



Rural City of
Wangaratta

Minutes

For the Scheduled Council Meeting
Council Chambers, Municipal Offices
62-68 Ovens Street, Wangaratta
6pm 26 November 2024

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1. Acknowledgement to Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands, on which the Rural City of Wangaratta communities reside. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging, and celebrate and respect their continuing cultures. We are committed to walking beside all traditional owners as we move toward reconciliation.

2. Opening Prayer

Almighty God, we humbly ask thee to bless and guide this council in its deliberations so that we may truly preserve the welfare of the people whom we serve. Amen

3. Present

Councillors:

Irene Grant, David Fuller, Harry Bussell, Harvey Benton, Ashlee Fitzpatrick, Allison Winters, Tania Maxwell

Officers:

Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive Officer; Marcus Goonan, Director Community and Infrastructure; Sarah Brindley, Director Corporate and Leisure; Stephen Swart, Director Sustainability and Culture

Administration:

Executive Services Coordinator; Councillor and Executive Services Support Officer

4. Absent

Councillors:

Officers:

5. Acceptance of Apologies & Granting of Leave of Absence

Order of Business

6. Citizen Ceremony

Nil

7. Confirmation of Minutes

Resolution:

That Council read and confirm the Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of 22 October 2024 and the Unscheduled Meeting of 19 November 2024 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the meetings.

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor D Fuller)

Carried

8. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

In accordance with section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020 a councillor who has a conflict of interest in respect of a matter must disclose the conflict of interest in the manner required by Council's Governance Rules and exclude themselves from the decision making process in relation to that matter, including any discussion or vote on the matter and any action in relation to the matter.

Clause 28.1 of Council's Governance Rules requires a councillor to indicate that they have a conflict of interest by clearly stating:

- (a) the item for which they have a conflict of interest; and
- (b) whether their conflict of interest is general or material; and
- (c) the circumstances that give rise to the conflict of interest.

Immediately prior to the consideration of the item in which they have a conflict of interest, a councillor must indicate to the meeting the existence of the conflict of interest and leave the meeting.

A councillor who discloses a conflict of interest and leaves a Council meeting must not communicate with any participants in the meeting while the decision is being made.

9. Reception of Petitions

10. Hearing of Deputations

Presentation Of Reports

11. Councillor Reports

Nil

Officers' Reports

12. Executive Services

12.1 2025 Council Meeting Dates and Locations (03:00)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	26 November 2024
Author:	Councillor and Executive Services Support Officer
Approver:	Executive Services Coordinator

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council for consideration of the dates and venues for Council meetings in 2025.

Resolution:

That Council endorses the following schedule of council meeting dates, times, and locations for 2025:

<i>Tuesday 25 February 2025</i>	<i>6:00pm Wangaratta</i>
<i>Tuesday 25 March 2025</i>	<i>6:00pm Murmungee</i>
<i>Tuesday 22 April 2025</i>	<i>6:00pm Moyhu</i>
<i>Tuesday 27 May 2025</i>	<i>3:00pm Wangaratta</i>
<i>Tuesday 24 June 2025</i>	<i>3:00pm Wangaratta</i>
<i>Tuesday 22 July 2025</i>	<i>3:00pm Wangaratta</i>
<i>Tuesday 26 August 2025</i>	<i>3:00pm Wangaratta</i>
<i>Tuesday 23 September 2025</i>	<i>6:00pm Glenrowan</i>
<i>Tuesday 28 October 2025</i>	<i>6:00pm Tarrawingee</i>
<i>Tuesday 25 November 2025</i>	<i>6:00pm Wangaratta</i>
<i>Tuesday 16 December 2025</i>	<i>3:00pm Wangaratta</i>

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor A Fitzpatrick)

Carried

Background

Council's Governance Rules require that at or before the last scheduled council meeting each calendar year, Council must fix the date, time, and place of all scheduled council meetings for the following calendar year.

Council has maintained a custom of conducting four council meetings annually in rural townships since 1997.

A summary of the council meeting locations and the number of meetings previously held at each location between 1997-2024 is outlined below.

LOCATION	No. Meetings
Boorhaman	5
Bowmans/Murmungee	4
Carboor	5
Cheshunt	4
Edi Upper	4
Eldorado	5
Everton	4
Glenrowan	4
Greta/Hansonville	5
Milawa	5
Moyhu	4
Myrree	4
Oxley	5
Peechelba	5
South Wangaratta	5
Springhurst	5
Tarrowingee	4
Whitfield	5
Whorouly	5

Council must establish its schedule of council meeting dates and venues for 2025 to allow for notice to be given to the public and for internal planning.

The 2025 council meeting dates and venues schedule has been developed to achieve a geographical spread of rural meetings throughout the year.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Council's Governance Rules specify how council meetings must be scheduled and conducted. This report follows the approach specified in those rules.

Financial/Economic Implications

There are no financial or economic implications identified for the subject of this report.

Legal/Statutory

There are no legal/statutory implications identified for the subject of this report.

Social

Conducting council meetings in rural townships promotes closer interaction with all areas of the municipality.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental/ sustainability impacts identified for this subject of this report.

Strategic Links

Council Plan 2021 – 2025

This report supports the 2021-2025 Council Plan through the following objectives and actions:

1. Strengthening our Leadership

1.1.1.5 Ensure opportunities exist for all residents to access council decision making by holding a minimum of four council meetings in rural communities.

Consultation/Communication

Council's 2025 meeting dates and venues will be confirmed publicly prior to each meeting.

Conclusion

Council must determine a meeting schedule for the coming year to provide advance notice to the community regarding the proposed time and location of council meetings.

Attachments

Nil

13. Corporate and Leisure

13.1 Updated Instruments of Delegation (04:17)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	26 November 2024
Author:	Governance & Reporting Advisor
Approver:	Director Corporate & Leisure

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to adopt updates required to Council's Instruments of Delegation to ensure they remain compliant with the latest legislative developments.

Resolution:

In the exercise of the power conferred by s 11(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020 (the Act)*, Wangaratta Rural City Council (**Council**) resolves that –

1. There be delegated to the person holding the position, or acting in or performing the duties, of Chief Executive Officer the powers, duties and functions set out in the attached *Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer (Attachment 1)*, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument.
2. The instrument comes into force immediately upon this resolution being made and is to be signed by the Council's Chief Executive Officer and the Mayor.
3. On the coming into force of the instrument all previous delegations to the Chief Executive Officer are revoked.
4. The duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.

AND

In the exercise of the powers conferred by the legislation referred to in the attached instrument of delegation, Wangaratta Rural City Council (**Council**) resolves that –

1. There be delegated to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in the attached *Instrument of Delegation to members of Council staff (Attachment 2)*, the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument.

2. The instrument comes into force immediately upon this resolution being made and is to be signed by the Council's Chief Executive Officer and the Mayor.
3. On the coming into force of the instrument all previous delegations to members of Council staff (other than the Chief Executive Officer) are revoked.
4. The duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.

(Moved: Councillor H Bussell/Councillor H Benton)

Carried

Background

Council provides a wide range of services to its residents and requires decisions to be made on an extensive range of matters. It is impractical for the elected Council members or the CEO to provide all these services and make all these decisions by themselves. The *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic) recognises this and allows for the Council and CEO to delegate some of their functions to other staff within the organisation who have the relevant expertise or knowledge on the subject matter. Some of these delegations have been amended to satisfy operational or legislative changes.

Maddocks law firm provides Council with regular notifications of amendments required to the Instruments of Delegations as legislation and regulations evolve.

Section 11(7) of the Act requires that Council must review all delegations which have been made under this section and are still in force within twelve months of a general election. **Attachment 1** of this report is the S5 Instrument of Delegation from Council to the Chief Executive Officer made under this section.

Implications

Policy Considerations

There are no specific Council policies or strategies that relate to this report.

Financial/Economic Implications

There are no financial or economic implications identified for the subject of this report.

Legal/Statutory

Council has legal requirements under a variety of legislation. Ensuring that appropriate Council officers have delegated authority provides assurance that Council is complying with this legislation.

Social and Diversity

There are no social impacts identified for the subject of this report.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental/sustainability impacts identified for the subject of this report.

Risk Management

Risk Management Framework

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Insufficient delegations coverage resulting in legislative non-compliance.	Unlikely	Moderate	5 - Medium	Ensure sufficient Council delegates are provided.

Consultation/Communication

Officers believe that appropriate consultation with Councillors and Council Officers has occurred and the matter is now ready for formal Council consideration.

Options for Consideration

1. Adopt the updated Instruments of Delegation.
2. Request consideration of any other proposed changes, with the updated Instrument(s) of Delegation to be presented to a future council meeting once appropriate advice has been taken.

Conclusion

Council is recommended to endorse the updated Instruments of Delegations following updates from Maddocks and internal consultation having been completed.

Attachments

- 1 S5 Instrument of Delegation - Council to the CEO 
- 2 S6 Instrument of Delegation - Council to Council Staff 

Questions: (05:33)

Councillor Bussell asked for the CEO to explain why we actually do this.

CEO Brendan McGrath responded:

Council has obligations under many Acts of Parliament in Victoria. Those pieces of legislation require the Council to do, or be responsible for, a whole range of things, and there are many thousands of those. So

clearly it's not practical for this group sitting around this table to make every decision, or act on every requirement in every piece of legislation, so all of those legal requirements are attributed to a relevant position in the organisation, and those people then have the authority to carry out whatever it is that that piece of legislation requires them to do. That could relate to cemeteries, planning and building, environmental health, a range of engineering obligations, all different parts of our business where legal obligations exist, people work within those parts of the business and this is the authority to do whatever it is that that piece of legislation requires.

13.2 Model Councillor Code of Conduct (07:22)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	26 November 2024
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Executive Assistant Corporate & Leisure
Approver:	Director Corporate and Leisure

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to note the new Model Councillor Code of Conduct.

Resolution:

That Council:

1. Revokes the existing Councillor Code of Conduct;
2. Applies the Model Councillor Code of Conduct.

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor A Fitzpatrick)

Carried

Background

The Model Councillor Code of Conduct (**Attachment 2**) came into effect on 26 October 2024 and applies to all councillors across Victoria. This Model Code replaces Council's existing Councillor Code of Conduct (**Attachment 1**) which was adopted on 23 February 2021. Following a change in legislation, the Model Code does *not* require Council endorsement and now applies automatically upon each councillor-elect undertaking the oath/affirmation of office. On this basis, the Model Code now applies to all councillors. This report seeks councillors to formally note this, and to revoke the prior Code of Conduct which is no longer required.

The Model Code seeks to establish the obligations of councillors in performing their role, namely:

- representing the municipality as a whole, rather than the Ward in which they were elected;
- being fit to perform the role of a councillor;
- using council's resources diligently to ensure they are well-informed;
- not performing any functions or responsibilities of the CEO (as defined in the Act); and
- supporting the Mayor in their Mayoral functions and duties.

The Model Code also prescribes the minimum standards of behaviour expected of elected representatives and their obligation to treat fellow councillors, members of council staff and members of the public by:

- not engaging in demeaning, abusive, obscene or threatening behaviour;
- not engaging in behaviour that intentionally causes/perpetuates stigma, stereotyping, prejudice or aggression against a person or class of persons;
- not engaging in discrimination or vilification;
- supporting council in developing and maintaining respectful relationships and partnerships with Traditional Owners and the Aboriginal community;
- supporting council in fulfilling its obligations to achieving and promoting gender equality;
- ensuring that behaviours and interactions with children are consistent with council policies and the *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005*;
- complying with any council policy that supports arrangements for interactions between members of Council staff and councillors; and
- taking reasonable care to protect the health and safety, including psychological safety, of themselves, fellow councillors, council staff and members of the public.

The Model Code further prescribes that councillors must comply with the Council Expenses Policy, Governance Rules (and specifically in relation to conduct at Council and Delegated Committee Meeting and during the election period), the Councillor Gift Policy and any Ministerial Direction given under section 175 of the Act (relating to governance processes and failures).

Finally, the Model Code outlines that councillors must act with integrity, exercise reasonable care and diligence and take reasonable steps to avoid any action with may diminish the public's trust and confidence in the integrity of local government by:

- ensuring their behaviour does not bring discredit upon the council;
- not deliberately misleading the council or the public about any matter relating to the performance of their public duties;
- not making council information publicly available where that public availability would be contrary to the public interest; and
- never, expressly or impliedly, request preferential treatment for themselves or a related person or entity.

Implications

Policy Considerations

There are no specific Council policies or strategies that relate to this report.

Legal/Statutory

The Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2024 prescribes the Model Councillor Code of Conduct which is applicable to all Councils.

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

There are no equity impacts identified for the subject of this report.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental/ sustainability impacts identified for the subject of this report.

Strategic Links

Council Plan 2021 – 2025

This report supports the 2021-2025 Council Plan through the following objectives and actions:

1. Strengthening our Leadership

1.1.1.6 Continue to provide transparency for the community regarding the information being considered in decision making processes,

Risk Management

Risk Management Framework

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Failure to have in effect a robust code of conduct framework may result in poor conduct by councillors.	2 - Unlikely	Major	6 - Medium	Ensuring councillors are aware of their obligations under the Model Councillor Code of Conduct mitigates this risk.

Consultation/Communication

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Options for Consideration

Nil other options available for consideration as Model Councillor Code of Conduct automatically has effect as of 26 October 2024 under legislation.

Conclusion

The Model Councillor Code of Conduct prescribes the minimum standards of behaviour expected of elected representatives and their obligations to treat fellow councillors, members of council staff and members of the public.

Attachments

- 1 Councillor Code of Conduct 2021 
- 2 Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2024 

14. Community and Infrastructure

14.1 Award Supply of Asphalt and Paving Services (09:12)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	26 November 2024
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Maintenance Coordinator
Approver:	Director Community and Infrastructure

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to Award Panel Contract C43849 – Supply of asphalt and asphalt paving.

The Rural City of Wangaratta is seeking reliable, suitable, experienced, competitively priced panel of competent, qualified and certified suppliers to provide a prompt and efficient service to supply asphalt products and asphalt paving services to assist council in its road maintenance and road reconstruction programs.

Resolution:

That Council:

1. Awards contract C43849 - Supply of Asphalt and Asphalt Paving to:
 - Sessions Asphalt
 - Downer EDI Works Pty Ltd
 - Country Wide Asphalt Pty Ltd
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign and seal all the relevant contract documents (including any extensions) for contract C43849 Supply of Asphalt and Asphalt Paving.

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor T Maxwell)

Carried

Background

Council seeks to establish a panel of supplies for the supply of asphalt and asphalt paving services.

Council Officers reviewed the opportunities for collaboration with other Councils or public bodies but couldn't find any suitable for this project.

The term of the contract is for two (2) years with an additional one (1) x one x (1) one x (1) one year extension up to a maximum total period of (5) five years. Exercising the optional extension period(s) shall be at the sole discretion of the CEO and subject to the satisfactory performance during the initial contract period.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Council's procurement policy outlines the approved methods and processes for procurement.

Financial/Economic Implications

The number of suppliers will secure value for money, reliability, for councils road maintenance / capital works / road reconstruction programs. Supply will be undertaken within Council's existing budget.

Legal/Statutory

There are no legal/statutory implications identified for the subject of this report.

Social and Diversity

There are no social impacts identified for the subject of this report.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental/ sustainability impacts identified for the subject of this report.

Strategic Links

Council Plan 2021 – 2025

This report supports the 2021-2025 Council Plan through the following objectives and actions:

1. Strengthening our Leadership

1.2 - An effective and efficient Council

1.3 - Partnerships that bring benefit and opportunities to our community

Rural City of Wangaratta 2033 Community Vision

This report supports the 2033 Community Vision through the following objective:

C1 - Ensure Council's financial sustainability through transparent and accountable financial management

Risk Management

Risk Management Framework

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Inability to provide Council with value for	Possible (3)	Moderate (3)	Medium (9)	Council may seek multiple quotes from the

money				panel to ensure value for money
Avalibility of quality trade services	Unlikely (2)	Moderate (3)	Medium(6)	Council evaluates all submissions to ensure quality of service

Consultation/Communication

This was a public Tender process and no community consultation was required. Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Options for Consideration

1. Awards contract C43849 – Supply of Asphalt and Asphalt Paving to Sessions Asphalt, Downer EDI Pty Ltd Country Wide Asphalt Pty Ltd as outlined in the elvaluation report.
2. Not award contract C43849 – Supply of Asphalt and Asphalt Paving in accordance with approved evaluation report and retender publicly as per Council's procurement policy.

Conclusion

Following an internal evaluation against pre-determined evaluation criteria and weightings, contract contract C43849 – Supply of asphalt and asphalt paving is recommended to be awarded to Sessions Asphalt, Downer EDI Pty Ltd Country Wide Asphalt Pty Ltd in accordance with attached evaluation report.

Attachments

- 1 Evaluation Report - Supply of Asphalt and Asphalt Paving Panel - Confidential

Questions: (10:23)

Anne Dunstan

Once the asphalt goes into a roadway, what's the warranty period for contractors to maintain that, and make sure we're not going back to repair it?

Director Marcus Goonan responded:

It does vary on the contract. Road construction contracts will generally be 12 months. There's what's called a defects period over that 12 months where we do an initial inspection after the contractor advises us that the works are complete, and then the clock starts ticking from there for 12 months which is called final completion. With these type of projects, they're going to tend to be more just the supply of material and maybe some minor patching works because they are under a panel, it depends on the size of the work, but generally they don't have a defect period. There would be a warranty on product though.

14.2 Award Supply and Delivery of Concrete (12:20)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	26 November 2024
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Maintenance Coordinator
Approver:	Director Community and Infrastructure

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to Award Contract C43850 – Supply and Delivery of concrete.

The Rural City of Wangaratta is seeking reliable, suitable, experienced, competitively priced Panel of competent, qualified, and certified suppliers to provide a prompt and efficient service to supply concrete products to assist council in its footpath / kerb and channel and maintenance programs and requirements.

Resolution:

That Council:

1. Awards Contract C43850 – Supply and Delivery of Concrete to:
 1. Eb Mawson and sons Pty Ltd
 2. Lima South Quarry Pty Ltd
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign and seal all the relevant contract documents (including any extensions) when available, including possible extensions.

(Moved: Councillor A Fitzpatrick/Councillor H Benton)

Carried

Background

Council Officers explored opportunities for collaboration with other councils and public bodies but were unable to identify any suitable for this project.

Historically, this tender has received minimal submissions and has often resulted in a sole-supplier outcome.

The tender process was conducted via eProcure, open to all registered contractors. A review of the contractor list ensured that all companies supplying concrete within a 100km radius were registered. Of these, four companies downloaded the tender documentation, with two submitting a formal proposal.

The contract term is set for an initial two (2) years, with the option of two (2) additional extensions of one (1) year each, up to a maximum total period of five (5) years. The decision to exercise these optional extensions lies at the sole discretion of the CEO and will depend on satisfactory performance during the initial contract period.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Council's procurement policy outlines the approved methods and processes for procurement.

Financial/Economic Implications

The number of suppliers will secure value for money, reliability, for councils road maintenance / capital works / road reconstruction programs. Supply will be undertaken within Council's existing budget.

Legal/Statutory

There are no legal/statutory implications identified for the subject of this report.

Social and Diversity

There are no social impacts identified for the subject of this report.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental/ sustainability impacts identified for the subject of this report.

Strategic Links

Council Plan 2021 – 2025

This report supports the 2021-2025 Council Plan through the following objectives and actions:

1. Strengthening our Leadership

1.2 - An effective and efficient Council

1.3 - Partnerships that bring benefit and opportunities to our community

Rural City of Wangaratta 2033 Community Vision

This report supports the 2033 Community Vision through the following objective:

C1 - Ensure Council's financial sustainability through transparent and accountable financial management

Risk Management

Risk Management Framework

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Inability to provide Council with value for money	Possible (3)	Moderate (3)	Medium (9)	Council may seek multiple quotes from the panel to ensure

				value for money
Avalibility of quality trade services	Unlikely (2)	Moderate (3)	Medium(6)	Council evaluates all submissions to ensure quality of service

Consultation/Communication

This was a public Tender Process and no community consultation was required. Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Options for Consideration

1. Award Contract C43850 – Supply and Delivery of Concrete to Eb Mawsons and Sons Pty Ltd and Lima South Quarry Pty Ltd as outlined in the evaluation report.
2. Not award contract C43850 – Supply and Delivery of concrete in accordance with approved evaluation report and retender publicly as per Council's procurement policy.

Conclusion

Following an internal evaluation against pre-determined evaluation criteria and weightings, contract contract Contract C43850 – Supply and Delivery of Concrete is recommended to be awarded to Concrete to Eb Mawsons and Sons Pty Ltd and Lima South Quarry Pty Ltd in accordance with attached evaluation report.

Attachments

- 1 C43850 - Supply & Delivery of Concrete - Evaluation Report - Confidential

15. Sustainability and Culture

Nil

16. Special Committee Reports

Nil

17. Advisory Committee Reports

Nil

18. Minutes of Advisory Committee Meetings

Nil

19. Notices of Motion

Nil

20. Urgent Business

Nil

21. Public Question Time (14:27)

21.1	<p>Jennifer Garrett (14:55)</p> <p>At the council elections, the Rural City of Wangaratta governance team issued all candidates with election signage rules, which were a combination of local law, planning scheme and VEC requirements.</p> <p>My two-part question is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1) How were these rules policed?2) What penalties were applied to those who breached the rules? <p><i>CEO Brendan McGrath responded: Council relied on notification from the public if there was a breach of signage rules.</i></p>
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	<p><i>Council was notified of one breach of these signage rules, after speaking to the candidate the breach was quickly rectified</i></p> <p><i>There were no penalties applied for any breach of electoral signage rules.</i></p> <p>Jennifer Garrett:</p> <p>So how was it policed?</p> <p><i>CEO Brendan McGrath responded:</i></p> <p><i>We didn't go out doing proactive inspections around the municipality. We relied on reports of any issues to be made to us and we had one of those which we were able to address. Like many of our compliance issues, we are generally dealing with things that are reported to us, rather than going out and discovering problems.</i></p> <p>Jennifer Garrett:</p> <p>So if it is reported to you, then you would address it?</p> <p><i>CEO Brendan McGrath responded:</i></p> <p>Yes.</p>
21.2	<p>Jennifer Garrett (16:48)</p> <p>Transparency of council was a key issue at the recent council election. In an effort to improve the transparency of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor election process, prior to voting could the public and, indeed, other councillors who are voting, hear a short verbal statement from those nominating about what they bring to the respective positions?</p> <p><i>Mayor Grant responded:</i></p> <p><i>Given that I was involved in that, I can say that the election of Mayor and Deputy was an open and transparent process. It was conducted in the Council Chamber and that particular meeting was open to the public. The Governance Rules allow for candidates to speak to their election and that's at the discretion of the nominee, and on that particular night, no one elected to do that.</i></p> <p>Jennifer Garrett:</p> <p>As I saw it, it was asked for nominees, and then it was asked for a vote, no one was asked to speak to their nomination.</p> <p><i>Mayor Grant responded:</i></p> <p><i>There is an opportunity for people to do that if they wanted to, but nobody indicated that that was what they wanted to do.</i></p> <p>Jennifer Garrett:</p> <p>My point is for the public, particularly when there are multiple nominees, it would be</p>

	<p>lovely to hear what people bring to it so we can understand the way that the Council is voting. Maybe in the future you could look at doing that.</p>
21.3	<p>Michael Chambeyron (19:18)</p> <p>President of Senior Citizens Club of Wangaratta.</p> <p>We have about 140 members at this stage. We operate at Tara Court, 5 days a week, every afternoon. One of the problems I see with the Arts Centre going ahead – 46 car parks going. I'm 80 years old, but there's a lot of members that are a lot older than me with wheeled walkers. There's no way they can go from the carpark at the Co-Store over to here so it's a big problem. They utilise those 46 spaces most days. It's not only our problem, but the church, the school, even the Arts Centre.</p> <p>My suggestion, which I put into the paper a couple of weeks ago, is why not go up one storey with the Arts Centre. I'm not against the Art Centre, but losing 46 spaces is too much. It's going to cost a whole lot more to go up, but in the long run, \$200,000 now could save a lot of problems later with parking problems. It's shortsighted to just say we'll knock over all those parks. And as far as senior citizens go, it's crucial that we've got those parks.</p> <p><i>Mayor Grant responded:</i> I understand what you're saying. In terms of the cultural precinct and the work that has been done, there's been a huge amount of work that's gone into the planning for that and we're still working with the community to ensure that it is going to be the best possible outcome. To go up has been considered, but the cost is more than \$200,000, so it's quite prohibitive. There's other ways we can work through that process.</p> <p><i>CEO Brendan McGrath responded:</i> There is currently a Planning Permit application being assessed at the moment for that project. One of a number of things that we'll have to be able to demonstrate through the planning application is that we can provide sufficient parking, and that will need to be demonstrated in the same way as it would for anybody else applying to the Council for approval to do a project like this. We've done a number of reviews of parking availability around the CBD and they tell us that there is still parking capacity available most of the time, despite the fact that people often tell us that there isn't any parking available and that's done by actual observations of the car parks and parking practices. I'm very happy once that planning permit gets to the point of being determined, to come and have conversations with the Senior Cit's about whether there might be different additional requirements that we might need to make. It may be that we need a couple of extra disabled bays or, as the Mayor stated, it may be that we need to make some alterations to the permit approvals that are available to members so that they can park close by and not be at risk of being fined. So I think there are a number of options that can be considered to accommodate your needs. Assuming the planning permit is ultimately issued in favour of that development.</p>
21.4	<p>Ken Daly (26:25)</p> <p>Secretary Treasurer of Wangaratta Senior Citizens</p> <p>Will Council vigorously pursue government funding for the proposed community</p>

	<p>hub at Wareena Park?</p> <p><i>Mayor Grant responded: Council is pursuing funding, but funding from both federal and state is pretty tight, but we're certainly working as hard as we possibly can to ensure that whatever is out there, that we can be recipients of.</i></p> <p><i>Director Marcus Goonan responded: Our staff have been communicating with the Senior Cit's consistently over the past 12 months. We're up to our 3rd application that has unfortunately been knocked back. Each one of those applications requires a really significant amount of detail, but we're certainly looking hard at every opportunity and every piece of funding that comes across. That is one of our money advocacy projects, it sits within our 10 advocacy projects that Council have endorsed and we continue to look for funding for that. It doesn't mean that that needs to be the sole way we move forward, there is other options out there, and as I'm sure you've been made aware, we've talked about other options that might enable a move out to Wareena Park that wouldn't involve the full Senior Cit's being built right at the moment, but I'm happy to continue having those discussions and we're certainly trying to get funding from anywhere we can.</i></p>
21.5	<p>John Kirby (29:21)</p> <p>Moyhu Action Group</p> <p>Congratulations to Councillors on appointments to current Council.</p> <p>We require work to be done in Moyhu and the valley. We have a Good, Better, Best approach to the work we would like attended to:</p> <p>Good – Formed walking and bike trail for primary school students to use from the corner of Bartley Street and Byrne Street to the bridge that goes over Boggy Creek</p> <p>Better – Rail Trail from the Oxley roundabout to Moyhu</p> <p>Best – Walking path from the intersection of Byrne and Bartley Street to the Recreation Reserve.</p> <p>Of course there are many more, but will you work tirelessly to help us achieve our goals in and around Moyhu?</p> <p><i>Mayor Grant responded: The short answer to the working tirelessly with you, absolutely.</i></p> <p><i>CEO Brendan McGrath responded: We are proposing to change the way we do community consultation for our budgets. In the past we've typically developed a draft budget which we spend months and months pulling together, then we ask people for comments or suggestions at the end of that process where it's very hard to accommodate changes. Ultimately we end up making a few minor alterations and adopting a final version.</i></p>

This time around we'll be doing that budget consultation prior to developing the draft. The timing of that, Director Brindley, is that late this year, or early next calendar year we will be going out and asking that question?

*Director Sarah Brindley responded:
It's actually going to come in the next week or two, so that will come out to the community.*

*CEO Brendan McGrath responded:
So there's the first solid opportunity to put in a submission for funding for particular projects, so get your heads together with your Moyhu comrades there and make sure you've got some detail and some costings, if that's possible, so you can submit that. The second thing I was going to reference was the infrastructure plans that we did in Moyhu, I don't know whether any of those three projects were included when that consultation was undertaken to develop that infrastructure plan or not.*

*Director Marcus Goonan responded:
I would need to go back and have a look. I'm fairly sure the footpath down over Boggy Creek connecting up the river, which is the one that still requires a bridge, which I know one of my staff is working with the Moyhu Action Group on, was definitely on there. I don't believe the others were. Certainly for the Rail Trail connection to Oxley, that is one that we've had a number of conversations about, that there is currently no design, and we're obviously looking to complete the works that we have already designed, which essentially go up towards Whitfield and through Cheshunt.*

22. Confidential Business

Nil

23. Closure of Meeting

The Meeting closed at 6:35pm.