

Bass Coast Shire Council
Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 16 October 2024

Council Chamber

Bass Coast Civic Centre

Baillieu Street East, Wonthaggi

Commencing at 1:00 pm

The meeting commenced at 1:00pm.

Cr. Clare Le Serve read the Virtual Meeting Statement, Mobile Telephone Reminder and Statement of Acknowledgement.

Cr. Ron Bauer read the Councillor Statement.

Election Period

Reports contained within this agenda have been reviewed and are in line with the Election Period Policy.

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1 Present and Apologies

Councillors: Cr Clare Le Serve, Western Port Ward (Mayor)
Cr Rochelle Halstead, Western Port Ward (Deputy Mayor)
Cr Leticia Laing, Bunurong Ward
Cr Les Larke, Bunurong Ward
Cr Ron Bauer, Island Ward
Cr David Rooks, Island Ward
Cr Michael Whelan, Island Ward
Cr Geoff Ellis, Western Port Ward

Officers: Mr Greg Box, Chief Executive Officer
Ms Robyn Borley, Executive Manager Governance and Finance
Mr Damian Prendergast, Acting General Manager Future Places
Ms Jodi Kennedy, General Manager Communities and Culture
Mr David Filmalter, Chief Financial Officer
Ms Chelsea Wilson, Coordinator Governance

Apologies: Cr Brett Tessari, Bunurong Ward

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest

3 Confirmation of Minutes

Council Decision

Moved: Cr. Geoff Ellis / Seconded: Cr. Leticia Laing

That agenda items 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 be considered as a block

3.1 Council Meeting 16 September 2024

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16 September 2024 be confirmed.

3.2 Closed Council Meeting 16 September 2024

That the minutes of the closed Council Meeting held on 16 September 2024 be confirmed.

3.3 Council Meeting 9 October 2024

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9 October 2024 be confirmed.

CARRIED

Council Decision

Moved: Cr. David Rooks / Seconded: Cr. Geoff Ellis

That the recommendations attached to agenda items 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 be adopted.

4 Mayor and Councillor Reports

4.1 Cr Clare Le Serve Mayoral Report

This report covers the period from 16 September 2024 to 16 October 2024

Vale Bruce Campbell – OAM 22/04/1930 – 16/09/2024
Aged 94 affectionately known as 'Brucie'

Bruce is survived by his wife Sheila of 63 years and his children, extended family and friends.

Bruce was a wonderful Rotarian, an outstanding Community leader, great family man and one of the finest people you would ever meet. A great statesman Bruce was certainly well-known, so well-respected and well-loved throughout the district, especially in the Kernot area. He made a huge contribution to the community in so many ways and has left an enormous legacy.

Bruce was a Shire Councillor for the Bass Shire from 1970 -1988, he was the Shire President for 3 years and he only faced one election in all that time. He was on many committees including Weights and Measures and Library committee, Captain of Kernot Fire Brigade, the establishment of the Bass Valley Primary School, long serving member of the Kernot Hall Committee, Woodleigh Vale Red Cross Unit, Wonthaggi Combined Probus Group, Grantville Cemetery Trust and was always ready to put up his hand to help someone else in the community.

He was a member of the Westernport Water Board and the Shire representative for the Wonthaggi Secondary School committee. He attended many civic occasions at Government House representing the Shire of Bass.

Bruce was President of Rotary in 1995-96, an active member for over 30 years and was a Paul Harris Fellow, Rotary's highest award which was thoroughly deserved.

Bruce was sought out for advice and leadership when a job needed to be done. He was a quiet achiever, a real driving force in the community who certainly made a real difference to the lives of others. Bruce was always great company, a humble man with a remarkable long and proud history of community service.

He was proudly appointed an Order of Australia for his wonderful work in the community over his lifetime which was wonderful recognition.

Above all Bruce was a true gentleman. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

Vale written by Cr Clare Le Serve & John Duscher.

End of Mayoral Term
I would like to thank my colleagues for their stewardship in local council, and to the Deputy Mayor and Councillors for the friendship and support that has been offered to me in this term and in my 12 years in Council.

We have certainly grown as a Council and had some fun along the way, but we have done some great work together. I would like to thank the community and also the Officers of the organisation though the CEO, your advice has been without fear or favor always giving us the best of advice to make the necessary decisions.

To all the Committees that Councillors are on, as each Councillor takes on many committees that support this organisation, and I thank them. For my family I thank them

for their ongoing support and belief in me. As this my last meeting, I will look at my time local government with fond memories."

In brief the Mayoral activities have included the following:

Meetings

Attended Council Workshops and Briefings

Chaired Councillor Only Meetings

Weekly meetings with CEO, Council Support and Communications

Additional Meetings:

- Audit & Risk Committee Meeting
- Adams Estate Meeting, Grantville
- Jordan Crugnale MP – Corinella Boating & Angling Club, DALS, Cape to Cape Resilience Project
- Corinella Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc Meeting
- Special Council Meeting - Financial Statement and Performance Report

Other

Media Enquiries/Interviews

Phone calls, emails and letters

4.2 Cr Rochelle Halstead, Councillor Report

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to my last report. This report is a bit of a mixed bag but I hope offers an insight into my journey over the past 4 years.

The sustainability of local government concerns me with rates being lifted under the level of CPI, cost shifting still a serious concern and a desire for big wish 'nice to have' items taking centre stage over the basic less sexy but most needed projects and/or services.

I am hopeful that we see more direction and greater funding from the state and federal governments in relation to mitigation of environmental concerns with this council having punched way above their weight in this space, often sacrificing more traditional projects to rightly fund and assist our communities feeling the direct impacts. There is a need for less reports, more action and decision making at other levels of government who should back it up with funding.

It has disappointed me that this chamber has at times been used to further the political agenda of those issues better left to other levels of government and I hope those who follow us will respect their role and leave the party politics for others.

There have been both highs and lows during my time with Bass Coast and for me it has been my goal to weigh up the differing views and find a balance. I do believe the balance is slightly out of kilter but as with every democracy, this is a numbers game and although at times not agreeing with them, respecting the numbers is part of the role.

The little wins along the way have made my Bass Coast council journey worthwhile.

- Anderson Reserve upgrade,
- Kilcunda skate park,
- Progression of an MTB/BMX/Pump strategy,
- Upgrade for the Kilcunda Bass Football /Netball Club,

- Corinella Bowls Club concrete replacement and disabled toilet upgrade,
- First stage Pioneer Bay community centre,
- San Remo township structure plan

I don't have time to list them all but working with community, council officers have achieved some great stuff for Westernport Ward and their work is appreciated. I am grateful for their support, expertise and highly professional approach throughout my first term.

Thank you to my fellow councilors for enlightening me with their differing points of view, with special mention to my ward colleagues Cr. LeServe, Cr. Kent and Cr. Ellis for their teamwork approach, to Cr. Tessari for sharing your experience and for your council, Cr. Bauer and Cr. Larke for your willingness to listen and work any areas of concern.

To this beautiful community I have been so blessed to share special time with, thank you! Thank you for the warm and generous welcome I always received. Spending time in my community has been the absolute highlight of my role, from the charity events,

Australian citizenship ceremonies, fashion parades, ratepayers and residents group meetings, festivals, sporting fundraisers and just too many more to name. I am so grateful for your encouragement, for your friendships and for your candid feedback, all of which guided me with my decision making.

4.3 Cr Leticia Laing, Councillor Report

I wanted to thank the community first and foremost for their support, encouragement and assistance to me during my time as a Councillor.

Their advice, lobbying, discussions and even disagreements have kept me inspired and motivated to continue to do this work.

Every day I am reassured that we live in a beautiful place because of the interactions I have out there.

I also want to thank my councillor colleagues who have been exceptional in their work. I wanted to thank them for advising, disagreeing and sometimes arguing with me, it's been a wonderful experience and I've learned so much.

I wanted to acknowledge the Council Officers for their expertise and constant advice. Their information and advice has always been evidence based, balanced, fierce and fair.

I am proud of the work I have undertaken to recognise the contribution of women in the chamber and of women in the community as a whole.

I have worked really hard to acknowledge that women deserve an equal place in our community,

I have also worked really hard on a number of issues including protecting the Westernport Woodlands, winding back the town boundary in Cape Paterson and for action on the coastal erosion in Inverloch.

Thank you to the community for allowing me the privilege to be in this role, it has been an honour.

5 Public Question Time

Election Period (Caretaker) commences from 12noon on 17 September 2024 and ends at 4.00pm on 26 October 2024.

Council will be operating under the Election Period Policy during this time.

Public Question Time will be paused for the 16 October Council Meeting.

6 Notices of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.

7 Petitions and Joint Letters

There were no Petitions and Joint Letters.

8 Reports Requiring Council Decision

8.1 Quarterly Performance Report - Quarter Four - April - June 2024

Council Decision
Moved: Cr. Leticia Laing / Seconded: Cr. David Rooks

That Council receive the June 2024 Quarterly Performance Report.

CARRIED

8.2 Annual Report 2023/24

Council Decision
Moved: Cr. Rochelle Halstead / Seconded: Cr. Ron Bauer
That Council adopts the Bass Coast Shire Council 2023/24 Annual Report.

CARRIED

9 Statutory Reports

9.1 Informal Meeting of Councillors

This report was withdrawn.

Council Decision

Moved: Cr. Leticia Laing / Seconded: Cr. Michael Whelan

That agenda items 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5 and 9.6 be considered as a block.

CARRIED

9.2 Planning and Building Statistics - August 2024

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Planning Permits issued under delegation report for August 2024; and
2. Receives and notes the Planning and Building Activity Report for August 2024.

9.3 Contracts Awarded & Extended under CEO Delegation

That Council notes that the above contracts were awarded or extended under delegated authority in accordance with the Procurement Policy during August 2024.

9.4 Councillor Expenses for the Council Term - 9 November 2020 to 30 June 2024

1. That Council receive the report on Councillor Expenditure for the Council term between 9 November 2020 and 30 June 2024.
2. That Council receive the report on Councillor Expenditure for the financial year ending 30 June 2024.

9.5 Chief Executive Officer Report to Council - Community Asset Committees Annual Report

That Council:

1. Notes this annual report of the activities and performance of Community Asset Committees; and
2. Thanks the Community Asset Committee volunteers for their contributions to the management of Council facilities during the 2023 calendar year.

9.6 Receipt of Audit and Risk Committee Minutes - 22 May 2024

That the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 22 May 2024 be received and the recommendations therein adopted.

Council Decision

Moved: Cr. Michael Whelan / Seconded: Cr. David Rooks

That the recommendations attached to agenda items 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5 and 9.6 be adopted.

CARRIED

10 Urgent Business

There was no Urgent Business.

11 Mayoral Announcement of Next Meeting of Council

The next Council Meeting will be held on 20 November 2024 in the Bass Coast Civic Centre Council Chamber, Baillieu Street East, Wonthaggi commencing at 1.00pm.

12 Meeting Closed

The meeting closed at 1:52pm