



Southern Grampians
SHIRE COUNCIL

Council Meeting Minutes

Special Meeting
8 February 2017

Held at 5.30pm in the Council
Chambers at 5 Market Place, Hamilton

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Membership | 3 |
| 2. Acknowledgement of Country | 3 |
| 3. Prayer | 3 |
| 4. Apologies | 3 |
| 5. Declaration of Interest | 3 |
| 6. Councillor Code of Conduct | 4 |
| 6.1 Councillor Code of Conduct | 4 |
| 7. Close of Meeting | 5 |

The Meeting opened at 5.30pm

1. Present

Councillors

Cr Mary-Ann Brown – Mayor
Cr Chris Sharples – Deputy Mayor
Cr Cathy Armstrong
Cr Colin Dunkley
Cr Greg McAdam
Cr Katrina Rainsford

Officers

Mr Michael Tudball – Chief Executive Officer
Ms Evelyn Arnold – Director Community and Corporate Services
Mr Michael McCarthy - Director Shire Futures
Mr David Moloney – Director Shire Infrastructure
Ms Megan Kruger – Governance Coordinator

2. Acknowledgement of Country

The Mayor, Cr Brown, read the acknowledgement of country –

“Our meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Gunditjmara, Tjap Wurrung and Bunganditj people.

I would like to pay my respects to their Elders, past and present, and the Elders from other communities who may be here today.”

3. Prayer

Cr Sharples led the meeting in a prayer.

4. Apologies

Cr Albert Calvano.

5. Declaration of Interest

None declared.

6. Councillor Code of Conduct

6.1 Councillor Code of Conduct

Directorate: Michael Tudball, Chief Executive Office
Author: Megan Kruger, Governance Coordinator
Attachments: 1 – Councillor Code of Conduct

Executive Summary

Every Victorian Council must, within the period of 4 months after a general election, call a Special Meeting solely for the purpose of reviewing the Councillor Code of Conduct and, at that meeting, approve any amendments to be made to the Councillor Code of Conduct following a review of the Code.

In accordance with this requirement Council has reviewed its Councillor Code of Conduct and does not require any changes to the Code. It is recommended that the attached Councillor Code of Conduct 2017 be adopted by Council and that all Councillors declare that they will abide by the Code.

Discussion

The current Councillor Code of Conduct was adopted by Council on 15 June 2016. It was drafted following the changes introduced by the Local Government Amendment (Improved Governance) Act 2015.

The current Code conforms to the requirements of the Local Government Act 1989 and contains clear direction on the behaviours and standards expected of Councillors and commitments to those behaviours and standards. The Code was developed through research of other Council's Councillor Codes of Conduct and the MAV draft Councillor Code of Conduct 2016.

The Councillor Code of Conduct 2016 contains sections in relation to roles and responsibilities; Councillor Conduct Principles; Councillor Behaviours; Prohibited Conduct; decision making; use of Council information and resources; relationships with Council staff; gifts; communication; personal dealings with Council and dispute resolution procedures.

The sections in relation to application of the code; roles and responsibilities; legislative requirements; prohibited conduct; additional statutory requirements; personal dealing with council and dispute resolution procedures have been added to this version of the Councillor Code of Conduct, or materially altered, to reflect not only the legislative changes but Council's commitment to good governance, leadership, transparency and decision making.

The Code of Conduct has been reviewed following the 2016 Council Elections and it is recommended that no changes are made to the current Code of Conduct.

Legislation, Council Plan and Policy Impacts

The Councillor Code of Conduct has been reviewed in accordance with section 76C of the Local Government Act 1989.

Council Plan - Outcome 1.1 - Soundly Based Decisions

Strategy 1.1.1 - Based decisions on the highest available level of professional advice and expertise.

Strategy 1.1.2 - Develop and enact policies, plans and strategies to ensure consistency in decision making

Strategy 1.1.3 – Demonstrate leadership through ethically, socially and environmentally responsible conduct

Strategy 1.1.4 – Work together to develop a highly responsive Council organisation.

Disclosure of Interests

All Council Officers involved in the development and advice provided in this Report affirm that no direct or indirect interests need to be declared in relation to any matters in this Report.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Councillor Code of Conduct as presented be adopted and the declaration to abide by the Code be signed by all Councillors.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr Rainsford

SECONDED: Cr Dunkley

That the Councillor Code of Conduct as presented be adopted and the declaration to abide by the Code be signed by all Councillors.

CARRIED

7. Close of Meeting

This concludes the business of the meeting.

Meeting closed at 5.37 pm.

Confirmed by resolution 22 February 2017.

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Chairman