

OFFICIAL

Council Meeting

Minutes

22 March 2023 at 6:30pm

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Sturt Street,
Ballarat



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1. OPENING DECLARATION

Councillors: *"We, the Councillors of the City of Ballarat, declare that we will carry out our duties in the best interests of the community, and through collective leadership will maintain the highest standards of good governance."*

Mayor: *"I respectfully acknowledge the Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung People, the traditional custodians of the land, and I would like to welcome members of the public in the gallery."*

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 Present

Cr Des Hudson (Mayor)
Cr Daniel Moloney
Cr Ben Taylor
Cr Samantha McIntosh
Cr Belinda Coates
Cr Mark Harris
Cr Amy Johnson
Cr Peter Eddy
Cr Tracey Hargreaves

Mr Evan King- Chief Executive Officer
Ms Bridget Wetherall - Director Infrastructure and Environment
Mr Matthew Wilson - Director Community Wellbeing
Mr John Hausler - Director Corporate Services
Ms Natalie Robertson - Director Development and Growth
Mr Cameron Montgomery - Executive Manager Governance and Risk
Ms Sarah Anstis - Statutory Compliance Officer
Ms Lyndsay Leingang - Administration Officer Statutory Compliance

RESOLUTION:

That the following leave requests be accepted:

Cr Mark Harris from:

- 16 - 25 April 2023,
- 30 April – 8 May 2023,
- 17 May – 12 June 2023, and
- 10 – 24 July 2023

Cr Amy Johnson from 26 April to 10 May 2023.

Moved: Cr Peter Eddy

Seconded: Cr Samantha McIntosh

CARRIED

(R22/23)

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION:

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting on 22 February 2023 as circulated be confirmed.

Moved: Cr Daniel Moloney
Seconded: Cr Amy Johnson

CARRIED
(R23/23)

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

QT16/23 - Sean Mulcahy

Question

Could Council please provide an update on work undertaken to date to identify gaps in Council's public arts collection and to ensure that new acquisitions and commissioning opportunities include opportunities for LGBTIQ+ public art and artists, in line with the LGBTIQ+ Inclusion Plan?

Answer

Matthew Wilson, Director Community Wellbeing responded that a complete audit on the entire public art collection has been completed which reviews the level of priority of maintenance required on each piece, the creator, and the narrative behind each piece. The complete catalogue is now uploaded on to Victorian Collections database for full public scrutiny.

Under the LGBTIQ+ inclusion plan, and working together with the new Inclusion Officer, we have supplied the latest data on commissions made in the last four years to identify gender and LGBTIQ+ identification (where shared voluntarily). This data revealed that we have worked with ten female artists, three non-binary artists and six male artists on new commissioned projects. The issues covered in our permanent and temporary collection over the last four years include refugee stories, Traditional Owner narrative, LGBTIQ+ histories and site responsive works. Current permanent works about to be commissioned include the second sculpture for the Indigenous Sculpture Garden in North Gardens, the next Prime Ministerial bust and the Continuous Voices Memorial.

Planned temporary works include the next Gallery Annexe Wall and a community led art activity merging the energies of youth and older people at the Len T Fraser Skate Park. In addition, the Public Art team is happy to include LGBTIQ+ stories within the permanent and temporary works collections where site specific and relevant. To this end we are now overseeing the PhD candidate from ACU who is studying queer histories on the Ballarat Goldfields. We anticipate that the research of this student will certainly inform the future of the collection.

Question

Could Council please provide an update on the planning of a creative installation in the city for pride month in 2024, in line with the LGBTIQ+ Inclusion Plan?

Answer

Matthew Wilson, Director Community Wellbeing responded that we are committed to this action. Given a 14-month lead time to Pride Month 2024, planning for this action in conjunction with the LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee and led by the LGBTIQ+ Community Inclusion Officer will begin later in 2023. Additionally, a Progressive Pride creative floral display will be installed in Sturt St, adjacent to the Titanic Memorial Bandstand for the duration of Pride Month 2023.

QT17/23 - Rebekah Isaacs**Question**

Now that Ballarat Gold Mine is in administration, Natalie Robertson has publicly commented that Council have not spoken to mine operators. When will Council begin speaking to the administrators to discuss remediation of the land?

Answer

Natalie Robertson, Director Development and Growth responded that the City of Ballarat have not had any direct correspondence with the administrator of the mine. We will continue to liaise with the applicant for the planning application in relation to this specific matter.

Remediation / rehabilitation in relation to mining forms part of the Work Plan they operate under and is a State Government process lead by Earth Resource Regulation.

Question

If Council do not intend to speak to the mining company during its administration phase, and therefore limit any legal avenue to have the mining company pay to do any remediation, when will Council consult with the community about the cost and process to ratepayers?

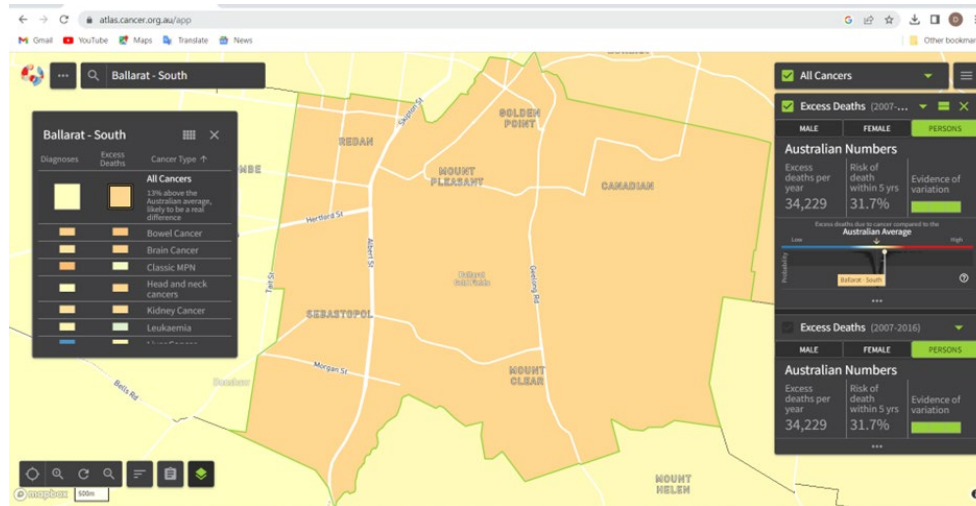
Answer

Natalie Robertson, Director Development and Growth responded that the City of Ballarat's role at this time is limited to the consideration of the current planning application only. We will continue to liaise with the applicant in relation to this matter. In terms of the remediation of the site following the completion of mining activities, the cost associated with this rests with the landowner.

QT18/23 - Dr Dora Pearce**Question**

Will Ballarat City Council request that an EPA Victoria-approved site environmental audit₁ be undertaken at Ballarat Gold Mine to identify contaminants that potentially pose risks to human health₂ and inform the Health Impact Assessment, given the non-existence of fine particulate dust monitoring data (PM10, PM2.5, and the arsenic and respirable crystalline silica concentrations therein), the close proximity of nearby residents and the 13% excess death rate from All Cancers: shown in the Australian Cancer Atlas 2007-2016 detected in the surrounding residential community₃?

1. *EPA Victoria 2021 Environmental audit system* < <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-business/find-a-topic/environmental-audit-system> >.
2. *Dept Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) 2023 Sustainability: Health and Contamination* < <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/sustainability/victoria-unearthed/concerned-about-contamination/health-and-contamination> >.
3. *Australian Cancer Atlas 2021 Cancer Council Queensland, Queensland University of Technology, Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information. Version 02-2021* < <https://atlas.cancer.org.au> >.

**Answer**

Natalie Robertson, Director Development and Growth responded that the Human Health Impact Assessment (HHIA) is being prepared by a consultant engaged by the Mine. Until the HHIA is completed and a copy provided to Council we cannot comment on the next steps in relation to this matter.

Question

Can Council approval to site Ballarat Gold Mine's proposed fourth tailings dam (TSF4) within 150 metres of, and surrounded by, densely populated residential housing, and in close proximity to the Yarrowee River, be justified given the estimated global average distance between tailings dams and downstream communities of 3.2 kilometres, the closest community being 600 metres away, and the estimated times for full evacuations being 40 minutes and 7 minutes, respectively⁴?

4. Owen JR, Kemp D, Lèbre É et al. Catastrophic tailings dam failures and disaster risk disclosure *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction* 42 (2020) 101361.

Answer

Natalie Robertson, Director Development and Growth responded that the Tailings Dam is a matter that is still under assessment. There are no specific setback requirements in the Planning Scheme for mining.

External agencies consulted as part of the Work Plan Variation process which preceded the planning permit application have not raised any issues regarding threshold distances to sensitive land uses.

QT19/23 - Miriam Robinson**Question**

A year ago in March 2022, the Ballarat Council announced the Net Zero Emissions community-wide plan which is terrific and in the past year they have been conducting planning and consultations and so forth. How much money is going to be set aside in this year's budget future budgets to make the 2023 plan happen?

Answer

Bridget Wetherall, Director Infrastructure and Environment responded that the Ballarat Net Zero Emissions Plan was adopted by Council on 26 October 2022.

The Sustainable Environment team are currently working on various initiatives in 22/23 to meet the objectives of that plan including:

- Delivery of the solar installation on Council facilities
- EV charging stations for Council fleet
- The incorporation of ESD into Council's procurement policy
- The development of the Biodiversity Strategy
- The Nature Stewards Program, and
- The development of a plan to improve the energy efficiency at the Ballarat Aquatic and Leisure Centre

The City has also identified a number of projects for next financial year. These are currently going through the budget cycle. City of Ballarat is hoping to get budget for a Solar PV Roll Out Program. This will see the continued rollout of on-site solar electricity generation rollout of Council facilities which reduces emissions for Council and community costs. The other program is a Climate Action Program which is around \$210,000. The previous Solar PV Roll Out Program is budgeted around \$265,000. The Climate Action Program has a number of initiatives: One is delivering on our Corporate Emissions Reduction, Climate Adaptation, and meeting the objectives in the Net Zero Emissions Plan.

QT20/23 - Joe Boin

Question

I am speaking about the City's Net Zero Emissions Plan (Oct 2022), I refer to Outcome 4: Net Zero Transport – in particular, electric cars (EVs). To encourage electric car use, we need to ensure adequate charging facilities. The widely used "PlugShare" app lists only 5 public facilities in greater Ballarat area (plus the Tesla station in Wendouree). How soon can aspiring EV owners expect ready access to charging?

Answer

Bridget Wetherall, Director Infrastructure and Environment responded that in 2023 an EV policy will be developed to determine where community charging stations would be best placed around the municipality, and how to respond to requests for charging stations on public land and charging mechanisms.

Question

We expect our Council to lead the way. How many electric vehicles does Ballarat City use now, and what is the timeframe for going fully electric?

Answer

Bridget Wetherall, Director Infrastructure and Environment responded that since 2017 Council has been gradually replacing its fossil-fueled fleet with hybrid cars. In line with the City of Ballarat's Carbon Neutrality Action Plan, a Fleet Transition Study covering light and heavy vehicles was completed last year to assess the transition pathways towards zero emissions. This report and recommendations will be presented to Council for consideration in the coming months. A total of eight EV charging stations will be installed in 2023. These include six 7kW-AC chargers at the Central Square Car Park and two 22-kW AC chargers at the Council Depot. Two new EVs are being procured to replace two existing pool cars of Council fleet. The new EVs are MG's ZS, powered by a 50-kWh battery with a driving range of over 300km.

QT21/23 - Margaret Rich**Question**

Since the Ballarat Gold Mine is currently closed due to financial uncertainty, whose responsibility is it for ongoing onsite management, dust suppression and monitoring?

Answer

Natalie Robertson, Director Development and Growth pointed out the mine is in fact not closed. These obligations, should it be closed, still fall with the Mine and its Administrators.

QT22/23 - Michael Knowles**Question**

Please advise the status of the Ballarat Gold Mine application to Ballarat City Council for a planning permit for the establishment of a new mine tailings dam taking into account that the mine is under Administration.

Answer

Natalie Robertson, Director Development and Growth responded that the status of the planning application has not changed. The City is still awaiting the Human Health Impact Assessment before proceeding further with the application.

Question

Please advise when and where the Ballarat Gold Mine / Ballarat City Council, we're a bit vague as to who is to be responsible, will arrange for a public meeting to discuss the health risks and mitigation thereof for the proposed new mine tailings dam.

Answer

Natalie Robertson, Director Development and Growth responded that at this point in time, a session for submitters to the application will be arranged after we receive the Human Health Impact Assessment. The City is still awaiting this and the advice to hear on the timing of this. As that becomes clearer, that will be communicated to the community as well.

QT23/23 - Linda Zibell**Question**

Schedule 21.09 -3 (12) of the Ballarat Planning Scheme states: "Require areas previously affected by mine workings at Mount Clear to be the subject of an environmental audit prior to use for sensitive purposes." Ballarat Gold Mine's fourth tailings dam is a sensitive purpose being far too close to a suburban community including schools, aged and child care. Its own planning scheme requires it, so why isn't the City of Ballarat requesting an environmental audit?

Answer

Natalie Robertson, Director Development and Growth responded that this provision requires an environmental audit to be undertaken prior to use for a sensitive purpose. This is required to be considered when a new sensitive use is proposed. This is not the case in this instance.

Question

While the Ballarat Gold Mine is closed, are the recently installed continuous fine particulate dust monitors still actively recording data. Is the data available for public access?

Answer

Natalie Robertson, Director Development and Growth responded that matters in relations to dust monitoring are overseen by Earth Resource Regulations. That can be obtained by inquiries to them.

QT24/23 - Joan Brick**Question**

With the fact that potential tailings dam failures are an ever present risk to the health of residents and the local environment even in a market as regulated as Australia, can the City of Ballarat suggest to the applicant to find an alternative location for a tailings storage dam outside developed residential areas and services?

Answer

Natalie Robertson, Director Development and Growth responded that the City through its planning process is required to consider the application that is before them, including the location which the applicant must demonstrate is an appropriate location as part of its supporting documentation. It forms part of the assessment.

Question

We have been previously advised that the owner of the Ballarat Gold Mine would be responsible to rectify any breaches of the present tailings storage dams as well as rehabilitate previous tailings dams. In the event that the company is no longer financially viable to complete these tasks, what guarantee of restitution do the residents of Ballarat have?

Answer

Natalie Robertson, Director Development and Growth responded that this is set out through the state process and is a matter for Earth Resource Regulation who oversee rehabilitation and any associated bonds at the time.

RESOLUTION:

That Public Question Time be extended for a period of 30 minutes.

Moved: Cr Samantha McIntosh

CARRIED

Seconded: Cr Ben Taylor

(R24/23)

QT25/23 - Jennifer Robson**Question**

Ballarat Gold Mine has a poor record with regard to safety, it's not hard to find references to their safety breaches in the media.

Gold miners are at particular risk for developing silicosis due to the high concentration of silica in the rocks they mine.

We know they are required to comply with Occupational Health and Safety protocols or risk being fined but are the Ballarat Council aware if BGM are complying with current onsite OH&S standards and supplying workers with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment including respirators?

Answer

Natalie Robertson, Director Development and Growth responded that the City is currently only involved in the assessment of a planning application for a Tailings Storage Facility. That's the extent of our considerations here and we cannot provide any comment on this matter. Any concerns about workplace health and safety measures the appropriate authority is WorkSafe Vic.

Question

Considering the lifespan of the proposed tailings dam is only around 10 years, what are the future plans for this site and if there are no future plans, why allow such a short term potentially hazardous proposal to proceed?

Answer

Natalie Robertson, Director Development and Growth responded that as part of the Work Plan Variation that is assessed by Earth Resource Regulation consideration of future requirements, including rehabilitation is undertaken.

As part of the planning application that the City is currently considering we are not required to consider its lifespan.

QT26/23 - John Barnes**Question**

RMIT Emeritus Professor Michael Buxton claims Ballarat's Planning Scheme can't protect Ballarat's unique urban character without substantial modification and strengthening (Courier). Strategic studies on the CBD Urban Development Framework and the Ballarat Skyline & Views Study have gone into limbo since 2021. The Station South Side Master Plan by Ballarat City Council and the Victorian Planning Authority appears permanently stalled. HUL provides no heritage protection - it has never been incorporated into the Scheme. Is Buxton right?

Answer

Natalie Robertson, Director Development and Growth responded that the Ballarat Planning Scheme is currently under review. The current strategic program of work includes the development of a housing strategy, neighbourhood character studies, CBD planning controls and heritage gaps updates. In combination, these strategic projects will further strengthen built form outcomes for the City. The strategies and studies listed by RMIT Professor Buxton are not our full program of work and it is correct to say that not all strategies have been implemented into the planning scheme. Council's strategic planning team now has a strong implementation focus and strategies as appropriate, will go through the process of a planning scheme amendment.

Question

Why are the outstanding strategic studies mentioned incomplete, when do you expect to have them completed, and what is Council's target date for the submission of planning scheme amendments to the Minister for these and other studies Council considers will deliver a Ballarat Planning Scheme capable of protecting Ballarat's future development?

Answer

Natalie Robertson, Director Development and Growth notes that what is referenced in terms of the first question to be incorporated into our planning scheme are actually strategies that inform work that we do incorporate into our planning schemes. Strategies are being prepared as identified in the Ballarat Council Plan 2021-25 – as noted these will provide strategic justification for amendment of the Ballarat Planning Scheme within the coming years (several of these projects are multi-year projects)

These strategies include:

- Housing strategy and Neighbourhood Character Study (focussing on planning for future housing needs in Ballarat while managing Ballarat's Character);
- The Employment Lands Strategy (focussing on future industrial land requirements and industrial land that may be better used for other uses);
- Heritage Gaps Review (a focus on the extent and significance of Ballarat's Heritage Places to ensure these are up to date);
- CBD Structure Plan (provision of Built Form and Land use controls in the CBD with a view to increasing activity and housing in the CBD whilst managing heritage assets) and importantly;
- A flooding amendment (identifying areas in Ballarat liable to flooding and responsive development controls).

7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

7.1. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Division: Executive Unit
Director: Evan King
Author/Position: Evan King – Chief Executive Officer

PURPOSE

1. The CEO's Operational Report highlights issues and outcomes affecting the organisation's performance as it delivers services and implements the Council's strategies and policy decisions.

RESOLUTION:

8. That Council:
 - 8.1 Receive and note the CEO's Operational Report.

Moved: Cr Amy Johnson
Seconded: Cr Samantha McIntosh

CARRIED
(R25/23)

8. OFFICER REPORTS

8.1. TACKLING AGEISM IN BALLARAT

Division: Community Wellbeing
Director: Matthew Wilson
Author/Position: Cathy Bushell – Ageing Well Officer

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement of a recommendation to support the EveryAGE Counts campaign which seeks to end ageism in Australia.

RESOLUTION:

16. That Council:

- 16.1 Become a coalition member and support the EveryAGE Counts campaign to end ageism and to create a society where every person is valued, connected and respected regardless of age;**
- 16.2 Create opportunities in our communities to build awareness of ageism and its impacts;**
- 16.3 Promote efforts to end ageism amongst residents; and**
- 16.4 Inform relevant federal and state parliamentarians of City of Ballarat's support for the EveryAGE Counts campaign.**

Moved: Cr Belinda Coates
Seconded: Cr Mark Harris

CARRIED
(R26/23)

8.2. BALLARAT LIBRARIES FINE FREE

Division: Community Wellbeing
Director: Matthew Wilson
Author/Position: Jenny Fink - Executive Manager Libraries & Lifelong Learning

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of the proposal for City of Ballarat Libraries to offer fine free library services from 1 July 2023.

RESOLUTION:

17. That Council:

- 17.1 Endorse the removal and waiving of fines from the Library Services program to be effective from 1 July 2023, subject to the associated changes to the Library Services fines being enacted through the 2023/24 budget process.

Moved: Cr Peter Eddy
Seconded: Cr Belinda Coates

CARRIED
(R27/23)

8.3. CITY OF BALLARAT ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE DESIGN POLICY FOR PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Division: Development and Growth
Director: Natalie Robertson
Author/Position: Michelle Martin – Strategic Planner

PURPOSE

1. To provide the City of Ballarat with a consistent approach to assessing Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) for new planning applications by introducing greater clarity and guidance associated with Clause 15.01-2S of the Ballarat Planning Scheme.
2. To introduce Council level thresholds for requiring environmentally sustainable design measures in new residential and non-residential developments. These measures would be required via the Statutory Planning assessment process and would be interim only until such time as the Ballarat Planning Scheme is formally amended to introduce alternate ESD measures.

RESOLUTION:

19. That Council:

19.1 Adopt the ESD Policy for Planning Applications as per Attachment 2.

19.2 Note that information and workshops will continue to roll out across the development/construction and broader community. This includes information sessions for the local development industry, in addition to the preparation of written/visual information to further support applicants.

Moved: Cr Belinda Coates

Seconded: Cr Samantha McIntosh

CARRIED

(R28/23)

8.4. TENDER NO 2021/22-030 BALLARAT REGIONAL LANDFILL OPERATIONAL SERVICE

Division: Infrastructure and Environment
Director: Bridget Wetherall
Author/Position: Les Stokes – Executive Manager Waste and Environment

PURPOSE

1. To correct a resolution made at the 22 September 2021 Council Meeting, for the award of Contract 2021/22-030 – Operational Management of Ballarat Regional Landfill (BRL), to ensure that it aligns with the openly tendered services.

RESOLUTION

That Council:

- 7.1 **Notes the Resolution made on 22 September 2021 (R187/21) to enter into Contract 2021/22-030 for the Operational Management of Ballarat Regional Landfill (“Contract”) with Cleanaway Pty Ltd.**
- 7.2 **Notes that there was an error in the Original Resolution because it referred in paragraph 2 to the Contract containing ‘two one-year extension options’ when it should have referred to the Contract containing ‘two extension options of 4 years and 12 months respectively’.**
- 7.3 **Approves entry into the Contract for an Initial Term of 6 Years at a rate of \$29.73/tonne (adjusted annually by CPI) approximated at 80,000 tonnes per year, commencing on 1 November 2021, with two extension options of 4 years and 12 months respectively, exercisable at Council’s sole discretion up to a maximum.**
- 7.4 **Authorises to the Chief Executive Officer to execute the Contract in accordance with the Original Resolution, subject to the updated extension options approved by this Resolution.**

Moved: Cr Mark Harris

Seconded: Cr Daniel Moloney

CARRIED

(R29/23)

8.5. AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE BIENNIAL REPORT

Division: Corporate Services
Director: John Hausler
Author/Position: Sarah Anstis – Statutory Compliance Officer

PURPOSE

1. To present Council with the Audit and Risk Committee's Biennial Report for the period 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022.

RESOLUTION:

5. That Council:

- 5.1 Receive and note the Audit and Risk Committee Biennial report for the period 1 July 2022 – 31 December 2022.**

Moved: Cr Mark Harris

Seconded: Cr Peter Eddy

CARRIED

(R30/23)

8.6. S11A INSTRUMENT OF APPOINTMENT AND AUTHORISATION (PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987)

Division: Corporate Services
Director: John Hausler
Author/Position Sarah Anstis - Statutory Compliance Officer

PURPOSE

1. The report is to revoke the S11A Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* for Ian Gibb, Michelle Martin and Annie Fraser.

RESOLUTION:

6. That Council:
 - 6.1 Revoke the S11A Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (*Planning and Environment Act 1987*) for Ian Gibb (R22/22).
 - 6.2 Revoke the S11A Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (*Planning and Environment Act 1987*) for Michelle Martin (R228/21).
 - 6.2 Revoke the S11A Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (*Planning and Environment Act 1987*) for Annie Fraser (R77/22).

Moved: Cr Daniel Moloney
Seconded: Cr Belinda Coates

CARRIED
(R31/23)

8.7. CONTRACTS APPROVAL DELEGATED COMMITTEE MINUTES

Division: Corporate Services
Director: John Hausler
Author/Position: Lorraine Sendall – Executive Assistant Director Corporate Services

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Council with copies of minutes of Council's Contracts Approval Delegated Committee in accordance with the adopted Terms of Reference. This report provides a copy of the minutes of the meetings held on 18 January and 15 February 2023 and provides a summary of information in relation to these minutes.

RESOLUTION:

4. That Council:

4.1 Note, in accordance with Section 66 of the *Local Government Act 2020* that the material contained in the Contracts Approval Delegated Committee agenda has been designated confidential.

4.2 Receive the Contracts Approval Delegated Committee minutes of the meetings held on 18 January and 15 February, 2023.

Moved: Cr Ben Taylor
Seconded: Cr Mark Harris

CARRIED
(R32/23)

8.8. OUTSTANDING QUESTION TIME ITEMS

Division: Corporate Services
Director: John Hausler
Author/Position: Lyndsay Leingang - Administration Officer Statutory Compliance

PURPOSE

1. This report provides Council with an update of responses to questions taken on notice and outstanding unanswered questions from public question time.

RESOLUTION:

4. That Council:
 - 4.1 Endorse the Outstanding Question Time Report.

Moved: Cr Mark Harris
Seconded: Cr Daniel Moloney

CARRIED
(R33/23)

9. NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

10. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES/COUNCILLORS

GB12/23 - Cr Daniel Moloney

Cr Moloney tabled a joint letter from Cardigan Village signed by 53 members of the Cardigan Village community. The letter called for City of Ballarat to show evidence of the Avenue Hill Development meeting requirements with a range of issues, in particular water management. The letter sought evidence of application permits for stages 2,3, and 5 to ensure it is consistent with the planning scheme. There was concern around general drainage works and around bus stops in the village and representations with the Department of Transport.

Moved: Cr Daniel Moloney

CARRIED

Seconded: Cr Peter Eddy

(R34/23)

GB14/23 – Cr Belinda Coates

Cr Coates reported back from the Harmony Festival as chair of Intercultural Advisory Committee. She commended all the different cultural groups across the city that have participated and organised events. Many of the groups are represented on the Intercultural Advisory Committee as well and Cr Coates commended their work towards the Harmony Festival activities. She thanked all Councillors and Officers who attended many of those events. It was great to have the Victorian Multicultural Commissioner here as well for the flag raising.

GB15/23 – Cr Belinda Coates

Cr Coates mentioned the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance forum in Castlemaine for the Regional Zero Emissions Forum on Thursday. Thirteen of the Councils in the region were represented. It was a great opportunity to brainstorm ideas and for collaborative projects - projects that reduce emissions and save us money. Hopefully, as a result of that forum, we can come up with more collaborative projects.

GB16/23 – Cr Amy Johnson

Cr Johnson thanked all the staff and community members involved with the Begonia Festival. She highlighted the Council staff working across the weekend, specifically in the waste transition area who manned the bins and gave community members a taste of what it looks like to sort recycling into 4 different bins. Sunday and Monday at the Festival were packed. There were lots of great entertainment and stalls. The event was absolutely brilliant.

GB17/23 – Cr Amy Johnson

Cr Amy Johnson mentioned that the Mayor, herself, Cr Eddy, and Cr McIntosh attended the Rotary District 9780 Civic Receptions for the launch of their 2023 Conference which is being held in Ballarat. Kathy Rivett - Divisional Governor, has done a wonderful job organising some great speakers

GB18/23 – Cr Des Hudson

Cr Hudson echoed what was said about the Begonia Festival event and extended his thanks to all staff and the gardeners as well. It was a magnificent effort to coordinate. It is also great to have the continuous improvement. They are already thinking about the next year at this event while still running this event. He commended his congratulations to the entire team.

GB19/23 – Cr Des Hudson

Cr Hudson commented on bus advocacy and transportation around the city. He commended the Media and Communications Team for a successful hypothetical strategy. They developed a hypothetical scenario that involved Cr Hudson riding the bus from Winter Valley to Stocklands, having to walk to the local bus stop, going across town and getting on the bus. Even though it was hypothetical, the pressures of the current system really played its role. The issue that was clear was to see the human toll on the people forced to ride the buses every day. This highlighted what vulnerable members of our community need to do that don't have access to transport and need to cross town. This hypothetical journey would take about 12 minutes in the car but took an hour and 20 minutes on the bus. Cr Hudson mentioned all the advocacy done by many Councillors the past few years and stated that our community deserves better. The system of buses having to go into the city and then back out comes with so much wasted time. the continued advocacy will hopefully get the outcome they are after.

11. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

12. SECTION 66 (IN CAMERA)**RESOLUTION:**

That Council resolve, pursuant to Section 66 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, that the meeting be closed to members of the public at 8:36pm whilst the Council is dealing with the following matters;

Moved: Cr Ben Taylor**Seconded: Cr Amy Johnson****CARRIED****(R35/23)**

Cr Mark Harris left the meeting at 8:37pm.

8.7 CONTRACTS APPROVAL DELEGATED COMMITTEE**Division:** Corporate Services**Director:** John Hausler**Author/Position** Lorraine Sendall - Executive Assistant, Director Corporate Services

(Confidential information)

12.1 CEO ANNUAL REVIEW**Division:** Corporate Services**Author/Position:** Andrew Prestage – Executive Manager People and Culture

(Confidential information)

RESOLUTION:

That Council move out of closed Council at 8:44pm and adopt the resolutions made therein.

Moved: Cr Samantha McIntosh**Seconded: Cr Ben Taylor****CARRIED****(R37/23)**

