



UNSCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday 17 May 2023

at 4:00 PM

COPACC

95 - 97 Gellibrand Street, Colac



COLAC OTWAY SHIRE UNSCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 17 May 2023

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COLAC OTWAY SHIRE UNSCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES of the **UNSCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING OF THE COLAC OTWAY SHIRE COUNCIL** held at
COPACC on Wednesday 17 May 2023 at 4:00 PM.

MINUTES

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING

OPENING PRAYER

*Almighty God, we seek your
blessing and guidance in our
deliberations on behalf of the
people of the Colac Otway Shire.
Enable this Council's decisions to be
those that contribute to the true
welfare and betterment of our community.*

AMEN

2 PRESENT

Cr Chris Potter (Mayor)
Cr Max Arnott (left at 4.08pm)
Cr Graham Costin
Cr Tosh-Jake Finnigan (left at 4.08pm)
Cr Kate Hanson
Cr Stephen Hart
Cr Margaret White

Anne Howard, Chief Executive Officer
Andrew Tenni, General Manager Corporate Services
Heath Chasemore, General Manager Infrastructure and Operations
Ian Seuren, General Manager Community and Economy
Lyndal McLean, Coordinator Council Business

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

4 WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Colac Otway Shire acknowledges the original custodians and law makers of this land, their elders past, present and emerging and welcomes any descendants here today.

RECORDING AND PUBLICATION OF MEETINGS

Please note: All Council meetings are live streamed and recorded when the meeting is held either at COPACC or online. This includes the public participation sections of the meetings. When meetings are held in other locations, Council will endeavour to make an audio recording of the meeting for community access. Matters identified as confidential items in the Agenda will not be live streamed or recorded regardless of venue or mode.

By participating in open Council meetings, individuals consent to the use and disclosure of the information they share at the meeting (including any personal and/or sensitive information).

As soon as practicable following each open Council meeting, the live stream recording will be accessible on Council's website. Audio recordings are also taken to facilitate the preparation of the minutes of open Council meetings and to ensure their accuracy. Recordings will be retained by Council for a period of four years.

This meeting was livestreamed to the public via Council's YouTube channel (search Colac Otway Shire Council at www.youtube.com).

5 QUESTION TIME

Colac Otway Shire Council encourages community input, and integral to this, is the opportunity provided to ask questions at Council meetings.

Please note that as this is an Unscheduled Council meeting, only questions pertaining to this agenda will be responded to. A maximum of 15 minutes is allowed for question time at Unscheduled Council meetings.

Community members wishing to ask questions of Council by videoconference were requested to register their intention before 5:00pm on Monday 15 May 2023. No requests were received.

I have received questions in writing from Stephen Roberts and James Judd.

These questions will be read out and a response will be provided by the relevant member of the Executive Management Team.

In accordance with sub-rule 56.6.3 of Council's Governance Rules, an individual written response will only be provided to questions that have not been read out today. All written responses will be available in the minutes, on the Colac Otway Shire Website, once confirmed at the following Council meeting.

QUESTIONS RECEIVED IN WRITING PRIOR TO THE MEETING

Stephen Roberts

1. Does the amendment from the previous Unscheduled Council meeting whereby Councillors are able to make the final decision on any review of the community care sector still apply to this new 33 page project plan? Now that the consultant is engaging with two councils, do both these councils need to come to the same end result or are they able to make their own independent

decision? With the federal government funding and modelling 'support at home' program now pushed out to 1st July 2025, why does it seem that council officers are in such a rush to offload the community care service?

Response from General Manager Corporate Services

Council officers are not in a rush to 'offload the community care service' and this is an incorrect and unreasonable statement.

Council's future role in the provision of community care services will be a matter for Council to decide at a time that is still many months away, and until then both Councillors and officers are keeping an open mind about future options.

The report before Council at this meeting is to seek endorsement of the project plan as per Council's resolution on 3 May 2023.

The Project Plan and Council Officer report in this agenda clearly outline that whilst the engagement of a consultant is proposed to be a joint engagement, the reviews for each council will be independent and it will be up to each council to decide its future approach to the delivery of services.

The Commonwealth Government extended the commencement date of the new 'Support at Home' program to 1 July 2025 as part of its recent budget announcement. That occurred after Council had decided to undertake the Best Value Review of this service. This extra time is helpful but doesn't change the need for Council to get on with the review and plan for the future. This way there can be a maximum amount of implementation time available to ensure any transitions to either a re-modelled Council service or an alternative provider are as smooth as possible. It is also important that staff, clients, their families and the community can have certainty about the future as soon as possible.

James Judd

1. When Council sends out letters with a critical date on it, will Council make certain that the date is listed more than once in a letter? Although the commencement date for any change was listed as 1 July 2024, we have who went to school when speed reading was encouraged, so you only read some words and just filled in what was between them. It has drawn to my attention that a person read 1st July, but did not read the year and has gone around claiming the changes are to be effective from 1 July 2023.

Response from General Manager Corporate Services

Thanks for the feedback. We will continue to ensure that communications are as clear and concise as possible.

QUESTIONS RECEIVED VERBALLY AT THE MEETING

Simon Arrundell

1. I know it's early in what's going to happen, but I was wondering to get this system going should the Council ask for the Federal Government to put forward a pool of money so the ratepayers aren't paying the initial costs and the cost of the interest they might incur in covering those

costs? Will the Federal Government cover it right from the start, or we be expected to fund this pool to get it going? Thank you.

Response from General Manager Corporate Services

At the moment we're not aware of any pool of funding available from the Federal Government to undertake the review. But, still policy work continues and so we'll monitor that to see if there's anything available we can leverage from, but at this point in time we understand that there isn't any funding available.

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cr Tosh-Jake Finnigan	7.1 Community Care Review
Nature of Disclosure	General Conflict of Interest
Nature of Interest	My sister is employed in the Council's Community Care team.

Cr Max Arnott	7.1 Community Care Review
Nature of Disclosure	General Conflict of Interest
Nature of Interest	Father in receipt of Council's OPASS Services.

Ian Seuren	7.1 Community Care Review
Nature of Disclosure	Material Conflict of Interest
Nature of Interest	Family member is employed by Council in the OPASS team.

Item: 7.1

Community Care Review

OFFICER	Carolyn Trowell
GENERAL MANAGER	Andrew Tenni
DIVISION	Corporate Services
ATTACHMENTS	1. Best Value Review Community Care - Project Plan - Version 9.0 open attachment [7.1.1 - 20 pages]

Cr Tosh-Jake Finnigan declared a general conflict of interest pursuant to section 127 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and left the meeting at 4.08pm prior to discussion taking place on this item, and did not return to the meeting.

Cr Tosh-Jake Finnigan	7.1 Community Care Review
Nature of Disclosure	General Conflict of Interest
Nature of Interest	My sister is employed in the Council's Community Care team.

Cr Max Arnott declared a general conflict of interest pursuant to section 127 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and left the meeting at 4.08pm prior to discussion taking place on this item, and did not return to the meeting.

Cr Max Arnott	7.1 Community Care Review
Nature of Disclosure	General Conflict of Interest
Nature of Interest	Father in receipt of Council's OPASS Services.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *Notes that a project plan has been prepared to undertake a Best Value Review of Council's community care services.*
2. *Notes that the plan to undertake the Best Value Review aims to enable Council to consider its capacity to deliver services when the Commonwealth Government introduces its aged care policy reforms at the commencement of the Commonwealth Government's new 'Support at Home' program.*

3. *Endorses the outcomes, objectives and governance arrangements outlined in the Best Value Review Project Plan (Attachment 1).*
4. *Notes that the appointment of an external consultant is required to ensure that Council has the necessary information to make a decision at the conclusion of the review and the engagement of these services will be through a shared procurement activity in partnership with another South West Council.*
5. *Notes that the shared procurement in point 4 above does not create or infer a shared review and that each council retains independence of oversight and decision-making in relation to their own services.*
6. *Endorses the scope of services for the appointment of an external consultant outlined in the confidential attachment to this report and agrees that the scope of services shall be made public following the appointment of the consultant.*

The Officer Recommendation was revised as outlined below.

RESOLUTION

MOVED Cr Margaret White, SECONDED Cr Graham Costin

That Council:


1. *Notes that a project plan has been prepared to undertake a Best Value Review of Council's community care services.*
2. *Notes that the plan to undertake the Best Value Review aims to enable Council to consider its capacity to deliver services when the Commonwealth Government introduces its aged care policy reforms at the commencement of the Commonwealth Government's new 'Support at Home' program.*
3. *Notes that the commencement date on pages 5, 6 and 18 of the project plan should be 1 July 2025 to reflect the recent advice of the Commonwealth Government that the implementation has been deferred in response to sector feedback that a longer lead time is needed and to allow the Commonwealth Government to refine program design and address issues that matter most to people receiving and delivering home care.*
4. *Endorses the outcomes, objectives and governance arrangements outlined in the Best Value Review Project Plan (Attachment 1).*
5. *Notes that the appointment of an external consultant is required to ensure that Council has the necessary information to make a decision at the conclusion of the review and the engagement of these services will be through a shared procurement activity in partnership with another South West Council.*
6. *Notes that the shared procurement in point 4 above does not create or infer a shared review and that each council retains independence of oversight and decision-making in relation to their own services.*

7. *Endorses the scope of services for the appointment of an external consultant outlined in the confidential attachment to this report and agrees that the scope of services shall be made public following the appointment of the consultant.*

CARRIED 5 : 0

The meeting was declared closed at 4.13pm

CONFIRMED AND SIGNED at the meeting held on 24 May 2023.


.....MAYOR