

**Minutes of Council Meeting
held in the Function Centre,
Bunjil Place, Narre Warren.
Tuesday, 19 April 2022**

Commenced at 4:00 PM

**Vision for the future: A more connected,
bold and resilient community.**

**Chairperson: Chair of Administrators, Noelene Duff PSM
Administrator: Miguel Belmar**

Chief Executive Officer: Glenn Patterson

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Attendance

Administrators Present:

Noelene Duff, PSM	Chairperson of Administrators
Miguel Belmar	Administrator

In Attendance:

Glenn Patterson	Chief Executive Officer
Jen Bednar	Director Customer & Business Transformation
Bernard Rohan	Acting Director Community Life
Jordan Barfoot	AV Technician
Caroline Bell	Manager Corporate Governance
Nicole Estrada	Minutes Assistant Corporate Governance
Tracey Taylor	Governance Officer
Michelle Tipton	Head of Governance, Integrity and Legal Support
Carol Smith	Office of Council Coordinator
Jacinta MacLeod	Acting Team Leader Governance and Integrity

Mover / Seconder: Mr Belmar / Ms Duff, PSM

That an apology has been accepted and noted for Mr. Boardman

Carried

At 4.02pm the Chairperson noted two apologies had been received by the Director City Planning and Infrastructure, James Collins and Director Community Life, Colette McMahon.

1. WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1.1. READING OF THE STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chairperson of Administrators read the Statement of Acknowledgement.

1.2. READING OF THE DIVERSITY STATEMENT

The Chairperson of Administrators read the Diversity Statement.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Mover/ Seconder: Mr Belmar / Ms Duff, PSM

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15 March 2022 be confirmed.

Carried

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS AND PERSONAL INTERESTS

Nil.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

At 4.03 pm Question Time commenced.

Note: Questions are reproduced as prepared by the Questioner and no guarantee is given that any subject matter or statement contained in the question is factually correct.

Question 1 - Local Government Election Sign Displays - Gary Page

Given:

- (a) Badger vs Bayside City Council judgement by the Supreme Court;
- (b) Local Government (Casey City Council) Act 2020;
- (c) Local Government Act 2020, Section 257(3);
- (d) a future Act of parliament changing the administration of the City of Casey;
- (e) there are people who intend to be Candidates in the next City of Casey elections;
- (f) the date of the next Local Government Election for the City of Casey could be held prior to the 4th Saturday in October 2024 e.g. another date in 2022, 2023 or 2024.

When can corflute signs, etc., for people who intend to stand as candidates in the next City of Casey elections be displayed on residential, commercial, sporting, council properties, or road infrastructure (e.g., see current signs in centre of Webb St and Prince Highway intersection)?

The answer was prepared by the Manager Planning and Building and read out by the Chairperson of Administrators

Notwithstanding any separate permissions required from landowners to display any sign(s), Planning legislation allows signs publicising political events to be displayed for no longer than 14 days after the event is held or for a total of 3 months, whichever is sooner.

In addition, the Casey Community Local Law 2018 regulates the placement of signage on roads and Council land, and states: *A person must not, except with a permit, display or permit to be displayed a sign on any road or Council land.*

This means there must be a permit obtained for each sign that is placed on any road or Council land. All permit applications are assessed against the Community Event Signage Policy. Further information is available on our [website](#).

Question 2 - Local Government Candidate Signs - Gary Page

A permit exempt sign for a candidate for an election can be displayed with a 3-month display limit under the City of Casey Planning Scheme, Clause 52.05-10, and the Local Government General Elections for the City of Casey can be varied.

Can a series of different corflute, etc., signs for a candidate be displayed on a property (up to a 3-month limit per sign) until 14 days after the next Local Government elections for the City of Casey?

The answer was prepared by the Manager Planning and Building and read out by the Chairperson of Administrators

Only one sign may be displayed on the land at a time. The Scheme does not purport to limit the consecutive display of different signs provided it is displayed for no longer than 14 days after the event is held or for a total of 3 months, whichever is sooner.

Public Question Time Continued

Question 3 - Interest on overdue rates - Dale Munckton

Could you please advise the total amount of interest charged to Casey property owners for overdue 2021/2022 rates and the forecasted interest to be charged to those who have not paid yet.

The answer was prepared by the Chief Finance Officer and read out by the Chairperson of Administrators

For the first three months of 2022, there has been \$0.7 million in penalty interest charged on overdue rates, following Council's decision to freeze penalty interest on all rates in arrears from March 2020 to December 2021. The forecast for the year is subject to instalments and arrangements made in the remaining months of 2021/22, but the budget estimate for the year is \$1.9 million.

Question 4 - Refund / credit of interest charged on overdue rates - Dale Munckton

In light of the last two years and the on-going poor state of the City of Casey (mowing/maintenance) will the City of Casey agree to refund/credit interest charged for those who pay their rates by 30 June?

The answer was prepared by the Chief Finance Officer and read out by the Chairperson of Administrators

Council has frozen penalty interest on rates in arrears from March 2020 to December 2021 in light of the COVID-19 disruptions. Individual ratepayers that are experiencing hardship can contact council's officers to make an arrangement and have consideration for hardship relief, which can include the waiving of penalty interest. Whilst there has been acknowledged challenges with some services, there is no basis to refund penalty interest on rates in arrears beyond the measures already implemented.

Question 5 - Seebeck Drive Dog Park - Rex Flannery

The Seebeck Drive dog park is dusty and boring, is there any way we can have the dog park upgraded with challenges for our dogs please. I speak with dog owners who would like this park upgraded. Thank you.

The answer was prepared by the Manager City Presentation and read out by the Chairperson of Administrators

The dog Park off Seebeck Drive was built in 2019. There are no current planned works at the park. Council officers will review the current condition and usage of the park to determine if there are any immediate works or future upgrades required to improve the park.

At 4.08pm Question Time concluded.

5. OFFICER'S REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

Corporate Planning Suite of Documents Endorsement for Public Exhibition Period

ITEM: 5.1.

Customer and Business Transformation

Strategy and Business Intelligence

Will Babington

Purpose of Report: To present the final draft suite of Corporate Planning documents inclusive of the draft Council Plan 2021-25 Year 2 Review, draft Financial Plan (Annual Budget 2022/23, Ten Year Financial Plan, Capital Works Program 2022/23) and draft Annual Action Plan 2022/23 ahead of public exhibition.

Mover / Seconder: Mr Belmar / Ms Duff, PSM

1. That the:

- a) Draft Council Plan 2021-25 Year 2 Review
- b) Draft Financial Plan (Annual Budget 2022/23, Ten Year Financial Plan – including Schedule of Fees and Charges, Capital Works Program 2022/23) and
- c) Draft Annual Action Plan 2022/23

Be approved for Public Exhibition to commence on Wednesday, 20 April and conclude on Tuesday, 17 May 2022, with Public Submissions Hearing to occur on Tuesday, 31 May 2022.

- 2. That any submissions received on these documents be considered at the Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 31 May 2022.
- 3. That after consideration on Tuesday, 31 May 2022 of any submission received, Council will consider the adoption of the draft Council Plan 2021-25 Year 2 Review, Financial Plan (Annual Budget 2022/23, Ten Year Financial Plan – including Schedule of Fees and Charges, Capital Works Program 2022/23), Annual Action Plan 2022/23 and setting of rates and charges at the Tuesday, 28 June 2022 Special Council Meeting.
- 4. That a Special Council Meeting be held on Tuesday, 31 May 2022 for the hearing of public submissions for the following documents:
 - Draft Council Plan 2021-25 Year 2 Review
 - Draft Financial Plan (Annual Budget 2022/23, Ten Year Financial Plan – including Schedule of Fees and Charges, Capital Works Program 2022/23), and
 - Draft Annual Action Plan 2022/23
- 5. That a Special Council Meeting be held on Tuesday, 28 June 2022 to consider the final adoption of the following documents:
 - Draft Council Plan 2021-25 Year 2 Review
 - Draft Financial Plan (Annual Budget 2022/23, Ten Year Financial Plan – including Schedule of Fees and Charges, Capital Works Program 2022/23), and
 - Draft Annual Action Plan 2022/23

Carried

Transformation Strategy
Customer and Business Transformation
Business Transformation and Innovation
Marion Greig

ITEM: 5.2.

Purpose of Report: **To consider the Transformation Strategy for adoption.**

Mover / Second: Ms Duff, PSM / Mr Belmar

That Council adopts the Transformation Strategy 2022-2026.

Carried

Doveton Pool in the Park Master Plan
City Planning and Infrastructure
City and Asset Planning
Joanna Noesgaard

ITEM: 5.3.

Purpose of Report: **To provide an update on the financial implications for an Outdoor Pool and Year-round Accessible Park at Doveton Pool in the Park and seek a decision on funding and delivery of the project.**

Mover / Second: Mr Belmar / Ms Duff, PSM

That:

- 1. Council proceeds with delivering an Outdoor Pool and Year-Round Accessible Park (as per the scope within the report) on the provision that the State and Federal Government commit a combined minimum 50 per cent of the funding.**
- 2. Council writes to the State and Federal Government seeking a combined minimum 50 per cent funding commitment.**
- 3. Further work to be undertaken prior to next season to determine the season length and operating hours.**
- 4. The Doveton Pool in the Park Master Plan be finalised and placed on public exhibition prior to being presented back to Council for endorsement.**

Carried

Pound Road and Soldiers Road Closures**ITEM: 5.4.**

City Planning and Infrastructure

City and Asset Planning

Joanna Noesgaard

Purpose of Report: To advise Council of the planned formal closure to traffic along sections of Pound Road, Clyde North and Soldiers Road, Berwick in accordance with the objectives set out in the gazetted Precinct Structure Plans.

Mover / Second: Mr Belmar / Ms Duff, PSM

That Council endorses that Pound Road between Thompsons Road and Pattersons Road, Clyde North, and Soldiers Road north of Grices Road, Berwick will be formally closed to traffic in 2023 once new alternative roads and intersections are completed.

Carried

Advertising and Promotional Signage on Council's Active Recreation Reserves Policy**ITEM: 5.5.**

Community Life

Active Communities

Angie Peresso

Purpose of Report: To update the Advertising and Promotional Signage on Council Active Recreation Reserves Policy.

Mover / Second: Ms Duff, PSM / Mr Belmar

That Council endorse updates to the Advertising and Promotional Signage on Council Active Recreation Reserve and re-classify for future CEO endorsement.

Carried

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

6.1. RECORD OF DISCUSSION

That the Record of the Assembly of Councillors, as listed, be received and noted.

Noted

7. PETITIONS

Nil.

8. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

9. CLOSED COUNCIL

Pursuant to Section 3 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), the Chief Executive Officer has determined that the reports listed below, and their attachments are confidential in accordance with Section 3 of the Act for the reasons specified.

13.1 - Section 3(a) - Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.

13.2 - Section 3(f) - personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.

CONCLUSION OF MEETING

The Meeting closed at 4.57pm.

Confirmed this 17th day of May 2022

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Ms Noelene Duff, PSM
Chairperson of Administrators
City of Casey

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