



**Glenelg Shire Council
Minutes of the Council Meeting held on
Tuesday 26 March 2024 at 5:30 pm at
Merino Public Hall
10 High Street, Merino**

1. Present	3
2. Acknowledgement of Country	3
3. Recording of Meetings	3
4. Receipt of Apologies	3
5. Confirmation of Minutes	4
5.1. Confirmation of Minutes.....	4
5.2. Record of Councillor Briefings.....	5
6. Declarations of Conflict of Interest	7
7. Councillor Activity Reports	8
7.1. Councillor Activity Report 10 February - 12 March 2024.....	8
8. Notices of Motion.....	13
8.1. Notice of Motion 3 2023-2024 - Anzac Day in the Glenelg Shire	13
8.2. Notice of Motion 4 2023-2024 - GSC Submission to ALGA for Consideration at the National General Assembly	15
9. Management Reports.....	17
9.1. Strathdownie Drainage Scheme - Request to Raise a Special Charge for 2024/2025.....	17
9.2. Glenelg Shire Council Financial Report February 2024	21
10. Urgent Business	24
11. Question Time	25
11.1. Questions Taken on Notice at Previous meeting	25
11.2. Questions from the Gallery.....	25
12. Confidential Reports.....	27
13. Closure of Council Meeting	27

1. PRESENT

Cr Karen Stephens (Mayor), Cr Michael Carr, Cr Scott Martin, Cr Alistair McDonald, Cr Robyn McDonald, Cr John Northcott, and Cr Gilbert Wilson.

Also in attendance were the Chief Executive Officer (Mr Greg Wood), Acting Director Corporate Services (Mr Matthew Berry), Acting Director Community Services (Ms Jane Ruge), Director Infrastructure Services (Mr Stuart Husband), Chief Information Officer (Ms Ann Kirkham), Executive Assistant Community Services (Ms Jasper Smith) and Executive Assistant CEO Department (Ms Laura Van Oosten).

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor read the Acknowledgement of Country.

3. RECORDING OF MEETINGS

To those present in the gallery today, by attending a public meeting of the Council you are consenting to your image, voice and comments being recorded and published. Council meetings may be livestreamed and the Chief Executive Officer will enable a copy of the recording to the public.

4. RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES

Nil.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**5.1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****Recommendation**

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 27 February 2024, as circulated, be confirmed.

MOTION

MOVED Cr Wilson

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 27 February 2024, as circulated, be confirmed.

SECONDED Cr Carr

CARRIED

FOR: Mayor Cr Stephens, Cr Carr, Cr Martin, Cr Northcott, Cr Wilson,
Cr A McDonald and Cr R McDonald

AGAINST: Nil

Cr Carr proposed a motion.

MOTION

MOVED Cr Carr

That the Mayor make a presentation.

SECONDED Cr Wilson

CARRIED

FOR: Mayor Cr Stephens, Cr Carr, Cr Martin, Cr Northcott, Cr Wilson,
Cr A McDonald and Cr R McDonald

AGAINST: Nil

5.2. RECORD OF COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS

Executive Summary

This report provides for Council to receive a record of any recent Councillor Briefing sessions undertaken from the period commencing the 27 February 2024.

Recommendation

That Council receives the record of the Councillor briefing held on the 27 February 2024 and the 12 March 2024.

Background/Key Information:

The Glenelg Shire Council Governance Rules as adopted on the 23 January 2024 require that a record is kept of each Councillor Briefing and that the record is tabled at an open Council meeting (excluding any confidential matters).

The record is to include a list of matters presented and any Conflict-of-Interest declarations together with any actions taken to resolve declared conflicts.

The objective of submitting the record to a Council meeting is to ensure public transparency in Council decision making processes.

a. Council Plan and Policy Linkage

Our Voice and Action - A highly engaged and capable local government, leading Glenelg to ensure the needs and aspirations of our community are realised.

b. Legislative, Legal and Risk Management Considerations

Whilst not a legislative obligation, the records are tabled at a Council meeting in accordance with Governance Rule number 68

c. Consultation and/or communication processes implemented or proposed

Not applicable

d. Financial Implications and Collaboration

Councillor Briefings and the records keeping obligations are provided for within the adopted operational budgets.

e. Governance Principles

The transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

Attachment List

1. Councillor Briefing Record 27 February 2024 [5.2.1 - 1 page]
2. Councillor Briefing Record 12 March 2024 [5.2.2 - 1 page]

MOTION**MOVED Cr Carr**

That Council receives the record of the Councillor briefing held on the 27 February 2024 and an amendment to the briefing that was held on the 12 March 2024 to include the discussion that was held in relation to the location of the Multipurpose Foreshore facility.

SECONDED Cr R McDonald**CARRIED**

FOR: Mayor Cr Stephens, Cr Carr, Cr Martin, Cr Northcott, Cr Wilson,
Cr A McDonald and Cr R McDonald

AGAINST: Nil

6. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil.

7. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS**7.1. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORT 10 FEBRUARY - 12 MARCH 2024****Recommendation**

That Council notes the Councillor Activity Reports for 10 February to 12 March 2024.

MOTION**MOVED Cr Wilson**

That Council notes the Councillor Activity Reports for 10 February to 12 March 2024.

SECONDED Cr Northcott**CARRIED**

FOR: Mayor Cr Stephens, Cr Carr, Cr Martin, Cr Northcott, Cr Wilson, Cr A McDonald and Cr R McDonald

AGAINST: Nil

Councillor Activity Report 10 February – 12 March 2024**Cr STEPHENS, MAYOR**

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments (Optional)
13/02/2024	Councillor Briefing	Portland	Monthly strategic briefing session of Council.
14/02/2024	Heywood Resident Meeting	Heywood	To discuss future of the Old School Building
14/02/2024	Community Budget 2024/25 Information Session	Heywood	Forum for Heywood and district community members to attend and understand the forthcoming budget with Council.
15/02/2024	PIRSA/ RDA Hydrogen Forum	Mt Gambier	Forum giving overview of Renewable Energy projects within the Green Triangle region.
15/02/2024	Green Triangle Forestry Industry Hub Board Meeting	Mt Gambier	Regular bi-monthly meeting
15/02/2024	Civic Reception for Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC, Governor of Victoria	Warrnambool	Represent the Glenelg Shire for Victorian Governor visit to the region.
16/02/2024	MAV Emergency Management Committee meeting	Online	Regular bi-monthly meeting

17/02/2024	Classics by the Bay – car show on the foreshore	Portland	Attended annual event and presented Councillor's Choice trophy to the winner.
18/02/2024	District Swimming Sports at Casterton Swimming Pool	Casterton	Attended the annual sport event.
19/02/2024	CEO Recruitment and Remuneration Committee Meeting	Portland	Meeting to discuss the CEO Recruitment.
20/02/2024	Community Budget 2024/25 Information Session	Casterton	Forum for Casterton and district community members to attend and understand the forthcoming budget with Council.
21/02/2024	Community Budget 2024/25 Information Session	Portland	Forum for Portland and surround community members to attend and understand the forthcoming budget with Council.
23/02/2024	MAV 2024 Local Government Reform meeting	Online	Meeting to explain the potential amendments to the Local Government Act 2020
24/02/2024	Wood Wine and Roses Festival	Heywood	Judge the annual Street Parade and attend the event.
26/02/2024	Strategic Internal Audit Program interview	Online	As per the Audit & Risk Committee Annual Charter.
27/02/2024	Ordinary Council Meeting	Portland	Monthly Council meeting.
29/02/2024	Timber Towns Victoria meeting	Online	Chair - Bi-monthly meeting
01/03/2024	South West Victoria Alliance Board meeting	Warrnambool	Gathering of the six councils across the SW region to discuss strategic matters.
02/03/2024	CWA Henty Group Half-Yearly Conference	Heywood	Officially open the regional CWA conference and welcome guests to Glenelg.
04/03/2024	Forestry Transition Implementation Reference Group meeting	Online	Regular meeting with the department to discuss forestry matters.
05/03/2024	Rural Councils Victoria Forum	Melbourne	Opportunity all Rural Councils to come together as a group to discuss specific matters that effect our regions.
05/03/2024	Rural Councils Victoria (RCV) Event at Parliament House	Melbourne	Representing and advocating for the Glenelg Shire at RCV forum meeting Premier and Ministers.

06/03/2024	Greet Hon Chris Bowen MP, Federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy at Portland Aluminium Smelter	Portland	Announcement of Offshore Windfarm project and 1,790 jobs for Portland.
07/03/2024	Glenelg Shire Audit and Risk Committee meeting	Portland	Quarterly Audit & Risk Committee meeting.
08/03/2024	Sandford Bush Music Festival	Sandford	Officially open the festival and welcome visitors to Sandford and the Glenelg Shire.
09/03/2024	Portland Dahlia Festival	Portland	Attend festival and support committee / volunteers.
09/03/2024	Portland BMX Club AusCycling VIC BMX State Series Round 2 & Round 3	Portland	Officially open the race meet and welcome visitors to Glenelg.
09/03/2024	70th Annual Casterton Polocrosse Tournament	Casterton	Attended but postponed for balance of the day due to extreme heat conditions
12/03/2024	CEO Recruitment and Remuneration Committee meeting	Portland	Meeting with Recruitment Agent and Independent Advisor.
12/03/2024	Councillor Briefing Session	Portland	Monthly strategic briefing session of Council.

Cr CARR

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments (Optional)
13/02/2024	Councillor Briefing session	Portland	
14/02/2024	Draft Budget Community session in Heywood	Heywood	Listening to the Community
15/02/2024 - 16/02/2024	Rail Freight Alliance Victoria - AGM	Melbourne	Presentation from Infrastructure Victoria - CEO Jonathon Spear
17/02/2024	Classic by the Bay Portland	Portland	Fantastic community-led event that was well attended
19/02/2024	CEO remuneration and recruitment and employment committee Meeting #1	Portland	
20/02/2024	Community Budget Information Session Casterton	Casterton	Listening to the Community

21/02/2024	Community Budget Information Session Portland	Portland	Listening to the Community`
22/02/2024	Wood Wine and Roses – Committee and Helper BBQ	Heywood	Fantastic to see so many volunteers giving back to the community
24/02/2024	Wood wine and roses	Heywood	Iconic Community lead event
27/02/2024	Councillors Briefing session and Council Meeting	Portland (Online)	
07/03/2024	Glenelg Shire Audit and Risk Committee	Portland	
12/03/2024	CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Meeting	Portland	

Cr MARTIN

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments (Optional)
14/02/2024	Community Budget Meeting	Heywood	Listen to community members on issues important to them
20/02/2024	Community Budget Meeting	Casterton	Listen to community members on issues important to them
28/02/2024	Narrawong & Surrounds Planning Session	Narrawong	Listening to community members concerns now and into the future
29/02/2024	Advanced Council Finances	Online with Mark Davis who helped draft current LGA 2020 legislation	Continues on from previous financial courses. Mostly on what to look for and how to interpret Budget Document. Key takings to update yearly the 10yr financial plan. Look at doing a Service plan for the shire for cost reductions. Also a council plan review in January
12/03/2024	CEO Recruitment	Council Offices	Working with employment agency and independent advisor
12/03/2024	Councillor Briefing	Council Offices	Topics discussed budget, South West Sport, NGA, Windfarms and more.

Cr A MCDONALD

No report provided.

Cr R MCDONALD

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments (Optional)
13/02/24	Councillor Briefing	Portland	
14/02/24	Community Budget Session	Heywood	
19/02/2024	CEO remuneration and recruitment and employment committee Meeting	Portland	
22/02/24	WW&R Volunteer Event	Heywood	Such a strong community spirit, appreciative of all ongoing support for this event. Lovely to see a new generation president being nurtured.
27/02/24	Councillor Briefing Council Meeting	Portland	
07/03/24	Narrawong, Allestree, Dutton Way planning strategy community session	Portland	A very positive session, reflecting community appreciation for the opportunity to be heard and to contribute.
12/03/24	CEO remuneration and recruitment and employment committee Meeting	Portland	
12/03/24	Council Briefing	Portland	

Cr NORTHCOTT

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments (Optional)
27/02/2024	Council Meeting	Portland	
28/02/2024	Narrawong Dutton Way Allestree Strategic Framework Plan Community Consultation & Feedback Meeting	Narrawong	
07/03/2024	Glenelg Shire Audit and Risk Committee	Portland	
12/03/2024	CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Meeting	Portland	
12/03/2024	Councillor Briefing	Portland	

Cr WILSON

No report provided.

8. NOTICES OF MOTION

8.1. NOTICE OF MOTION 3 2023-2024 - ANZAC DAY IN THE GLENELG SHIRE

CEO: Greg Wood, Chief Executive Officer

In accordance with the Council's Governance Rules section 26, I give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 26 March 2024:

1. That Council conducts a reception for the Portland Branch of the RSL, as per previous years, in appreciation of the service to this community and presentation of the annual floral tribute to the fallen and the Regiment Flag of the Guest Speaker.
2. That Council holds a reception in the Portland Municipal Offices within the reception room commencing immediately following the ANZAC Day mid-morning service for the Portland Branch of the RSL present at the gathering.
3. That Council works with Victoria Police to provide the necessary road closures for the ANZAC Day march and assist with any other matter to ensure the smooth running of the event.
4. That in Casterton council will provide the use of the Casterton Town Hall to the Casterton RSL Sub-branch on ANZAC Day at no cost.

Signed: Cr Gilbert Wilson

Date: 15 March 2024

Attachment List

1. Notice of Motion - Cr Wilson [8.1.1 - 2 pages]

MOTION

MOVED Cr Wilson

1. **That Council conducts a reception for the Portland Branch of the RSL, as per previous years, in appreciation of the service to this community and presentation of the annual floral tribute to the fallen and the Regiment Flag of the Guest Speaker.**
2. **That Council holds a reception in the Portland Municipal Offices within the reception room commencing immediately following the ANZAC Day mid-morning service for the Portland Branch of the RSL present at the gathering.**
3. **That Council works with Victoria Police to provide the necessary road closures for the ANZAC Day march and assist with any other matter to ensure the smooth running of the event.**

- 4. That in Casterton council will provide the use of the Casterton Town Hall to the Casterton RSL Sub-branch on ANZAC Day at no cost.**

SECONDED Cr A McDonald

CARRIED

FOR: Mayor Cr Stephens, Cr Carr, Cr Martin, Cr Northcott, Cr Wilson,
Cr A McDonald and Cr R McDonald

AGAINST: Nil

8.2. NOTICE OF MOTION 4 2023-2024 - GSC SUBMISSION TO ALGA FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

CEO: Greg Wood, Chief Executive Officer

In accordance with the Council's Governance Rules section 26, I give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 26 March 2024:

That Glenelg Shire Council submits the following motion to ALGA for consideration at the National General Assembly in July 2024:

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to

Provide funding for a Carbon Reduction Future Infrastructure and Funding Planning Body (CRFIFPB) and that:

1. Local Government Authorities that can reasonably demonstrate that projects in the National interests will have significant impact on their local government area, shall be eligible to apply for funding from this body.
2. CRFIFPB shall provide funding for a position(s) to sit with in a successful applicant local government authority to assess and plan for future community needs resulting from potential projects.
3. CRFIFPB shall liaise with operators and relevant departments of State and Federal government to provide oversight and coordination.
4. CRFIFPB shall provide all funding necessary for the officer to perform their objectives.
5. A monthly report is to be tabled at Council Meetings on the progress of the CRFIFPB officer's work for transparency and any community feedback.

Cr Scott Martin

Received: 13 March 2024

Amended: 15 March 2024

Attachment List

1. Notice of Motion - Cr Martin [8.2.1 - 4 pages]

Motion was amended by replacing the word 'monthly' in point 5 by the word 'regular' and agreed to by both the mover and seconder.

MOTION

MOVED Cr Martin

That Glenelg Shire Council submits the following motion to ALGA for consideration at the National General Assembly in July 2024:

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to

Provide funding for a Carbon Reduction Future Infrastructure and Funding Planning Body (CRFIFPB) and that:

- 1. Local Government Authorities that can reasonably demonstrate that projects in the National interests will have significant impact on their local government area, shall be eligible to apply for funding from this body.**
- 2. CRFIFPB shall provide funding for a position(s) to sit with in a successful applicant local government authority to assess and plan for future community needs resulting from potential projects.**
- 3. CRFIFPB shall liaise with operators and relevant departments of State and Federal government to provide oversight and coordination.**
- 4. CRFIFPB shall provide all funding necessary for the officer to perform their objectives.**
- 5. A regular report is to be tabled at Council Meetings on the progress of the CRFIFPB officer's work for transparency and any community feedback.**

SECONDED Cr A McDonald

CARRIED

FOR: Mayor Cr Stephens, Cr Carr, Cr Martin, Cr Northcott, Cr Wilson,
Cr A McDonald and Cr R McDonald

AGAINST: Nil

9. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

9.1. STRATHDOWNIE DRAINAGE SCHEME - REQUEST TO RAISE A SPECIAL CHARGE FOR 2024/2025

Director: Matthew Berry, Acting Director Corporate Services

Executive Summary

This report recommends Council commence a public submission process on the proposal to declare a Special Charge for the Strathdownie Drainage Area for the 2024/2025 financial year.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Proposes a special charge be declared for the properties located in the constituted Strathdownie Drainage Scheme Area for the 2024/2025 financial year;
2. That a special charge be declared for defraying any expenses incurred in relation to the operation, maintenance, improvement, and administration of the Strathdownie Drainage Scheme Area which Council considers is of special benefit to those persons required to pay the Special Charge;
3. That the total estimated revenue in 2024/2025 financial year from the Special Charge be \$16,000;
4. That the Special Charge be due and payable by the 30 September 2024;
5. Commence the community engagement process in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy commencing Wednesday 1 May to Wednesday 29 May 2024;
6. Hear submissions required under section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* on the proposed special charge;
7. Fix the meeting to hear any submissions on Tuesday 11 June 2024 at the Glenelg Shire Council Chambers, Portland, or if required at another day and time to be determined by the Chief Executive Officer; and
8. Receive a report as described in part 7 of this resolution on its proceedings at the Council meeting on the 25 June 2024.

MOTION**MOVED Cr Carr****That Council:**

1. Proposes a special charge be declared for the properties located in the constituted Strathdownie Drainage Scheme Area for the 2024/2025 financial year;
2. That a special charge be declared for defraying any expenses incurred in relation to the operation, maintenance, improvement, and administration of the Strathdownie Drainage Scheme Area which Council considers is of special benefit to those persons required to pay the Special Charge;
3. That the total estimated revenue in 2024/2025 financial year from the Special Charge be \$16,000;
4. That the Special Charge be due and payable by the 30 September 2024;
5. Commence the community engagement process in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy commencing Wednesday 1 May to Wednesday 29 May 2024;
6. Hear submissions required under section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* on the proposed special charge;
7. Fix the meeting to hear any submissions on Tuesday 11 June 2024 at the Glenelg Shire Council Chambers, Portland, or if required at another day and time to be determined by the Chief Executive Officer; and
8. Receive a report as described in part 7 of this resolution on its proceedings at the Council meeting on the 25 June 2024.

SECONDED Cr Martin**CARRIED**

FOR: Mayor Cr Stephens, Cr Carr, Cr Martin, Cr Northcott, Cr Wilson, Cr A McDonald and Cr R McDonald

AGAINST: Nil

Background/Key Information:

The Strathdownie Drainage Scheme Committee is responsible for the operation, maintenance and development of the Strathdownie drainage area scheme.

The drainage area contains 170 assessments and covers an area of approximately 51,620 hectares.

Council provides a financial management service to the Strathdownie Drainage Scheme Committee and coordinates the collection of funds through rate notices via a Special charge when recommended by the Committee. The accumulated funds of the Scheme were \$166,558 as at the 26 February 2024.

Council has been advised that a meeting of the Strathdownie Drainage Scheme Committee was held on 26 February 2024 to consider a recommendation to Council to raise a special charge for the 2024/2025 financial year, and to discuss drainage maintenance requirements.

The Strathdownie Drainage Scheme Committee has recommended to Council that a special charge be set for the 2024/2025 financial year to cover maintenance, emergency works and operational costs, as requested. The proposed special charge will raise \$16,000.00 if approved by resolution.

The Committee has advised that the additional funds are required for ongoing clearance and maintenance works whilst maintaining a minimum financial balance as a contingency.

The special charge will be calculated by averaging the special charge over the combined Capital Improved Values (CIV) of properties in the Strathdownie Drainage Area. The CIV of an individual assessment is adjusted to reflect the percentage ownership of the area that falls within the Strathdownie Drainage Area.

Where the invoice amount is less than \$5, an invoice requesting payment will not be issued to debtors. For debtors whose current invoice amount is less than \$5, a manual invoice will be created showing \$0 balance payable and the statement advising that payment won't be required until the balance owing is greater than \$5.

In accordance with the requirements of S163 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, which remains the Act in force for Special Charges, Council must provide public notice and undertake a public submission process on the proposed Special Charge prior to any declaration.

a. Council Plan and Policy Linkage

Our Voice and Action - A highly engaged and capable local government, leading Glenelg to ensure the needs and aspirations of our community are realised.

b. Legislative, Legal and Risk Management Considerations

Under Sections 163(1A) of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act), Council is required to give notice of its intention to declare a special charge. This enables the ratepayers within the designated drainage area to make a submission in relation to the proposed charge.

c. Consultation and/or communication processes implemented or proposed

The following public consultation process will be followed in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy to ensure due consideration and feedback is received from relevant stakeholders.

- Proposed special charge recommended to Council by the representative group;
- Community engagement through local news outlets and social media, including Your Say for a period of 28 days; and
- Proposed special charge (with any revisions) be presented to June Council meeting for adoption.

d. Financial Implications and Collaboration

The proposed special charge would raise \$16,000.00 for the 2024/25 financial year to cover maintenance, emergency works and operational costs, as requested.

e. Governance Principles

The transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

Attachment List

1. Strathdownie Drainage Advisory Committee Minutes February 2024 [9.1.1 - 2 pages]

9.2. GLENELG SHIRE COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT FEBRUARY 2024

Director: Matthew Berry, Acting Director Corporate Services

Executive Summary

The financial report is a key document in assuring responsible and responsive governance and decision making. This high-level report is provided to give Council the ability to monitor Glenelg Shire's financial performance and approve changes to the 2023/24 forecast that have resulted from a review of operations.

Recommendation

That Council receives the financial report for the period ending February 2024.

MOTION**MOVED Cr Carr**

That Council receives the financial report for the period ending February 2024.

SECONDED Cr R McDonald**CARRIED**

FOR: Mayor Cr Stephens, Cr Carr, Cr Martin, Cr Northcott, Cr Wilson,
Cr A McDonald and Cr R McDonald

AGAINST: Nil

Background/Key Information:

The 2023/24 Annual Budget was adopted by Council on 27 June 2023.

This report provides information on the current status of Council's financial position and performance and includes:

- Comprehensive Income Statement
- Balance Sheet
- Statement of Cash Flows and
- Statement of Capital Works.

The Adopted Budget is the Budget endorsed by Council at the Council Meeting held on 27 June 2023. The Forecast Budget reflects those transactions that were not known at this point in time.

During February, managers conducted a review of budgets and the required funds to deliver programs and initiatives. This report is seeking approval of the changes which will increase the cash position at the end of the financial year by \$1.214M to \$8.972M.

This is largely due to higher than anticipated income in the following areas: Reimbursement income received for insurance claim \$147k, sales income in visitor information centres \$45k, investment interest income \$50k, fire services levy income received for a prior year \$50k and unbudgeted aerodrome income \$25k.

Additional expenditure budget required for services offset this income in the following areas:

Cost of municipal monitors \$100k, purchase of materials for aerodrome services \$25k, final works undertaken for office refurbishment \$75k, higher than expected insurance and legal costs \$140k and recognition of Council's non-monetary contribution for green waste initiatives \$40k.

The forecast also includes an adjustment for Aged Services which ceased on 30 September 2023. The net impact was immaterial, however the adjustment impacted user fees, operating grants, other income, employee costs and materials and services.

Council's year to date financial performance for 2023/24 is currently favourable to budget.

The forecast adjustments were prepared with relevant budget managers and reviewed by the Executive Team.

a. Council Plan and Policy Linkage

Our Voice and Action - A highly engaged and capable local government, leading Glenelg to ensure the needs and aspirations of our community are realised.

b. Legislative, Legal and Risk Management Considerations

This report is prepared monthly and is in addition to the requirements set out in the *Local Government Act 2020* Division 2, Section 97 where Council is required to prepare a quarterly budget report to be submitted to Council.

Also, in accordance with Division 4, Section 101 Council is required to consider the following Financial Management Principles:

- Revenue, expenses, assets, liabilities, investments and financial transactions must be managed in accordance with a Council's financial policies and strategic plans;
- Financial risks must be monitored and managed prudently having regard to economic circumstances.

c. Consultation and/or communication processes implemented or proposed

The finance report is prepared monthly for Council and submitted to the Audit and Risk Committee quarterly.

d. Financial Implications and Collaboration

The resourcing of the preparation of the financial report and year-end audit of the financial statements is provided for in the adopted budget.

The financial report is a key document that is required to monitor Council's budget and financial result.

The financial report provides commentary on all material variances (Greater than 10% or \$500K) to the adopted 2023/24 budget.

The information in this report contributes to various strategic planning documents under Council's strategic planning framework, including the Annual Budget, Financial Plan and Revenue and Rating Plan.

e. Governance Principles

The ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

Attachment List

1. Financial Statements 2023 2024 - February 2024 Version 2 [9.2.1 - 7 pages]

10. URGENT BUSINESS**1. Multipurpose Foreshore Building****MOTION****MOVED Cr R McDonald**

That Council pause the process on the Multipurpose Foreshore building to fully understand alternative locations and ensure community feedback is fully considered.

Mayor Cr Stephens ruled the motion out of order as it was in effect a rescission motion to a previous Council decision and is outside the provisions within the Governance Rules.

11. QUESTION TIME

11.1. QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE AT PREVIOUS MEETING

Nil.

11.2. QUESTIONS FROM THE GALLERY

1. Organic Waste, Municipal Monitors and Alexander Park

Mr Matthew Jowett of Portland asked the following questions:

- a. *At the council meeting of 25 February 2020, the council voted to introduce a compulsory food organics and garden organics kerbside collection service within the Glenelg Shire. I understand that COVID did play a part in slowing down this process but lockdowns are a thing of the past. Could you please explain when this shire will be implementing this service seeing as how it was voted on 4 years ago?*

Mr Stuart Husband Director of Infrastructure Services advised that Council is still considering various options for FOGO, which include exploring potential reductions in capital costs to deploy bins and reducing haulage costs which are likely to be significant. These considerations incorporate environmental and circular economy aspects, and what would be sustainable into the future. Council is looking for the most efficient method for delivering FOGO as any costs involved would be passed on to rate payers through a waste levy.

- b. *On page 16 of this month's council agenda it states that the cost to the ratepayers for the two municipal monitors, which were with us for three months, was One Hundred Thousand Dollars. Do you feel that this was a worthwhile exercise taking into account what came out of it and the expense?*

Mr Matthew Berry Acting Director of Corporate Services advised that the Council has allocated a budget of \$100k towards Council Monitors. To date \$66,881.68 has been paid. The Minister for Local Government has yet to sign/release the report to Council. Until such time no further comment can be provided in response to your question.

- c. *There has been some concern in the community that there may have been some financial irregularities in the Alexander Park construction project that were so severe that one or more individuals may no longer be employed by this council and that the police are investigating this matter. Can you please confirm or deny these concerns?*

Mr Stuart Husband Director of Infrastructure Services advised that Council is not aware of any financial irregularities with the Alexander Park project. As per your question at the Council Meeting on 22 August 2023 and our response to you on 24 August 2023, the final cost of the project was forecast to be \$7.3M (actual was under \$7.4M).

Council does not comment on police investigations.

2. Seismic Blasting Survey and Budget

Mr Garry Everett of Heywood asked the following questions:

- a. *Is the Delegation by Professor James Dunbar, Ben Druitt and myself regarding the 5.5 million ha 3D Seismic Blasting Survey on the agenda for the Council Meeting on 9 April 2024 and if not, why not?*

Mr Stuart Husband Director of Infrastructure Services advised that Council has not received any such requests to present to councillors at a briefing. Such requests are considered on their relevance to council and programmed where time allows. No time is available in April.

- b. *As it was stated last year that the approx. \$3.2 million was a “one off payment” in regard to the Glenelg Shire changing back to a “Differential Rating System”, has that been allowed for in the 2024-25 Budget and if not, why not?*

Mr Matthew Berry Acting Director of Corporate Services advised that the 2024-2025 Council budget is to be set based on a Differential rating system and anticipated to be out for public consultation in May 2024. Council's income and expenses are then budgeted accordingly for operational costs and capital projects. Any significant reduction in income would result in a substantial financial challenge where Council would be unable to maintain current services and facilities.

- c. *What checks and accountability has there been put in place to keep future Glenelg Shire projects in budget? Are Councillors told fully the total costs before they vote on projects? What is an acceptable \$% for projects to go over budget before being questioned?*

Mr Stuart Husband Director of Infrastructure Services advised that Council is provided with detailed reports including tender evaluation before major projects are awarded via Council Meetings. The project budget is based on the contract value and any contingency which can vary depending on project risk. We do have triggers to inform Councillors when budgets are forecast to go over. These triggers are based on delegations and include variations to contract.

3. Campbell St Merino

Ms Jude Francis of Merino asked the following question:

- a. *Could the council please look into the petition for asphaltting Campbell Street, Merino RE : FLOW - 18572. The petition is placed in front of the council by the 12 residents of Campbell Street, Merino.*

Mr Stuart Husband Director of Infrastructure Services advised that Campbell Street, Merino, is classified as an 'urban general access' road. It is regularly inspected and is maintained to the standard set out in our Road Management Plan. An estimate to seal Campbell Street is in the order of \$450,000 - \$600,000 depending upon the final design. Beyond being maintained as an unsealed road, it is not currently a priority for the Shire at this level of expenditure.

12. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Nil.

13. CLOSURE OF COUNCIL MEETING

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MAYOR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6:20 pm.

Victorian State Legislation Copyright Acknowledgement

Extracts from legislation of the Parliament of the State of Victoria, Australia, are reproduced with the permission of the Crown in right of the State of Victoria, Australia. The State of Victoria accepts no responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of any legislation contained in this publication.

© State of Victoria, Australia. Copyright of legislation referenced in this publication is owned by the Crown in right of the State of Victoria, Australia.