



**Pyrenees**  
Shire Council

# Minutes

## Statutory Meeting of Council

6:00pm Tuesday 9 November 2021  
Lexton Community Centre,  
1 Gold Smith Street, Lexton

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## **1. WELCOME**

Mayor Cr Damian Ferrari welcomed all to the meeting.

## **PRESENT**

**Mayor:** Cr Damian Ferrari

**Councillors:** Ron Eason, David Clark, Robert Vance, Tanya Kehoe

**Chief Executive Officer:** Jim Nolan

**Director Asset and Development Services:** Douglas Gowans

**Director of Corporate and Community Services:** Kathy Bramwell

**EA to CEO and Councillors:** Jane Bowker (minutes)

**Senior Communications Officer:** Kate Deppeler

## **2. STREAMING PREAMBLE**

Mayor Cr Damian Ferrari read the livestream preamble.

## **3. OPENING PRAYER**

The Mayor read the Opening Prayer.

## **4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The Mayor acknowledged the people past and present of the Wadawurrung, Dja Dja Wurrung, Eastern Maar and Wotjobaluk tribes, whose land forms the Pyrenees Shire. We pay our respect to the customs, traditions and stewardship of the land by the elders and people of these tribes on whose land we meet today.

## **5. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

## **6. 2020/2021 MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor, Cr Ferrari provided a report on the term as Mayor and a copy is attached to these minutes (see attachment 6.1).

## **7. ELECTION OF MAYOR**

- 7.1. CEO Jim Nolan called for a motion to determine if the term of Mayor is to be for one or two years. Cr Clark moved the motion that the Mayoral term be for one year. Cr Ferrari seconded the motion. The motion was put to the vote and all were in favour. The motion was carried.
- 7.2. CEO Jim Nolan called for nominations for Mayor for the 2021/2022 term. Cr Vance nominated Cr Eason. Cr Kehoe seconded the motion. Cr Eason accepted the nomination.
- 7.3. No further nominations for Mayor were put forward therefore there was no requirement for the nomination to be voted upon.
- 7.4. CEO Jim Nolan declared Cr Ron Eason as the duly elected Mayor for Pyrenees Shire Council for the 2021/2022 term.
- 7.5. CEO Jim Nolan invited immediate past Mayor, Cr Ferrari to present Cr Eason with the gavel. Cr Ferrari congratulated Cr Eason and presented the gavel to Cr Eason as a symbol of the orderly succession from one mayor / chair to another.
- 7.6. CEO Jim Nolan invited the newly elected Mayor Cr Eason, to take the Chair.

- 7.7. Cr Eason took the Chair and thanked fellow Councillors for the honour of becoming Mayor of Pyrenees Shire Council. Cr Eason expressed the honour of serving as Mayor for the second time and for the trust Councillors have instilled. Cr Eason, on behalf of the other Councillors, thanked Cr Ferrari for the term served as Mayor and for the trusting stewardship in what has been a trying 12 months and more so for all the good things that have happened.

**8. OFFICE OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

- 8.1. The Mayor Cr Eason called for a motion to declare electing a Deputy Mayor. Cr Clark moved and Cr Kehoe seconded that a Deputy Mayor not be elected for the 2021/2022 term. The motion was put to the vote and all were in favour. The motion was carried.

**9. PRESENTATION OF GIFTS**

- 9.1. Cr Eason advised that outgoing Mayor Cr Ferrari will be presented with a gift in recognition of the Mayoral term, at a later date.
- 9.2. Cr Eason presented Sarah Jess, Cr Ferrari's partner, with a gift in recognition of the support provided to the Mayor over the past year. Cr Ferrari accepted the gift on Sarah's behalf.



## 10. ITEMS FOR DECISION

### 10.1. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

#### 10.1.1. COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES

**Kathy Bramwell – Director Corporate and Community Services**

**Declaration of Interest:** As author of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

**File No:** 18/02/04

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to determine Councillor representation on committees for the next twelve months.

#### BACKGROUND

Each year, at the Statutory Meeting of Council, Council determines the Councillor representation on committees. Below is a list of Committees that the Council has representation on as adopted by the Council at its 2020 Statutory Meeting.

Committee	Dept	Staff Member	Councillor
<b>External-Formal</b>			
Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)	CEO	J Nolan	Cr Clark / Cr Vance
Victorian Local Government Association (VLGA)			Any Councillors
Central Highlands Councils Victoria (CHCV)	CEO	J Nolan	Mayor
Rural Councils Victoria Executive Committee	CEO		Cr Vance
Rural Councils Victoria (RCV)	CEO	J Nolan	Mayor
Grampians Central West Waste and Resource Recovery Group	A&DS		Cr Ferrari
Central Highlands LLEN	CEO	Nil	Cr Clark
Timber Towns Victoria	A&DS	D Gowans	Cr Vance
National Timber Councils Association	A&DS	D Gowans	Cr Vance
Central Highlands Regional Partnership	CEO	J Nolan	N/A
Western Highway Action Committee (WHAC)	A&DS	D Gowans	Cr Ferrari
Sunraysia Highway Action Committee	A&DS	D Gowans	Cr Eason
Committee for Ballarat	CEO	J Nolan	Mayor
Beaufort Bypass – EES Technical Reference Group	A&DS	D Gowans	N/A
Beaufort Bypass – PEG Public Engagement Group	A&DS	N/A	Cr Ferrari
Central Victoria Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA)	CEO	D Gowans	Cr Clark
Central Highlands Children and Youth Area Partnership	C&CS	K Bramwell / M Walmsley	Nil
Grampians Women's Health – CORE Governance Group		K Bramwell	Nil
Cultivate Agribusiness Central Highlands	CEO	R Davies	Nil
Rail Freight Alliance	A&DS	D Gowans	Cr Eason
Grampians Pyrenees Primary Care Partnership (GPPCP)	C&CS	J Nolan / M Walmsley	N/A

#### ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The Council is requested to determine the allocation of Councillors to the various committees that Pyrenees Shire Council is associated with for the 2021/22 year.

The only changes recommended from the previous year are -

- the representative on Council's Audit & Risk Committee, which is normally the Mayor plus one other Councillor, dependent upon the appointment of new Mayor. Last year this was the Mayor and Cr Eason.
- the newly legislated requirement to include an independent person to provide professional advice on the CEO review process and this has been included in the officer's recommendation, and
- the removal of the Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee, which is no longer a mandated committee.

Changes are highlighted in yellow in the officer recommendations.

### **COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE**

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

### **FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial impacts associated with this report.

### **CONCLUSION**

On an annual basis, at the Statutory Meeting, the Council is required to allocate Councillors to the range of committees that the Council is associated with. This report provides recommendations for allocation for Council consideration and adoption.

**Cr David Clark / Cr Tanya Kehoe**

That Council appoints Councillor representation on committees for 2021/22 as follows:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Dept</b>	<b>Staff Member</b>	<b>Councillor</b>
<b>EXTERNAL - FORMAL</b>			
<b>Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)</b>	CEO	CEO	Cr Clark / Cr Vance
<b>Victorian Local Government Association (VLGA)</b>		N/A	Any Councillors
<b>Central Highlands Councils Victoria (CHCV)</b>	CEO	CEO	Mayor
<b>Rural Councils Victoria Executive Committee</b>	CEO	N/A	Cr Vance
<b>Rural Councils Victoria (RCV)</b>	CEO	CEO	Mayor
<b>Grampians Central West Waste &amp; Resource Recovery Group</b>	A&DS	N/A	Cr Ferrari
<b>Central Highlands LLEN</b>	CEO	N/A	Cr Clark
<b>Timber Towns Victoria</b>	A&DS	Director A&DS	Cr Vance
<b>National Timber Councils Association</b>	A&DS	Director A&DS	Cr Vance
<b>Central Highlands Regional Partnership</b>	CEO	CEO	N/A
<b>Western Highway Action Committee (WHAC)</b>	A&DS	Director A&DS	Cr Ferrari
<b>Sunraysia Highway Action Committee</b>	A&DS	Director A&DS	Cr Eason
<b>Committee for Ballarat</b>	CEO	CEO	Mayor
<b>Beaufort Bypass – EES Technical Reference Group</b>	A&DS	Director A&DS	N/A
<b>Beaufort Bypass – Public Engagement Group (PEG)</b>	A&DS	N/A	Cr Ferrari
<b>Central Victoria Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA)</b>	CEO	Director A&DS	Cr Clark
<b>Central Highlands Children and Youth Area Partnership</b>	C&CS	Director C&CS / Manager Community	N/A
<b>Grampians Women’s Health – CoRE Governance Group</b>	C&CS	Director C&CS	N/A
<b>Rail Freight Alliance</b>	A&DS	Director A&DS	Cr Eason
<b>Grampians Pyrenees Primary Care Partnership (GPPCP)</b>	C&CS	CEO / Manager Community	N/A
<b>Ballarat Rail Action Committee</b>	A&DS	Director A&DS	Cr Clark
<b>EXTERNAL – REPRESENTATIVE ONLY</b>			
<b>Pyrenees Community Safety Advisory Group</b>	C&CS	Director C&CS	Mayor
<b>Library Advisory Council</b>	C&CS	Director C&CS / Manager GRC	N/A
<b>Business for Beaufort</b>	CEO	N/A	Cr Ferrari
<b>Advance Avoca</b>	CEO	N/A	Cr Eason
<b>Beaufort Secondary College Committee</b>		N/A	Cr Ferrari
<b>Youth Foundations Victoria Beaufort Initiative</b>	C&CS	N/A	Cr Kehoe
<b>Langi Kal Kal Community Advisory Group</b>	CEO	CEO	Cr Clark

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Dept</b>	<b>Staff Member</b>	<b>Councillor</b>
<b>INTERNAL</b>			
<b>Audit &amp; Risk Committee</b>	C&CS	Director C&CS	Cr Vance / Cr Ferrari
<b>Services &amp; Assets Management Steering Group</b>	A&DS	Director A&DS	Cr Vance
<b>Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC)</b>	C&CS	MEMO	Cr Kehoe
<b>CEO Review</b>	CEO	CEO	All Councillors plus an independent professional advisor
<b>COMMITTEES OF MANAGEMENT</b>			
<b>Beaufort Community Bank Complex</b>	C&CS	Manager GRC / Director C&CS	Ward Councillor
<b>Brewster Hall</b>	C&CS	Manager GRC / Director C&CS	Ward Councillor
<b>Landsborough Community Precinct</b>	C&CS	Manager GRC / Director C&CS	Ward Councillor
<b>Snake Valley Hall</b>	C&CS	Manager GRC / Director C&CS	Ward Councillor
<b>Waubra Recreation Reserve</b>	C&CS	Manager GRC / Director C&CS	Ward Councillor
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Dept</b>	<b>Staff Member</b>	<b>Councillor</b>
<b>COMMITTEES OF MANAGEMENT cont.</b>			
<b>Avoca Community Arts &amp; Gardens – 2 Station Street (when finalised)</b>	C&CS	CEO / Manager GRC / Director C&CS	Ward Councillor
<b>Lexton Community Centre (when reinstated)</b>	C&CS	Manager GRC / Director C&CS	Ward Councillor
<b>Lexton Community Hub (when determined)</b>	C&CS	Manager GRC / Director C&CS	Ward Councillor
<b>Goldfields Recreation Reserve (when determined)</b>	C&CS	Manager GRC / Director C&CS	Ward Councillor

**CARRIED**



**11. CLOSE OF MEETING**

Statutory Meeting of Council 9 November 2021 closed at 06:21 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting confirmed \_\_\_\_\_

2021      Mayor Cr Ron Eason

## MAYOR'S REPORT

Welcome all to the 2020/21 Statutory Meeting. I would like to reflect on the previous year and highlight some of the challenges we have faced and some of the achievements that we have reached.

To say it's been a hectic and quite tumultuous year for the council is a fairly accurate account of the year. Most of this is attributable to the COVID pandemic, the restrictions and lockdowns we have all had to endure and navigate through and the challenges that council has faced in coordinating a satisfactory level of service delivery to our communities.

The provision of this service comes at cost, not just financially but also personally to our staff right across the organisation who have worked tirelessly to maintain the level of service that our communities expect. I sincerely thank all our staff for their efforts throughout the pandemic.

I am particularly proud of our communities and how they have responded to the lockdowns and restrictions throughout the pandemic. Our business sector has found it increasingly difficult to stay afloat through these times and have displayed incredible resilience and initiative in staying open and providing some level of service. Parents and students have had to manage home schooling, our emergency services have been continually stretched and our communities have displayed a commendable level of resilience, patience and understanding whilst continuing to be vaccinated allowing us to have a pleasing high vaccination rate. We have witnessed so many examples of kindness and commitment it can only be described as humbling.

It's been difficult to make progress with so much time and resources required to be dedicated to responding to the COVID lockdowns and restrictions, however we have still managed to achieve some pleasing goals.

We have seen the completion of the Correa Park development project with the final 40 lots developed, offered for sale and now all purchased. This is an important achievement in the development of Beaufort and I'm sure an achievement that the late Michael O'Conner would be proud of.

We have had 2 towns represented as finalists in the Victorian Top Tourism Town Awards. Although we didn't quite get to win it's such an accolade to have 2 towns being Beaufort and Avoca represented in this program. I feel this is an indicator of how our region is thought of and how the Pyrenees is highly regarded as a destination.

The CEO and I took the journey to Canberra in April to participate in the Local Government Association Forum held there annually. It was a great opportunity to meet our counterparts from across the country and network, especially with our neighbouring councils and representatives as it's important that we work closely and collaboratively with them to achieve the best outcomes. We also took the opportunity to meet with some of the State and Federal Government representatives and discuss a range of issues and provide some advocacy for projects that we would like to see undertaken and funded.

One of the projects is the provision of potable water for Moonambel, a project we would all like to see proceed. It seems a little unbelievable that in this day and age a town such as Moonambel doesn't have this service. We will continue to advocate for this project at every possible opportunity.

We continue to place a high emphasis on our roads network within the Pyrenees. We have around 2000 kilometres of road to maintain within our municipality, and this takes a lot of time resources and money to achieve. About 50% of our revenue is committed to our roads each year so that we can try and maintain them in a satisfactory condition and make improvements to roads, bridges and roadway infrastructure on a priority basis.

We have aligned ourselves to advocacy for the equity and parity in rates to be addressed through a collaborative submission to the government. It has long been known that there are significant inconsistencies in the parity of rates paid by rural residents compared to their metropolitan counterparts. Of course, there are other associated peripheral issues associated with this. None the less being the cost to deliver the service in rural areas compared to metro. We can only hope that this submission gains some support and that necessary changes are considered and implemented to provide some relief to those rural residents.

We are currently dealing with the issues surrounding the Western Victorian Transmission Line project which has certainly created quite a lot of angst and concern from the affected property owners. We are hearing the residents loud and clear and have met with Ausnet on a couple of occasions to try and gather additional information and understanding of the proposal. We join a number of the councils that will have the proposed route pass through their respective footprints. Although we will do our best for our local residents and communities in this space, its always and advantage to work together with the other neighbouring councils to try and achieve the best results.

In 2020 we observed some significant changes to the Local Government Act which is like the 101 manual for councils to operate under. It goes without saying that the changes had substantial impacts on the way we do our business including some quite restrictive timelines applied for change and compliance. We are progressing through the changes quite well but many of them are resource intensive and of course come with a cost attached.

One of the changes was the requirement to have the community involved in the planning and development of the future council plans. This saw the development of a committee through a deliberative engagement process. This committee came together, in their own time and provided the basis of what was to become our Council Plan. The group worked hard to provide excellent vision, ideas and a range of concepts for consideration to be included in the plan. It was quite a different process to what we had previously been accustomed to and I can't thank those members of the deliberative engagement committee enough for their great work and strong desire to be involved in shaping the future of our municipality.

The council continues to remain debt free which is such an incredible achievement considering all the fiscal requirements placed upon us every year.

In closing I would like to again thank the staff of the Pyrenees Council both indoor and outdoor alike for their tireless contributions throughout the last year under what we could only describe as the most trying of times, it's such a credit to you all.

I would also like to thank my fellow councillors who have also contributed so selflessly throughout the past year. As the Mayor you rely on your councillors a great deal, especially in such a small remote type council. Their combined level of experience along with their unwavering dedication is what continually stands us in good stead and allows us to punch high above our weight in such a consistent manner and I thank them sincerely.

Cr Damian Ferrari