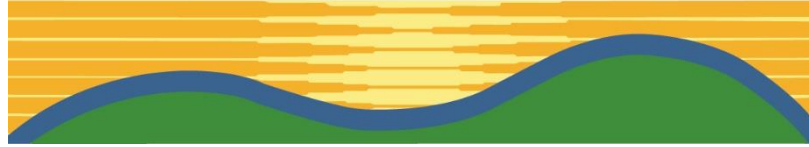


**MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL**



**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY 08 NOVEMBER 2017**



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**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE  
MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL HELD AT MITCHELL CIVIC  
CENTRE, 113 HIGH STREET BROADFORD ON  
8 NOVEMBER 2017**

**THE MEETING OPENED:** 7.00pm

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT**

Cr Annie Goble Central Ward  
Cr David Atkinson Central Ward  
Cr Bob Humm Central Ward

Cr Bill Chisholm North Ward  
Cr Rhonda Sanderson North Ward  
Cr Fiona Stevens North Ward

Cr David Lowe South Ward  
Cr Rob Eldridge South Ward  
Cr Bob Cornish South Ward

**OFFICERS PRESENT**

Mr David Turnbull Chief Executive Officer  
Mr Laurie Ellis Director Governance and Corporate Performance  
Ms Mary Agostino Director Advocacy and Community Services  
Ms Lidia Harding Governance and Corporate Accountability Coordinator

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**1 WELCOME**

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr David Turnbull welcomed Councillors, Council officers and members of the gallery to the Special Statutory Meeting of Mitchell Shire Council.

**2 ELECTION OF TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON**

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr David Turnbull invited nominations for election of Temporary Chairperson.

Cr Humm nominated Cr Stevens for election as Temporary Chairperson. Cr Cornish seconded the nomination.

### **3 GOVERNANCE DECLARATION**

The Governance Declaration was read by Cr Stevens.

### **4 APOLOGIES**

Nil

### **5**

Nil

### **6 MAYORAL REPORT (2016-2017 COUNCIL YEAR)**

Cr Rhonda Sanderson presented the following Mayoral report for the 2016-2017 Council Year.

Good evening everyone,

Thank you all for being here tonight

It's been a real privilege to serve as Mayor of Mitchell Shire Council this past year and

I'd just like to take a few minutes to outline some of the highlights as I see them.

Firstly, the new council.

I am very proud of what we, as a new group of Councillors, have achieved in our first year together and I have no doubt that this Council will continue to achieve fantastic results for our community throughout the remainder of our four-year term.

I'm very proud of the positive and productive way we have been working together and also how focussed everyone has been on achieving great results in partnership with our community.

The decisions we have made in this past 12 months demonstrate our strong commitment to our community and to the vision and mission of Mitchell Shire Council.

Our vision: Together with the community, creating a sustainable future

Our mission: Working with our communities to build a great quality of life.

Everything we have done, comes back to these two statements.

And it has been a very busy first year for the new Council!

We were sworn in last November, and by February we were working with the community to develop a number of crucial plans and documents, including the new four-year Council Plan, our 2017-18 Council Budget, our long term financial plan, the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and the Road Management Plan.

We consulted widely with our community and received fantastic responses: for example, 1200 responses for the Council Plan.

These plans and the budget were developed with our long term financial sustainability firmly in mind and I'm pleased to say that this Council has taken a very disciplined, restrained approach to our finances.

Secondly, the organisation's achievements.

As we are a new Council, a significant part of our first seven months was spent developing our own long term plans while overseeing the implementation of the final months of the previous Council's Council Plan and Budget.

It has been wonderful to see a number of key infrastructure projects successfully completed during the past 12 months, many of which, to be quite transparent, were initiated by the previous Council, including:

- the Community Bank® Adventure Playground in Wallan
- upgrades to Hudson Park in Kilmore and Harley Hammond Reserve in Broadford
- the new Wallan Family and Children's Centre
- female friendly changerooms at Greenhill Reserve in Wallan
- the new Broadford Youth Room, and
- three bridges rebuilt in Highlands and Whiteheads Creek.

Many of these projects were part funded through successful grant applications.

The most significant project completed was the visionary purchase of a large parcel of future recreational land at Greenhill in Wallan after many years work and negotiation. This purchase at the entrance to Wallan will become an iconic and valuable site for our entire Mitchell Shire community.

Other projects now underway include:

- the Wallan Town Heart revitalisation project
- the Greater Beveridge Community Centre
- the Broadford Living and Learning Centre upgrade
- the new Broadford Maternal and Child Health Centre,
- an integrated community and learning hub at Seymour College and
- new change facilities and a second netball court at Kings Park Seymour, and
- the new outdoor space at the Seymour Library.

Again, largely undertaken with the assistance of significant external funding.

New and upgraded infrastructure projects are the more visible achievements of Council, however, much of Council's crucial work is 'unseen', such as, advocacy, long-term planning and policy-making.

Council has worked hard behind the scenes to continue to advocate for better services and facilities for our community to build a great quality of life.

I'm very pleased with our ability to strongly advocate on behalf of our community for support from other levels of government, and our ability to raise awareness of our Shire's unique needs and challenges: our shire is mostly rural land yet we are located on the interface with Melbourne, we have growing peri-urban townships and the southern areas of the shire are facing significant population growth.

The successful results of Council's advocacy are shown in the substantial funding received for a range of projects, many of which I have just mentioned.

I'm very pleased at how the new Council has continued to support the work done by past Councils in managing and planning for our shire's growth towards 210,000 residents.

The previous Council adopted structure plans for Wallan, Kilmore and Wandong/Heathcote Junction and this current Council is continuing to plan for the future by commencing the Planning Scheme Amendments to implement these plans.

We are currently finalising the Seymour Structure Plan and we intend to begin the Broadford Structure Plan in coming months.

Council has also participated in the State Government's long term land use planning for Beveridge, Mandalay and Lockerbie.

This year has been a real team effort and the work the Council has done during the past 12 months would not have been possible without councillors, council staff, the community and our local MPS all pulling in the same direction.

In closing, I would like to thank the Mitchell community for their support of Council and for the active participation of community members in the many community organisation's and groups which make Mitchell Shire such a fantastic community and

I sincerely thank all our community members who have taken the time to engage with Council to help us deliver the best possible outcomes for our region.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their support and acknowledge their continuing commitment to work hard for our community.

We've aimed to make the Council more transparent and I think we are getting there.

We have consulted more with our community and we have advocated strongly for Mitchell Shire.

I would like to recognise the work of my Deputy Mayor, Cr David Lowe, who has performed his role very well and with great dedication and humour over the past 12 months.

He's very dependable and has provided great support by deputising for me at a range of events across the State.

I'd also like to thank our local State and Federal Government members for their support across so many important projects and for their work behind the scenes helping to meet the needs of our community.

We could not fund all the new and upgraded infrastructure our community needs without their help.

Every grant we receive, frees up precious rates funding for other priority projects, such as, footpaths, roads and recreational facilities.

I would also like to recognise the dedicated staff of this organisation for their work in delivering so many wonderful services for our community - over 100!

Councillors are often the face of the organisation but it is the staff who do all the hard grind.

I'd particularly like to thank our CEO David Turnbull for his wise counsel and his calm and experienced leadership of the organisation.

Finally, I would like to give a special Thankyou to my husband Robbie and my daughters Katharine and Bridget and my parents Mick and Yvonne for their amazing support.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of being Mayor and have valued the support I have received from my fellow Councillors, Council officers, staff, and the community

Thank you.

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED:** CR. D. ATKINSON

**SECONDED:** CR. D. LOWE

**THAT** the Mayoral Report for the 2016-2017 Council year be received and noted.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **7 TERM OF OFFICE OF MAYOR**

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED:** CR. B. CHISHOLM

**SECONDED:** CR. D. LOWE

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**THAT** Council resolve to elect a Mayor for a term of one year.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



## 8 ELECTION OF MAYOR

The Temporary Chairperson, Cr Stevens called for nominations for election of the office of Mayor.

Cr Eldridge nominated Cr Sanderson for the election to the office of Mayor. The nomination was seconded by Cr Chisholm.

As there were no further nominations, the Temporary Chairperson declared Cr Sanderson elected as Mayor of Mitchell Shire Council for the 2017-2018 Council year, and invited the election Mayor to assume the Chair.

The Mayor, Cr Sanderson made a brief address to Councillors and members of the gallery.

## 9 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

The Mayor, Cr Sanderson called for nominations for election of the office of Deputy Mayor.

Cr Humm nominated Cr Lowe for the election to the office of Deputy Mayor. The nomination was seconded by Cr Stevens.

As there were no further nominations, Cr Lowe was elected Deputy of Mitchell Shire Council for the 2017-2018 Council year.

The Deputy Mayor, Cr Lowe made a brief address to Councillors and members of the gallery.

We came together some 12 months ago as a group of individuals with no collective experience of being a Council.

There were three returning Councillors, one who did have past experience but not recent and five novices.

I now count them all as friends.

I would like to thank the experienced Councillors for their counselling (pause for laughs) and particularly Councillor Sanderson for her guidance, help and assistance.

I believe we have come a long way in a short time – time that sometimes feels very short but at other times I feel I have known my colleagues forever.

Looking backwards, as you did Madam Mayor, we have had to have some difficult conversations, and even some strong disagreements, but we have dealt with them with disagreement over “content” not as personal battles although it has got quite – what shall we say “heated” at times. Even though we often have strong, different opinions on many issues we have managed to balance the strength of feeling with a determination to work together.

Looking forward we are faced with a number of issues that are challenging and difficult and require us to balance often opposite extremes.

We need to balance the needs of the rapidly growing South of the shire with the needs of the more mature North and with the Centre which has both.

We need to balance the requirement of the very young and the youth with the needs of the older elements of our population.

We need to balance the transport needs of the commuters with the needs for jobs in the Shire.

Hopefully "balance" will be the watchword for the rest of this Council's existence.

I, and the I am sure I speak for the rest of the Councillors as well, am excited by these challenges and am confident we will rise to meet them.

I would also like to record my thanks to David Turnbull and his team who support us and suffer from the demands we make. We are seriously indebted to you David for your guidance and sharing your experience.

Thank you.

## 10 APPOINTMENT OF ACTING MAYOR

It is recommended that the elected Deputy Mayor, Cr Lowe be appointed to be Acting Mayor for the purposes of section 73(3) of the *Local Government Act 1989*. This appointment will eliminate the need for a specific Council resolution to appoint a Temporary Chairperson if I, the Mayor is absent at any time during this term of office.

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

**MOVED:** CR. B. HUMM

**SECONDED:** CR. B. CORNISH

**THAT** Cr Lowe, Deputy Mayor be appointed as Acting Mayor for the purposes of section 73(3) of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 11 GOVERNANCE AND CORPORATE PERFORMANCE

### 11.1 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

This report resolves to adopt the Council meeting schedule for the period December 2017 through to June 2019.

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

**MOVED:** CR. A. GOBLE

**SECONDED:** CR. B. CORNISH

**THAT** this report be deferred until the 18 December 2017 Council meeting.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 11.2 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO COMMITTEES AND ORGANISATIONS FOR THE 2017-2018 COUNCIL YEAR

This report resolves to appoint Councillors and Council officers to Regional, State-Wide and Local Organisations, Incorporated Associations and Council and Advisory Committees for the 2017-2018 Council year.

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

**MOVED:** CR. B. HUMM

**SECONDED:** CR. F. STEVENS

**THAT** the Councillor and Council Officer nominations for Regional, State-Wide and Local Organisations, Incorporated Associations and Council and Advisory Committees be appointed as Council representatives to the relevant Committees and Organisation for the 2017-2018 Council year with the following amendment

|  |                |             |
|--|----------------|-------------|
| CEO Performance Review<br>Advisory Committee | Mayor          | Mayor       |
|  | Past Mayor     | Cr Chisholm |
|  | One Councillor | Cr Cornish  |

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary meeting of Council is scheduled to be held on Monday 20 November 2017 at the Mitchell Shire Council Chambers, 113 High Street, Broadford, commencing at 7.00pm.

## 13 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting was declared closed at 7.26pm.