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Surf Coast Shire Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday, 28 May 2024 at 6pm

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CR PATTISON: Good evening, everybody, and welcome to our May Council meeting. It's so lovely to be here in Moriac with so many people here and we've had a lovely chat, got to walk around and meet lots of people that have come to be here for this Council meeting.

So I'm Mayor Liz Pattison and it's a pleasure to welcome members of the community joining us tonight at Moriac for this off-site meeting. This meeting is also being live streamed, so a big welcome to those tuning in online, and of course welcome to my fellow Councillors here tonight and to Councillor Wellington, who will be joining us online.

Live captioning will accompany the live stream of this meeting. We hope that this assists those who may have hearing difficulties. As we are off site tonight, we may experience some technical issues, including interruptions to the live stream. If this happens, the meeting will be recorded and posted on Council's website tomorrow, but we will try to keep it going, but if you can't see it, it will be up and the recording available today.

I would like to acknowledge that here in Moriac Community Centre we are gathered on Wadawurrung country. I pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging. The First Peoples have nurtured and protected these lands and waterways for thousands of generations and I am so grateful for the opportunity to live and work in such a beautiful part of the world. We also acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands on which each person is attending and acknowledge any First Nations people who are viewing tonight.

Before we start our meeting, I would like to acknowledge the passing of Kurnai/Wotjabaluk man Jurrawaa Stanley. He was known in the region as an artist and musician. He would regularly perform the didgeridoo at our citizenship ceremonies and provide welcome to countries at our civic events. He has been described as a warrior. He was a leader who contributed to ceremonies, art, education and culture. On behalf of Council, I pay our respects to his wife, Nikki, their children and family and to the broader community. We will pay a moment's silence in his honour.

Thank you. And yesterday was the start of National Reconciliation Week. The theme this year is Now More Than Ever and that sentiment is very fitting as Council continues to embrace the journey towards reconciliation, which is one of our themes in our Council plan.

There's been some exciting projects happening in the Winchelsea Ward that our local Councillors will mention shortly. Before I hand over to them, I want to do a quick mention to the Great Ocean Road Running Festival that happened

Draft Transcript

in Lorne on 18 and 19 May and it had a record-breaking 10,700 participants of all ages and abilities from all over Australia who laced up their runners to take on distances ranging from 1.5km up to 60km. I think it's quite a treat to be able to run along the Great Ocean Road without cars. So that was a huge turnout and a really important event for our region, bringing lots of visitation to the region, which is great.

And now to our agenda tonight. It's a very long one, there's lots of important matters, so we'll get into that.

There's a few people that haven't been to our Council meetings before, so I'll run through some of the process so you kind of understand how it works. So Council meetings operate according to our adopted Governance Rules and they include the following procedures: during the meeting, the mover of a motion or an amendment may speak for a maximum of 5 minutes to open the debate and then a further 2 minutes to make a closing statement at the end of that debate. Any other Councillor, including the seconder, may speak to the motion for no more than 3 minutes, and we have timers up on the screen.

I ask that members of the gallery avoid using mobile phones during the meeting as this can be distracting for Councillors as well as other members of the gallery. I also note that any unauthorised recording of the meeting is prohibited under our Governance Rules. However, you can access a copy of the official recording on our website after the meeting, so you can definitely get a copy of it at a later time.

I'll now recite the Pledge as a sign of our Council's commitment: "As Councillors, we carry out our responsibilities with diligence and integrity and make fair decisions of lasting value for the wellbeing of our community and environment".

We don't have any apologies for tonight's meeting.

CR BARKER: Councillor Wellington has just sent through an apology.

CR PATTISON: Oh, has she?

CR BARKER: She's unwell and unable to attend. She asked to pass on her disappointment at not being here in Moriac in her local district to catch up with community.

CR PATTISON: Great. Thank you, Paul, for raising that apology. So I'll assume that you'll move that apology and do we have a seconder, please?

Draft Transcript

Councillor Stapleton. All those in favour. And the motion is passed unanimously. So apologies from Councillor Wellington. She won't be joining us online tonight.

Confirmation of minutes - can I please have a mover and a seconder to confirm the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 16 April and the Council meeting held on 23 April 2024? Moved by Councillor Allen and seconded by Councillor Bodsworth. All those in favour. And the motion is carried unanimously.

Do we have any leave of absence requests? No. We now move on to declarations of conflicts of interest. If a Councillor or an officer has a conflict of interest, they must declare it now and do so again just prior to the item being discussed. Do any Councillors or officers have a conflict of interest to declare? No? Presentations - Adrian, did you have a presentation?

CR SCHONFELDER: Thank you, Mayor. I'd like to echo your earlier comments at how honoured we are and pleased we are to be here at Moriac this evening and I'd like to just acknowledge some of the wonderful groups we have that exist locally.

I'd like to highlight firstly that you and I, Mayor, attended the 100th birthday of the primary school, and that was fairly recent, and also the opening of the new Modewarre Fire Brigade fire station at Moriac. That was a great day and a great achievement. I remember Ash Wednesday very well and the Fire Brigades in the district, Barrabool, Gnarwarre, Buckley, they all do a wonderful job, along with Freshwater Creek and of course Modewarre.

Also, different organisations that exist, such as the Barrabool CWA and the Barrabool Moriac Uniting Church, the Scouts group, different Landcare groups in the area, Barrabool Hills, Lake Modewarre and also Thompsons Creek Landcare, the Modewarre football, cricket and netball club and also the Mt Moriac Tennis Club and the Moriac Tennis Club, the Barwon Valley Pony Club, and I was a member of that a few years ago in the 1980s, and there's a saying that the best view of the world is from between a horse's ears riding a horse. Also, the different hall groups, including Modewarre Memorial Hall, where the war memorial is. There's Friends of Lake Modewarre and different fishing groups as well that all play a very vital role and the volunteers are the backbone of our community.

And just finally, I'd like to say that very happy in Moriac to have the Greenfields walk and the fitness equipment to be installed and hopefully a board walk at the bottom of Hendy Main Road where the creek is because it's

Draft Transcript

quite a wet area, that will hopefully happen in the future. We've had replacement of the Mud Hut with a new gathering space shelter in Winchelsea along with the second stage of the Barwon River Loop walk and a new adventure play space is to start construction shortly, and very happy with the redevelopment of the Winchelsea Pool and I know many people from Moriac go to Winchelsea, go to Probus groups and also enjoy attending at the pool. I know my sister used to work at the pool as well when she was much younger and we are just wondering, Mayor, who should be the first person to be thrown in the new pool when it's built. Thank you very much.

CR PATTISON: Thank you, Councillor Schonfelder. And my apologies, I sometimes slip up and can be a little casual, so my apologies. We try to refer to each other as Councillor Schonfelder and by our second name, so apologies there for that one. As Councillor Wellington is not available, we won't be having a presentation from her.

I did want to point out that we have all our current Councillors here from the Surf Coast, but we have Sharyn Faulkner, who was a past Mayor of the City of Colac, here with us, so welcome to - it's good to acknowledge other local government figures from our community, so thanks, Sharon, for coming along to our meeting tonight.

We now move into - our next component is submissions and we don't have any submissions for tonight's meeting, but we do have quite a lot of public questions, which is great because we're here in the community and we want to hear from you, but it does mean that it takes up quite a bit of the meeting. So each person has an opportunity to put forward two questions and I will and other officers will respond to those, but we'll limit it to just those two questions so we can move through them. We normally allocate half an hour. I don't think we're going to get through it in half an hour, but that's okay because we're here in the community and we want to hear from you, but just so that people understand that.

So our first question is from Glenn Falla. Did you want to come and speak, Glenn, to your question?

GLENN FALLA: Yes.

CR PATTISON: Or read out your question. Come up to the microphone. Thanks, Glenn.

GLENN FALLA: Thank you, and welcome, everybody. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. Given that we're only allowed two questions, you'll find

Draft Transcript

that my first question is in five parts, but it is relatively short. 200 words comes up pretty quickly.

So my questions are in relation to motion 157 that was raised at the Council meeting on the 23rd of the 4th, that being the motion to close four local wetlands to hunting for good. I am speaking tonight in the official capacity as a local resident of almost 30 years, not in my formal position at Field & Game Australia.

So my first question is in four parts. Hunters and shooters are aware of fallout zones and real-world dangers regarding distances of fallout for steel shot loads which are used or relevant in duck hunting. What was the basis of the concerns raised and were they verified in any way? Did the Council seek any data on noise levels and distances from the hunting to property owners residence and confirm any claims of noise pollution or disturbance. And finally, what efforts did the Council take to contact all residents that own properties that abound the perimeters of the four local wetlands that were mentioned in motion 157? And I ask these questions because there are a number of people in this room that have done a lot more work than me in making contact with those local residents and I'm interested to understand the process.

CR PATTISON: Thanks, Glenn, and thanks for your question. I think the question that you read was a little different to the one that I had written here, but that's great. I'm glad you've put forward something that's important to you.

And look, there's a range of views on the subject around duck shooting, as we can see by people that are here tonight and there is also another petition that's being put forward as well and the motion last week. So it's important to note Council has no power to regulate duck hunting. The responsibility sits with the State Government.

The decision at last night's Council meeting committed Council to write to the relevant State Government authorities outlining safety concerns that were raised by community around duck hunting in the Modewarre area and it was specifically requested that around - in areas 25 metres from properties - 250 metres, sorry, from residential properties be closed to duck hunting.

In writing a letter that outlines safety concerns raised by community members, we wouldn't normally undertake community engagement. If the power to regulate duck hunting sat with Council, it would be a very different situation and Council would need to and would want to undertake significant community

Draft Transcript

engagement and really investigate all of the points that you asked of us just then, so before any significant decision was made.

So I understand that you were seeking a lot more information and seeking that Council had done a lot further engagement, but once again, the decision around regulating duck hunting sits with the State Government and so that level of detail wasn't carried out in what happened at our last meeting. So it's great that you've come and raised these questions and put forward your petition so that community can understand and that Councillors can understand the broad range of views. Did you have a second question?

GLENN FALLA: Yes, so thank you for answering that. It's the response that I was expecting having been involved with the inquiry in the last 18 months in both Victoria and South Australia at State level, so thank you. It will help a lot of people in the room to understand.

Question 2 relates to the CORA project and CORA states in public, and I quote directly from their website, "CORA does not propose to use any of Lake Modewarre, nor does CORA propose to alter the way Lake Modewarre is used currently." Why then are selected Councillors using the CORA development to further justify the motion 157?

CR PATTISON: And thanks for your second question, Glenn. So there has been Councillors that - individual Councillors that referenced CORA during their debate on the motion. The Council's resolution as recorded in the minutes only relates to public safety and does not reference CORA and so yes, there was conversation from individual Councillors, but that's not - the Council position doesn't reflect anything in relation to CORA. It was purely about a letter to relevant State ministers.

GLENN FALLA: Terrific. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. So our next question is from Maria Rahman from Buckley. Maria, are you here to read your question? Thank you.

MARIA RAHMAN: Hello to everyone and thank you for coming here. My question is what was the consultation process that took place prior to motion 157 that was heard at the Council meeting on 23 April? Within motion 157 it states, "There is no signage to warn visitors to the Lake to beware of duck shooting, creating a highly unsafe environment for visitors and the local community during duck shooting times". With the local residents, when they were approached regarding this petition, the only issue they raised was that they had requested clear signage stating dates and starting times of shooting.

Draft Transcript

Many were not even aware that the duck season was only for 10 weeks and thought that it ran through the whole way through the year.

Also, camping around the lake is not welcomed by the locals due to fire hazard and rubbish being left behind. Having said that, locals did acknowledge the rubbish is being left around all year round. Therefore, the locals recommend that camping be allowed and restricted to the northern side of Lake Modewarre, where the club rooms currently are. The locals propose fees be charged for camping and this money be used to maintain facilities. Why doesn't the Council enforce camping rules and at least provide bins for the rubbish?

CR PATTISON: Thanks for your question and in regards to the consultation, we've sort of spoken about that with Glenn, and the more operational question around the litter and camping I'll pass on to our CEO to answer.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Hi, Maria, and thank you very much for asking your question. We do take littering really seriously and we do have officers who enforce regulations in relation to that. So as a result of your question, I've asked our General Manager of Community Life to speak to our local laws and our other teams who are out and about making sure people are complying to have a look into the issues around any illegal camping and any littering that's happening out at the site to see what we can do about that. So thank you for raising that issue with us.

MARIA RAHMAN: I do have one more question.

CR PATTISON: Yes, sure.

MARIA RAHMAN: Okay, my second question: why has the Council been lenient on the property at 519 Buckley School Road, Buckley, giving them time to get an exemption to live in an illegal building without a permit and not meeting the by-law of the minimum 60 hectares as per on the website? Is this because - it also interferes of being within 200 metres of the lake. Is it because this person is of Friends of Lake Modewarre?

CR PATTISON: Thanks for your question. This is quite a detailed operational matter, so I'll pass that one to our CEO.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: So again, thank you for bringing that to our attention. We do take these matters really seriously. You'll understand that there's a whole range of processes that we'd need to go through to investigate an

Draft Transcript

allegation like that, so we will get one of our team members to be in touch with you so we can get more information so we can look into that issue.

MARIA RAHMAN: Okay.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thanks, Maria.

MARIA RAHMAN: Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank you for your questions. Goran Rahman, are you here to read your question?

GORAN RAHMAN: Thank you all for coming and letting me have my say finally. My first question: I believe that Council has seen the detailed maps of the petition to motion 157. Are they willing to listen to what the locals want, not just the minority?

CR PATTISON: Thank you, Goran, for coming and speaking with us and I really appreciate the information that was put forward in the petition and I understand the frustration about not feeling heard at the last Council meeting.

We have definitely - the maps have been looked at and discussed and I think it's really important to understand the broader views of a community in relation to such an important matter. We can see from everybody here today that there are a range of views and Councillors have definitely read the petition and seen and understand the range of views, so we are listening and we appreciate you sharing that petition.

GORAN RAHMAN: Okay. Question number 2: will the Council reconsider allowing building permits that interfere with native bird habitat? To me we all want what is the best for the wildlife environment, so this shouldn't be hard to agree to.

CR PATTISON: I'll pass that one to Robyn because it's an operational - sorry, our CEO.

GORAN RAHMAN: Fine.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thank you, Goran, and thanks for the question and for coming along tonight and sharing your concerns around the potential impacts of buildings being close to bird habitats.

Draft Transcript

Protecting the natural environment is really important to the Surf Coast Shire and features as one of our strategic priorities in our four-year Council plan and in fact the Surf Coast Planning Scheme includes a number of provisions and overlays aimed at protecting the environmental values across our municipality. All new buildings requiring a permit, a planning permit, are assessed against these requirements and often include third party referral for additional expertise so we make sure we do consider those issues in terms of when houses are built and where they're built.

GORAN RAHMAN: Okay. I'm not quite happy, but I'll (inaudible).

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thank you, Goran.

CR PATTISON: And if people have follow-up questions, you're welcome to send an email or get in contact through info@surfcoast.vic.gov.au or on our website the Councillors' emails are all available, so if there's further questions or concerns, you're welcome to get in contact with us after the meeting. Our next question is Natalia Stocki. Did you want to read your question?

NATALIA STOCKI: Hi, good evening. I guess my first part of my question has sort of been answered, but I'll still read from it here anyway. So I asked: have Council members seen the maps attached to the petition against motion 157 showing that the majority of the residents around the wetlands in question are in support of the petition? I guess with that, obviously you mentioned that everyone has seen the maps, but again, just making a comment with reference to it. It was noted that with motion 157 that no back work was done looking into what the local residents thought. If this was done, you would have seen by these maps that we've provided and those that were - you know, have signed this petition that it was the majority that are actually for the duck shooting in the area, not against.

And then also the number of signatures in just the short time that was attained was 161 that were the Surf Shire residents, 127 which were Geelong region residents, and 28 that were in other parts of Victoria. I also ask of those that were lodged in petition for motion 157, of the 190 signatures in other parts of Victoria, how many of these are actually Geelong regional residents, noting also that additional signatures shouldn't be allowed to be submitted once a petition has been lodged, as I did note that on their petition it says that there's more to come. Like we could have attained a lot more as well.

CR PATTISON: Thanks, Natalia, and yes, thanks for your questions and I confirm, as we have already, that the maps have been provided to us and it does give a really - a broader picture of what's going on in the community and

Draft Transcript

the differing views and it's really good for us to understand both sides and both strong views with lots of supportive signatures from our Surf Coast region. So I really appreciate those being provided and the time it's taken for people to put them together.

And also, we don't accept further signatures. Once the petition is provided to us, that's the signatures that are in it and they may gather more, but unless they resubmit it, it's just what's provided at the time, just so that you understand that because obviously in an infinite time people could collect many signatures --

NATALIA STOCKI: Correct.

CR PATTISON: -- just so that you're aware of that. And we haven't counted all the different suburbs outside of the Surf Coast for that petition for one that related to motion 157, but we can confirm that several locations were within the Greater Geelong region, but we haven't got specific numbers for you on that. Thank you.

NATALIA STOCKI: Okay, thanks.

CR PATTISON: And our next question is from Boris Stocki. Did you want to read your question, Boris? No? I'll read out Boris's question then. Question number 1: if the CORA project will be receiving an allocation of water for their wetlands, why can't we obtain an allocation of water for Lake Modewarre, and I'll pass that one to our CEO.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Hi, Boris, and thanks for your questions. Hopefully you're watching online tonight. Council doesn't have powers in relation to water allocations. This responsibility sits with State Government and relevant local water authorities. Likewise, the State Government is the responsible planning authority for CORA. The CORA project will obtain technical reports on a range of topics, including water use, and these will be considered by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action ahead of a decision by the Minister for Planning on this matter, but thanks for your question.

CR PATTISON: And there's a second question: will the Council reconsider reopening the club rooms at Lake Modewarre to the whole community regardless of their activities?

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Another good question. So our team have actually been working on a licence agreement for the use of the Lake Modewarre Pavilion with the Modewarre and District Anglers Club. The agreement period

Draft Transcript

would be for 12 months and under the terms of the licence, the user group would manage bookings of the pavilion and it's in the licensees' interest to ensure that they have other users hiring out their facilities as part of that lease agreement.

Prior to that lease agreement being in place and an important part of the process is an opportunity for feedback for any proposed licences and so we'll be advertising our intention to enter a licence agreement via council channels and local media quite soon. Thanks for your questions.

SPEAKER: Best news I've heard.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: That is great.

CR PATTISON: Our next question is from Kim Rowe.

KIM ROWE: Hi, everyone. I'm Kim Rowe and I'm asking the questions on behalf of the Moriac Community Network. So last year a big thank you again for your support for our community action plan. Two of my questions arise around those. So the first one - way back in January 2012 it was resolved that the Moriac and District Lions Park Upgrade would be fully funded for the full amount of \$160,400 as part of the 2020-2021 Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program. This grant was to beautify the entrance of Moriac township Lions Park, however, was moved from Moriac to Torquay Scouts due to delays of soil tests and the Surf Coast Shire lease of the area from VicTrack. A commitment was made at that time to ensure this would be done at a later date. So my question is to seek an update of that commitment.

CR PATTISON: Thanks for your question and our CEO will respond to this one.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thanks, Kim, and it was really good having a chat to you earlier tonight with our GM of Placemaking and Environment. We have, as you say, worked at length with VicTrack over the future use and the potential lease agreement. The Lions Park does contain the public toilet and the information sign. Part of the challenge for us is that VicTrack have said that they require the land for future works associated with the rail network, which has made it very difficult for us to do any major work on that site given VicTrack's position on that. So as a result, we don't have any plans at the moment for the Lions Park and instead have prioritised other projects in the town, such as the Greenfields Trail and Connections.

KIM ROWE: With due respect, they were concurrent grants.

Draft Transcript

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Yes, yes, we understand that and as part of that, the renewal of the skate park at Newling Park and planning for the expansion and future proofing of the Moriac Preschool and the planning for the future home of the Community Shed for Moriac.

But as part of the structure plan being considered tonight, it does still recognise the need for the future improvement works around the Moriac - around central Moriac and we were talking about that earlier around the entrance to Moriac and the challenges in that space and so I think there is some future work for us to do in that space. It's just while we're kind of working through and understanding VicTrack's position on the need for the upgrades to the rail network in the future, we've been prioritising our activity in other places, but we understand what you're saying, we understand the community's interest in that and I think as we understand better VicTrack's intentions, then we can look at that in the future.

KIM ROWE: That would be fabulous and we can bring out the old project plan when we're ready to go.

And my other question, which is also in regards to our community action plan, so road safety and public transport is a focus of the Surf Coast Shire sponsorship of action plan. The commitments of G21 to enhance public transport have seen recent improvements from Torquay to Geelong. Alan Thomas is a regional transport blogger and did a piece on the top towns without public transport back in January of this year. Moriac made the list. So keen to understand what advocacy the Surf Coast Shire have done as a member of the G21 to ensure consideration of public transport through Moriac.

CR PATTISON: Thank you and our CEO will respond to this one.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thanks again because it's a really important question. So we do speak to PTV about the need for public transport in Moriac and a potential bus route. We had the pilot a long time ago, in 2009, I think. We had quite low levels of participation and so I think that's part of the challenge we've got with PTV in this space.

One of the things that we have heard very clearly from PTV when we talk to them about Moriac and the future bus connection is that they encourage community members to get in touch with PTV and call for a bus service as well as us because I think their suggestion was that actually that's more influential than Council advocating on behalf of community. So I would encourage the Moriac community to get in touch with PTV as well as us as we continue together to advocate for a future bus service in Moriac.

Draft Transcript

KIM ROWE: Thank you. We're certainly working with PTV users association to consider because 2009 was quite some time ago.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: A long time ago, yes.

KIM ROWE: Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Evan Belfrage, are you here from Gnarwarre?

EVAN BELFRAGE: Thank you for hearing our questions. I also represent MCN, or Moriac Community Network, and I also refer my first question to the plan that was tabled at Council last year. As per the plan, the old fire station in Moriac is to be used as a community hub. Currently our existing History group and Men's Shed group don't have a place to meet. That is until we get the lease signed with VicTrack. This lease is held up because of the Council's requirements for the building in terms of the use and the class of the building. MCN has been working through that since November last year to understand and meet these requirements. It's not our core subject. Will Council dedicate an officer to facilitate meeting these requirements?

CR PATTISON: Thanks for your question, Evan, and I know we've spoken a couple of times and it's something that our CEO and I had a chat about earlier this week. It is a very operational matter, so our CEO will respond, but it is something that's on everyone's radar.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thank you, Evan, for the question and we had a really good chat to Kim also about that earlier tonight as well, which was really helpful in understanding what your experiences have been and some of the challenges that you've been facing in this space. So our General Manager of Placemaking and Environment is going to take our knowledge after tonight back to our team and will speak to the team about it and then will be in touch in terms of a possible way forward.

EVAN BELFRAGE: Thank you. My second question doesn't relate to the plan, but it affects the community, certainly the community of Gnarwarre, where I live. Recently the Pollocksford Bridge was closed without timely notification to the residents. Given the importance of this Barwon River crossing, can Council provide the timing for the repair and how the residents will be notified?

CR PATTISON: I'll pass this one to our CEO to respond.

Draft Transcript

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thank you and thank you for that question as well. And you're right, we did have to close the bridge really quickly and that was really unfortunate and we didn't do it lightly. We did it because of the safety concerns. So we'd had a specialist assessment of the bridge that raised some pretty serious concerns around the status of the bridge, which is why we put the three tonne limit on the bridge and unfortunately, we had - we were monitoring the use of the bridge and people weren't complying with the three tonne requirement and we also heard that from community members as well and given the state of the bridge, it was too risky to leave it open and so we were forced to close the bridge because of the lack of compliance, which was really unfortunate.

So the work that we're doing now is to understand what is the best way for us to get the bridge operational again and we are working through that and we're hopeful that we will have a clear way forward in coming months and then we'll need to seek the funding for that money - for that work. It's a joint project between Golden Plains and Surf Coast Shire and so we need to work with them as well around the funding of the remediation of that bridge. So I'm not being very specific about timelines --

EVAN BELFRAGE: No, you're not.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Yes, and if I could I would. We are looking at it in a very dedicated way to find a cost effective solution and a way we can get the bridge open again as quickly as we can and we are making progress, but bridges are really complex and they're very expensive to repair as well and that one is a pretty special bridge.

EVAN BELFRAGE: It is. I understand that. I request that you keep the community informed because it is of concern and I understand your concerns, but you need to talk to us and tell us what's going on.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Yes, and so one of the things that we're doing is we are - whenever there is something new, we're also updating our website so you can - there's a page on our website that is particular to the Pollocksford Road Bridge, so if there's a big change, we will definitely let you know, but if you're wanting to see how we're progressing, if there's updates they'll be on the website, so you're really welcome to also look there.

EVAN BELFRAGE: A lot of people don't.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Yes.

Draft Transcript

EVAN BELFRAGE: Are of the age where they don't use websites --

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Yes.

EVAN BELFRAGE: -- so you're missing a section of the community. Are you happy for us to take some copies off that website and publish it through our normal means of communication?

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Absolutely, and if there is significant updates, we won't be just putting things on the website, we'll do what we've done, which is mailouts and media stories and things like that so that the community will have visibility of that if there's a significant progress as well. But thank you.

EVAN BELFRAGE: Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thanks, Evan. Our next question is from Myra White, but I can't see Myra in the room. Are you here, Myra? No. She said she was going to be here, but I think I'll read hers out for her. So Myra is from Jan Juc. "Thank you to Surf Coast Shire Council for the appointment of a Senior Project Manager to facilitate progress on Safe Passage and Ridgeline Pathway along the Great Ocean Road. We note the installation of a pedestrian refuge at Strathmore Drive West funded by the Department of Transport and Planning. Communication from Council on 8 May has been that there is no funding to construct a connecting pathway on the north or south sections at this time. Is the vegetation trimming and forthcoming installation of a guide post considered sufficient to enable safe crossing? No timeline has been provided for works, despite the significant risk of children and community now walking on the verge facing oncoming traffic." I'll pass this one to our CEO.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thanks, Mayor. Thanks for your question. It is expected that the vegetation clearing and installation of the guide posts will occur within the next week. Although this isn't an ideal final treatment for pedestrians at this location, we think it will improve the safety by providing a clear separation between the traffic lane and the road side where pedestrians can walk. It would be preferable, there's no doubt about it, to have a dedicated footpath alongside the road and we'll discuss this with Councillors.

There's been a public submission as part of Council's 24-25 budget and I've also asked our General Manager of Placemaking and Environment to consider how Council could fund the implementation of the pathway. As I'm sure you can appreciate, there are many competing priorities for funding to improve safety and connections for pedestrians and cyclists, but we want to make sure

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that people using that new crossover can get to Strathmore Drive in a safe manner.

CR PATTISON: And the next question from Myra: "Representatives of Major Road Projects Victoria met with community representatives this morning, on 27 May, to provide an update on the planned installation of a new pedestrian refuge at Strathmore East by the end of July 2024 and a new signalised crossing at Duffields Road/Great Ocean Road intersections by the end of 2024. While welcome, how do these two projects integrate with the Council's Ridgeline pathway integrated design and project timeline?"

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thanks. So Council's new pathway from Duffields Road through to Christian College is still in the design phase. Now that Council has received the location plans for these proposed crossings from the Department of Transport and Planning, we'll be able to allow for these in that final design so they link into the pathway.

The new pathway was always intended to terminate at Duffields Road intersection. Therefore, DTP proposed signals and crossings aligned with Council's initial plans. While the link to the new pathway at Strathmore Drive East will be able to connect into the new pathway. The timing may not quite line up perfectly, but before too long we'll have a much better situation for those crossing the road, particularly the children in Jan Juc. Thanks very much.

CR PATTISON: And our last question - I think it's our last one - is from Sam Fernando in Torquay and it's around Community Amenity Local Law and I don't think Sam is here with us. No. I'll read out Sam's question: "Noting the increase on attacks on women with babies given their vulnerability, why have Surf Coast Shire not implemented safe places for mothers with babies, in particular pram parking?" I'll pass this one to our CEO.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thank you. Thanks for your questions, Sam. We are really keen to improve community safety, including for women and children in our community. Much of our community health and wellbeing work is focused actually on this topic and as we follow the Child Safe standards set out by the State Government.

Regarding the safe parking for people with prams, it's not clear that these carparks always improve community safety. For example, these spaces can create conflict between people accessing parking and currently there's no legislative provisions to control the use of carparking designated for people with prams. We know, though, that in shopping centres sometimes those

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private shopping centre carparks do provide a courtesy service on land for mothers with prams, but in the absence of legislative controls, it's really hard for that to be managed and so there's no provisions for Council officers to effectively monitor and enforce who would use those parking spaces and we don't have a capacity to require our shopping centres to have those forms of carparking.

CR PATTISON: And Sam's second question: "As the Council support climate change initiatives, can you please advise what percentage of the atmosphere has carbon and at what carbon level do plant life perish?"

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thank you for your question. Council understands that the current level of atmospheric CO₂ is approximately 422 parts per million. In regard to the second part of your question, there isn't a direct linear correlation between atmospheric CO₂ and plant survival. The rapid increase of greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere since the industrial revolution is warming the planet at a faster rate than we've ever seen before, driving unpredictability and volatility in the earth's climate system and causing significant impacts on both human and our natural systems. Climate modelling provides us with insights on plausible future climate scenarios and the impacts and consequences that could occur as a result of this.

Council is committed to understanding our climate risk and putting appropriate measures in place to build resilience so that the Surf Coast community and environment can thrive in a changing climate. Council is also committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and do our bit to limit global warming.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. That brings our public questions to an end and we'll now move further into our agenda and the next one is petitions, which I think a lot of you are here for. So we have two petitions for this meeting. The first petition is a Petition of Permanent Closure of Lake Gherang and Lake Modewarre to Duck Shooting and I'll read - just for those that aren't familiar, there's a recommendation that is put to Councillors that we vote on. So the recommendation is, "That Council, in accordance with its Governance Rules: Receives and notes the petition titled 'Petition of Permanent Closure of Lake Gherang and Lake Modewarre to Duck Shooting'; Refers the petition to the General Manager Strategy and Effectiveness for consideration; Requires a report on the petition be presented to a Council meeting within three months of this Council meeting; and Advises the lead petitioner of this resolution". So do I have a mover of a motion? Councillor Barker - as per the recommendation?

CR BARKER: Yes, Mayor.

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CR PATTISON: And a seconder? Councillor Schonfelder. Would you like to speak to the motion, Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: Yes, and just briefly, for those that aren't aware, if you need toilets, they're just through this door to your left.

But getting on to the motion, this petition is to oppose the request to permanently close Lake Gherang and Lake Modewarre to duck shooting. The petition reflects the concerns of 315 people, around half of whom are from within the shire. Many of those who've signed this from outside the shire contribute to our local economy when they visit to hunt. One I've been in touch with comes from as far as the Northern Territory. This topic, which was raised by this Council at our last meeting, could impact how those areas can be used by individuals who currently enjoy duck hunting as a legitimate recreational activity.

This petition was submitted conforming to our Governance Rules and within the time limits specified for petitions. Since this issue was raised, I've met local hunters and have been thoroughly impressed with their conservation efforts and voluntary contributions to managing the waterways for decades. I'm less impressed to learn of how government efforts over these decades have actually resulted in damaging consequences, such as the disruptions to the water flows in the Connewarre system.

While I dislike the officer time that will need to be spent on the report that will need to be provided to Council when this motion is passed, it could have been prevented by this Council not passing an ideologically driven motion that could significantly impact how people in our regional areas have lived for decades.

Point 2 of the petition rationale highlights that there are people occupying a residence illegally. I would like to ask some questions about that, but it's been raised earlier. But if we value equality amongst everyone and we value the rule of law, hopefully that will be dealt with more sooner than later.

Councillor Wellington and I have discussed this and I can report that her main concern is the impact of sustained periods of shooting near families with small children and pets to wetlands in the Winchelsea ward. This is her words as well, "This should not be a fight about who does or doesn't support duck hunting. That's a state issue." I agree fully. Community amenity is our issue and Councillor Wellington has a position that is a legitimate position for us to be concerned about.

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I would just like to highlight what I said before that this petition conforms to our Governance Rules and was submitted within the required time. That's all I need.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Schonfelder?

CR SCHONFELDER: Thank you, Mayor. I'd like to thank the members of the public and the local residents who submitted this petition and note that this year is an Olympic year and there will be shooters competing in Paris and in the past we've had gold medalists, Russell Mark and Michael Diamond, and I've met Russell and I'm a former holder of a firearms licence and I support the rights of people to shoot and hunt. I did say earlier tonight that I live on Andersons Road, Barrabool and one evening I was driving over the Wairn Ponds Creek and I saw a fox that was the size of a German Shepherd and I have pet ducks myself and I, sadly, have had them abducted or murdered, they've gone missing, and I suspect probably foxes have done it.

So as a Council, we're not against hunting and shooting and I actually applaud the efforts of shooters who endeavour and try to eradicate vermin such as foxes, rabbits and deer and wild pigs, I think it's wonderful, and I'm happy to learn more about hunting and shooting and if an external briefing is required by Field & Game possibly to come to the Council, I'm happy to partake in that and I'm happy to learn more from the shooting fraternity about this. So thank you, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Would any other Councillors like to speak?
Councillor Bodsworth?

CR BODSWORTH: Thanks, Mayor. Well, firstly, I'd like to say thanks for having us in Moriac tonight. It's great to be here. I really enjoy the meetings where we get out into local towns and I think it's a great opportunity to be face to face with people, so I really appreciate that.

I think the Mayor's answer to the first question tonight contained what's the critical thing to me. This was an advocacy position that the Council agreed to take. If it had have been that the Council was in the decision making position and was able to or was in an authority position to make a call on duck hunting on these local wetlands then, as an individual Councillor myself, I would have liked a lot more work to go into that decision making process, but we weren't. We were considering taking an advocacy position which put forward a certain point of view and what I appreciate about this petition is that it puts forward in a really thoughtful way and a really helpful way to me trying to get my head around the broader issues a contrary advocacy position.

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So I support receiving the petition. I thought it was really well thought out. I thought it was well structured and that the arguments within it were well put, so I think it's appropriate that we should receive it and deal with it according to the recommendation and I hope that includes that the petition makes its way to the same regulators that get to see the contents of our previous motion.

CR PATTISON: Would any other Councillors like to speak on receiving and noting the petition? No? I just wanted to point out just for clarification the motion, the past motion, was to write a letter, not to take an advocacy position, so just to clarify that. There was a letter written around public safety, but we didn't take an advocacy position on it, just to clarify for those that are here.

I'll now put the motion to the vote in the context of tabling this petition - oh, sorry, did you have a closing statement, Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: Yes, thanks, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: Sorry about that.

CR BARKER: Due process is a wonderful thing. I understand that the shooters referenced by other Councillors do not want to be connected to public statements within Council, so I'd make sure that individuals who do want to raise names check with those people beforehand.

And with regards to the advocacy or the letter writing, we do have an influence in the decision making process through our letter writing and have done so without public consultation. Either we do have power or we don't. If we do have power, we should make sure that what we are doing has the endorsement of the community, but if we don't have power we shouldn't be writing letters. That's all.

CR PATTISON: We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour of receiving the petition. And the motion is carried unanimously.

So thank you for those that have come for putting your petition forward. We appreciate you coming here and the petition. Thank you.

We now move on to our next petition, which is Closure of Brown Swamp and Lake Modewarre to All Native Bird Shooting. So once again, it's a very similar recommendation. I'll read it for those so that you understand what we're

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talking about, "That Council, in accordance with its Governance Rules: Receives and notes the petition titled 'Closure of Brown Swamp and Lake Modewarre to all native bird shooting'; Refers the petition to the General Manager Strategy and Effectiveness for consideration; Requires a report on the petition be presented to a Council meeting within three months of this Council meeting; and Advises the lead petitioner of this resolution." Do I have a mover of a motion? Councillor Gazzard - is that as per the recommendation? And do I have a seconder? Councillor Schonfelder. Would you like to speak to the motion, Councillor Gazzard?

CR GAZZARD: Thank you, just briefly. I'm happy to accept both of the petitions and it's really good to hear all sides of the issues from the community, so thank you to everyone who has been involved.

I will just clarify the motion - so the State Government had already decided to close Lake Modewarre to duck shooting this season. We didn't have any discussion around Lake Dubban and the main rationale was the public amenity and safety, so closure of sections within 250 metres of residential properties and largely around Brown Swamp where there's young families. So happy to table both petitions, thank you.

CR PATTISON: Councillor Schonfelder, would you like to speak? Would any other Councillors like to speak? Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: Thanks, Mayor. I empathise with those who support closing Brown swamp and Lake Modewarre to all native bird shooting, but the reality is that hunting has been going on for nearly 100 years around here. Now, the petition with around 302 signatures comprised of around a third of which are from within our shire - the petition highlights a community-driven effort to protect bird species. However, such a closure would affect recreational users and require enforcement, potentially costing Council or the state significant resources in a very restrictive budgetary environment.

There are economic ramifications should the request in Notice of Motion 157 be adopted. Now, there are at least 500 hunters that frequent Surf Coast each year that we are aware of that spend up in the area when they come through.

Of particular note is the date this petition was submitted. Depending on which date we look at, it could have been submitted on the 16th, the 17th or the 20th of May. Each of these dates falls after the latest petitions are received according to our Governance Rule 23.1.

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Accepting the petition, like other petitions that suit the agenda this Council is pushing that don't conform to our Governance Rules, will just go to show that due process is not a priority of this Council. If in the unlikely event this petition is not received, I will withdraw my previous comment and congratulate my colleagues on their adherence to proper process.

I wasn't going to say this before, but after observation of the meeting tonight, I'm compelled to raise the phrase familiarity breeds contempt. Maintaining professionalism and respecting due process will create a much more mutually respectful environment between Council and the community.

This petition does not mention specific costs, which is a concern given our tight budgetary constraint. Instead of allocating resources to advocate for these bans, we could redirect those funds to address our backlog of asset renewal works or a whole bunch of other critical infrastructure projects rather than this element that really is outside our remit.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Would any other Councillors like to speak on this motion? Did you have any closing remarks, Councillor Gazzard?

CR GAZZARD: Just to note that the motion is actually to receive the petition and not really about the information in the petition.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And all those opposed. And the motion is carried 7-1. So both the petitions will be received and will come back to a later Council meeting.

Everyone is welcome to stay on because there's plenty more interesting things around Winchelsea, Moriac and the like, but we won't be offended if those that are just here for the petition want to go. That's also totally fine. So I just put that out there, but you're welcome to stay on if you'd like.

We'll now move into the reports. The first report we have today is the Winchelsea Visitor Information Centre Update. The purpose of this report is to present a preferred option for visitor servicing in Winchelsea to Council for endorsement. We have a recommendation before us. Do we have a mover of a motion? Councillor Schonfelder - as per the recommendation? And a seconder? Councillor Gazzard. Would you like to speak to the motion?

CR SCHONFELDER: Yes, please, Mayor. This recommendation notes that "subject to a favourable tender outcome, underpinning and rectification works at the former Winchelsea Library are planned to commence in early 2024-2025 and once complete will enable the building to be used safely once again."

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This building - I'm not certain with the library what type of architecture it is. It looks gothic to me or Victorian, but it's a beautiful gabled building and, as we know, the highway was duplicated and there was damage caused to the foundations of the building and I don't know if it is attributed to the earthworks that took place because of the highway, but it did seem somewhat coincidental, but we know that older buildings, they require maintenance and they do deteriorate over time.

The members of the Visitor Information Centre and the volunteers there in particular are very fond of the building and I have visited that centre prior to its closure due to COVID and the morale is high amongst the volunteers operating there and they do have a strong desire to return to that building. They feel as though it operates better as a location, as opposed to the Shire Hall in Winchelsea. The Visitor Information Centre historically has operated from the library at number 1 Princes Highway opposite Cafe La Hoot and it was determined, unfortunately, to be unsafe due to large cracks worsening, which extended most the way up the brick wall in the north-west corner of the building.

So I look forward to the library being restored and renovated. I think it would lift community spirits. Mental health is an issue that it's very important for our community and I think that the volunteers there would really welcome the restoration of the building. Thank you, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Gazzard, would you like to speak to the motion?

CR GAZZARD: Thank you, just that I support the option 2 as the preferred option to relocate the visitor service. Winchelsea is growing and it's obviously really critical that we have good access for visitors and tourists and I'd like to thank all the volunteers involved in keeping this running. So I think option 2 is a good temporary solution while the building is being fixed.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Would any other Councillors - Councillor Allen?

CR ALLEN: Thanks, Mayor. I think the plans are exciting to restore and reuse the iconic former Winchelsea library building and the plan to relocate the Visitor Information Centre in the restored building definitely has the support of the Winchelsea community and the volunteers who operate the service, which is most important.

Draft Transcript

It's an excellent plan to have a complementary use as well as the visitor information service and that will - the complementary use I would think would add vitality and extend the hours that the facility would be used and in my experience, it would also, I think, increase the number of volunteers who are willing to contribute their time to extend the service and I, like Councillor Gazzard, congratulate those members of the community who kept the visitors information operating, albeit in a different format.

I also note and I'm really pleased that we can possibly use the creative halls funding to fund the necessary fittings. This really is an excellent initiative of the shire. We have the benefit in Lorne with lighting installed in the Lorne Community Connect, and so if we can use that funding to fund necessary fittings, that's a great initiative. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank you, Councillor Allen. Any other Councillors? Councillor Bodsworth?

CR BODSWORTH: Thanks, Mayor. I support the plan, I think it's a good plan, but I'd like to foreshadow an alternate motion should this one not get up, which is simply to remove the words "non-commercial" from the recommendation because I think that we should keep options open for a commercial or non-commercial agreement depending on how it comes out. Through the process of finding a partner in the building for the Visitor Information Centre, I think it's possible that a commercial user could come forward that was highly compatible with the visitor centre.

CR PATTISON: Could I just ask a question, Councillor Bodsworth, were you seeking to make an amendment because that would qualify as an amendment or did you want to foreshadow?

CR BODSWORTH: Okay, if that qualifies, I'll pose that as an amendment.

CR PATTISON: An amendment, alright. Governance, could we perhaps get that one up on the screen with the amendment so that Councillors can know what we're talking about?

So just for the process, Councillor Bodsworth - for people that are watching, Councillor Bodsworth has proposed that we make a slight change to the recommendation that's being put forward and so that everybody or the Councillors understand, we're getting the recommendation put up on the screen. It will also be good because you guys can see it then as well and there's a minor change that's being proposed. Councillors will then vote on

Draft Transcript

whether we accept that amendment and then we'll continue on with that as the motion.

We're just waiting for it to come up on the screen. We put our Governance team in the hot seat sometimes in our Council meetings.

CR BODSWORTH: No pressure.

CR PATTISON: If there's an issue with the tech, I could check if everyone is happy. Is there an issue?

OFFICER: (Inaudible).

CR PATTISON: Okay. Look, I tell you what, Councillors, you've got - I assume you all have your agendas in front of you. Is everyone comfortable with the amendment that Councillor Bodsworth is proposing? It's minor. It's in the last sentence, just taking out the word "for a non-commercial user" and it will just - that's all that's being taken out. So it's still talking about wanting a complementary visitor service. Are you happy - you're not voting for or against, but you understand what's being proposed, yes.

CR BARKER: I'd like to allow commercial or non-commercial.

CR PATTISON: It's not up for negotiation. You can put forward another amendment afterwards. This is what's being proposed by Councillor Bodsworth. So we'll move on with this amendment and thank you, Governance, for putting it up there on the screen. That's wonderful. Anyway, "non-commercial" is being cut out. So Councillor Bodsworth, would you like - do we have a seconder for Councillor Bodsworth? Councillor Stapleton. Would you like to speak to it, Councillor Bodsworth?

CR BODSWORTH: I kind of finished speaking to it really. I just think it's good to cover both bases if it turns out to be a complementary commercial user or non-commercial user.

CR PATTISON: Great. Councillor Stapleton, would you like to speak to this particular amendment?

CR STAPLETON: Yes, I just think it's a way to keep our options open. It doesn't mean that a commercial user would be the preferred user or a non-commercial user. I think it allows officers to assess applications on their merits and sometimes just because a user is commercial in nature doesn't mean that's not the best outcome for the community and I think that we

Draft Transcript

should be looking for a cotenant that's going to deliver the best outcomes for the community.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Would any other Councillors like to speak specifically to the amendment before we put it to the vote?

CR BARKER: Just a question to the officers. Is there any risk that we might get an inappropriate applicant for this if the wording is changed?

CR PATTISON: I'll put that through to our CEO.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Councillor Barker, ultimately it would still be our decision about who we tenanted, so I think that risk can potentially be managed.

CR BARKER: I'm just concerned that there might be excess applicants. We'll support it, see how it goes.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. We will now put that amendment to the vote. So it's not the motion, it's just the amendment. All those in favour of the amendment. And that's carried unanimously.

So we now move back to the original conversation on the motion. So those that have already spoken can't speak again. Councillor Bodsworth, you still had some time left. Would you like to continue?

CR BODSWORTH: I've finished.

CR PATTISON: You're finished. And would any other Councillors like to speak? Councillor Hodge?

CR HODGE: Oh, just very quickly. Yes, it does make sense and we can go into partnerships commercial and non-commercial now, so it just makes sense that it's a neat and extra bow that we can draw on when we look at tenants. So yes, I agree with it.

CR PATTISON: Any other Councillors? Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: Thanks, Mayor. I've got some information from Councillor Wellington. This report has been provided following a motion by Councillor Wellington originally. She's been concerned at the state of this important heritage building. She's also been concerned that an important group of volunteers who staff the Visitor Information Centre have been very uncertain

Draft Transcript

about their future. The report addresses that and provides a way to get this important building reactivated and she's very pleased to hear about that.

Now, I appreciate the enthusiasm for updating the Winchelsea Visitor Information Centre to enhance our tourism and local engagement. This update aims to benefit the many visitors who seek information each year from the VIC, enhancing their experience of our beautiful shire. However, the underpinning and rectification works required for the former library building estimated to begin around October 2024 pose significant costs. In the context of our 24-25 budget, this expenditure must be carefully weighed against our infrastructure renewal needs even though it is part of it.

While tourism is vital, prioritising essential infrastructure projects more like roads and parks can deliver broader community benefits. This approach ensures that we can manage our funds effectively, keeping the rates low and focusing on the Council's core responsibilities.

If our budgetary position was stronger and not wasted pursuing environmental alarmism, race-based treatment of people, or the myriad of other state and federal matters, I'd likely support this motion, but it's not and I won't. What I will do is support a community-led voluntary fundraising appeal to support option 2 by donating \$50 of my own money to a cause if someone wants to raise it. If 100 other people join me to do the same, we can independently solve the issue without impacting our incredibly tight budget.

Additionally, I think what is being experienced here is the sunk cost fallacy. Sunk cost fallacy is a psychological or economic phenomenon that we experience when we've invested too much time, money or effort into an idea that doesn't work and continue to do so expecting a different outcome.

I personally think that the VIC is located in the wrong position. It's on the wrong side of the road. That significantly reduces the incentive for people to stop in.

If we look to Colac, a town very close by, not only is their Visitor Information Centre located on the eastern side of town on that side of the road as you enter, but it's also got substantial parking and it's really good. If you've not been there and you're visiting Colac, check it out. I'd like us to have something like that.

So if we do move it to the entry side of Winchelsea, we'll likely increase usage of the VIC and allow our volunteers to deliver more information to more happy visitors, but if we continue down this path, I'm concerned that we're just

Draft Transcript

throwing good money after bad and I won't be supporting the motion, even though it's not too bad.

CR PATTISON: Would any other Councillors like to speak to the motion?
Councillor Stapleton?

CR STAPLETON: Look, I'll just add quickly I think that the Winchelsea library is a beautiful old building that should be renewed regardless of what its use is going to be in the future. I think that it did work - I understand that it worked very successfully as a Visitor Information Centre when it was operating and, yes, I fully support the recommendation that we do the rectification works and get it up and running again for the community to enjoy.

CR PATTISON: Would any other Councillors like to speak? Councillor Schonfelder?

CR SCHONFELDER: Thank you to my colleagues for their input. I would like to emphasise the fact that people and visitors enjoy face-to-face contact and appreciate advice from the volunteers in relation to visiting Winchelsea and the Surf Coast.

I know that I have mentioned this before. I visited Niagara Falls in 2020 and I was advised at the visitor information centre to have a look at the whirlpool and I was unaware that after Niagara Falls there's a large whirlpool and no one can swim there because you'll be sucked underwater, but it was absolutely spectacular and if I hadn't gone to that visitor information centre, I would not have known about that. And I know that at the Winchelsea information centre, or Visitor Information Centre, many of the volunteers recommend to go to Barwon Park and as a past volunteer at Barwon Park, I've met visitors who were recommended to visit Barwon Park as a result of the Visitor Information Centre.

I'd like to conclude by acknowledging the volunteering efforts of Shirley Leak, who is number one ticket holder at the Winchelsea Football Club and has volunteered for many years at the Visitor Information Centre and I, on behalf of the Council, salute the efforts of the volunteers there and look forward to the library being restored. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And opposed? And the motion is carried 7-1.

We now move on to our next item for consideration, which is the Moriac Structure Plan Implementation. The purpose of this report is to consider the

Draft Transcript

preparation and exhibition of Planning Scheme Amendment C145surf, Moriac Structure Plan Implementation, subject to authorisation by the Minister for Planning. We have a recommendation before us. Does anybody wish to move a motion? Councillor Schonfelder - as per the recommendation? Yes. And do we have a seconder? Councillor Bodsworth. Would you like to speak, Councillor Schonfelder?

CR SCHONFELDER: Yes, please. Thank you, Mayor. I feel very honoured to be able to speak about the Moriac Structure Plan here in Moriac and I note that the Moriac Structure Plan 2023 was adopted by Council in December last year. It provides a strategic framework to guide land use and development decisions over the next 10 years.

The amendment implements relevant actions outlined in the Moriac Structure Plan 2023 Implementation Plan. Key changes to the Surf Coast Planning Scheme include the introduction of a new strategic framework plan for Moriac, updates to local policy and rezoning of land to correct anomalies or reflect its use for public open space.

The amendment will provide an updated planning framework to guide decision making for Moriac over the next decade. A major constraint limiting growth opportunities is the lack of reticulated sewerage infrastructure. Barwon Water have confirmed a retrofit sewer project would be a costly exercise, requiring financial contribution from residents. Providing reticulated sewerage to new growth areas would require approximately 600 to 800 additional homes, which would significantly alter the character and role of the town.

Now, last Saturday I went to an open day about Alcoa in Anglesea and interestingly enough, there were people there who knew about Moriac and knew the fact about the geology, which I find very fascinating and I imagine members of the gallery tonight would agree with me. It's interesting that there are large boulders under the soil here in Moriac because Mount Moriac was once an active volcano and the lava flowed and I imagine that was - the boulders were a result of the active volcano and I must say I'm very pleased the volcano is no longer active, Mayor, as someone who lives at the foothill of Mount Moriac.

I should add that future growth will therefore be incremental in scale and consistent with the town's rural setting and low-density character and I know that it is overwhelmingly the case and with liaison with the Moriac Community Network as an example, people in Moriac love the low density and the small town feel of Moriac and they don't want it to be like other areas that I could mention in the region, but I won't mention the areas, but we can well imagine

Draft Transcript

other areas that have been highly developed and lose - well their characters have changed. I was going to say they've lost their character, but the character has changed.

The new framework plan identifies a future low-density development area within the town settlement boundary which can accommodate future demand for housing within Moriac. The identification of a future low-density residential zone will ensure lot sizes are sufficient to manage and treat all wastewater within lot boundaries. I look forward to this structure plan being implemented, Mayor. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Bodsworth, would you like to speak?

CR BODSWORTH: Just should this motion be successful, just to encourage people to have a look at the Planning Scheme amendment and also to acknowledge the high level of community input into the Moriac Structure Plan, which I think was - well, I think Council's structure plans are great because primarily they include a lot of input from the community and they really make a lot of effort to get to grips with the character of towns and what is it about the character of towns that people love and it's dear to people's hearts and that people want to see protected into the future. You wouldn't be able to achieve that as an organisation unless you had a high level of buy-in from community and so I think I'd really like to thank members of the Moriac community who are here for that level of interest and that level of engagement in that sort of interface between the Council and the community and also via the community plan that we also saw during question time. That's all.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Would any other Councillors like to speak?
Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: Thanks, Mayor. Councillor Wellington supports the process for the next steps in implementation of the Moriac Structure Plan and will welcome feedback on Amendment C138.

My view is that the Moriac Structure Plan implementation seeks to guide the town's growth over the next decade, affecting the nearly 900 residents and more as it grows. It aims to maintain Moriac's rural character while allowing for the incremental development. However, the lack of reticulated sewerage infrastructure, as mentioned by Councillor Schonfelder, places significant constraints and substantial growth would require costly infrastructure upgrades.

Draft Transcript

This is going to be a particular challenge in this region given the high density of subsurface rock. If the town is to grow, significant funds must be made available to pay for the required excavation, costs which I will not support Council paying for. I'd ideally like to see a voluntarily generated funding stream created for that.

Although the plan's financial implications seem manageable in the current budgetary constraints, I have doubts that it will be affordable as new budgetary challenges come into fruition in the future. We are not entering happy economic times. This element of central planning is also an anchor on affordable housing as it both costs significant money to implement and sets requirements which make housing more expensive to build. Actually, on costs, how much did it cost to produce this plan?

CR PATTISON: Is that a question?

CR BARKER: A quick question.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Councillor Barker, I don't have that detail with us because we completed it last year, so I will need to take that on notice and get back to you.

CR BARKER: Yes. I can appreciate the amount of work that's gone into this plan, but I'll be opposing it as it will impose additional costs on those who choose to build in Moriac. Overall, I see freeing up people to do what they want with their private land where we respect private property rights - it may sound scary, but I think it will be the best way to achieve reduced housing costs, variety and composition. Central control will only lead us down a path of less choice, higher costs and less vibrancy. So I don't not appreciate the work that's been going on here, but we've just got to understand that if we aim to impose this central control, it will come at a cost and that's something that I will not support. That's all.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Do any other Councillors want to speak?
Councillor Allen?

CR ALLEN: Thanks, Mayor. I just want to make it perfectly plain to the people in the room here that you've got this structure plan because Lorne's was deferred, right? We were supposed to have one four years ago, but it was deferred.

Look, well done for the input that you've had into the development of this plan. This is the first and only plan I'll be involved in and it's been an exciting

Draft Transcript

project. And unlike Councillor Barker, I think it's very important that we have the structure plan because you want to maintain the character of this township and without a structure plan, you'll be swallowed up in the corridor development between Torquay and Winchelsea and it's important to the Australian character to maintain townships of this nature and this structure plan does that and congratulations for your input.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Would any other Councillors like to speak? Any closing remarks, Councillor Schonfelder?

CR SCHONFELDER: I'll be very brief, Mayor. I actually was going to say what Councillor Allen has just reported, the importance of in our Council plan maintaining the small town feel and also maintaining a coastal and rural feel which does contrast with a suburban feel that has occurred elsewhere in Geelong and in Greater Melbourne.

Now, I recall in the 1980s when houses were built in Moriac and I felt they did look like a shag on a rock. Interestingly, the trees that have been planted have all grown and Moriac has become so much more beautiful as a result of that.

I don't know, Mayor, if there are any fans of Bruce Springsteen in the gallery tonight, but one of my favourite songs is My Home Town by Bruce Springsteen and I can proudly say Moriac is my home town, Mayor, and I thank the community and also thank the Council for this structure plan. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And opposed? And the motion is carried 7-1.

We now move on to 4.3, Affordable Accommodation Action Plan 2024. The purpose of this report is to seek Council's adoption of the 2024 update of the Affordable Accommodation Action Plan. Do we have a mover of a motion? Councillor Allen - as per the recommendation?

CR ALLEN: As per the recommendation, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: And seconded by Councillor Stapleton. Would you like to speak, Councillor Allen?

CR ALLEN: Thank you, Mayor. In response to the 2021 declaration of key worker housing and accommodation crisis in 2022, this Council adopted the Affordable Accommodation Action Plan. We have before us tonight an updated version of that plan. Local municipalities have now been given, by both the

Draft Transcript

Federal and State Governments, a slightly expanded role in what is undeniably a predominantly national and state responsibility. Plus since 2022, market forces or market factors have changed and if this plan is adopted, we will have a more relevant framework within which to advocate. For example, recently there has been a small, albeit inconsistent, recovery in the rental vacancies and average rents have continued to rise.

There really are shifting challenges to housing affordability in our communities. We have devoted an officer to lead the development of our Affordable Housing and Action Plan - Accommodation and Action Plan. It is within our remit to support local businesses to address this crisis. In our townships, many businesses are reducing their trading hours, closing or are increasingly owned by proprietors who have no local connections.

In 2022, after the pandemic, we had a huge problem with rental availability and the Council supported local initiatives - for example, the Adopt a Worker Program, we amended our Local Amenity Law to enable longer stays for our short-term workers, and we adopted Tiny Houses on Wheels as an additional measure. We supported short-term solutions, whilst at the same time developing and modifying our action plan to meet the longer-term needs of full-time essential workers.

This plan supports the use of land owned by the shire to leverage grants and public-private partnerships and what it is I believe a watershed or turning point in our involvement. The progress to achieve social and affordable provision at Fraser Drive in Aireys Inlet is an outstanding example, largely due, I believe, to the hard work and research undertaken by Alicia Hooper to drive the formulation of the plan and from the support of the Aireys Inlet community, who have seized the opportunities presented to help address the future accommodation needs of that community. The plan represents an integrated approach to meeting the goal of enhancing our capacity and the capacity of others to deliver safe, secure and appropriate affordable housing as part of planning and supporting healthy, prosperous and sustainable communities.

The plan's pillars will build an evidence base on housing need, policy and delivery models in the shire, examine our capacity to effectively facilitate social and affordable housing, and establish relationships with, for example, community housing organisations, financial and industry experts. There are six work streams that are actions to deliver the outcomes detailed in the plan. For example, the current action to develop the Anglesea Community and Health Hub Master Plan sits under the stream of project facilitation. We are consulting extensively with the Anglesea community to co-design a concept plan to deliver the project through staged implementation.

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The 2024 plan allocates resources that are in line with the 2024-25 budget that will be presented at the June Council meeting, particularly for the position of Housing Coordinator, who has, as I previously mentioned, driven the implementation of the previous plan and the development of the plan that we are considering tonight. I support the motion.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Stapleton, would you like to speak?

CR STAPLETON: Thank you, Mayor. I also fully support the adoption of this updated Affordable Accommodation Action Plan which lays out how Council will continue to implement its existing strategic commitments to improve access to affordable accommodation in the Surf Coast Shire to address key worker housing crisis and to apply our social housing policy.

The first iteration of this plan was developed in 2022 and has guided several initiatives across the shire, including the Aireys Inlet Affordable Housing Project, which we will be looking at next on the agenda, the WinAngLo Independent Living Units in Winchelsea, the Anglesea Community and Health Hub Project currently under way, the Tiny House on Wheels pilot, the introduction of a housing concierge service, the Women's Housing Project, also in Winchelsea, and significant advocacy on housing to other levels of Government. So that's to reflect on what's been achieved through the actual plan over the last two years.

We know that housing is a national problem, but it's also a significant local one. Policies and funding arrangements provided by State and Federal Governments, such as the Big Housing Build, require collaboration from local government to help facilitate the delivery of much-needed social and affordable housing and having that local community input to make sure it's well located and well supported. We know that feedback from our community also asked Council to do what we can to improve access to more affordable accommodation across the shire, with many groups focused on the prosperity and long-term sustainability of their own communities.

Lessons, not learnings, from the 2022 Affordable Accommodation Action Plan have been incorporated into this new 2024 plan and take into account a lot of the community input that we've been able to gather over the last two years as well as Council's direct experience working in this housing space over the last couple of years because Council has not traditionally been involved in housing and so it's been new for Council and I know that officers and Councillors have learnt a lot through the process.

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I encourage residents to have a read of the action plan. It's presented in two parts. It's really accessible and the first part provides some context as to why local governments are seeking to respond to the national housing affordability crisis and the second part sets out all the actions that Council will take over the next two years, which Councillor Allen has just done a great job of summarising for you.

The principles that sit behind Council's goal for affordable accommodation underscore our approach and affirm our recognition that access to safe, secure, appropriate and affordable housing is a human right. And I'll leave it there. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Would any other Councillors like to speak to this one? Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: Thanks, Mayor. I'll first start off with the contribution from Councillor Wellington and then get on to my points.

Councillor Wellington states housing is a state responsibility and not a core function of local government. We have no new resources to support our involvement in housing. She would not have supported the motion because the community should have been invited to comment on this plan before it is adopted. It does not include meaningful local data that shows the actual needs of current shire residents or businesses for social and affordable housing. Changes to the Planning Scheme should be led by the state, not developed by each of the 79 Councils across the state individually. Note there appears to be significant problems with the community support in Anglesea for the shire to use the land it holds on behalf of the community for social and affordable housing. If you've not followed it, I encourage you to look on social media for the commentary on that.

This whole program will be funded from within a capped rate pool that otherwise would be applied to support maintenance and renewal of community public space, roads, supporting facilities, et cetera. She also doesn't agree that the Council plan that underpins this work reflects actual communities priorities.

Now my perspective. Nowhere in this plan does it specify deregulation. Government attempts to "do something". To put downward pressure on housing affordability would be laughable if it wasn't so sad. Why do you think I refer to it as sad? Whether it's zoning, building codes, planning application permits or any of the other plethora of government-imposed requirements

Draft Transcript

placed on construction, all these hurdles are things that we need to remove if we are serious about making accommodation affordable.

What I see happening is the equivalent of people going for a walk while we as a Council place a bunch of hurdles in their way, steal their wallets, pour oil in their path, throw nets over them, and then we help by giving them ladders, giving them some of the change from their wallets, throwing sand down to soak up the oil and giving them scissors to cut through the nets, another waste of resources on every level.

If we are truly to respect people, we'll let them carry on their accommodation journey without impediment. Doing anything else is either disingenuous or ignorant of reality.

I won't be supporting the motion, but what I will highlight is that often we need to talk about economics at about a year 9 level, supply and demand. If we are going to advocate for anything to make housing affordable, why don't we advocate to increase township boundaries into areas that currently prohibit building because if we can increase supply, that will decrease the cost. If we fail to increase supply, anything that we do is just going to increase costs and make it less affordable for people to live in these regions that are suffering economically because businesses can't hold their staff.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Would any other Councillors like to speak to the motion? Councillor Bodsworth?

CR BODSWORTH: Look, thanks, Councillor Barker. Councillor Barker has thrown up a range of issues that I'd like to respond to, but I probably won't because I'll just get lost and I won't be able to - I'll lose my train of thought.

But there are a couple that I want to touch on, which is that it is well understood that where Council's own land, it can be an appropriate thing to do to use that land for social and affordable housing and it's what we're talking about in some of the examples that we're talking about, which Councillor Barker brought up the McMillan Street example in Anglesea, where Council owns land and is considering making some of that land available for affordable housing, not for sale to a housing proponent, but for leasing, and similarly in Aireys Inlet, where Council owns some land, and the Municipal Association of Victoria recognises that it's appropriate for Councils to enter the social housing and affordable housing fray, recognising that state and federal settings don't do the whole job.

Draft Transcript

So of course we have an opportunity to make a small contribution to easing housing concerns and I think it's appropriate that we should do that and especially appropriate considering that particularly this Council has put a lot of emphasis on community empowerment and there's nothing more disempowering than being uncertain about your housing situation, and things like the Moriac Community Plan, how are you going to get people to invest their sort of hopes and dreams in documents like that and in structure plans if they're uncertain about whether or not they can afford to stay in the place? So it's essential for community cohesion and for a sense of empowerment.

As far as deregulation is concerned, it is important to note the new State Government regulations around small - well, granny flats, colloquially called granny flats, where there are new opportunities for people to establish granny flats which can provide a lower-cost housing option. So, yes, it's a big broad range of endeavour and I think that one of the difficulties of this piece of work and one of the things that's done really well is covering that breadth of issues that are involved in housing affordability and availability.

So I find it a bit wordy. I'm hoping in the next iteration that we can have a few more pictures because I find the graphs and the other sort of graphic displays of the metrics around housing to be really interesting and really approachable and help you to digest the material easier, so I'd like to see that next time. But as far as the content and the strategic direction that's in it, I really strongly support it and I'm proud to be a part of a Council that's doing something, or at least trying to do something, positioning to do something about housing.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Would any other Councillors like to speak?
Councillor Gazzard?

CR GAZZARD: Thank you. I'd like to highlight it's quite hypocritical to complain about cost of living and then not try to improve people's access to affordable housing. It feels like the housing market is broken and an entire generation is being locked out of owning their own home while rents are rising fast. Too many renters are facing impossible choices between paying rent and putting food on the table or turning on the heater. Almost 1 in 3 Victorians are renters, but rents are going up three to four times faster than wages and too many renters are paying more than 30% of their pay cheque in rent, which is the definition of unaffordable housing.

When the rental market is as tight as it is now, renters find themselves at a disadvantage compared to estate agents and property managers. The power imbalance means the system is weighted against renters. More than

Draft Transcript

100,000 Victorians are waiting for public housing and thousands more are living in insecure and unaffordable homes. About 25,000 Victorians experience homelessness on any given night. Thousands more are living in financial stress and are only one pay cheque away from losing their home.

I think someone highlighted to me that actually we're all just one bad choice away from being homeless, so anyone who suggests that we're not in a housing crisis has probably not experienced housing instability or homelessness.

So this action plan I think is excellent. Alicia Hooper and the team have done an amazing job. The key points that the region's economy is suffering from a lack of labour supply, that housing is a crucial economic barrier, and the potential pipeline of key worker housing sites and partnership opportunities exists across the region. It's the people who live in our communities, it's teachers and nurses and people who can't afford to live and work in our shire who we need.

So I'll just draw your attention to the graph on page 166 of the agenda, where you can see - and this is not through Council's rates going up, but there's a steady incline of rent going up sort of 9% to 10% and a severe drop just in three years of percentage of affordability to 2%. So I think we really need action around this and I commend the officers and this action plan.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Hodge?

CR HODGE: Just very quickly because there's been a long discussion on this, but in January 2022 this shire took a step forward in the Winchelsea area to allow surplus land that we didn't need, and it was about 2,500 square metres, so it was a good size, right in the heart of town next to the senior citizens where people could live.

So we gave the land quite cheaply and WinAngLo - I hope that's the right way to say it - they're going to build units there for people in the Winchelsea community that might have to move out, farmers or they're widowed or they've got a disability, and so we're keeping communities together.

We can't fix everything, but we can try and I think the one in Winchelsea, go up and have a look at it. We need to do things. You think globally, but you've got to work locally, and it's very hard hearted if you can't think that we can't do something, and I think what we're doing in Winchelsea, and hopefully that's starting to be built, will be really good for our community and show empathy

Draft Transcript

from the Council or some of the Councillors that we really want our people to stay in our community. Thanks.

CR PATTISON: Thank you.

CR BARKER: I'd just like to bring a point of order to that.

CR PATTISON: What's your point of order?

CR BARKER: The last comment.

CR HODGE: Sorry, what did I say?

CR BARKER: Suggesting that particular Councillors don't show empathy.

CR PATTISON: I don't think - I think that our Councillor has spoken.

CR HODGE: I'll withdraw it if it takes offence to you.

CR BARKER: It doesn't take offence.

CR PATTISON: Can both Councillors please be quiet? You've raised your point of order. I think the sentence was in line with debate that happened on regular items. Thank you for raising your point of order. It won't be upheld. Councillor Allen, do you have any closing remarks?

CR ALLEN: Thanks, Mayor. Councillor Barker's year 9 economics, it's a pity you didn't stay on to year 12 and attend my economics classes because in those classes he would have learnt that there's no such thing as a free market. There's no such example of a free market. There are imperfections in the market and that's the role of government to try to address some of those imperfections.

Now, I said in my opening remarks that this is primarily a state and national problem and the solution is state and national. But there is something that we can do. Businesses are also ratepayers. We should be supporting the businesses, particularly in our coastal communities, that find it so difficult to get permanent workers because they can't find accommodation. It's ripping the heart out of small coastal communities. The volunteers are leaving, the school is getting reduced numbers.

If we can do a little bit to support that process to provide them with accommodation, then I think it is a legitimate role of this Council. We do have

Draft Transcript

a responsibility to the economic viability of our communities. We recognise the problem and we're trying to do something about it.

One officer, one officer, wrote this report and I think she actually did the work of three and we are so fortunate that we had this plan here to support our advocacy which showed benefits in the Aireys Inlet Fraser Drive work that we did. So I don't - I just don't agree with Councillor Barker's point. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And all those opposed. And the motion is carried 7-1.

We now move on to our next item on the agenda, which is item 4.4, Aireys Inlet Affordable Housing Project. The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement of the community co-designed concept for social and affordable housing at 2 Fraser Drive Aireys Inlet and to seek approval to enter into a 50-year lease with Housing Choices Australia. Do I have a mover of a motion? Councillor Stapleton. And do I have a seconder? Councillor Bodsworth. Would you like to speak to the motion, Councillor Stapleton?

CR STAPLETON: I would, thank you, Mayor. Continuing on the theme of affordable housing, I am really happy to move this motion tonight after a lengthy process of working with our community and Council's partner in this project, Housing Choices Australia, to land on a co-design concept plan for social and affordable housing at 2 Fraser Drive in Aireys Inlet. This project has been on the boil for a long time and I know the community is really keen to see it reach this next important milestone.

I think the recommendation to enter into a 50-year lease agreement for the land is preferable over the option to sell and it allows Housing Choices Australia to get moving on the important next phase of seeking funding to ensure this project can go ahead. A lease avoids the need to subdivide the land, which would have been needed if we were to sell it, given that the community garden public pathway and surrounding vegetation, which are all part of the same site, are all to be retained. The land is a valuable public asset and I think the community will be really pleased to see it remaining in Council's ownership longer term. Community have been invited to provide feedback on the proposed lease arrangement for Council's consideration at a future meeting. By endorsing this concept design and signalling our intention to lease the land to Housing Choices Australia, Council will be another step closer to delivering affordable accommodation in the shire.

This item tonight is a key milestone in Council's quest to fulfil its strategic commitment to make affordable housing a priority in recognition of the

Draft Transcript

significant economic and social impacts that a lack of affordable accommodation is having on our communities. I applaud the community of Aireys Inlet for getting behind this project, for engaging in the process so respectfully and enthusiastically and for recognising the value in Council providing public land to support those in need and, importantly, to help maintain the longer-term sustainability of our community.

A community advisory group of 11 Aireys Inlet representatives have collaborated with Council and our partners to co-design the concept plan for 2 Fraser Drive, where the housing is to be located, and at a recent gathering of this co-design group, the architects and Housing Choices Australia, it was really evident that the community advisory group felt that their recommendations had been translated really well into the concept design and were confident that it provides a strong base to inform the next stage of planning and construction.

Essentially, the concept design just shows the proposed layout and how the buildings and open space might sit in the landscape as well as vehicle access and parking. It also talks about the relationship and interface with the community garden and surrounding neighbours, which were very important considerations in the co-design process. Detailed design will not occur until a later stage of the process and community will have opportunities to have input into this at appropriate times.

It's important to note that there are four residents already living on the site in existing social housing units who will continue to be supported through the process and I know have been supported through this process both by Council officers and by the community co-design group, ensuring that there's minimum disruption to them, which is really important, and that they will get priority access, if they choose to take it, to move into one of the new dwellings, which will be more energy efficient with seven-star ratings and more accessible.

And one last word before I finish up about the housing provider that Council is working with, Housing Choices Australia. They are a not-for-profit registered housing agency that provides safe, secure and affordable homes for people on low and middle incomes. They have a demonstrated commitment to the region and are keen to work with Council and the community to consider all options for the best outcome for all parties. They develop housing to extensive design guidelines, which include environmentally sustainable design principles, like passive solar, building envelopes and materials, energy, waste, water and more, and I think that just reflecting the comments made about the work that our housing officer, Alicia Hooper, and other officers have put into ensuring we

Draft Transcript

get a partnership with the best possible housing provider for a project that is so important to our community speaks volumes.

This is the sort of project that supports the values and character of Aireys Inlet township and community and I'm super excited to watch the next stages of this project unfold. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Bodsworth?

CR BODSWORTH: Thanks, Mayor. Councillor Stapleton has pretty much nailed it. I don't have much to add, but I'll say that at the beginning of the community co-design process, the collaborative process that Council entered into with the community, there was a lot of suspicion - well, there was some significant suspicion about where it was headed and there were people who were uncomfortable with the idea, although there'd been some social housing units on this land for decades and it had co-existed really beautifully with Aireys Inlet and so there was no doubt about the fact that it could co-exist and sit well in the space, but there was a lot of suspicion about what we were going to do with the space and how big it might be and the impact that it might have on neighbours, and things like that.

So I think to the credit of our project team, which has been mentioned, where they were really straight up with people, they listened really intently, they concentrated on what people were telling them, it was reflected back by both our staff and the design team, the external consultants, and then on the other side of things for the community members in the co-design group to enter into it with goodwill and to sort of bring a good-faith approach to the process, those things worked so well together and it was really inspiring to watch and in the end, as you can see in the agenda pack with the drawings of the way the site analysis kind of gelled with the community preferences and aspirations and it was brought together really well by the design team. So to me it's a real standout example of what we can do working together with Council and community and with expert consultants there to sort of handle the professional expertise side of it.

So it's a really great example. I'm also looking forward to seeing it, you know, go on from here and turning into a place that's really fantastic. It sits beside the Aireys Inlet community garden too, which is a great complementary use. I'll leave it there. Thanks.

CR PATTISON: Thanks, Councillor Bodsworth. Would any other Councillors like to speak? Councillor Allen?

Draft Transcript

CR ALLEN: Just to say, as I've already said, how wonderful the Aireys Inlet community have been and how positive they have been towards this development. I'm really pleased to see in the report that we've decided to lease the land to the provider because it does mean that we retain ownership of the land.

Now, I know there would have been some pressure for us to sell the land because the provider of the housing would find it easier to provide finance if they owned the land, but we have maintained it as a lease, which is great. In 50 years' time, who knows, but one thing I do know I won't be here. But in 50 years' time who knows what we may want that land for. We may not need the housing land. We might revert it back to a park or a recreational reserve. So I think it's been a wonderful decision and the whole process has been fantastic.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Would any other Councillors - Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: Thanks, Mayor. Implementing this project has taken substantial Council resources, which we've identified before, and it's concerning given our budgetary constraint. What it really boils down to is cause and effect. The growing need for affordable housing is driven by governments at every level driving up input costs for construction, growing taxation, hurting household budgets, increases to the scope and size of government, which means it costs more to run, which means you get taxed more, we all get taxed more and pass those costs on to our customers and the cycle goes on, and I could go on. But by putting effort into projects like this merely puts a band-aid on an arterial bleed.

I'll be happy to support structural reforms to make housing more affordable by reducing regulation and government cost, but not piecemeal projects like this. You can disagree with me all you like, but the reality is that these problems have been caused by government. More government is not going to make the problem better. If you understand the cause of an issue, you deal with the cause, you don't deal with the symptom, and this is just symptom management.

Additionally, I have major concerns where we're creating a situation where governments are setting the conditions to create winners and losers. Imagine if you apply for these places and you're just one off the list. You're getting people's hopes up for potential disaster.

Now, I am one person, there might have been others on this Council, that have experienced housing uncertainty and homelessness. It wasn't for a long time, but I have experienced it for a little bit and yes, it is terrible, but the reality is

Draft Transcript

government is slow to respond and yes, you can lease it out to an organisation that will manage it for you, that's one thing, but the reality is that you need the proper incentive. If you don't have that, you just seek to waste people's money.

I've said it before and I'll say it again, there's four ways to spend people's money - your money, other people's money, on yourself, or on others. If you spend your money on yourself, you both seek to spend the least for the highest value. If you spend other people's money on someone else, the total money you spend doesn't matter. The value you're aiming for, it's so far removed that you don't have the appropriate incentive to follow it through and this is just going to create more problems. Like I can understand the emotional desire to do something, but if you understand how money is spent, this government intervention is both a waste of money and creating an environment that is going to cause more harm by government picking winners and losers.

CR PATTISON: Would any other Councillors like to speak to the motion?

CR SCHONFELDER: Thank you, Mayor. I'd like to say that I'm sorry to learn about what Councillor Barker has experienced in the past and I must say it must be terrible for people who are in that predicament, and I do concur with Councillor Gazzard that many of us are perhaps one bad decision away from being vulnerable and possibly homeless.

I'd like to amplify the remarks made by Councillor Allen. I too also support the Council retaining ownership of land where possible. However, in the case of WinAngLo in Winchelsea, I'd just like to point out that the Anglican Church gifted land to the Council when the shire of Winchelsea existed and therefore we decided to allow WinAngLo to take ownership of that land for the housing that's being built there.

Housing is a worldwide problem. I once again concur with Councillor Allen that State and Federal Governments need to play a role and a greater role and I also think that foundations should also play a greater role. It's the case in the United States where certain foundations do provide accommodation and invest in property.

And another interesting statistic, and I'm not suggesting this, but one of the most beautiful places in the world is Vienna and I was very astounded to learn that half the housing in Vienna is government housing, which is really astonishing. So I think also what Councillor Hodge said about thinking globally

Draft Transcript

and acting locally, it's important to try as much as we can to help in this regard. Thank you, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Would any other Councillors like to speak? Any closing remarks, Councillor Stapleton?

CR STAPLETON: Just quickly, I'd like to conclude with a line from the Affordable Accommodation Action Plan, which is a statement made by Peter Mares in his book called No Place Like Home and for me it speaks to the very basic reason why Council should remain committed to its path of providing better access to affordable accommodation: "Far from an act of charity, social and affordable housing is increasingly recognised to be social infrastructure." Mares contends that this infrastructure is essential and vital to people to be able to contribute to economic, social and cultural life, which in turn leads to stronger communities. Our shire is committed to building stronger communities and provision of affordable housing is just one way that we can achieve that. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. We now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And opposed? And the motion is carried 7-1.

We'll now move on to 4.5, Quarterly Budget Report - March 2024. The purpose of this report is to receive and note the Quarterly Budget Report - March 2024. This includes the Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Changes in Equity, and Statement of Capital Works. Do we have a mover of a motion? Councillor Allen - as per the recommendation?

CR ALLEN: As per the recommendation.

CR PATTISON: And a seconder? Councillor Barker. Would you like to speak, Councillor Allen?

CR ALLEN: Thanks, Mayor. The Council's year to date actual budgeted surplus as at 31 March 2024 is \$25.3 million and I'd just like to say that's not a cash surplus, that's the actual budgetary surplus, which is 15% greater than predicted in the year to date adopted budget. Often, as is the case here, these variations, both favourable and unfavourable, are a matter of timing - for example, when we receive grant moneys from the Federal and State Governments and when there are non-monetary contributions from development assets handed over to the shire. Noted here is that development assets expected to be handed over by the developers in the last financial year have in fact been handed over in this financial year. A significant revenue gain

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has been from interest earned on investments and balances held - for example, grant money received for the aquatic centre, and that revenue, of course, has to be spent on the aquatic centre.

This report presented tonight does not indicate the cash surplus, but with the favourable revenue earned from interest, et cetera, we do anticipate a higher cash surplus than budgeted, to the tune of approximately \$3 million, which will at the end of the financial year go to the unallocated cash reserve.

Apart from highlighting the timing and interest rate gains, I do not intend to go through the many variations in the report as there is a comprehensive set of variance notes accompanying that in the report. I simply move the adoption of the report.

CR PATTISON: Thank you, Councillor Allen. Councillor Barker, would you like to speak?

CR BARKER: Thanks, Mayor. I'll support the recommendation as it's simply noting the report, but I would like to highlight the massive reduction in forecast revenues from grants. I've highlighted ad nauseam that I don't think grant funding is fair on the funding source and that it's unreliable and here we have a shortfall of millions of dollars, but this is in part due to timing, as Councillor Allen has raised, but what it should do is highlight that these funding streams are not reliable.

Now, getting back on to grants and the reliance on state and federal grants, if we as a Council have responsibility for a particular asset, we should be able to raise the funds and spend those funds accordingly. Relying upon state or federal grants to pay for things that are in our responsibility is just an externality that is being pushed on us where it's unreasonable to have a responsibility for something that you're not able to pay for, it just creates a perverse incentive that requires the need to apply for these grants.

So either we need to work on shifting the responsibility for elements that we pay for that are reliant upon grants on to that level of government or we seek to create a system where we can actually fund it so that we create a budget that is more realistic where the funding source is as close to the spending element as possible because any time there's a grant, and you've seen me do it before, I oppose grants that come into here, I oppose grants that we're paying out, because when you separate that funding source from where it's going, no one really pays attention. You can't hold people accountable to that. The transparency is not worth anyone's time to follow up. So I'll note the report, but this reliance upon grant funding is a joke.

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CR PATTISON: Would any other Councillors like to speak to the motion?
Councillor Allen, do you have any closing remarks?

CR ALLEN: No, thanks, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And the motion is carried unanimously.

It's now just on past 8, so we'll have a short break, grab a cup of tea, a quick chat to say a few words to people that are still with us. I'd like --

CR SCHONFELDER: Would you like me to move for us to --

CR PATTISON: Yes, I'm just getting to that, if we could have a mover to suspend standing orders. Thank you for moving that, Councillor Schonfelder, and seconded by Councillor Barker. All those in favour. Thank you. And we'll be back on, for those watching online, at a quarter past 8. Thank you.

(Short break)

CR PATTISON: Well, thank you to those that are still here and have decided to stay on. Yes, we have a few that are still staying, which is wonderful. It's always more fun to have a Council meeting with people in the gallery, so we appreciate you staying on, and to those joining us again online. Apologies, we did say 8.15, but there were still lots of people here that wanted to have a chat about what we've discussed so far in the Council meeting and we are here in Moriac to meet with our community, so we decided to stay chatting for a little longer.

So now we will resume standing orders. Can I have a mover to resume standing orders? Thank you, Councillor Bodsworth, and seconded by Councillor Allen. And all those in favour. And the motion is carried unanimously.

We'll now move on to item 4.6, Karaaf Wetlands Program - Stormwater Diversion Project. The purpose of this report is to consider presented options to Council for the diversion of stormwater from North Torquay away from the Karaaf Wetlands. Do we have a mover of a motion? Councillor Gazzard - is it as per the recommendation? And do I have a seconder? Councillor Bodsworth. Would you like to speak, Councillor Gazzard?

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CR GAZZARD: Thank you. Yes, I'm excited that we are moving this motion to divert stormwater away from the Karaaf. It's been, as I think many people know, a long and somewhat difficult issue, but we know the importance of the Karaaf as an ecological salt marsh and the effects of urbanisation of North Torquay in the increase of runoff of stormwater from about 250 megalitres to 850 megalitres a year, which affects the salinity and endangers the biodiversity of the Karaaf.

This is not the entire piece, but it's a good first step to divert about half of the stormwater and with the potential for the next stage in the coming years and hopefully Barwon Water will be involved in that. I really thank the Community Reference Group, I think they're on board with this option, and I'm excited for the action to start.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Bodsworth, would you like to speak?

CR BODSWORTH: Thanks, Mayor. Yes, I've said before I think this is one of the most positive things that we've done in our term as a Council, but it didn't really start out that way. I think we were a little bit slow to cotton on to the impacts of excess fresh water and also the quality of that stormwater into the Karaaf Wetland system, but we - yes, I think we were a little bit slow to catch on, but we built up to a really strong response and I think that's down to all of our commitment as a Council.

Councillor Wellington brought a Notice of Motion in March 2021, which was unanimously supported, to trigger a range of actions in relation to the Karaaf, so I acknowledge Councillor Wellington's leadership on that at that time and also the Council getting in behind that and the Council organisation getting in behind that big time. It's been something the CEO has been passionate about and a lot of the senior staff. I'd like to acknowledge the work of Leanne Lucas, who's been leading the program excellently, and other staff and thanks, Jeff, for coming and the Community Reference Group for their work.

The Community Reference Group has been really instrumental and it's brought a range of different perspectives and they haven't all aligned. There's been, you know, some argument and sort of contention and debate within the Community Reference Group and that's obviously been a challenge to work through. So I think all those things considered, we've come to a really good place now.

I had some other notes which, sorry, I didn't want to miss. I'd also like to acknowledge the work of Andy McCauley right from the beginning, who brought a really fierce advocacy for this and without his fierceness and his

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tenacity, yes, we probably wouldn't have broken through to the fact that we really jumped on it and got a lot of good work happening.

One of the things that I'm hoping as we go forward is that I think there's a note in point 32 in the papers that talks about why there was not more general community engagement and there was that more targeted community engagement using the Community Reference Group and I think the reasons for that are really clear and they make sense, but what I hope is, going forward, that the community, wider community, can be engaged through some environmental interpretation and education activities, particularly as the effects of the actions become clear and we've got kind of - we can report back on the gains that are being made, hopefully. I think to interpret that back to the community to get them on board with helping a healthier Karaaf system would be really great.

So yes, happy - I'll leave it at that. Happy to endorse the recommendations before us.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Any other Councillors? Councillor Allen?

CR ALLEN: Just to say I was very grateful when I first came on to Council that Councillor Barker actually took me around the Karaaf to really explain to me what the extent of the problem was and I think it was with Andrew we met and so I got a deeper understanding of the issue. I think we weren't in a good space as a Council and we allowed the developers to go unchecked with sediment and nutrients and fresh water ending up in the Karaaf. So I'm very grateful that we, under the leadership of the CEO and others and the reference group, are in a better place, a much better place. So congratulations to everybody.

CR PATTISON: Councillor Hodge?

CR HODGE: Thank you, Mayor. Things do occur in Council where there's an after effect and this is one of them, the stormwater runoff, and it's really good that it has progressed this far. We have been committed to it in knowing how important that environmental part of it is. We've put in over 600,000 to really try to rectify this and we've even got some more money in the budget, in our draft budget now.

But I would like to thank the Australian Federal Government. They gave \$1.9 million towards this. I think this was a fabulous way that we advocated for it. We wouldn't have had the money to do something so quickly if it wasn't for

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that. This money is being looked after in a state department and the funding agreement is being finalised.

So once we get that money, get the plan in and then there is a stage 2, as Councillor Gazzard touched on, we'll be able to really look forward to doing something a lot quicker and a lot better, and with the expertise we've had behind the scenes and the group, it's been wonderful to work with them lately. So with this money we can look forward to hopefully diverting more water away, with Barwon Water helping us out as well, that this can go back to the pristine position that it was before development. Thank you.

CR STAPLETON: I was going to talk about funding.

CR PATTISON: Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: Yes, thanks. If this program goes ahead, I thank the millions of Australian taxpayers who will fund its construction, most of whom will never see the benefit or even know how their taxes were spent. Those people all the way from Margaret River through to Cape York, thank you.

While I agree that option B is a sound way to improve stormwater flows, I simply cannot support the way this is being funded. Given the problem was caused by failures of this organisation, I think it's only fair that we bear the brunt of the cost. That's the only way some people or organisations learn, when it hits them in their own hip pocket.

What this sets as a precedent is that if a Council fails to manage stormwater appropriately, it can rely on a bailout with taxpayer dollars to correct their failing. It is because of this I will not support the recommendation. What I will endorse is the work of the group that's worked to create a viable solution, but its funding model, that's where I draw the line.

Councillor Wellington wanted to raise the following. The disaster happening to the Karaaf appears to be caused by a combination of inadequate modelling, planning, design, development and maintenance of drainage infrastructure. This is all over many years, all related to the juggernaut of development in North Torquay. It is a true environmental disaster.

She has consistently advocated for the Karaaf since she was alerted to this problem by Andy McCauley, who should be recognised as a local hero, as others have mentioned, for his work in this space. While diversion of 40% of the stormwater currently running through the Karaaf will help its health, it will

Draft Transcript

still need to deal with the remaining 60% and possibly also unknown impacts of groundwater.

Inadequate wetland capacity and design will continue to lead to inadequate pollution control. We have no allocated resources to renovate existing man-made waterways to improve their performance. What is proposed is one potential improvement in a highly vulnerable system, but it is unlikely to be sufficient to save the Karaaf overall.

We're about to accept more of this infrastructure from developers. How can any of us be reassured that the root cause of this problem, inadequate planning design and maintenance, have been adequately addressed?

CR SCHONFELDER: Mayor --

CR PATTISON: Would you like to speak to the motion?

CR SCHONFELDER: Yes, please.

CR PATTISON: I'll just make one clarifying point. Placemaking and Environment General Manager, could you just identify around the recent stormwater guidelines that we've passed just in the context of concern how can we progress with not being aware? I'm just wondering if you could for the members of the public understand - I think we recently passed some guidelines.

MR CHRIS PIKE: Yes. So through you, Mayor, the Council adopted what are called asset selection standards for water-sensitive urban design in February, I think, the February Council meeting, which establishes Council's expectations of developers for future infrastructure of this kind dealing with stormwater.

CR PATTISON: Thanks for clarifying that. Councillor Schonfelder, would you like to speak?

CR SCHONFELDER: Thank you, Mayor. The Karaaf Wetlands are a significant environmental habitat within the Surf Coast Shire and it actually has international significance and I beg to differ with Councillor Barker on a few points.

One point is that Councillor Barker claims that no one else in Australia will benefit from the money spent on the Karaaf, but we have many visitors that come to the Surf Coast Shire and I think it's unfair to expect the ratepayers of our shire to pay for certain expenditures where other people benefit from it, and also the birds and wildlife that inhabit the Karaaf, they travel to other

Draft Transcript

parts of Australia as well, so I imagine other Australians benefit from seeing bird life and wildlife that migrate to different parts of the continent.

Another point is that, having worked at the Australian Bureau of Statistics, on Census night our population is quite lower than it is at other times during the year, particularly in summer, and the Surf Coast Shire, Mornington Peninsula Shire, Bass Coast Shire, and even the City of Melbourne has an influx of many tourists, which is very important to the state's economy. So I would argue that the money that we pay as residents on GST and income tax, that comes back to us in the form of grants and I would like to echo the settlements from - sentiments, I should say, not - I almost said "settlements" - of Councillor Hodge in relation to the \$1.9 million that was contributed from the Australian Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program and, in particular, would commend our federal member of Parliament, Libby Coker, for her advocacy in relation to the Karaaf.

And I might be just a little bit indulgent, if I may, Mayor, and just say for the second time that the Thompson Creek that flows into the estuary of the Karaaf Wetlands, my paternal grandmother was a Thompson, so I think my late grandmother, who lived to 102, would be very happy that we're caring for this environment along, during Reconciliation Week, with the First Nations people as well. Thank you, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Any closing remarks, Councillor Gazzard?

CR GAZZARD: I'll just point out the benefits also of protecting wetlands, they're crucial and as important as forests in carbon capture and oxygenation, so in our attempt to battle climate change, protecting our wetlands and waterways is incredibly important.

The alarming thing, despite all the progress we've made, is we don't know if there's a tipping point that's been reached and whether the Karaaf will ever go back to the pre-urbanisation levels, along with increasing severe weather events and probably more of the 100-year type storms is likely to have ongoing effects on the Karaaf, but I think this is a really good start and that any diversion of stormwater away should be considered a positive step.

I think we have learnt a lot and I was proud that we now have the Stormwater Management Plan and are being a lot more vigorous in the stormwater management of new developments and hopefully we'll avoid what's happened to the Karaaf. Karaaf is obviously regrettable. At least we're moving forward and trying to prevent it from happening again.

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CR PATTISON: Thank you. I just also wanted to acknowledge we have the Chair of the Community Reference Group, Jeff Rigby, here, so thanks, Jeff, for coming along. And we'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And opposed? And the motion is carried 7-1.

We now move on to our next item, which is 4.7, AFL Funding Opportunities. The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement to submit expressions of interest and funding applications to grant rounds available through the Australian Football League. Do we have a mover of a motion? Councillor Hodge - as per the recommendation?

CR HODGE: Yes, thank you, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: And a seconder? Councillor Schonfelder. Would you like to speak, Councillor Hodge?

CR HODGE: Yes, just very quickly. This is - if we're invited to be able to go for these grants, and I do like grants if we're able to go for them because it does help out our clubs if we haven't got the money upfront. Now, one of them is the Breaking New Ground Fund and is this for the Bellbrae Reserve Sports Lighting, and I don't know if any of you know where the Bellbrae Reserve is, but it's a small reserve about 5 or 6 Ks out of Torquay.

Now, the Torquay Football Club has 35 football sides, juniors, and the Surf Coast sons is growing something fierce. So we haven't got the grounds for a lot of the teams to practise on, especially at night-time.

These lights at Bellbrae, if we're able to get them, would extend that ground and I think even the Aireys Inlet Eels still play on that ground too. So it's really important that we get - if we can apply for grants and get most of it paid for, it's really well worth for it.

I remember as a parent when my kids were small playing up there, parents turned their car lights on so they could train after 5.30 in winter. So those days are long gone. So we've got to make sure that if we can get this, it will go down really, really well.

The other one is for the Torquay College and the other one I'd like to speak on is the Spring Creek Reserve, which is the home of the Torquay Football Club. We've already got some money from Libby Coker, it was over 700,000. If we can get this other part of the grant, that will really redo the rooms for equality for the women players. Now, the Torquay football women's team, and

Draft Transcript

especially the cricket, are really getting numbers, but they haven't got the rooms similar to the fellows.

So this will really bring equality into the clubs and this will really help out because parts of the old building, like the old canteen, will be demolished and I don't know - I think there's probably a lot of parents that have worked in canteens. They really do need modernisation so you can get the funds, get the volunteers and get the food in and all that work that those committees do help out with keeping membership low and keeping the kids and adults on the grounds playing for their health.

So the amount that we put in, it will be really interesting to go for these grants if we're invited to be able to go for them, if our application is passed, will really help us out and help out a really growing area and I think we saw the numbers of Torquay and Winch growing by about 80% over the next 10 years. So we really must get these sporting facilities in so more can play. We've got to look at ovals in the future, but this is what we can do now and I think it's really, really important that we go for it and try to do the best we can to get those grants to make sure that our clubs can be more successful. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thanks, Councillor Hodge. Councillor Schonfelder, did you want to speak?

CR SCHONFELDER: Yes, I completely agree with Councillor Hodge's points and I'd just like to mention the fact that the police brought to my attention the fact that young children who are not involved in organised sport have a higher probability of being involved with drugs and illegal activity, so I believe that encouraging young people in particular to have healthy pursuits and to make good choices in life is so important. So that's why I in particular support the promotion of sporting activities and modernising our sporting facilities, given the fact that the population has grown, and Councillor Hodge has rightly stated the fact that the teams, there are so many teams in the different sporting clubs. Thank you, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: Thank you, Councillor Schonfelder. Would any other Councillors like to speak? Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: First a question. Are the funding sources public or private?

CR PATTISON: It's a mixture. It's AFL League, Australian Football League funding, some of them, and if you look through the recommendations, some of them are regional community infrastructure funding and some of them are AFL. So it's written in the recommendation --

Draft Transcript

CR BARKER: Yes, as I was able to find the AFFF resulted in some public funding, but I couldn't quite find the Breaking New Ground funding source.

CR PATTISON: I'll pass that one to our CEO.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: So I might just check with our GM of Community Life around the Breaking New Ground.

OFFICER: Yes, it's State Government.

CR BARKER: Thank you, yes. A zero dollar cost to Council, thumbs up, well done. Passing the buck on to other taxpayers, thumbs down. It doesn't matter how good the outcome is going to be. As I've said before, funding source, where it's going --

CR PATTISON: Councillor Barker, I just wanted to bring you to - in our Governance Rule we do have a note "Councillor must not digress from the subject matter of the motion of business under discussion". I'd really - we have listened to much conversation around fiscal policy and the like. I'd really - it would be great if you could stick to the item that's being discussed, which is AFL Football League application specifically that's on the discussion, that would be wonderful. Thanks.

CR BARKER: Which is a part of financial considerations, yes, Mayor?

CR PATTISON: Well, I think there's some clear things that we're discussing around the Australian Football League and a number of submissions to grant applications, so if you want to talk about that business, that would be wonderful and not about fiscal policy, please.

CR BARKER: Well, I'm following the lead of other Councillors talking about how good all of these outcomes are going to be and I think it's important that we understand the whole package, and when you're socialising the cost to others and privatising the benefit to a small group, that needs to be understood by a decision making body.

CR PATTISON: I think we've got that point from many discussions this evening, so if you could keep to the point, that would be wonderful. Thanks, Councillor Barker.

CR BARKER: I love being in the minority. The fact is that this recommendation is compelling us to apply for funding that is coming from

Draft Transcript

taxpayers elsewhere. I cannot see how that is irrelevant to the motion at hand. But given my position on grants, I don't think anyone needs to hear any more, I will not be supporting the motion.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Would any other Councillors like to speak to the motion? Councillor Stapleton?

CR STAPLETON: I'll just add a quick comment about the grants for these particular projects and I think it's important to note that it's not just about passing the buck on to other taxpayers. It's a way of ensuring equity for clubs around the country and there will be communities that have less ratepayer funds available to them to fund projects like this. So Surf Coast is invited to put in a submission, but ultimately all the submissions will be assessed and hopefully those communities that are most in need are the ones that are successful in getting the grants. Thanks.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Did you have any closing remarks Councillor Hodge?

CR HODGE: No.

CR PATTISON: We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. All those opposed. And the motion is carried 7-1.

We now move on to the next item in the agenda, Proposed Optus Telecommunications Tower - Bob Pettitt Reserve Jan Juc. The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement to commence community engagement on a proposed 20-year lease with Optus for a telecommunications monopole at Bob Pettitt Reserve in Jan Juc. We have a recommendation before us. Do any Councillors - Councillor Barker, would you like to move? As per the recommendation?

CR BARKER: Yes, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Any other Councillors - a seconder? Councillor Hodge. Would you like to speak, Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: Just very briefly, thanks. I'm happy to support this recommendation that will lead to improved telecommunications connectivity in the region. Most community members will likely be unaware of this, though, and won't participate in the public consultation process. The result will cause friction for some and likely result in some public backlash

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when it goes ahead. This is why it's critical for residents and ratepayers to keep close attention to government at every level.

One of my favourite Greek philosophers, Plato, is quoted about failing to engage in politics. I suggest you look up that quote and make sure you participate in what your government does and if you don't, well, so be it.

CR PATTISON: And Councillor Hodge, would you like to speak?

CR HODGE: Yes, thank you. This is not far from my home, Bob Pettitt Reserve in Jan Juc, and it's a great area and it is in a black spot for phones. So we do need communication.

If this goes ahead - and the community will have four weeks to find out about it, so they'll be able to feed back to us their thoughts. Last time we did 5G there was concern on, you know, cancer and radiation. That's all in the report, there's the latest information from Cancer Australia, but it is needed. But I do want - it will be good to hear what the clubs say. I know in other areas where there is an Optus tower - now, many of you might go to the Winchelsea ground, there's two there, and I know that the club gets some of the money from the Optus oval. So maybe that might help it along too with some of the group seeing that.

But it's going out for consultation and I think the Jan Juc people are very connected, so I think we'll get some good feedback, whether they want it or not, and that's then our role to then decide if it is. But we do need the cover. We do need the community's engagement so we can make a decision later on. So I look forward to hearing from people, and I'll certainly be contacting the people I know that live nearby there to make sure that they get all the information they need and be able to come back to Council with it. So thank you.

CR PATTISON: Do you have any - oh, Kate, would you - Councillor Gazzard, would you like to speak?

CR GAZZARD: Thank you. I'm a little conflicted because I - well, we use the pavilion for play group. I will support the motion and I think it's important that it goes out to the community. I'm a little unsure of the amenity of a big tower, like addition to the lighting there, but I'm sure once it's in place we won't really notice it anymore, but there might be some community concern, so it will be good to go out for public exhibition. Thanks.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Any closing remarks, Councillor Barker?

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CR BARKER: I look forward to what is likely to be a unanimous decision.

CR PATTISON: It's good to have a few of them in our Council meeting. We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And it's passed unanimously. There you go.

We now move on to 4.9, First Party Native Vegetation Offsets Policy. The purpose of this report is to present the reviewed SCS-036 First Party Native Vegetation Offsets Policy to Council for adoption. Do we have a mover of a motion? Councillor Bodsworth - as per the recommendation?

CR BODSWORTH: Yes, thanks, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: And a seconder? Councillor Gazzard. Would you like to speak, Councillor Bodsworth?

CR BODSWORTH: No, it's all in the report. This policy clarifies the purpose and use of land subject to offset agreements. It's all there. I can't find any reason to quibble about the policy.

CR PATTISON: Great. Thank you. Councillor Gazzard, would you like to speak on this one?

CR GAZZARD: Nothing major, just that it is due for reserve so it's important that we keep our policies up to date. And I think one key area is with offsets that we don't allow double dipping and kind of green washing from organisations or landowners, so I think it's good to have clear policies around this.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Would any other Councillors like to speak? Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: I would like to quibble, thank you. While I agree that these updates are sound, I will not support the motion as it is far too bureaucratic. It is a shame that I know how to spell that word. Ask anyone who's had to deal with native vegetation, they can create a lot of mess. Sure, if you want to have a policy that purely focuses on public land, I might be open to that, but where it puts additional costs onto private property owners, I simply cannot vote for this recommendation. If you like controlling what others do, feel free to vote otherwise.

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CR PATTISON: Thank you. I assume you've got no closing remarks, Councillor Bodsworth?

CR BODSWORTH: No.

CR PATTISON: No. We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And opposed? And the motion is carried 7-1.

We now move on to 4.10, our Grants Program Policy. The purpose of this report is to consider adopting the revised Grants Program Policy and Grant Guidelines and provide information on program improvements. We've got a recommendation before us. Do we have a mover of a motion? Councillor Stapleton. And a seconder? By Councillor Gazzard. Would you like to speak to the motion, Councillor Stapleton?

CR STAPLETON: Sure. Thanks, Mayor. So Council's Grants Program is on a path of continuous improvement and tonight Council has been asked to adopt the revised Grants Policy and Grant Guidelines so that this important program can continue. We know how much the grant program is valued and needed by our community and that so many of the really positive initiatives that we see being delivered throughout the community would not have been possible without this grant program. The revised policy incorporates recommendations of the Gender Equity and Impact Assessment, which is new for this program and something that Council is now committed to undertake as part of the Gender Equality Act 2020.

Other key changes to note in the Grants Policy is the widening of the policy to include non-sponsored events and strengthening alignment to our strategic goals, such as wellbeing, environmental sustainability, culture, recreation, economic growth and inclusivity.

I think if you have a look through the guidelines, you'll see there's seven different grants offering something probably for everyone almost. There's community initiatives and quick response grants, which have been a great introduction. We know that sometimes, you know, grant assessments can take a while - or in the old program they did - so the introduction of the quick response grant has been a really popular way for community groups to be able to access reasonably small sums of money to proceed with some really important projects that they've got under way.

There's creative grants, natural environment grants, climate emergency grants, and in fact next week we have our annual climate emergency pitch fest, where the community gets to come in and actually pitch their ideas to

Draft Transcript

Council and the community and everyone votes on the best ideas. It's a great activity and event and I think it's on at the Bellbrae Hall on Wednesday night, so if you're interested, come along and have a look at that. There's also health and wellbeing grants and separate grants for minor capital works. So that's just a quick overview, but yes, I encourage everyone to support this program.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Gazzard, would you like to speak?

CR GAZZARD: I'm in strong support of our grants program policy. I think our grants are really well received by community groups. They help strengthen the community through diverse activities, foster a thriving, safe, healthy and inclusive community, now promote gender equality by challenging gender stereotypes, encourage collaboration and knowledge sharing across the region, enhance community capacity for economic, environmental and social sustainability, support events that bring a lot of economic growth to the region and tourism, and enhance, I think really importantly, our region's creative arts and culture sector. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Allen?

CR ALLEN: Thanks, Mayor. I understand the reason for the policy changes and their intent, but I struggle with many elements. This is a policy that aims to achieve gender equity and inclusion that will, in my view, achieve very little unless it is more finely targeted, which this policy is not. What limited effect this policy change can have should, I believe, be symbolically directed into the areas that may help to influence the values and attitudes of children in the early years in, for example, play groups and early childhood centres to help children to be and understand inclusivity.

Under this policy, the grant application seeks for the gender composition of the organisation's committee and membership. We are told that this is not compulsory. If so, then why ask? Will failure to disclose this information negatively impact upon the success of the application?

The policy will unnecessarily aggravate and discourage volunteer committees, particularly in our smaller communities who, in large, have very little choice about the gender composition of their committees, nor do they generally care as long as the committee is effective in achieving its outcomes. If the grant application is unsuccessful, the tendency will be to blame this requirement rather than looking at the quality of the application and its intended outcomes.

Will volunteer groups need to realign their focus from achieving their aims and outcomes within the community to redirect their time to recruiting more men,

Draft Transcript

women, people with different identities or members with disabilities? If it is not going to be disadvantaged in its grant applications, which I'm sure will be the case, by having an unrepresented committee, why ask?

I believe that looking at the practices of and outcomes achieved by our governing bodies that apply for grants may be more informative. Are we going to put the same microscope onto the umbrella organisations that host our various clubs? I will not name the organisation tonight, but we have clubs that belong to an organisation that discriminates against both genders if we award grant moneys to the affiliated clubs.

If we have an environment stream, a creative stream, that presumably focuses on positive environmental and artistic outcomes, why not do the same for equity inclusion? I would be happy to support such a move and support the allocation of additional funding into the grants program to facilitate a focused category in equity and inclusion. We should be focusing on the outcomes and less on the process. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Would any other Councillors like to speak?
Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: Thanks, Mayor. Thank you for those considered words,
Councillor Allen.

If this passes, it will allow Council to enable the community to take positive action in their towns through the provision of grants. I read a statement like that this way. Council will take money from those struggling to put food on the table and redirect it to those who have pet projects that align with Council objectives. In my eyes, that's theft. If these pet projects are of value to the community, then they can fund it themselves through voluntary contributions from the community who value it.

The statism and socialism in this is strong. If that's what floats your boat, please support the recommendation. I'll continue working with the community to focus on us getting back to the basics.

CR PATTISON: Do you have any closing remarks, Councillor Stapleton?

CR STAPLETON: Just briefly. I'll just add that I think the collection of data through the Grants Program is not intended to discriminate against any applicants, but is an important step for Council to better understand whether there are any barriers to being successful in grant applications that might be based on gender and hopefully over time the collection of this data will help

Draft Transcript

Council to continue to improve the Grants Policy and Guidelines to ensure greater equity and inclusion in the long term.

You know, I know it may not be perfect now. I think in the time that we've been on Council there's been massive improvements made in the Grants Program every year. I think this year is another step in that direction. No doubt there will be more learnings from the changes - if this item is passed tonight to the changes in the Grants Policy and Guidelines, but I think that grants do have a very real direct and positive impact on our local community and I know that so many people in our community would be disadvantaged and disappointed if this Grants Program wasn't able to continue.

So I encourage Councillors to get behind the motion and ensure that our local community groups are not jeopardised by delaying the implementation of these grant guidelines and policies. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. All those in favour. And opposed? And the motion is carried 6-2.

We now move on to 4.11, Draft Outdoor Dining (Parklet) Guidelines and Proposed Community Amenity Local Law 2024. The purpose of this report is to present the draft Community Amenity Local Law 2024 and the Outdoor Dining Guidelines to Council for endorsement for public exhibition and to invite submissions from the community. Do we have a mover of a motion? Councillor Barker - as per the recommendation?

CR BARKER: Yes, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: And a seconder? Councillor Hodge. Would you like to speak, Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: Just very briefly. I support this recommendation and strongly encourage members of our community to participate in the public consultation process.

CR PATTISON: Great. Councillor Hodge?

CR HODGE: Just to explain it a little bit more, during COVID the State Government allowed restaurants to go on to parking spaces to open up fresh air. We did that too at the Jan Juc Hotel - I do live near there too, so lots happening in Jan Juc lately - and it was a success, but what they wanted to do was continue it. The State Government sort of - we finished up with it, so it was continued. We had a huge petition come to us. So our officers got to

Draft Transcript

work with the applicant and we've done a lot of guidelines and even design guidelines of how it should look, and whatever, and it was only three car spots. Now, we had 187 responses and 95 or 96% agreed with it. It was good. It was encompassing. It was another part of outdoor dining.

The people that didn't want it were the ones concerned about parking, and I can see that because parking is getting a bit scarce around that Jan Juc area, but it is really important that community can come and sit, people can bring their pets and it worked really, really well.

Now, there is residences nearby and no one, I don't think, put a complaint in to me. They know I live just down the street. The police had no concerns. So that goes back to the good management that obviously the Jan Juc Hotel did.

So these guidelines and the actual other designs that go through permit types, fees, insurance, construction, it's a really comprehensive report that's in there and it's also managing the safety, the hours and if alcohol is being served.

So it really is important that this has been a success and it will continue and this gives other businesses in our shire a good guideline of maybe they could do it and what they have to do. So it's very self-explanatory. The business I'm sure will understand it. If not, they can come to the shire and we'll work through them. But I think that's one of the things, COVID was a really hard time, but some of these things where we sit outside, I think people got more used to it, al fresco, and perhaps in little parts of like Jan Juc that never had that in that area. So it's really good and it's been a great initiative.

So I welcome it and I hope other areas look at it as well, but I know where it is and there's a great photo of it if you look in our notes, and I'm looking forward to further success not only in Jan Juc, but also around the shire. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Would any other Councillors like to speak?
Councillor Schonfelder?

CR SCHONFELDER: Thank you, Mayor. I note that the City of Melbourne have encouraged parklets in different parts of that municipality and I've noticed Domain Road in South Yarra and also Lygon Street, very well-known areas where people like to recreate. It's important also to realise that in our shire we have a high rate of pet ownership and I know myself I enjoy taking my dog with me to different eateries and I know here in Moriac at the Moriac store there's an area with a deck outside that people can access, but many of these businesses don't have side or front access. So I think that there is an influence there, a Mediterranean influence, of peopling dining outside and I

Draft Transcript

think it's healthier for them to be outside and since COVID, we've had more trends towards this type of dining. So I agree with Councillor Hodge and hope that other parts of our shire adopt this also. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Bodsworth?

CR BODSWORTH: Thanks, Mayor. So yes, I also strongly support this. It raises a couple of principles in my mind that I want to just dwell on for a minute. One is the principle of the highest and best use of public land in town centres.

So for me - well, as Councillor Hodge said, parklets were a worldwide phenomenon during COVID and there was a lot of talk about how that was going to be a turning point where a little more space in town centres adjacent to businesses where people were congregating and spending time was going to be allocated to people rather than to cars. So we're all living in a fairly car dominant part of the world, car dependent part of the world, and so it has been historically the case that parking has been provided right next to the places that people are going to.

But worldwide there's been a recognition of the fact that wouldn't it be great if some of that space next to the places that people are congregating was set aside for people instead of cars and the parklet phenomenon was really about that. It was about here's a - well, COVID provided an opportunity to get people outside in the fresh air and sort of with the public health benefits that that was, but also the social benefits of spending time together and the business benefits of people staying longer in places and spending more money.

So there's a number of reasons why parklets took off all around the world and to me those are reasons that we should think about so that we're not - I support the parklet thing. It's an ad hoc approach to providing great spaces for people to spend time in. I think that we should - the Council should bring not an ad hoc, but a more strategic approach to creating great places that people want to spend time in, which is by reallocating some space from cars to people in town centres. To me, that is the highest and best use of that precious public land in town centres. It's not places for cars to sit in right next to popular places. It's places for people to be right next to those places.

The other principle I want to talk about is user pays and in this case we say that a business can effectively rent a parking space for \$2,325 a year, which provides a great benefit to that business because they can then create a parklet that's going to bring in extra business and they can make up their own

Draft Transcript

mind about whether that's worth it or not and they can use our policy and guidelines to make an application.

Those parking spaces, we provide those for cars to sit in for free and to me, that's both slightly inequitable when there's a great public benefit to having more people spend time in those places and it's also the fact that the Council is missing out on an important potential revenue stream in our town centres, where people get to park for free but the businesses that want to use that exact same space need to pay nearly \$2,500 a year for it. There's a couple of things that I hope that we can talk about more as we go forward, but great work.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Allen?

CR ALLEN: Just to say this is going out for a four-week consultation period. I did have some residents contact me directly concerned about the amenity, the noise, that it was going to affect their amenity, but I guess the extent of that will come through the consultation period. So I look forward to the results of the consultation.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Gazzard?

CR GAZZARD: I loved the parklet at the Beach Hotel. It really injected a sort of vibrancy and life into the square. So I'm really glad this has been successful.

During the pilot and for four weeks after there was a survey and 185 responses were received, with 97% of those responses being in favour of the parklet program. So I think this is a good sign that we should keep going and invite more community feedback around it. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Any closing remarks, Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: Just if people don't like the value that's attributed to this, they're welcome to make submissions to make it higher or lower or whatever they so choose, so please participate.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And the motion is carried unanimously.

We now move on to item 4.12, Community Asset Committee Changes to Membership - Anderson Roadknight Reserve, Anglesea Bike Park, Connewarre Reserve and Deans Marsh Reserve. The purpose of this report is for Council to

Draft Transcript

consider the appointment of new members to the Connewarre Reserve and Deans Marsh Reserve Community Asset Communities and to accept the resignation of committee members from the Anderson Roadknight Reserve CAC, Anglesea Bike Park CAC, Connewarre Reserve CAC and Deans Marsh CAC. Do we have a mover of a motion? Councillor Allen - as per the recommendation?

CR ALLEN: As per the recommendation.

CR PATTISON: And seconded by Councillor Schonfelder. Would you like to speak, Councillor Allen?

CR ALLEN: I just wanted to recognise the wonderful work that our volunteers do in our Community Asset Committees. It is a big commitment and they are prepared to make it. Often they do get criticism within the communities. It's not always plain sailing. But they do put their hand up. And I would particularly like to acknowledge and thank the work of Jane Whitehead, Richard Di Natalie and Kristy Stewart on the Deans Marsh Reserve Community Asset Committee and welcome Michelle Ezzy.

Over a two-year period, this Community Asset Committee was extensively involved in the community consultation about the redevelopment at the Deans Marsh Hall. The issues raised in that consultation and the debate within the community was intense, as we all know, when we approved of the plans at our April meeting.

The report may give the impression that there was mass resignations, which wasn't the case. In fact, three of those people sort of phased out their involvement over time. It's just that their retirements were registered at one particular point in time. But I thank all volunteers in all asset committees for their service to the community.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Schonfelder?

CR SCHONFELDER: Mayor, I echo the sentiments expressed by Councillor Allen and once again, I believe the volunteers are the backbone of our community. I'd like to recognise the volunteer efforts of Sandra Henrys, from the Connewarre Reserve Community Asset Committee, and I've had the honour of chairing an AGM there and that community is a wonderful community that does comprise many people who are hippophiles and I'm also a hippophile, and I'm not sure how many people here this evening know the definition of that, but that means a lover of horses, and I know that the riding club there is well patronised and a great asset to our community.

Draft Transcript

I'd also welcome the appointment of Janice Lister to the Connewarre Reserve CAC and wish her well in her efforts there, along with all the other volunteers. Thank you, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Would any other Councillors like to speak to the motion? Any closing remarks, Councillor Allen?

CR ALLEN: No, thanks, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And the motion is carried unanimously.

We now move on to item 4.13, Change to Council Meeting Date - September 2024. The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to reschedule the September 2024 Council meeting due to a recent proposed change to the 2024 election period commencement date. Do we have a mover of a motion? Councillor Stapleton - as per the recommendation?

CR STAPLETON: Yes, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: And a seconder? Councillor Gazzard. Councillor Stapleton, did you want to speak to this?

CR STAPLETON: Oh, just quickly. So this is really just an administrative motion to acknowledge that the State Government has changed the commencement date for the election period by a day and so the Council meeting that was scheduled for 17 September will be moved to 16 September to make sure that all those important Council decisions that need to be made before the election period can be. So yes, I support it. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank you, Councillor Gazzard? No? Would any other Councillors like to speak? We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And the motion is carried unanimously.

We now move on to 4.14, Project Budget Adjustments and Cash Reserve Transfers - May 2024. This report contains proposed project budget adjustments and cash reserve transfers for Council approval. The report presents adjustments including existing projects requiring adjustment, project closures, new projects to be initiated, Chief Executive Officer approved transfers under delegation or corrections to prior reports presented to Council. Do we have a mover of a motion? Councillor Bodsworth, and seconded by Councillor Gazzard. Would you like to speak, Councillor Bodsworth?

Draft Transcript

CR BODSWORTH: No, thanks Mayor.

CR PATTISON: Councillor Gazzard, would you like to speak?

CR GAZZARD: I'm happy to support this and particularly any savings from grants. Of particular interest for me is maternal and child health sleep and settling, with additional funding from the Department of Health under more support for mums, dads and babies initiative, which is something close to my heart, and supporting people through their child's early years is really very important and something that we should continue doing.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Do any other Councillors wish to speak?
Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: Thanks, Mayor. There's way too much funding coming from the Victorian and Australian taxpayers for me to support this. We're in a national cost of living crisis that's directly impacting millions of Australians and supporting this recommendation to fund lavish expenses on the Surf Coast will only make things harder for those already under stress. Actions have consequences and I will not be part of higher taxation for those who will never know or see the benefit of how their taxes were spent in the Surf Coast.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Any closing remarks, Councillor Bodsworth? We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And all those opposed. And the motion is carried 7-1.

We'll now move on to 4.15, Conflict of Interest Records. The purpose of this report is to present conflict of interest records received since the previous Council meeting. Do we have a mover of a motion? Councillor Schonfelder, and seconded by Councillor Allen. As per the recommendation, Councillor Schonfelder?

CR SCHONFELDER: Yes, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: Would you like to speak?

CR SCHONFELDER: I shall reserve my right, thank you, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: Councillor Allen, would you like to speak?

CR ALLEN: No, thanks, Mayor.

Draft Transcript

CR PATTISON: Any other Councillors? Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: Just two questions.

CR PATTISON: Yes.

CR BARKER: The meetings that start and end with a time that ends with zero - I forget the times, but 4.20 to 4.50, something like that - did that actually happen or were they close to the times?

CR PATTISON: Did you have a specific page or --

CR BARKER: Yes. So if you go to page 453, there's a whole bunch of times that are pretty close. Is that pretty close or was it bang on?

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: So our Governance officers take their minute taking really seriously. We'd have to go back to the actual recordings and look in detail to confirm that, but I would have confidence that our Governance officers would have recorded the start and end time accurately, Councillor Barker.

CR BARKER: Okay, that expands now to three questions. There's some - well, two questions and a statement. There's some reports that have the times with zeros and fives, it's close enough to that, 5-minute block or 10-minute block, but then there's others that specify times with like 5.02 and 11.22, 1.32, that sort of stuff. It might not seem important to others, but I just want to know that if we can accept a little discrepancy on these reports, how can we trust there aren't other little discrepancies in other reports?

CR PATTISON: I'll take that as a comment. Did you want to speak to the motion, because I think our CEO has answered your question. So did you want to speak to the motion?

CR BARKER: Well, avalanches start with a little bit of snow moving. What I see in these reports - and it's only just happened now, like I haven't noticed it in previous reports - if we accept these reports that show minor discrepancies on time that aren't 100% truthful, it creates an environment where we can allow other discrepancies and other elements that aren't completely truthful. That's why I was asking the questions. If you don't want to deal with it now, that's fine.

CR PATTISON: We've heard the question and our CEO has said she'll look at the minutes and get back to you. So we've heard that question, we've

Draft Transcript

received your comment, and so I think if you'd like to talk on the motion further, that's fine, but we've taken your comment, your question and comment, and we'll get back to you.

CR BARKER: Thanks, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: Thank you.

CR BARKER: I'll leave it at that.

CR PATTISON: We will now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. All those opposed. And the motion is carried 7-1.

And that is the end of our Council meeting that's open to the public. So thank you so much, everyone, for coming along, we appreciate your attendance, and we will suspend standing orders for 10 minutes or so while we say goodbye to the people that are here.

(Council went into closed section at 9.19pm)