	For decision
Attachments	Nil

Executive Summary

The cost of the 2024/25 Public liability and Professional Indemnity insurance cover is above the financial delegation of the Chief Executive Officer and payment will need to be approved by Council resolution.

RESOLUTION

Cr K Haslam / Cr J Walsh

That Council approve the payment of the Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance premium for 2024/25 of \$383,540.13 (ex GST).

CARRIED

5.4 Council Meeting Dates

Department	People & Corporate Performance
Presenter	M Chesworth, Director People and Corporate Performance
Approved by	M Chesworth, Director People and Corporate Performance
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	Nil

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of the revised monthly timetable of Council meetings for the 2024 calendar year in response to changes in the election period.

RESOLUTION

Cr J Walsh / Cr E Lording

That Council adopt the revised timetable of Scheduled Meetings for the 2024 calendar year as outlined in this report.

CARRIED

6 REPORTS - ASSETS & ENVIRONMENT GROUP

6.1 CONT 24/14 Heating & Cooling System - Maintenance & Repairs

Department	Assets & Environment
Presenter	C Lintott, Director Assets and Environment
Approved by	Caroline Lintott, Director Assets and Environment
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	1. CONT24 14 Heating and Cooling System Servicing and Maintenance [6.1.1 - 5 pages]

Executive Summary

This report provides the results of a tender process to appoint a contractor for CONT 24/14 - Heating and Cooling System Service, Maintenance & Repairs for an initial period of three years with an optional two-year extension period subject to satisfactory performance by the contractor and at the discretion of Council.

The scope of the contract is to service, maintain and repair heating and cooling systems in Council facilities, to comply with current standards and regulations. The service contract supports Council's mandatory requirements to provide and promote healthy spaces for our occupants and continued economic operation of the mechanical equipment.

Council recently conducted a public tender for these works which closed on 4 June 2024 at 3:00pm. Two submissions were received at the close of the tender. A detailed evaluation was undertaken in line with Council's Procurement Policy and against the tender evaluation criteria by the Tender Evaluation Committee.

This report and the confidential attachment, outlines the procurement and evaluation process undertaken to appoint a suitable contractor to provide the services required within CONT24/14 - Heating and Cooling System Service, Maintenance and Repairs.

Based on the evaluation, the Committee recommended Tender 1 be awarded CONT24/14 - Heating and Cooling System Service, Maintenance and Repairs for a three-year contract with an option of a two-year extension, not exceeding a total of five years commencing 1 August 2024 and ending no later than 31 July 2029. This contract, being a lump sum contract with a schedule of rates for maintenance breakdowns, will not exceed a total spend of \$862,990 over the five-year term if all options are exercised.

RESOLUTION

Cr J Walsh / Cr E Lording

That Council:

- Award Contract 24/14 - Heating and Cooling System Service, Maintenance and Repairs to North East Air and Mechanical Pty Ltd for an initial period of three years commencing on 1 August 2024 and ending on 31 July 2027 with an option for a two-year extension;**
- Approve a total contract amount of \$862,990 over the five-year contract period;**

3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to extend Contract 24/14 - Heating and Cooling System Service, Maintenance and Repairs for the optional two-year period subject to satisfactory performance and;
4. Release the name of the successful Tenderer into the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the 24 July 2024.

CARRIED

6.2 Yea Saleyards - Installation of Large Capacity Holding Pens

Department	Assets & Environment
Presenter	C Lintott, Director Assets and Environment
Approved by	Caroline Lintott, Director Assets and Environment
Purpose	For decision
Attachment(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attachment 1 - Yea Saleyards - Proposed Large Capacity Holding Pens - Map [6.2.1 - 1 page] 2. Attachment 2 - Yea Saleyards - Proposed Large Capacity Holding Pens - Design [6.2.2 - 1 page]

Executive Summary

The Yea Saleyards Committee has seen a recent change in buying and selling patterns at the Saleyards, with a move from smaller numbers of cattle being purchased by multiple vendors to large numbers of cattle being purchased by single vendors. With the closure of the Pakenham Saleyards, the Yea Saleyards is also operating at, or near full capacity. The increasing trend of buyers aggregating smaller cattle lots into single larger batches for transportation presents challenges in managing safe operations at the yards, with a greater potential for OH&S and animal welfare risks arising. These include:

- Mix of cattle and pedestrians in laneways.
- Safety for livestock transport operators drafting cattle in yards around tight laneways.
- Inspection of cattle in laneways prior to being loaded onto transport.
- Accommodation of a large numbers of cattle consignments in small yards.
- Feeding large consignments pre and post-sale in selling pens and causing contamination.

To reduce these risks, it is proposed to construct six larger capacity holding pens (not 'selling pens') to safely manage the sorting and grouping of larger numbers of cattle into single batches at a sale. Large capacity holding pens will allow large consignments of cattle to be accommodated safely and for a longer period, both pre and post-sale, and provide the ability for cattle to be fed, watered and held more comfortably prior to being despatched. The addition of large capacity holding pens will not increase the total number of cattle sold at the yards.

It is proposed to construct the holding pens in the existing car park along the western end of the facility. This location is in close proximity to truck loading ramps and away from the selling areas. The existing carpark will be moved into a grassed area opposite the saleyards, in the truck parking area.

With the installation of holding pens in the existing car park, further works may also be required but this can be done at a later stage:

- Gravel to new car parking area - This area is currently grassed, and the parking in this area will only become an issue, should we have a wet summer period.
- Drainage works to B-Double ramps - The existing drainage at the front of the B-Double ramps is accommodating 'normal' rain events, however, out of the ordinary rainfall has caused runoff damage to gravel surfaces to the north of the ramp area.

With approximately \$500k available in the Yea Saleyards Reserve, there are sufficient funds to meet the estimated construction costs of \$150k, without requiring the allocation of funds derived from ratepayers.

RESOLUTION

Cr J Walsh / Cr E Lording

That Council approve the allocation of a maximum of \$150,000 from the Yea Saleyards Reserve to fund:

- 1. Six large capacity holding pens;**
- 2. Drainage improvements to the B-Double loading ramp and;**
- 3. Carpark in the truck parking area.**

CARRIED

7 COUNCILLOR AND CEO REPORTS

7.1 Notices of Motions

Nil.

7.2 Cr Ilona Gerencser

Nil.

7.3 Cr Eric Lording

Nil.

7.4 Cr Sandice McAulay

This year's Winter campaign has commenced across our Discover Dindi channel and with partners such as Lake Mountain and Victoria's High Country, keep an eye on our social media for the latest posts and explore our Shire this winter.

Tourism North-East are seeking businesses to be part of the upcoming 2024 Spring / Summer and 2025 Autumn marketing campaign – please reach out to the Economic Development team if you are interested in participating with special offers, deals and packages that visitors can experience in Murrindindi Shire.

Council has partnered with Murrindindi Food and Wine on the Murrindindi Digital Marketing Month – a series of webinars covering a range of topics including Instagram and Facebook, how to market your business for free and website basics. The series is delivered by Jenn Donovan.

The third business breakfast will be held in Marysville on 13 August. This is a great way to connect with local businesses – I look forward to catching up with other businesses myself. Again Council is proud to support Murrindindi Food and Wine and the business resilience program.

The Great Victorian Bike Ride is coming to Murrindindi Shire. The ride will have two overnight stops, Alexandra on Friday 29 November and Marysville on Saturday 30 November. To find out more about the opportunities and how to be involved it is free to attend one of the information sessions Tuesday 30 July in Alexandra and Wednesday 31 July in Marysville.

Reflecting on Councils progress

There has been excellent engagement on line and in person at our drop in sessions. Council is conscious that people want to engage in different ways – online and face to face and has endeavoured to provide as many opportunities as possible.

The Flowerdale Community Planning group continue to progress well with their community plan and I am excited to hear that the Flowerdale Community planning report is likely coming to Council in August.

The Core team from Flowerdale have done a significant body of work and it is currently out as a draft for consultation in their community.

I was pleased to hear a Flowerdale local recently speaking on local radio mentioning that everyone that attended the last planning meeting each committed to leading a project as identified in their plan. Congratulations Flowerdale, I am excited to hear what some of those projects may be.

7.5 Cr Karine Haslam

Thank you Mayor Gallagher, I have a small report this month.

Portfolio Matters

Environmental Programs:-

- The Rural Roadside Conservation Management Plan, is currently out for community consultation. Murrindindi Shire Council is inviting feedback from the community on its updated Rural Roadside Conservation Management Plan and Guidelines, referred to as the RRCM

The Rural Roadside Conservation Management Plan, guides how roadside vegetation is managed across the Shire, and helps Council, the community, and other agencies, understand the conservation value of roadsides, and how to carry out works, or activities on them appropriately. These activities include utility works, roadside grazing, firewood collection, slashing, mowing and weed management. There are 26 pieces of legislation, that cover Government requirements. The Rural Roadside Conservation Management Plan Guidelines, are designed to help users to understand these requirements.

Council is seeking community feedback on the Plan, and companion Guidelines, to understand what's important to local residents, in maintaining and protecting, native vegetation on our rural roadsides, what activities residents usually carry out on roadsides, and if the Guidelines are easy to understand. There are only a few days left as Feedback closes Sunday 28 July.

- Staff are currently working on the Flat Lead Road property to look at how Council can undertake a carbon offset scheme. Further information will be coming in August.

Waste

- The new Alexandra landfill is looking great, and is practically completed. Once approved by EPA for use, we will close the existing landfill cells, and start capping these. We expect approval by the end of September.

Moore Marr Park Redevelopment – Better known as the Splash Park.

- The Skate Park has been completed and is open to the public. It is already being well used by many of all ages.
- The Senior Play Area and the Flying Fox are also completed, but at this stage are not open to the public. The reason for this, is to allow the grass that has been planted to establish. Hopefully, not much longer, it will be worth the wait!
- Remaining works are on-schedule for completion later in the year.

7.6 Cr John Walsh

Nil.

7.7 Cr Sue Carpenter

Nil.

7.8 Cr Damien Gallagher - Mayoral Report

It's with sadness that we recognise the passing of Edward 'Ted' Hall last week. But it's with great joy that we fondly recall a life well lived. Ted was a classic character, devoted to his Val, and to his community. Ted was a prolific European wasp chaser and despite his mechanical hand, was a gifted shearer – one of the Guns of Alexandra, no less. And, Ted was a talented knitter who gifted socks to those he held dear.

Vale, Ted, Mayor of Maintongoon.

Late last month I had the opportunity to represent Council on the ABC Radio Melbourne "Meet the Mayor" segment. I shared with the listeners stories of our welcoming community and our wealth of natural attractions, and I spoke of our innovative businesses who are setting our community up for the future. I spoke of opportunity and inclusion, and of Murrindindi being truly open for business.

The same day, I joined the Yea community in celebrating the new look Rotary Club of Yea executive at the annual Changeover Dinner. Congratulations to Penny Paxman who leads the dynamic Yea Rotary team for 2024-25.

In Canberra in July, alongside Council's Chief Executive Officer, Livia Bonazzi we had yet more opportunities to tell the Murrindindi story at, and around the events of the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly. Economists shared perspectives on the megatrends such as the digital economy and our aging population, and speakers pointed out that despite collecting just 3% of taxes, compared with 17% from states and 80% from the Commonwealth, Local Government was shown to be the most fiscally efficient level of

government when it comes to servicing communities. In terms of asset management, Local Government manages \$10 worth of assets for every \$1 of revenues, compared with \$4 for states and \$0.40 asset value for every \$1 of Federal Government revenue.

It was an exceptionally successful visit as we returned home with a Federal Government grant of \$968,000 to support a Development Plan to enable sustainable growth in Murrindindi, aligned to Council's recently adopted Housing and Settlement Strategy. We also highlighted our needs for disaster recovery funding to support Breakaway Bridge rectification works, and provision for building back better, more resilient assets.

It was very gratifying to see so many people turn out to the community meeting in support of Alexandra District Health. There is a concern that our existing challenges with health and wellbeing outcomes will only be exacerbated by a loss of local, decision-making voices. It's with appreciation that I recognise those who came out; those who inspired Councillors with their passion and commitment to Alexandra and to Murrindindi.

Earlier this week, I was honoured to have had the privilege of recognising the young Marysville Primary School leaders. The dedication of the students to attentive participation was absolutely evident. It's not lost on me that the school's success is founded upon the generous and professional leadership of Principal, Sandra Bishop and her committed staff. This morning I was welcomed by the Principal, Kathryn Stuart, staff, students, and families of Sacred Heart Primary School in Yea. The occasion was the celebration of a whole-of-community effort to raise funds to support to the construction of a challenging ninja course. Murrindindi Shire Council's grants and sponsorships program contribution was recognised with appreciation by all present. In the true ninja tradition, I think I'll wait until the cover of darkness before I attempt the course.

Finally:

It's often with some despondency that we observe a dearth of young people committed to service, committed to volunteering, and ultimately, committed to community. It was refreshing and rather heartening last Saturday, in cold, wet, miserable conditions to see the dedication of so many young members of the Upper Goulburn Intrepid Landcare group turning out to celebrate 5 years of incorporation, and to so actively support their National Tree Day event, with the planting of over 700 trees and grasses on Josephine's Cutting in Alexandra. I thank Annette Cavanagh and Jess Robinson for their inspiring leadership, and I trust they enjoyed social engagement and a few well-earned brews at On Point after their great efforts.

7.9 Acting Chief Executive Officer Report

The community engagement process 'Reflecting on Council's progress' concluded last Sunday. A total of 66 surveys were received and around 300 community conversations and ideas were contributed to provide a wealth of information to help inform the current and the next Council on the community's priorities, and to support the development of the next Council Plan. I thank everyone who participated their ideas.

Families at Flowerdale Kindergarten have been advised that Mitchell Shire Council will no longer manage that service. Our staff are working with Mitchell Shire and the Dept of Education to conduct an Expression of Interest process for a new service provider for Flowerdale.

A Pop Up Youth Hub has commenced in Yea and will run each Wednesday from 3.30-5.00pm during term 3. This will provide an opportunity for young people in Yea to participate in different activities on a regular basis. This Council-run space will pop up in various locations in Yea, but will focus predominantly on the Yea Library and Neighbourhood House.

A Youth Space has also commenced in Alexandra at the Embassy of Ideas and will run fortnightly on Fridays from 3.30-5.30pm. This space, coordinated by the Goulburn Valley Suicide Awareness Group will provide young people in Alexandra the opportunity to participate in a range of activities on a regular basis.

8 RECORD OF COUNCIL BRIEFING SESSIONS

Purpose

For noting.

Executive Summary

This report presents the records of Council Briefing Sessions for 26 June 2024 to 17 July 2024, for Council to note.

RESOLUTION

Cr J Walsh / Cr E Lording

That Council receive and note the records of Council Briefing Sessions for 26 June 2024 to 17 July 2024, noting that Cr Carpenter was not present at the briefing held on 17 July 2024.

CARRIED

9 SEALING REGISTER

Nil.

10 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil.

Meeting was closed at 6:50pm

CONFIRMED BY: