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>> LIZ PATTISON: Good evening, everybody. Thank you for coming along and welcome to our September council meeting. I am mayor Liz Pattison and it is a pleasure to welcome members of the community. This meeting is live streamed. Welcome to those tuning in online. Welcome to my fellow councillors tonight and councillor Wellington who will join online. Live captioning will accompany the live stream of this meeting. We hope that assists those with hearing difficulties. I would like to acknowledge we are gathered on Wadawurrung country and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging. The first peoples have nurtured and protected the lands and waterways for thousands of generation. I am grateful for the opportunity to live and work in such a beautiful part of the world. We also wish to acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands on which each person is attending and acknowledge first nations people viewing the meeting. This will be our last in person meeting for this election term. As we move into the election period, while we do have a meeting in October, it will be held online. It is the only agenda item is our annual report because that is within our caretaker period. As our council draws to a close, I would like to thank all councillors for their work, dedication and commitment to the community. There have been many highlights that we can all be really proud of. I

would like to acknowledge counsellor Garry Allen and counsellor Heather Wellington to their contribution whilst on the council. Both have chosen not to recontest and congratulations to counsellor Rose Hodge, recently honoured by the money for her 20 years service as a counsellor.. I would like to thank the CEO Robin Seymour and the staff for their support over the council term.

To our agenda for tonight now. For those who haven't been to our country meeting before, meetings operate according to our adopted governance rules which include - I will give you snippets of the important things. During the meeting the mover of a motion or an amendment may speak for a maximum of five minutes to open the debate and a further two minutes for a closing statement. Any other councillor, including the seconder may speak to a motion for no more than three minutes. I ask members of the gallery avoid using mobile phones during the meeting as it can be distracting for councillors and members of the gallery. Any unauthorised recordings of the meeting is prohibited under the rules. You can access a copy of the official recordings on our web site after the meeting. I would like to recite the pledge as a sign of our commitment. We carry out our responsibilities with diligence and integrity and make fair decisions of lasting value for the wellbeing of our community and environment. As far as I am aware we have no apologies for tonight's meeting.

We will move onto confirmation of minutes. Can I've a mover and seconder to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 22

August moved by counsellor Bodsworth and the motion is carried.

Leave of an a sense request not relevant given this is our last meeting. Declarations of conflicts of interest. If a counsellor or an officer has a conflict of interest they must declare it now and do so again once the item is being discussed. Do any counsellors offices have a conflict of interest to declare? No.

We have no presentations.

>> Yes.

>> LIZ PATTISON: Counsellor Allen.

>> CR ALLEN: Yesterday I had the privilege to join Christine Cousins state member for Geelong West to present the award in IOern. Congratulations to counsellor Bodsworth who participated but didn't cut the mustard to be on the podium. Wonderful that you were there. The event attracted just over 4,000 riders which is a record in Lorne. I am told this is because of the anticipation that next year we will hold the worst grand championships in Lorne. Already the accommodation venues along the surf coast are taking bookings from Europe. Surf coast events sponsor this the event through our grants program. Well done to Matt Taylor and his team for their part in the events success. It is a significant economic boost to the Lorne and district businesses in the off peak period. Finally, I wish to recognise the outstanding work of the Amy Gillett Foundation who promote healthy living

and improve road safety outcomes. Thank you.

>> LIZ PATTISON: Thank you, Counsellor Allen. We have no submissions either. That brings us to public Question Time. We have three community members who have submitted a total of six questions tonight. Our first question is from Christopher Anderson of Torquay regarding asset renewals and disregard.

>> LIZ PATTISON: You are here but do you want me to read it out?

>> CHRIS: If you could that would be fantastic?

>> LIZ PATTISON: I will read it out. "Please explain in detail the process and demonstrate that this occurred when considering the necessary asset renewal of Scorpio Street Torquay, including all concerns raised in writing by all residents and how the residents are consulted and informed on progress and decisions in a consultative way prior to any decision being declared within the current or forecast budgets?" Thanks for your question,

>> LIZ PATTISON: I will pass to the CEO because that is an operational matter.

>> Hi,

>> ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thank you for your question. I understand there has been a range of my team who have been talking to you about your questions over the - about the last 12 months.

>>

>>CHRIS: Almost five years now.

>> ROBYN SEYMOUR: Quite a long time then, OK. In terms of determining our prioritisation of our assets and remediation of our assets, council does audits of all of our road network every three years and the data from these audits are really the prime drivers of setting our asset renewal works for council but it's not the only drivers. There are some others as well. We get a lot of information from our counsellor officers who are out doing inspections of roads and ensuring that our roads comply with council's road management plan and also when concerns are raised by our community members in relation to road conditions, that would spark our officers to go out and do active inspections. In terms of the decisions and how we then prioritise activity, we use all of those factors that audits - what we hear from community and also what our officers see in our networks to determine the priority of the work that we then implement. Alongside - so things like risk, how busy a road is and then we work and we look at the cost and we look to see how we prioritise the action that we then take across

our broad asset base, of which roads is just one class of our assets.

In regards to your street, Scorpio Street, concerns were raised by our inspection officers and by yourself with regards to the pavement condition. Once these concerns were raised and an investigation was undertaken by our officers, including getting an arborist to look at the trees and we have had reports as a result of that, looking at the pavement and doing an assessment on the pavement and determining the area where damage is occurring...

>> I have read those reports now.

>> Officers determine that works were required to repair the road due to the extensive damage caused by the root system from the roadside trees.

>> The report doesn't state that the trees in Scorpio Street are causing the damage. They state that the ones in Aquarius Street are doing the damage. There is inconsistency in the assessment.

>> There is damage to the road surface that needs to be fixed.

>> LIZ PATTISON: In the context of our council meeting, you put forward your question and we will respond.

>>CHRIS: All I am saying is the facts presented are inaccurate. You haven't answered the question, unfortunately. That information

that you have - has been passed onto you, specifically in regard to the streets in Scorpio Street aren't mentioned in that report causing any damage the road. That report is dated and old and needs to be updated. Secondly, when you talk about the removal of the trees, you have to look at the environment more broadly. If you are going to cut down trees that will allow more road traffic noise, you need to have a conversation with VicRoads to start building protective areas from the road noise to stop all that noise coming across into our front yards. I don't think council have got what it means to solve this issue. Cutting down trees, relaying roads is not the answer. You need to look at the environment as a whole, what will impact the expensive homes in that street and the significant investment that has been made by people? I don't think you understand the issue.

>> LIZ PATTISON: I can see you have lots of information and concern around this and there is another forum that we can have this conversation...

>>CHRIS: Sorry, my question was to get that information today. I asked for evidence if you read the specific words of my question. I am not going to accept what you tell me tonight as being the facts. I requested the evidence today.

>> LIZ PATTISON: That is probably - this council meeting is not the forum to give you a lot of evidence. We will respond to the question and we can give you follow-up with officers.

>>ROBYN SEMOUR: Sorry, Mayor Pattison, I understand we have given you a lot of information that we have and including...

>>CHRIS: I have copies of the arborist reports and copies of the budget which shows inadequacy of investment. The tendency to invest in development such as the discussion that was had last council meeting around the mental health issue and the people that are dealing with that development as well. There is too much focus on development, not enough focus on actually restoring Torquay to what it was. Spend less money on new developments and spend more money on fixing the assets that we actually currently own and that includes Scorpio Street and all the streets in the area. It includes the areas of the potholes and everything that we drive through. It is an absolute mess.

>> Thanks for your opinion,

>> CHRIS:. It feels like a comment more than a question,

>> LIZ PATTISON: But thank you.

>>CHRIS: I asked the question and the question was asking for evidence. You are not providing evidence you are providing a position and that doesn't answer the question.

>> LIZ PATTISON: Our council meetings aren't a forum for conversation. We can facilitate a conversation. If there is a question that is put forward.

>>CHRIS: I hope you don't expect me to come here and be quiet, that is not what I am about.

>> LIZ PATTISON: That is how the council meetings go, would you like me to read your second question?

>>CHRIS: So it is a one-sided conversation.

>> LIZ PATTISON: There is plenty of opportunity for consultation. It is not during Question Time. "Please explain why asset renewals aren't occurring and investment is being favoured, including all business cases for all approvals and denials versus investment. This is to be supported that an open and consultative process that's been followed". Our CEO will respond to this question

>>CHRIS: Do you have data and evidence? If not...

>> LIZ PATTISON: I will ask you to be quiet so we can respond.

>>CHRIS: I won't be quiet.

>>ROBYN SEMOUR: The answer I was going to provide related to Scorpio Street and specifically the work that we are doing there and how that fits in with our broader program. I feel like that is not actually going to...

>> There is no allocation in the budget for any work.

>> There is, it is in our...

>> Minor \$45,000 for Aquarius Street.

>>ROBYN SEMOUR: Council's budget allocation including asset renewal and new projects in our recently adopted budget, which I am sure you have seen on our web site, might be of interest to you if you haven't seen it? As part of that we also have documents about our approach to asset management and funding so you will have seen our asset management plan and our long term -

>>CHRIS: Yes

>>ROBYN SEMOUR: In terms of the renewal of the road in Scarp Yeo Street, this has been on our program for the past 12 months but are yet to commence tpt. We have delayed the work because our maintenance team did a short-term fix to temporarily remove the bumps in the road and reduce the risk to an acceptable level...

>>CHRIS: Ineffective, didn't work.

>>ROBYN SEMOUR: The bumps will reappear as the road side trees continue to grow and we will need to remove trees and properly renew a section of the road. We intend to do this in the current financial year. We will let adjoining residents know about the works prior to them occurring and there is no scope to consult on the types of works required as the tree removal and the road resurfacing are essential to ensuring there is a permanent fix...

>>CHRIS: That is not a permanent fix. Following the trees you let noise pollution by felling the trees. Altering the environment. I am not having that. It is unacceptable.

>> LIZ PATTISON: Thanks for coming and putting your questions forward. I can see further questions are necessary with officers.

>>CHRIS: Can you read the second question again quickly?

>> LIZ PATTISON: We have already...

>>CHRIS: Read it again so we can recap the question.

>> LIZ PATTISON: We have responded to the question.

>>CHRIS: I asked for the council to provide evidence and facts and data

and all the things necessary to prove what you have just said.

Where is it?

>> LIZ PATTISON: We can follow up - Jake is happy to follow up with you after the meeting to organise a time to meet with officers and work through the things that you required.

>>CHRIS: It is ineffective and it doesn't work and it doesn't progress matters. One year in October is when

>> CHRIS: Came and did that investigation. A year has passed and you have done nothing. Guys in the street are filling potholes last week...

>>

>> LIZ PATTISON: I don't think that is the case. I appreciate you coming in.

>>CHRIS: Part of my correspondence said they came to the street and put a white square around the biggest pot hole in the middle of the street and left. Came back to fix edging on the road and left again. They don't do the work. Who is out in the field checking the quality of the work that your subcontractors are providing and/or your employees?

>> LIZ PATTISON: We are happy to go through that with you.

We have finished with your question. We have four other questions to go through. Thanks for your time. I will move onto the next question.

>>CHRIS: You have not answered my question.

>> LIZ PATTISON: We are happy to meet with you at another point. I am moving onto the next question. That is from Ian Stewart of Torquay... (APPLAUSE)

>> LIZ PATTISON: It is regarding a proposed development. Can we refrain from talking while the meeting is progressing. "Council has continually stated they have been advocating with government departments to provide better communication and engagement with the community on the proposed 12 unit significant mental health facility in North Torquay. Can council advise what outcomes or results have been achieved through this advocacy with mind and government departments?" Ian is not here today. Thank you for your question and we will pass that to our officer Damian to respond.

>>DAMIAN WAIGHT: Thanks for your question. Hopefully you are watching on an line. One of the outcomes of council's work to encourage better

communication and engagement from MIND Australia is the meeting that was held on 15 September that Ian attended which was great. This was an opportunity to discuss concerns and share information. We haven't been advocating through other government departments as Mind Australia are building the development and they are best-placed to provide information about it.

>> LIZ PATTISON: Ian's second question "With the proposed construction at 26 Silvereve Street Torquay as a 12 unit significant mental health facility about to commence that has no provision for onsite construction vehicle parking what controls are council going to put in place to prevent illegal parking on the street as known as reserve one? Would this include installing a yellow no standing sign in Silvereve to enhance the no parking zones?"

>>DAMIAN WAIGHT: We had it clarified at the meeting on 5 September that Haven Torquay is not defined as a significant mental health facility. Regarding the parking, we currently have no standing signs along Silvereve Street and Rosella Road and centre lines restricting the parking on the roads. We don't intend to put yellow lines along the road side as this does the same job as the no standing signs which are in place.

>> LIZ PATTISON: The next question is from Naomi Stewart from Torquay regarding the proposed development at 26

Silvereye Street and Naomi is also not attending "26 Silvereye Street lot 628 on plan of subdivision of 82922 with covenant to PS 8229 on 8th of the 10th and includes the planning and environment act. Please refer to the development plan schedule states by the colours that lot 628 is classed lots from 650 square metres going by what has been advised by council officers they have known since May 2022 when discussions and inquiries were made by reps on this block. Note plans show there was a revision in February 2022. This block was advertised on 25 March 2022 and sold to the Haven Foundation on 15 June 2022. My question is council officers were aware of Mind Australia of being interested in this block since May 2022. Why did the council officers not caution that this would be an overdevelopment directly opposite the Torquay coast primary school and not what would have been the intent of the section 173 agreement on the title. Had the council been forthcoming about their knowledge of this proposed development, the last two years of community concern would have been alleviated and we may not have been in this position today". Once again, our officer Mr Waight will respond.

>>DAMIAN WAIGHT: Thanks for your questions, Naomi. We provided similar answers previously that we don't have a planning role in these types of developments. In effect, the question seeking council to fulfil a role that we don't have responsibility or jurisdiction for. The type of - this type of community care accommodation is exempt from the planning permit process. We have no jurisdiction to direct the property owner what to do in this circumstance. Similarly, if a different dwelling that is subject to a planning permit process complies with the relevant considerations

of the planning scheme, there are no grounds upon which council should refuse a permit for it. We are not able to prevent Mind Australia from doing something that is legal and permitted under the state planning conditions, that is why we focused our efforts in trying to improve information and communication from Mind Australia.

>> LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. That brings our public Question Time to an end. We will now move onto petitions. The first item is petition 2.1, titled heavy vehicle access to Hesse Street and fixing of loading bay in Hesse Street, Winchelsea. We have a petition submitted relating to heavy vehicle access and fixing of a loading bay. We have a recommendation. Does anyone wish to move a motion? Do we have a seconder of counsellor Schonfelder.

>>CR SCHONFELDER: I would like to thank the Winchelsea community for bringing this petition to council and it states to the CEO mayor counsellors of the Surf Coast Shire and traffic departments pertaining to issues or in particular traffic issues on Hesse Street and loading bay concerns after WorkSafe contacted a business in Winchelsea and I actually attended a meeting with a WorkSafe officer and a proprietor of the supermarket in Winchelsea, the IGA supermarket and also a council officer attended Mr Andrew hoout. We inspected the loading bay, in particular the issues with the width of the loading bay and the gradient of the road and general traffic issues as well which were evident while we were at that meeting. Businesses along with many others in the shopping street precinct have concerns about any restrictions to the

availability or to the fact that semi trailers will be allowed to access the loading bay. Our towns are changing and Winchelsea is forecast to grow quite substantially, I might add. I believe having a loading bay is very important, particularly one that has heavy vehicle access to Hesse Street and if a semitrailer or semi trailers aren't allowed to operate, it will have a heavy impact on all businesses logistically and commercially. I put to the council that, in Torquay, for instance, if semi trailers weren't allowed to access loading bays in Torquay, how would Torquay function with the central activity district in Torquay, per se? I know in many places, I have seen the Woolworths trucks deliver goods to Woolworths in Heyson and it is a confined space there. The community needs assurance that Hesse Street, which is zone commercial, won't be effected by such actions as restricting semitrailer access and that the council will assess - assist in finding a reasonable solution and fix the issues surrounding the loading bay and an easy solution would be making the loading bay wider by at least a metre and getting a spotter when the trucks turn around. The businesses are essential for the town and in particular the supermarket is essential for the town. For any town, I might add. The council loading bay on Hesse Street forms the back bone for loading and unloading for the business, including the post office and other businesses in the area. It needs to be fixed for safety of trucks and pedestrians.

I might add that being a counsellor is not an easy job. Last night I even had trouble sleeping, I was worried about this because I love Winchelsea and I care deeply for the community there and particularly the businesses that, at the moment, are struggling

and fortunately, we don't have too many closed businesses in the Surf Coast Shire as a whole and we want to support the business community. I ask my fellow counsellors to support this petition and I encourage the council to act expeditiously about this matter. Thank you, mayor.

>> LIZ PATTISON: Counsellor Wellington, would you like to speak to the motion?

CR WELLINGTON:

>> LIZ PATTISON: Did you want to say something?

>>CR WELLINGTON: Can you hear me now? It is clearly a critical issue for Winchelsea, for the business owners but also for the community. I guess my question is what process does council have if place to sort this out? The fact that it is a big problem, WorkSafe are involved and WorkSafe have a statutory obligation to keep things safe and council has a pretty clear obligation to work with the community to make sure that access is maintained. Somehow council, I think, needs to be working with WorkSafe in order to find a solution to this problem and I am - I perhaps could stop and ask a question, if I am able to what we are actually doing as a council, what our officers are doing to try and resolve this? We cannot have that loading bay closed but nor can we

have an unsafe circumstances...

>> LIZ PATTISON: I will pass that question onto our CEO?

>>ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thanks counsellor Wellington. We are working with the business owner and WorkSafe on what is the way that we would manage trucks in that section of Hesse Street. Traffic engineers are involved as well as Counsellor Schonfelder mentioned, Andrew Hewitt, so between our engineers and Andrew, they are working with the business operator and WorkSafe around a solution at the moment.

>>CR WELLINGTON: Thank you. Are you confident that there will be a solution found in? I think so. We may need - I suspect there will be a need for a traffic management plan for the area, but there is further work to be done and we will bring as with any petition, will bring a response back to council but there is work underway. I met with our teams last week to get a briefing on where things are at and there is activity happening to work...

>>CR WELLINGTON: Thank you. WorkSafe didn't have powers to close things down and hopefully that wouldn't happen and the WorkSafe officers would understand this is critical community infrastructure. I would be asking officers to be working to be communicating well with WorkSafe officers. Find a solution to the problem, rather than just committing a statutory submission from

WorkSafe perspective, recognising that they do have a job to do.

We must find a way around this. I would like to see all of the people working on this being absolutely united in their search for a solution. Thank you to the people who signed a petition and brought this to a council meeting and I sincerely hope it will be resolved quickly and people won't be left with uncertainty. That is the other issue, the timing of this threat to businesses, so we need to deal with it promptly and highly effectively and with an outcome that maintains access for those vehicles and maintains the safety for community. It is a big task but no doubt with good heads together it will happen, thank you.

>> LIZ PATTISON: Would any other counsellors like to speak?

Counsellor Barker.

>> CR BARKER: We have set a precedent in the council to accept petitions that are - so receiving this is not contentious. What is contentious is how the heavy vehicle access has become a problem. As a former truck driver that has done hundreds of supermarkets it is not isolated. Often loading docks and heavy vehicle parking areas are a last thought when it comes to planning the construction of shopping areas. I look forward to the outcome of this issue as it could set a positive resolution that other similar locations could benefit from. I responded to the initial questions promptly and after that, many other communications followed. I have made inquiries with officers on 27 August and a meeting has been arranged with Mr Betty and

his traffic consultant to discuss options. Once this has been completed the officers will have a better understanding of what options are available.

The reality is that if we don't resolve this issue and smaller trucks are required to make deliveries, all residents of Winchelsea will have to pay higher prices for the goods that are bought from the shops related to this issue. It is incumbent on us all to make sure that doesn't happen.

>> LIZ PATTISON: Any our counsellors wish to speak? Any closing remarks?

>> CR SCHONFELDER: I would like to thank Counsellor Wellington and Counsellor Barker for their contribution to this important issue. I need to stress, it needs to be resolved as soon as possible for the benefit of the community in Winchelsea. Thank you, mayor.

>> LIZ PATTISON: We will put the motion to a vote. All those in favour and the motion is carried unanimously.

There are no Notice of Motions so we will move onto the reports for the meeting. The first is the annual financial report and performance statement for 23/24. The purpose is to present the 23/24 financial and performance statements to council for in

principle approval as recommended by the audit committee and
in accordance with section 99 of the Local Government Act 2020.

We have a recommendation before us. Does anyone wish to
move a motion, counsellor Allen.

>> CR ALLEN: As per the recommendation.

>> LIZ PATTISON: Do we have a seconder? Counsellor Barker.
Would you like to speak, counsellor Allen?

>> CR ALLEN: Detailed in the report are the normal steps to
accept our annual financial reports and performance statement
for 2023/24. Most importantly, tonight we must resolve to
approve in principle the annual financial report and performance
statement prior to their formal submission to the Auditor-General.
The Auditor-General will then issue the audit report and provide a
copy to the minister. The Victorian Auditor-General's office
provided a ver tall update and summary report of the results of
the audit to the audit and risk committee on 11 September. The
summary report concludes that their expected audit opinion is
that the financial report is presented fairly. It was the consensus
of the audit and risk committee that the statements present fairly
the financial report of the Surf Coast Shire council and
recommend to the council their adoption.

The annual financial report and the performance statement

completed with the audit report will be included in the annual report which will be presented for adoption by the council at the October caretaker meeting. This recommendation also authorises the chief financial officer to discuss any material changes made to the report and statement to the audit and risk committee chair prior to reporting to the counsellor. There are a few items that I wish to highlight.

Firstly, the comprehensive income statement on page 6 of the report, lists the deficit for the year of \$18.453 million. We have this deficit because of the handover of shire assets to the Great Ocean Road coast parks and authority to the value of \$24.5 million. It is a one-off factor and the transfers are now complete. Allowing for this item, we have a different perspective on our financial position for the previous 12 months.

Secondly, the balance sheet on the following page reveals the total value of our noncurrent assets, that is property and infrastructure, is \$1.2 billion. I highlight this figure as it helps us to understand the need for a significant commitment to the asset renewal program over the next 10 years. Also of interest to the ratepayers, on pages 13 and 14, are the explanations given for all material variances in actual amounts of revenue and expenses compared to those budgeted for. For example, statutory fees and fines very favourably. Due to the level of subdivision fees received and from early payment of these fees. Parking fines are back to pre-pandemic levels from the return of tourists. Operating grants have an unfavourable variance due to our financial assistance grants for 2023/24 being received in the previous

financial year.

Time does not permit a discussion of all elements in the report and the statement but I encourage interested residents who have not previously done so to read attachments 1 and 2 in the agenda report. I wish to acknowledge the work of the members of the audit and risk committee who undertake to raise matters of concern when they review the financial and performance reports. To record my thanks to Gabby Spiller and her team for their diligence and hard work in their preparation. It is outstanding work which I am confident will be endorsed by my fellow councillors. Mayor, it is my privilege to move the adoption of the annual financial reports and performance statements 2023/24.

>> LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Barker.

>> CR BARKER: I support this statement is an accurate reflection of our true financial position. If you have been following council meetings I don't agree with how the spending has been made. It is interesting to note the rates and charges have increased by 5% over the rate cap. This is in part due to the supplementary rates of new properties being built on for the first time. You will notice the interest received has more than tripled but this is an anomaly due to the external government funding for things like the pool. The desire to focus on asset renewal, if we don't make solid moves on improving this area of council, it will leave future generations with unmanageable levels of asset

renewal. The sooner we tighten our belts the better. That is all.

>> LIZ PATTISON: Would any other counsellors like to speak?

Counsellor Wellington.

>>CR WELLINGTON: Thank you. A couple of comments from me. I looked at the indicators with interest around page 81. There is a debate - engagement with the community about that because when there are - want more houses, we will continue to impress the density of our townships. That is an issue that hasn't really been fully canvassed with the community and there will no doubt be people who will find that rather a challenging prospect in the shire. The statutory planning performance - did not meet target. It is on page 83, we are below target there and a comment is we are maintaining similar operational time lines to previous years and we are committed but we haven't met our target. I know there is a lot of frustration in the community in relation to the time on planning. If we set a target we need to look and see what resources we need to deliver that and is it realistic to deliver that? Then we need to deliver it. That is just a comment on that one.

In terms of the asset renewal upgrade, I like other counsellors am really concerned about it. I am concerned about the future. I won't be here but others will be taking this forward and we have a lot of buildings where our maintenance is inadequate, we have had major problems in the Winchelsea ward with buildings that

have been attacked by termites or have developed really significant damp problems and have cost a huge amount of money to remediate. In some cases still aren't remediated. We have a community that we are told the hall is not able to be remediated and we are proposing to pull it down and spend a huge amount of money to put a new hall there. Maintenance of existing infrastructure is really critical. The roads issue is another one, we have a huge asset renewal gap and we heard about that earlier today from a very frustrated resident and I am sympathetic to that and concerned that we haven't been able to significantly improve or reduce the gap since I have been a counsellor.

The candidates for the next election to look at because it gives a clear view of our current financial position. I am concerned about the future because of the huge drain on our operating budget and the fact that that will leave less money for things like asset renewal. We noted it is well presented and it gives a clear view and we will wait and see what future holds as we cope with large operating deficits on the aquatics centre.

>> LIZ PATTISON: Any other counsellors wish to speak?

Counsellor Bodsworth.

>> CR BODSWORTH: I was at the audit and risk committee meeting on 11 September and I can pass onto counsellors how complementary the committee was of the quality of the reporting.

As noted by counsellor Allen, the preliminary audit feedback was positive, with no unresolved issues. I did note advice to the audit and risk committee confirmed the rate cap has been complied with. One other note is further to Counsellor Wellington's comments about the sustainable capacity and financial performance indicators to draw peoples' attention to the know your council web site, published by the Victorian Government that enables people to compare like councils' performance. There is a lot of insights to be gained from that web site. I will add my congratulations to the finance team for pulling together really clear concise, well balanced reporting that's been so complimented by the audit and risk committee and so far by auditors.

>> LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Any closing...

>>CR WELLINGTON: Could I ask a question? In terms of the know your council web site, I agree, that it has been a very good web site but my understanding was it is no longer funded by the government? Is that correct or not?

>> LIZ PATTISON: I will pass that to our CEO?

>> Counsellor Wellington, it had a patch where it wasn't but I thought there was a recommitment to it, although I haven't looked at it recently. Governance is telling me, yes, there is a

recommitment to updating Know Your Council - it is a good resource and it is good to hear it has been resupported.

CR WELLINGTON: I am pleased to hear that, thank you.

>> Me too.

>> LIZ PATTISON: It is definitely there. Any closing remarks, Counsellor Allen?

>> CR ALLEN: No thanks. We put the motion to vote, all those in favour and the motion is carried unanimously.

>> LIZ PATTISON: We move onto item 4.2, council plan progress report end of year 3. The purpose for condition to consider noting the progress of the report end year 3. We have a recommendation before us. Do we have a mover of the motion? Counsellor Stapleton? And a seconder Counsellor Bodsworth. Would you like to speak, Counsellor Stapleton?

>> CR STAPLETON: I am happy to move this item tonight and always appreciate the biannual update that we get from officers on how we are tracking across the seven themes of our four year council plan. This is the end of year three report on council plan

progress and the final report will receive during this council term.

It was always an ambitious plan and I acknowledge that we set our sights high with 19 strategies across seven themes. In a bid to contribute as best we could to the community vision for the shire, which provides the overall direction for the actions outlined in this progress report. I think it is always worth reminding ourselves what our community has asked us to work towards during this council term via the council plan, so for the benefit of those not familiar with the community vision, this is what it says "From the Hinterland to the coast, from the first peoples to the children of the future, we are an active, diverse community that lives creatively to value, protect and enhance the natural environment and our unique neighbourhoods. We will leave the surf coast better than we found it". It is a great vision, I think it is, and it was created by our community for our community. It is much more than a basic statement about the services council should deliver. It is aspirational and provides direction for us as counsellors when we are inevitably deliberating over difficult decisions and wicked problems. It helps when we are thinking about how our decisions today might impact the children of the future.

This vision developed by community does not suggest that councils should stick to the basics of roads, rates and rubbish, of course, these things are essential as part of council's overall purpose. The vision and council plan go further to capture the broader roles of local government, which is now mandated through state legislation to address things like climate change, community health and wellbeing and gender equity across our

policies, services and programs. Council has responsibilities under the Commonwealth acts and regulations also, ministerial directions, codes of practice, Australian standards, state and Federal laws and other guidelines. We know not every municipality is the same, which is why this council plan was developed in partnership with residents to help identify and prioritise the things that matter most to our community.

We heard through this process the residents certainly expect much more from council than the basics of roads, rates and rubbish. Surf Coast Shire, like most councils delivers more than 100 services and programs for the community from child care, maternal child and health services, kindergarten, environmental protection, climate change action, food safety, pet registrations, parks and gardens, netball courts and cricket clubs, events and festivals, support for local businesses and creative industries, libraries grants and emergency management. We are building a couple of swimming pools also. There are so many things I could highlight from this council plan in progress report but I will flag some of the key achievements and encourage everyone in the community to read this report from cover to cover, to better understand the full breadth of services, programs and infrastructure that Surf Coast Shire council is aiming to deliver for our community.

I will run through a few highlights for me. There has been significant progress on our reconciliation action plan, which has helped council to build trusted relationships with our first nations community and building respect for traditional owner

perspectives, culture and knowledge throughout the community.

We have delivered major community infrastructure projects which

I won't list but encourage you to look at. I will flag I am excited

to see the shared pathway ridge line trail project which will

progress from Belgrave to Janjuct. There is work under the theme

of environmental leadership. We have been planting trees and

supporting community conservation work. We are partnering with

traditional owners to heal country. We are purchasing 100%

renewal electricity now for council operations, we have adopted a

zero emissions target by 2030, delivered the all electric program

with Geelong sustainability which is coming back. We are

diverting 71% of material from our waste through the system

now. We have adopted the circular economy action plan. I have

got 30 seconds. I will just quickly refer to the work that planning

officers have been doing to protect heritage and township

character which is really important and sets us up well for

sustainable growth through extensive work that has been done

on the urban future strategy and the planning scheme review as

well as the Aireys Inlet affordable housing project. And the

housing project and I will leave it there for others to update.

>> I am happy to move to let the counsellor speak longer...

>> LIZ PATTISON: I don't think she wants more time. That is

fine. That was seconded by Counsellor Bodsworth.

>> CR BODSWORTH: I reserve my right to speak for the

moment.

>> LIZ PATTISON: Counsellor Hodge?

>> CR HODGE: The highlights for mover the last several years has been the infrastructure for the healthy connected communities. I know in the days when I played netball a long time ago, girls got changed in car parks and in cars and things like that. Over the years we have seen some great huge improvements in our sporting and recreational facilities. It is still going strong. We have been very good with advocacy to Federal and State Governments to be able to get the funding that we have towards the big projects. We heard about the surf coast a wattic centre and we talk about the cost but there is so much benefit when you have inclusive sporting recreation and people joining in together to play sports, families coming. It is really important. The Winchelsea pool is another one. The Arts Centre in Torquay, we have a million and a half dollars going in there to get the arts and the theatre troupe and all that. Having a room and space to themselves. The hockey pitch is coming in. The Anglesea netball. Cycling, I am not a cyclist but we have heard Counsellor Bodsworth passion over the years for it. Hopefully that will connect the communities. The Barwon River at Winchelsea, the loop which is so important. The upgrades to Spring Creek, the connection which was spoken about and seating. We have a huge Federal fund for more seating at the basketball stadium. It is not just about the participants it is the people that come and watch,

spectating when you watch your kids or grandchildren, you are connecting with the community and chatting. You are out of the house and it is a really terrific thing to do.

We foster and a thriving healthy community and we are doing it really well with all those projects. Capital works will be rolling out. It won't stop in caretaker. The CEO has the ability to keep those projects going. It is so important. I think one thing that this four years has done is built on that and it shows now with the next lot of completion of works done how it started in this four years and it will be completed in the next four years. I would like to congratulate the councils that have supported the pool throughout and also all the sporting things and recreation. It is so important for this area and connection to everyone. Thank you.

>> LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Counsellor Schonfelder would you like to speak?

>> CR SCHONFELDER: Counsellor Hodge took the words right out of my mouth, so I won't speak for long. The Greenfield verve upgrade along the Thompson Creek reserve in Morac is another example of connecting communities and encouraging active transport -- Morag. The fact that Counsellor Hodge and I attended a new netball pavilion opening and on page 117 I know Counsellor Hodge played netball. I tried to a bit at school but on page 117 of the agenda theme 6 arts and creativity acknowledge the value of arts and creativity and nurture their growth. There is

a mural at Winchelsea that was painted on the kindergarten there and public art is very important. In the media recently, it's been mentioned how areas that do have public art have higher patronage and better economic activity so to speak. Not just from a mental health point of view but from also an economic point of view as well. In relation to the bridge over the pedestrian bridge over the river at Winchelsea, at the Barwon River, that has been planned for as long as I have been alive. I am 49 years old and I am very proud of the fact that it has recently been built and welcome by the community and it is fantastic. The council plan continues. With the next council it will continue and it has been wonderful being a part of the execution of the plan and rolling out of the plan as well. A lot to be proud of, thank you, mayor.

>> LIZ PATTISON: Counsellor Wellington, would you like to speak?

CR WELLINGTON: I see this report as a good summary and presentation of the work that has been done against the council plan. It raises, which I have raised numerous times throughout this term of council, is does that plan really reflect the priorities of the community? We have been told it was done through the delivery of engagement process and people worked out what the community wanted. A number of those people actually have said to me at various times over the years that they didn't necessarily feel their views were being well incorporated. The council statement talked about we are more than roads and rates and

rubbish. Of course we R for the new council and for the candidates who will hopefully be watching tonight, the question of what are the communities' priorities, they are the ones who write the rate cheque or put the funds transfer for the council to their rates. It is a lot of money. We have heard tonight about roads. We have heard tonight about building maintenance and the asset renewal gap, which is enormous and which is a practical problem. We have heard about the aquatics centre. We will have more operating expenses diverted towards that. Or operating funding. There is a lot of issues. I believe there is a lot in our council plan that has been driven by State Government and while it is worthy stuff, no doubt, it has been said to council with few resources, if any. Our residents' rates are being gobbled up looking at things like social housing which is absolutely State Government responsibility, in my view, not a council responsibility. We need to be a cooperative assistant, not driving that. We seem to have seized that as part of our responsibility. There is a huge focus on it on gender equality and equity. It is a really important thing. We need to do it well ourselves but the effort that we are putting in to make the community adopt gender equity is costly and I would rather see that money going to the roads, I think they are really important.

There is talk about a focus on volunteers in the plan. We are loading up our volunteers with incredible obligations around gender equity and making sure volunteer groups are displaying appropriate gender equity. Volunteers are taking on a huge burden. It is hard enough to get volunteers let alone to comply with a lot of expectations. We passed a policy about that recently.

\$168,000 in community grants. They are lovely and people enjoy them and do nice things with them. We need to be more rigorous and make sure there is a benefit equivalent to the value we spend as the community as a whole.

There is a discussion about engagement but a lot of it talks about communication and I have noticed a trend for this council to be telling the community what a great job we are doing all the time. I would prefer to see a more authentic and equal discussion about what we do well and what we don't do well, what the community wants us to do, rather than running the campaign of convincing the community that we are doing a lot of things well. We are doing a lot of things well but there are a lot of things that community would very much like us to do better. I don't think that spending money trying to convince the community of what we are doing well. There will be a lot of press releases going out after tonight's council meeting about the wonderful things we have done. We won't report the dissatisfaction that was expressed at the beginning probably. We should be more balance bad that.

>> 100%.

>>CR WELLINGTON: The new council should be looking at what we are spending on that and saying "Is that really necessary and appropriate or could we do it in a different way?" Thank you.

>> LIZ PATTISON: Would any other counsellors like to speak?

Counsellor Allen. (APPLAUSE)

>> CR ALLEN: Thank you. I think there has been an improvement in the council reports that should be highlighted but it partially addresses what Counsellor Wellington rose. The reports show what we have achieved and what we haven't achieved and why we haven't achieved it. We are transparent in that report about why we haven't done things and that is the first time I believe that format is being used in our reports. Our budgets are around \$100 million and the significant spending is spent on essential items. What I want to highlight are some of the extra things that I am particularly proud of apart from the basic expenditure on essential things. We do a wonderful job at the start of the term by declaring housing and accommodation emergency for essential workers. Whilst it is not a major responsibility of local government, it is vital, it is a vital part of our town Shell prosperity, particularly along our coastal communities. Very important to the health of residents has been the growth in artistic and creative endeavour that this council achieved. Over the last two councils, but also in this particular council, we have handled the transition of the council's aged care services to external providers extremely well. I give credit to both the previous council and this council. Through the positive ageing advisory committee, we monitored the transition and we retained the regional assessment responsibility for as long as it was allowed by the Federal Government. Thank you.

>> LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Counsellor Barker.

>> CR BARKER: I find gushing over this plan disconnected from reality. I haven't met anyone on the street that thinks our number one focus should be on Indigenous reconciliation. I don't agree with the council plan but I can say it is mostly on track. I will vote for this motion because it simply notes the report. What is very concerning is on page 103 of this agenda is that the speed limit reductions will occur on various regional roads. I will oppose this vigorously. We should be keeping our roads car worthy, not allowing them to deteriorate to the point that they become uncar worthy. There are many areas that this plan focuses on that trades off basic services for unnecessary fluff. What is missing from this report is we are spending more than \$10 million per year on staff compared to similar councils. That could fix a few potholes, I think.

While this plan is something that some people like, the reality is that the overall direction of this council has less than 50% support from the community. Some have criticised council focusing on the basics but focusing on anything other than the basics has left our basic assets in disrepair. Look around and check the gutters and the potholes. You will see them. We are on a path to a dystopian future of widespread decay if we don't change our direction. If we continue down this path, get ready for roads way worse than this. People largely don't pay attention to

what we do here. There might be a few hundred that see this meeting but we have got tens of thousands of people in this municipality that just don't know what is going on. They don't care but they will sure as... I won't say that, they will sure as anything share their frustration when the basics aren't met. Admission of community opposition is not an endorsement of what happens in this chamber. This plan, we are noting it but I think it is clear I don't particularly agree. (APPLAUSE)

Any closing remarks?

>> LIZ PATTISON: I will ask people to refrain from speaking in the gallery. Counsel lar Gazzard.

>> CR GAZZARD: I endorse this report. I think you could argue that a dystopian future of widespread decay is facing us in the setting of climate change, which will make the roads and our community in disrepair. The focus on every part of the health of our community is important. I agree with the sentiment around focusing on health sh especially active lifestyles and transport. The work around first nations reconciliation, I do hear from people in the community who believe this is important. We are on track with our reconciliation action plan of 59 actions, 33 are complete and 10 are almost complete. 7 underway and 9 carrying onto the next action plan which we will begin drafting later this year. We have done a journey on Wadawurrung country which has been well received by over 1700 people in the exhibition with

reflections that it was humbling, beautiful, serene and powerful.

We continue to deliver cultural awareness training programs, cultural awareness and heritage and safety - cultural safety focus projects. I am proud of the work that has been done on the pathways, particularly the pedestrian and cycling improvements to focus on safety of children and cyclists as well as an overall strategic plan of place-making and way-finding to improve our community. I support the grants. It is important to enable the community and the return we get on investing in our community and enabling community groups, we do see through these programs. \$168,000 of community projects through the grants programs with 98 community project proposals provided support and advice for community ideas which is something I hope the council will continue to do. With environmental leadership, we have implemented the climate emergency action plan underway to 2025 and we are now climate active carbon neutral standard organisation from 2022. We will continue delivering the climate emergency picturesque grants and with funding through DEECA are providing electrical vehicle charging throughout the shire.

Importantly one of the essential services of waste management, circular economy action plan and diversion of waste from land fill have been key in the last few years, particularly with recycling of glass and diversion of food and organic waste. I too think that we want - the people in our community continue to live here and be able to afford to live here, so the affordable accommodation action plan and the projects we are seeing happening throughout the shire are really promising.

>> LIZ PATTISON: Counsellor Bodsworth.

>> CR BODSWORTH: There were specific things I wanted to talk about but I won't talk about specific things. I will talk about the foundational elements and some things that sit behind this plan. One is to reference what we are noting in this council plan progress report against the overarching governance principles of the Local Government Act and I will read a few of those out, so we can think about how they relate to this council planned progress report. The economic social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district including mitigating and planning for climate change risks is to be promoted. The municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and decision making. Innovation and continuous improvement is to be pursued. Collaboration with other councils and governments and statutory bodies is to be sought. The ongoing financial viability of the council is to be ensured. There are more but you can see how those overarching governance principles in the Local Government Act relate to some of what we have all been talking about so far in this item. There are a few other general things I would like to talk about as well. Although this is our main plan and it is very much a strategic piece of work, one of the hallmarks of this council has been our ability to adapt to what we have heard from communities along the way. We have delivered a lot of strategic work but we have listened carefully to what people have said and we have adapted our policies and practices throughout the years delivering this council plan. With regards to the basics issue that none of us have argued against attention to the basics and we

have all showed a determination to achieve higher performance on the basics. One case in point is the recent unsealed road management study which has delivered us a number of strategies where we can do better on according to a range of potential budget scenarios. To significant extra costs. Another one is a strong sense of purpose and strategic advocacy that this council plan has provided us with and our communication of that to stakeholders, including external funding bodies which has enabled us to secure a large amount of external funding and enabled us to deliver great outcomes for the municipal community. Our priorities have been to help groups and individuals across the surf coast who are on a mission to help their fellows live their best lives, conserve and regenerate natural environments and give others a hand up when they need it. In closing, I want to thank you all, fellow counsellors, for the focus that we have brought throughout this term on getting the job done on debating respectfully and disagreeing, which has been a hallmark of this council. We have stayed focused, stuck to business and we have run some good debates where issues have been thrashed out thoroughly and we have kept things moving. Thank you all for that.

>> LIZ PATTISON: Any closing remarks Counsellor Stapleton?

>> CR STAPLETON: I would like to highlight under the theme of accountable and viable council, it is important to acknowledge council continues to maintain a sustainable financial position and

we do know our long term financial position will be challenged by the growing renewable demand. This has been planned for over the course of our 10 year financial plan and that will help ensure council continues to deliver key services and facilities while navigating the financial challenges ahead. I would encourage residents to look closely at the community satisfaction surveys and you will find Surf Coast Shire performs well ahead of similar sized councils and better than the state average on most measures. I encourage residents to read the council plan progress report. It is well presented, easy to read and you will learn about what council has been working on. I would like to reiterate I believe the community vision developed for this council plan does a great job of reflecting the values and voices of the Surf Coast Shire community and the progress report highlights an incredible volume of work that council has undertaken in the past few years to help achieve this. Thanks to all the officers who work so hard for the shire and I hope people recognise through this report what an incredible job they do for our community. I will leave it there. Thank you.

>> LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. We will put the motion to the vote. All those in favour... And the motion is carried unanimously. We will move onto item 4.3. Is it the purpose of the report is to seek council's approval to award the contract Wet Plant Hire Services as part of this report was redacted in the public agenda. Officers can you now display the unredacted version on the screen before we proceed. Can you zoom in a little? That is the recommendation that we have before us and do we have a mover

of the motion? Counsellor Barker is it as per the recommendation? Do we have a seconder? Would you like to speak to it?

>> CR BARKER: I am satisfied the due diligence has been done successfully and happy to award the contract. Counsellor Bodsworth.

>> CR BODSWORTH: Same and I would add it is great to see a variety of tenderers and some good rates.

>> LIZ PATTISON: Counsellor Wellington.

>>CR WELLINGTON: Can I ask a question about where this fits in our strategy around sealed roads? I would like to check, my understanding is the intent here is that we will have more access to the gear that we immediate to do our roads and this is possibly one of the outcomes of the unsealed road... Pat pat I will pass that onto the CEO?

>> We do have a panel of suppliers that we use for peak periods in this space. It is not directly as a result of the unsealed road review. This is a practice that we have undertaken for a number of years and this is just now reviewing and testing the market again to renew that is my under standing unless the GM of

Community Life would like to add anything?

>>DAMIAN WAIGHT: No you have summed that up.

>> LIZ PATTISON: Counsellor Wellington.

>>CR WELLINGTON: I will make a couple of comments. It is fine to support the tender. I was disappointed that we did the unsealed road and we got a lot of information about it but have no budget allocation this financial year to do anything about it. I was hoping this might be the exception but it is obviously not. I will say to the new counsellors, the unsealed roads in the wirj winch ward will be of great interest and it is 30% with unsealed roads maintenance it is low and it has been that low for the whole of 12 years I have been a counsellor here despite my solo efforts to try and increase the profile and get more resources towards unsealed roads. It hasn't been a big priority for the council. I would love to see it become more of a priority. We have a lot of information now and I presume the officers initiated that unsealed road with the intention of doing something about the results. I am hoping - and that will cost money. The management program has been managed well by the officers - my observation within the resources they have got but they haven't got the resources they need. I was recently driving and the roads across Victoria are in a terrible state. I incurred over \$1,000 damage to my car as a result of the potholes. This is a significant issue for residents and for businesses. We have a lot of businesses in the Winchelsea

ward that rely on the roads to keep their businesses going. They are the forgotten commercial side of the shire which is really important and they need good roads to run their businesses. I am happy to support this contract, we need this gear but I hope in the next budget and the new council coming in, will be confronted with the new budget preparation rounds within a few months of them starting. I do hope they will consider the basic infrastructure. It is all very well to say we don't vote against it or we haven't supported it but we haven't increased it, I can tell you that. Barely increased it at all over the 12 years I have been here and there is a massive asset renewal gap. That should be the priority.

>> LIZ PATTISON: Would any other counsellors like to speak to this motion? Any closing remarks, counsellor Barker?

>> CR BARKER: No.

>> LIZ PATTISON: We put the motion to the vote, all those in favour and the motion is carried unanimously. We move onto item 4.4, award of contract 215, the roundabout construction at Torquay. The purpose is to seek council approval to award the contract road widening and roundabout construction Torquay. Part of the report was redacted in the public agenda. Officers can you display the unredacted version on the screen. Do we have a mover of the motion? Counsellor Schonfelder and seconded by

Counsellor Gazzard. I would like to highlight the fact that this will allow the council to widen and rehabilitate the pavement and construct the roundabout at the intersection of Coombs Road and Mesmaw Road to improve road safety and traffic management in the area. Based on past experience, road construction expertise and projects specific methodology the award of this contract to the recommended tenderer is expected to deliver the best value for money outcomes for the council. I drive along Coombs road very often. I haven't written the bike along there but I plan to ride a bike in the future and I have heard from cyclists who have said they have ridden along the road and they felt it was dangerous and narrow. They have only ridden along it once. The fact that the road has been widened will be very much welcomed by the community and I note the completion of the road widening and roundabout construction works will be an able council to deliver critical infrastructure as a requirement of the Torquay development contributions plan and also pavement renewal works under the renewable program. The works comprise of road widening and pavement renewal of Coombs road from the surf coast highway and includes the construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Mesmay Road. Excitingly, the road widening includes provision of cycle lanes on both sides of Coombs Road improving safety for cyclists. Excited about this project going ahead. Coombs Road is like a bypass around Torquay and Janjunk and I always encourage people to drive safely and there is a saying it is better to be late in this world than early in the next. I think safety is number one priority. Tonight we have had a lot of talk about asset renewal and roads and unsealed roads. I would like to highlight from page 12 of the revised budget report

for 2024/2025, there is a graph that shows asset renewal and from 2018/19 the council spent \$6.7 million and it is projected for 2024/2025 that the council will be spending \$10.6 million. The council is actually increasing expenditure on asset renewal which I welcome and which is so important. I know we have experienced the pandemic and we have experienced an unprecedented period in recent history and we have now recovered from that and visitor numbers and traffic volumes are now returning to pre-pandemic levels. I welcome this item and the fact that Coombs Road will be upgraded and the fact that the council have the foresight and the wisdom to widen the road as well as build the new roundabout at the same time to try and minimise disruption to the local community. This is great news for our community and I am proud we are doing this project mayor, thank you.

>> LIZ PATTISON: Counsellor Gazzard.

>> CR GAZZARD: The roundabout will make it safer and excited about the addition of cycling lanes. It was good to see there are 11 submissions for tender and it was a competitive process. I trust how the - the radicalisation process and it is - congratulate the applicant.

>> LIZ PATTISON: Would any other councillor like to speak?

Counsellor Barker?

>> CR BARKER: As long as the contract goes to plan and we don't hit asbestos pipes like we found with Fisher Street, it should represent the best value for ratepayers. I hope the locals can accept the short-term inconvenience for the long term benefits.

>> LIZ PATTISON: Counsellor Wellington.

>>CR WELLINGTON: I am happy to support the award of the contract. It good to get this road widened and the roundabout will be helpful. I wouldn't be too excited if I were a cyclist. It is going to be nice to have a little bit more cycling lanes. This is a short part of this road compared to - and it is at the Torquay end of Coombs Road. I fell off my bike a few years ago and broke my arm. I do support this. It is - I wouldn't say it is a drop in the ocean but it is a start. Once the cyclists hit Gazerpool Road, they will have a lot of problems if they head up there, there is a long way to go on that road before we get to a state that it is safe for cyclists. We can't complain about a start. I am happy to support that, thank you.

>> LIZ PATTISON: Counsellor Hodge.

>> CR HODGE: It has all been said.

>> LIZ PATTISON: Counsellor Bodsworth?

>> CR BODSWORTH: I rely on the CEO to correct me if I am wrong but the section of Coombs Road between Gazerpour and that already has a cycling lane. The entirety of Coombs Road will end up with a cycle lane, is my understanding from this week? It is a decent contribution. Correct me if I am wrong please, CEO?

>>ROBYN SEYMOUR: We have done the widening of the road between Gazerpour and Anglesea. I don't think there is a bike lane on it from memory.

>> There is a shoulder line.

>>ROBYN SEYMOUR: My apologies.

>> CR BODSWORTH: That is to be celebrated. But another angle is there will be less driver frustration which is not a frustration that I sympathise with but it is very common for drivers to be frustrated by being behind cyclists and not feeling like they can safely pass. It is really stressful as a cyclist. It tend to make cyclists stick to the edge and almost everyone would know the edge of Coombs Road is rough at the moment. It is an extremely dangerous environment for cyclists and the main risk is the wheels will go off the edge and make the cyclist fall back into the

road. It is a dangerous hazard that broken edge. I welcome that and as I mentioned with regard to the previous award of contract it was fantastic to see such a good range of tenderers on this and good rates. That reflects well on the tender documentation that it has attracted good responses. Congratulations to the team who have put that together.

>> LIZ PATTISON: Any closing remarks, Councillor Schonfelder.

We put the motion to vote and the motion is carried unanimously now. We move onto 4.5 project Budget adjustments and cash transfers for September 24. This report contains proposed - project budget adjustments and 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 the council. We have a recommendation before us do we have a mover of a motion. Councillor Allen? And seconded by Counsellor Stapleton.

>> CR ALLEN: In the table there are moneys allocated to projects in Lorne resulting from increased costs due to project delays, redesign and completion. In January this year a contract was executed for netball reconstruction in Lorne and at the reserve in Winchelsea. The completion date couldn't be met resulting in the need for short-term treatment works to ensure player safety. Hence the additional allocation from the asset renewal reserve of \$130,000. The complete reconstruction work

will commence this month. Another example of project delay leading to rising costs are the previously approved stretcher access to the reserve oval and the safety balustrade on the balcony, an additional \$55,000 is required. Both are safety matters that must be resourced with the additional funds from project savings. At the reserve, in Counsellor Hodge's words, the final piece of the jigsaw puzzle is the landscaping. Over the past two years we have allocated funds to prepare the surrounds to be at a stage where we can plant an appropriate number of species that are attractive, provide fire resistant ground cover and approved trees to create a fitting entrance to the building and to prevent water flowing under the buildings thus minimising the build-up of mould and eventually termites. The site topography makes the preservation of suitable landscaping costly. The \$40,000 required will come from project savings and from offsets in the recurrent operations budget. I wish to thank Travis Nelson and his team who have worked with the community asset committee at a difficult time for their team to achieve a suitable and cost-effective solution. The Lorne college traffic management improvement project phase 2 which is funded from the local roads and community infrastructure program requires an additional \$30,000 for the installation of a safety handrail to the pedestrian ramp. Included in the original phase 2 project design but delayed because of procurement issues. My understanding is that this additional funding needs to be sourced from our project savings as the work will occur outside the infrastructure program funding period. Thanks.

>> LIZ PATTISON: Counsellor Stapleton.

>> CR STAPLETON: It will be good to note that the funding has been received for planning out stage 2 of the surf coast aquatics and health centre and thank the State Government for this initial funding which will help council to deliver a much better facility for the community with a dedicated learn to swim pool, splash park, spa, sauna and steam room and additional change rooms. This particular funding here is just for the planning documents so we can get stage 2 up and running as quickly as possible and hopefully align to compliment stage 1 of the aquatics project which is hopefully beginning before the end of the year.

>> LIZ PATTISON:

>>CR BODSWORTH: I'd just like to congratulate Councillor Adamson for his advocacy, and also congratulate the committee in their tenacity in arguing for this extra finishing work. It's really true that we have challenged - we have been challenged in allocating some resourcing to landscaping to make sure that a facility like that that turns out so great is surrounded by a great landscape that does justice to the facility. I that's been really well-argued by Councillor Alan and the Lorne community. I congratulate them on that and look forward to seeing this work taking place, and the surrounds looking a million dollars.

>>CR SCHONFELDER: I'd like to comment on the Greenfields Reserve Stage 2, and the fact that the community decided not to pursue the - in terms of having a playground, rather to utilise the funds for equipment for fitness equipment in the same area. The project budget will be consolidated with the Moriac Greenfuls Reserve Stage 2 delivery for 2024-25. I would also note that near Hendy Main Road is a very wet area, and hopefully council will be able to address the pavement there that's very wet and often inundated with water - even a small bridge there would be a great contribution and asset for the Moriac people to use. It could be our equivalent of Venice Beach in Los Angeles where people work out at the fitness equipment. And when it gets warmer, I might get down there and do some exercising as well. Hopefully that will attract people, and not have the opposite effect. But we'll have to wait and see. Also, I'd like to comment on the Eastern Reserve Netball Reconstruction contract, which will be carried out later this year, I believe. I attended the grand final of the Winchelsea Netball Club on Saturday in St Albans. Unfortunately, narrowly lost, but I was very proud of the netball club, and I've always said that it's better to be at a grand final and lose than not to be in a grand final at all. But I know netball and, to quote Councillor Alan, who quoted Councillor Hodge - improving the netball courts at Eastern Reserve and Winchelsea is a part of closing the gap and the puzzle. Contract reconstruction works are to commence in

September 2024. And I know that the community in Winchelsea are really looking forward to brand-new netball courts. Thank you, Mayor.

>> Thank you.

>>CR BARKER: I was looking forward to a sporting agenda item. There are a few areas of spending that aren't too bad. Sadly, it represents three cents off via the Department of jobs, skills, industry and regions to inform a Stage 2 proposal for Surf Coast A ic and Health Centre. The vast majority of people that are contributing that three cents will never even see it, let alone use it. This, I don't think, is fair on them. It doesn't matter if it's three cents or \$30,000. Taking money off someone for no benefit to them is unconscionable. Due to this, I won't support the motion.

>> Any closing remarks, Councillor Alan?

>>CR ALLENI Thanks, Mayor. Thanks, Councillor Bodsworth for those comments. I know over four years I've been a pain in the neck over this issue. I suppose it really comes back to the fact that the previous council pass ADFA silt with zero -- passed a facility with zero money allocated to landscaping, which was a terrible mistake, hence this ongoing issue with landscaping at the reserve over four years. I am grateful that we have now finally reached a resolution. I think there are many facilities around Australia that we don't use, but we also contribute to. Air landing strips for people who go skydiving. I don't use them. I don't see them. But I think part of my taxpayers' dollars goes towards their construction. Thanks, Mayor.

>>LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. We now put the motion to vote. All those in favour? And all those opposed? The motion is carried 8-1. We now move on to Item 4.6 - instrument of appointment and authorisation, planning and environment Act 1987. The purpose of this report is to seek council's endorsement for authorised officers under the planning and environment Act 1987 through the updated instrument of authorisation and appointment. This instrument requires updating due to recent staff changes. We have a recommendation before us. Do we have a mover of the motion? Councillor Hodge. Seconded by Councillor Stapleton?

>>CR STAPLETON: It's I know it's a procedural matter and we see what offices go on the list and what officers come off the list, and it's an operational matter that we oversee. I'm happy with the report.

>> Thank you. Councillor Stapleton? No? Any other councillors will wish to speak?

>>CR BARKER: Good to see this addition to the team. But it's to replace some great people who recently left our organisation. Hopefully they can fill the big boots.

>>LIZ PATTISON: Do you have any closing remarks, Councillor Hodge? The motion will go to vote. All those in favour? And the motion's carried unanimously. We move to Item 4.7, S6. The purpose of this report is to present the instrument of delegation for council to council staff. We have a recommendation before us. Do we have a mover of a motion? Councillor Alan, as per the recommend assassination would you like to speak, Councillor Alan?

>>CR ALLEN: No thanks, Mayor.

>>LIZ PATTISON: Would any councillors like to speak?

>>CR BARKER: It's overly bureaucratic but, while we've got these laws that require these delegations, I'll support it.

>>LIZ PATTISON: Any closing remarks, Councillor Alan?

>>CR ALLEN: No, thank you.

>>LIZ PATTISON: Councillor Wellington, would you like to speak?

>>CR WELLINGTON: A question - it's probably a typo bit. Does "NCS" - there's a reference to NCS in this report, and then NCSa. I just wondered if that's correct or needs to be fixed. I'm trying to find where it is. There's a list of acronyms somewhere. That's at the end, is it...?

>> It's on page 189.

>>ROBYN SEYMOUR: Councillor Wellington, MCS relates to manager community safety. Manager community safety. The other one is Manager Community Support. And so we need to be able to differentiate them.

>>CR WELLINGTON: On page 182, there's an acronym of MCS with a lower-case "a" after it. I can't see an acronym for MCS without the "a". But MCS is in the table. So, um... I'm not sure what that means, if MCS is Manager Community Safety, this means MCSa is... ..I think it's just a typo, probably. Page 182.

>>ROBYN SEYMOUR: Councillor Wellington, maybe we'll have a look at it. And if there is an error, we can just fix it administratively. It's a bit hard to do from here. But we'll check. Thank you for that.

>>CR WELLINGTON: And the other question I have, if I may - there's a whole lot of delegations here which we've got a new delegate, but I can't see who the previous delegate was. It's just not clear to me from this whether there's -- these are new delegations. I think some are existing. For some reason, it gives you the delegates in red, but doesn't show you what the change is from previously. I think we're approving a bit blind. But I'm not sure that it matters. I'll just make that point that somebody might check the agenda next time and make sure that, if there's something in red line, there should be something deleted as well.

>> Can I add to that?

>>LIZ PATTISON: It's not a conversation point. Councillor Wellington's speaking.

>>CR WELLINGTON: That's all. I just think that, you know, we need to present - if we're going to vote on this at council, they actually do need to be meaningful. And so - I just think...

>>LIZ PATTISON: Thank you, Councillor Wellington. Would any other councillors like to speak? No?

>>CR SCHONFELDER: I'd just like to say that I've spent the last four years learning acronyms, if that's how you say it, and acronyms, and probably still learning to speak properly too, and that's part of living. And I actually just overheard Councillor Wellington saying that someone should check the agenda. I believe that the government's team and the officers do check the agenda, and I believe there's only one perfect person in human history, and people - no-one else is perfect. So, thank you, Mayor. I just thought I'd make that point.

>>

>>CR WELLINGTON: I take your correction, Councillor. Thank you.

>>LIZ PATTISON: Alright. We're not so much in a conversation. We're actually talking on a motion. So I'll now ask Councillor Allen if he has any closing remarks.

>>CR ALLEN: No thanks, Mayor.

>>LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. We'll now put the motion to vote. All those in favour? The motion is carried unanimously. We now move on to 4.8 - conflict-of-interest records. The purpose is to receive look at conflict-of-interest records received since our last meeting. Seconded by Councillor Gazzard. Would you to speak?

>>CR GAZZARD: No thanks, Mayor.

>>LIZ PATTISON: Would any councillors like to speak? We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour? The motion is carried unanimously.

Next up, we have two confidential items. This is the end of our council meeting. We'll need to close the meeting to the public and end our livestream. I wish to thank everyone who has joined us tonight, both in the gallery and online. And can I have a mover and a seconder to move into confidential, please? Councillor Gazzard moves, seconded by Councillor Alan. All those in favour? Opposed? That's carried 8-1. Thank you so much for joining us tonight. That's the end of our council meeting to the public. Thank you very much.