

**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL - MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT SERPENTINE – MONDAY 23 January 2012**

The meeting commenced at 3.30pm with the Prayer.

Present

Cr Geoff Curnow (Mayor)
Cr Neil Beattie
Cr Christine Brooke
Cr Allen Brownbill
Cr Gavan Holt

In Attendance

Mr John McLinden, Chief Executive Officer
Mr Bryan McEwan, Director Economy and Community
Mr Ian McLauchlan, Director of Operations
Mrs Jude Holt, Director Corporate Services

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UNCONFIRMED

1. **APOLOGIES**

Nil

2. **PREVIOUS MINUTES**

2.1 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

SUMMARY

Approval of the Forum Minutes of 12 December 2011.

Approval of Ordinary Minutes of 12 December 2011.

Approval of Special Meeting Minutes of 9 December 2011.

Author: John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer

File No: 02/01/001

Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That the:

1. *minutes of the Council Forum of 12 December 2011 be confirmed*
2. *minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 12 December 2011 be confirmed*
3. *minutes of the Special Meeting of 9 December 2011 be confirmed*

MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt

Seconded: Cr Brooke

That the:

1. minutes of the Council Forum of 12 December 2011 be confirmed
2. minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 12 December 2011 be confirmed
3. minutes of the Special Meeting of 9 December 2011 be confirmed

Carried

2.2 **REVIEW OF ACTION SHEET**

SUMMARY

Approval of Action Sheet.

Author: John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer

File No: 02/01/001

Attachment: 2.2 Action Sheet

RECOMMENDATION

That the Action Sheet be received and noted.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Beattie

Seconded: Cr Brooke

That the Action Sheet be received and noted.

Carried

UNCONFIRMED

3. INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE

SUMMARY

Author: John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer
File No:
Attachment: Copies of inwards correspondence

RECOMMENDATION

That the Inwards Correspondence be received and noted.

Date	Signatory	Subject
2/12/11	Adam Melis, Department of Sustainability and Environment	Ownership of land beneath the Loddon River

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brownbill **Seconded: Cr Brooke**

That the Inwards Correspondence be received and noted.

Carried

4. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

4.1 MAYORAL REPORT

SUMMARY

Approval of the Mayoral Report.

Author: John McLinden – Chief Executive Officer
 File No: 02/01/001
 Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That the Mayoral Report be received and noted.

Calder Highway Improvement Committee	
Nil	
Municipal Fire Management Plan	
Nil	
Central Murray Region Waste Management Group	
Nil	
Other Council Activities	
15.12.11	Municipal Fire Management Plan meeting at Serpentine – Risk Management Plan
16.12.11	Met with Jacinta Allen Member for Bendigo East at Wedderburn Office
21.12.11	Presented Council Awards at East Loddon P-12 School Award Ceremony
21.12.11	With CEO John McLinden, attended the Murray River Group of Councils meeting and dinner at Echuca
22.12.11	Attended Loddon Shire Christmas Party for staff and Councillors at Bridgewater
9.1.12	Chaired Newbridge Reserve Steering Committee meeting
10.1.12	Met with Andrew McIntosh, Minister for Corrections & Crime Prevention at Newbridge Reserve
10.1.12	Went to Wedderburn office to sign Australia Day certificates and visited the Old Coach House Gallery & Museum

19.1.12	Attended Municipal Fire Management Meeting at Serpentine. After meeting went
19.1.12	Went to Inglewood Men's Shed
19.1.12	Visited centenarian Mrs Mavis Fry and Kim Hanlon at ICRC
20.1.12	Attended the launch of Boort's Tourism Strategic Plan
23.1.12	Attended Loddon Shire January Council Meeting

MOTION

Moved: Cr Beattie

Seconded: Cr Brownbill

That the Mayoral Report be received and noted.

Carried

4.2 COUNCILLORS' REPORT

SUMMARY

Approval of Councillors' Reports

Author: John McLinden – Chief Executive Officer

File No: 02/01/001

Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That the Councillors' Reports be received and noted.

Cr Brooke

North Central Goldfields Regional Library

12.1.12	Announcement at Bendigo Library by Acting Premier Peter Ryan of \$2m from Regional Infrastructure Program towards Library redevelopment.
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	Opening of Eaglehawk on Saturday mornings
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Loddon Youth Committee

Nil Report

Recreation Strategy Implementation Steering Committee

Nil Report	
Nature Tourism Steering Committee	
Other Council Activities	
19.12.11	Pyramid Hill College Presentation Awards night
22.12.11	Staff Christmas function

Cr Brownbill

Reported to Council that last month has been quiet for Council duties, it had been a very busy month on the farm. Cr Brownbill had attended a Healthy Minds Network function.

Cr Beattie

Municipal Fire Prevention Committee Region 20	
Nil Report	
Murray Darling Association	
Nil Report	
Boort Aerodrome Committee	
Nil Report	
Other Council Activities	
17.12.11	Chaired Lake Boort Management Committee AGM
20.12.11	Attended speech night for the Boort Secondary College
22.12.11	Attended staff Christmas party at Bridgewater
31.12.11	Attended Boort Ski Club AGM
1.1.12	Attended Boort Sports club for the blessing of the new trotting track
6.1.12	Attended meeting at Caravan park where power problems remain an issue
23.1.12	Attended board meeting of the new Boort Grain co-op
23.1.12	Attended Council Serpentine

Cr Holt

Municipal Association of Victoria (substitute)	
Nil	
Calder Highway Improvement Committee	
15/12/11 Attended Calder Highway Improvement Committee meeting at Gisborne. An off ramp at Ravenswood onto the Calder alternate is now a priority of the Committee.	
Australia Day Committee	
Nil	
Audit Committee	
Nil	
Other Council Activities	
DATE	Activity
19.1.12	Attended Wedderburn College Awards night and presented awards sponsored by Loddon Shire
20.12.11	Attended official opening of new primary school campus at Wedderburn P12 College.
20.12.11	Attended meeting of Wedderburn Community Bank Steering Committee
22.12.11	Attended Loddon Shire all staff end of year break up at Bridgewater
5.1.12	Attended meeting of Wedderburn Community Bank Steering Committee
18.1.12	Attended meeting of Wedderburn Community Bank Steering Committee
19.1.12	Attended Annual General Meeting of Wedderburn District Harness Racing Club

MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt

Seconded: Cr Brooke

That the Councillors' Reports be received and noted.

Carried

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

5.1 DOCUMENTS FOR SIGNING AND SEALING

SUMMARY

This report provides Council with a list of documents signed and sealed during the month.

Author: John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer
File No: 02/01/001
Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. the 'Documents for Signing and Sealing' report be received and noted
2. Council endorse the use of the seal on the documents listed

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil

BACKGROUND

N/A

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Agreement between Loddon Shire Council and Andrew Berthelsen for management of the Pioneer Caravan Park, Hospital Street, Wedderburn

Lease to Vodafone Network Pty Ltd on Lot 6 LP136947 Tip Road, Boort, Site Number 1108

Contract no. 208: Bitumen Sealing Works in Loddon Shire, Agreement between Loddon Shire Council and Mildura Rural City Council

Contract no. 215: Rehabilitation of Pyramid Yarraberb Road and associated drainage works, between Loddon Shire Council and Global Contracting Pty Ltd of 194-196 High Street, Broadford

MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt

Seconded: Cr Beattie

That:

1. the 'Documents for Signing and Sealing' report be received and noted
2. Council endorse the use of the seal on the documents listed

Carried

5.2 AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS

SUMMARY

This report informs Council of the Australia Day Celebrations held throughout the Loddon Shire in 2012.

Author: John McLinden – Chief Executive Officer
File No:
Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the “Australia Day Celebrations” report.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The 2012 Australia Day Celebrations have been confirmed as follows:

Boort (Cr Neil Beattie)

Boort Memorial Hall, 9.15 am – Morning Tea, Flag Raising, Guest Speaker – Dr Robert Millar - Australia Day Ambassador.

Bridgewater (Cr Allen Brownbill)

Sloans Park, 8.00 am – BBQ Breakfast, Flag Raising, Affirmation Ceremony, Guest Speaker – Ms Christine Unsworth - Australia Day Ambassador.

Eddington (Cr Geoff Curnow)

Community Centre, 8.00 am – BBQ Breakfast, Flag Raising, Guest Speaker - Capt Dale Newman – Australia Day Ambassador

Inglewood (Cr Allen Brownbill)

Inglewood Swimming Pool, 11.00 am – Sausage Sizzle, Flag Raising, Guest Speaker – Ms Alla Wolf Tasker – Australia Day Ambassador

Newbridge (Cr Geoff Curnow)

Newbridge Hall, 11.15 am – Light Luncheon, Flag Raising, Affirmation Ceremony, Guest Speaker – Ms Christine Unsworth – Australia Day Ambassador

Pyramid Hill (Cr Christine Brooke)

Pyramid Hill Hall, 6.30 pm – BBQ (BYO Salad & Chairs), Flag Raising, Guest Speaker - Mr Bill O’Shea – Alfred Health (Solicitor) on ABC Radio weekly

Serpentine (Cr Christine Brooke)

TJ Rudkins Reserve 8.30 am – BBQ Breakfast, Flag Raising, Guest Speaker – John Forbes OAM – Australia Day Ambassador

Tarnagulla (Cr Geoff Curnow)

Soldiers Memorial Park, 10.30 am – Flag Raising, Guest Speaker – Fiona Parker ABC Radio (not confirmed yet), BBQ lunch.

Wedderburn (Cr Gavan Holt)

Jacka Park, 10 am – Flag Raising, Guest Speaker – Ms Voi Williams – Australia Day Ambassador

MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt

Seconded: Cr Brownbill

That Council receive and note the “Australia Day Celebrations” report.

Carried

UNCONFIRMED

5.3 PROVISION OF ELECTORAL SERVICES – EXEMPTION FROM TENDERING

SUMMARY

Author: John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer
File No:
Attachment: Local Government Act 1989 Section 186 Approval of Arrangements

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the report on Provision of electoral services – exemption from tendering.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil

BACKGROUND

N/A

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

On 14 December 2011, the Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Jeanette Powell, approved arrangements exempting all councils from the requirement to conduct a tendering process where the council enters into a contract with the Victorian Electoral Commission for the general elections on 27 October 2012 as well as any by-elections or countbacks during the following term of office of the council.

The approval (attached) sets out the services that the contractor must provide.

The approval by the Minister does not prevent any council from tendering for electoral services if it chooses.

Prior to the Minister's decision, the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) had been preparing tender specifications for a bundle of electoral services, and seeking councils that wish to participate in the MAV public tender.

Initial advice from the MAV suggests that it intends to proceed with the public tender on behalf of the 86% of councils that had committed to this process, with a view to ensuring that the bundle of electoral services that councils require will be provided by the successful service provider.

Council staff will liaise with the MAV to clarify the preferred path for securing a suitable electoral services provider for the October 2012 general election for Loddon Shire.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke

Seconded: Cr Beattie

That Council receive and note the report on Provision of electoral services – exemption from tendering.

Carried

UNCONFIRMED

5.4 PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS 2012

SUMMARY

The Department of Planning and Community Development are reviewing and redesigning the Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey. The 2012 Community Satisfaction Survey will be delayed.

Author: John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer

File No:

Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the report on Proposed arrangements for community satisfaction survey for local governments 2012.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil

BACKGROUND

N/A

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The Department of Planning and Community Development released a circular in December 2011 advising that Local Government Victoria will not be proceeding with the Community Satisfaction Survey for Local Governments in its current format.

Key issues that have been raised about the survey include questioning the relevance of some questions, the adequacy of the survey sample size and the ability to analyse groups within the sample, and questioning the value of the measurement scale used.

The Victorian Auditor-General also highlighted weaknesses in councils' performance reporting and their over-reliance on the survey results for reporting against specific key strategic activities in councils' performance statements.

In February 2012, Local Government Victoria will undertake a program of consultation with councils to obtain feedback on the development of a new survey. Once the survey is finalised, a public tendering process will be conducted to appoint a contractor to conduct the survey.

This work will delay the survey to a later time in 2012, which may be an issue for councils that use the results as an input to planning and annual reporting. This timing issue will be part of the discussions with councils during the consultation program.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brownbill

Seconded: Cr Holt

That Council receive and note the report on Proposed arrangements for community satisfaction survey for local governments 2012.

Carried

UNCONFIRMED

5.5 CONCLUSION OF THE LODDON FLOOD RECOVERY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY

Report seeks approval for the cessation of the Loddon Flood Recovery Committee.

Author: Brian Hinneberg

File No:

Attachment: 1. Minutes of Loddon Flood Recovery Committee
2. Loddon Flood Recovery Action Plan

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. accepts the minutes of meeting of the Loddon Flood Recovery Committee of 8 December 2011, noting the Loddon Flood Recovery Committee has concluded its work*
- 2. approves the cessation of the Loddon Flood Recovery Committee.*

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil.

BACKGROUND

On 11 February 2011 the inaugural meeting of the Loddon Flood Recovery Committee (the Committee) was held. The Mayor welcomed attendees and advised that the purpose of the Committee was to guide and coordinate community recovery from the floods of January 2011.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The Loddon Flood Recovery Committee held its final meeting on 8 December 2011. The meeting received the final report on the outcomes of the Loddon Flood Recovery Plan. This plan contained 46 project areas, and comprised 102 actions. As at the date of this report a total of 86 actions are complete, 2 actions are progressing, and 14 actions are for ongoing monitoring.

To achieve these outcomes Loddon Shire Council has received a great deal of support and assistance from many sources.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt

Seconded: Cr Beattie

That Council:

1. accepts the minutes of meeting of the Loddon Flood Recovery Committee of 8 December 2011, noting the Loddon Flood Recovery Committee has concluded its work
2. approves the cessation of the Loddon Flood Recovery Committee.

Carried

UNCONFIRMED

5.6 BRIDGEWATER ON LODDON BOWLING CLUB

SUMMARY

Report provides Council with recommendations for the repair or relocation of the Bridgewater Bowling Club following the January 2011 floods.

Author: John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer

File No:

Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council inform the Bridgewater Bowling Club that it does not have funds available at this time to assist with the relocation of its greens and clubhouse to the Bridgewater Recreation Reserve.
2. That Council inform the Bridgewater Bowling Club of the funding available for the repair of its greens and clubhouse at its current site.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil

BACKGROUND

The January 2011 floods caused significant damage to the Bridgewater Bowling Club, greens and in particular, the clubhouse. Council carried insurance on this property and the state government's \$30 million Fund for Community Buildings on Public Land has also been accessed to support the repair of this building.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Approximately two years ago, serious discussions were held between Loddon Shire Council, the Bridgewater Bowling Club and the Bridgewater Golf Club in relation to developing a joint use facility at the Bridgewater Recreation Reserve. At that time, the Bridgewater Bowling Club withdrew from those discussions and decided to remain on their current site at Main Street, Bridgewater.

The repair bill for the Bridgewater Bowling Club is significant. Funding available for the repair of the clubrooms is as follows:

Loddon Shire Council:	\$20,000 interest-free loan (for replacement of equipment shed)
Insurance payout:	\$21,798.95
Community Facilities on Public Land Fund:	\$127,449.54
Total	\$169,248.49

Before these funds were expended, it was considered prudent to revisit the issue of siting of the Bridgewater Bowling Club, so the CEO held discussions with the bowling club to once again confirm its position in relation to the long-term future location of the bowling club. Having discussed the matter fully and then dealt with the matter at a subsequent Bowling Club Committee Meeting, the Bowling Club has advised that it would be prepared to move to the

Bridgewater Recreation Reserve if a new facility and bowling green were established there at no cost to the club.

Whilst this position is quite understandable, Council does not, at this time, have sufficient funds to re-establish the bowling club at the recreation reserve without assistance from third parties, including the Bridgewater Bowling Club which has indicated that it is unable to contribute funds to this project.

Whilst it was prudent to revisit the issue prior to committing funds to the rebuilding of the Bridgewater Bowling Club on its current site, it appears that it will not be possible to pursue a relocation option at this time, so it is suggested that Council should assist the Bridgewater Bowling Club to undertake repairs to its existing clubrooms using the funds detailed above.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brownbill

Seconded: Cr Brooke

1. That Council inform the Bridgewater Bowling Club that it does not have funds available at this time to assist with the relocation of its greens and clubhouse to the Bridgewater Recreation Reserve.
2. That Council inform the Bridgewater Bowling Club of the funding available for the repair of its greens and clubhouse at its current site.

Carried

6. DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES' REPORTS

6.1 FINANCE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2011

SUMMARY

This report provides Council with financial information for the period ending 31 December 2011.

Author: James Rendell - Manager Financial Services
File No: 06/01/001
Attachment: 6.1

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *Receives and notes the "Finance Report for the period ending 31 December 2011"*
2. *Approves budget revisions included in the report for internal reporting purposes only.*

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council is provided with Finance Reports on a monthly basis.

BACKGROUND

The Finance Report for the period ended 31 December 2011 includes standard monthly information about budget variations, cash, investments, interest, debtors, and creditors, and provides a comparison of year-to-date budget to year-to-date actual results.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Cr Brownbill requested an explanation of the budget revisions in respect of drainage programs. Council staff agreed to supply a report to Council on this matter.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt

Seconded: Cr Beattie

That Council:

1. *Receives and notes the "Finance Report for the period ending 31 December 2011"*
2. *Approves budget revisions included in the report for internal reporting purposes only.*

Carried

6.2 2012 REVALUATION INFORMATION REPORT

SUMMARY

This report informs Council about milestones and progress of the 2012 Revaluation.

Author: Jude Holt – Director Corporate Services
 File No: 09/01/001
 Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the “2012 Revaluation Information Report”.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council was provided with an update report at the Ordinary Meeting held on 24 October 2011.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with Valuation Best Practice, Council undertakes a revaluation of all properties in the Shire every 2 years. The prescribed date for the next revaluation is 1 January 2012, and that valuation data will be used for the 2012/2013 budget.

Council undertakes its revaluation process via external contractor, and LG Valuations Pty. Ltd. (LG) is currently in the process of revaluing properties in the Shire.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Valuation Best Practice outlines milestone dates for the return of information during the revaluation process. This is to ensure that Council has a Valuation Return by the final due date of 30 April, 2012. The milestone dates for the 2012 revaluation are:

Stage	Details	Due Date	Date Lodged with VGV	Date Certified by VGV
Stage 1	Statistical Analysis	28 February 2011	28 February 2011	30 March 2011
Stage 2	Residential & Rural Preliminary Valuations			
	- Rural	31 October 2011	11 October 2011	25 November 2011
	- Residential	31 October 2011	25 October 2011	30 November 2011
Stage 3A	Specialist Properties	31 August 2011	22 August 2011	19 December 2011
Stage 3B	Commercial & Industrial	31 January 2012	23 December 2011	
Stage 4	Residential & Rural Final Valuations			
	- Rural	31 March 2012		
	- Residential	31 March 2012		
Stage 5	Valuation Return	30 April 2012		

Stage 1:

Stage 1 includes preparation, planning and statistical analysis of the previous valuation against recent sales.

Stage 1 was lodged with the Valuer-General Victoria (VGV) on 28 February 2011, and a 7A Certificate was received on 30 March 2011.

A 7A Certificate is authorisation of the revaluation stage by VGV and states that:

- The required documentation and evidence has been provided
- The work is in accordance with the standards required by VGV for the 2012 General Valuation
- The work is considered satisfactory by VGV.

Stage 2:

Stage 2 includes the largest body of work – Rural and Residential properties. This stage is the preliminary work required for those properties, where the majority of inspections and field data verification is completed. A final review of values for these properties occurs in Stage 4.

Due to the size of the data, Stage 2 is normally lodged in two parts – Rural and Residential. Stage 2 Rural was lodged with VGV on 11 October 2011 and was certified by the VGV on 25 November 2011. Stage 2 Residential was lodged with VGV on 25 October 2011 and was certified by the VGV on 30 November 2011.

During February, the Rural data will be mapped and an analysis of valuation changes across the Shire will be undertaken. This process usually identifies any anomalies in valuation change across geographic areas. Specific properties with anomalies are identified, and investigated to identify the cause of the anomaly. If required, contact with the Valuer will be made about specific properties following this analysis.

Stage 3A:

Stage 3A includes 14 specialist properties that Council has nominated in the contract as being unusual, due to size or nature. It includes chicken farms, olive groves, piggeries, and other commercial properties.

Stage 3A was lodged with VGV on 22 August 2011, and Council received the 7A Certificate on 19 December 2011.

Analysis of Stage 3A data has not yet been undertaken.

Stage 3B:

Stage 3B is Commercial and Industrial properties. This stage is not due for lodgement until 31 January 2012, however, the Valuer returned the data on 23 December 2011, and it was lodged with the VGV on that day.

Stage 4:

Stage 4 is a review of Stage 2 data based on an analysis of subsequent sales. This stage is due on 31 March 2012.

Stage 5:

Stage 5 is the return of the valuation to Council, and includes the valuer's final report. This stage is due on 30 April 2012.

Certification of this stage is critical for Council's budget process, as the new valuation will be used as a basis for raising rates in the first year after return. Council does not resolve to

advertise the budget until certification has been received, to ensure that the valuation base does not change.

Some flexibility may be required in the timing of the Council Meetings involving resolutions to advertise the budget and to adopt the budget due to reliance on Stage 5 certification.

Progress to Date:

Council's Valuer has reached each of the milestones by the due date, and in the case of Stage 3B, was well ahead of the due date.

Analysis of the data received in Stage 2 and Stage 3A is yet to be undertaken; Council will be provided with preliminary results of the data following that analysis.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brownbill

Seconded: Cr Beattie

That Council receives and notes the "2012 Revaluation Information Report".

Carried

6.3 PROCUREMENT POLICY

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council's approval of the Procurement Policy.

Author: Jude Holt – Director Corporate Services
File No: 12/01/001
Attachment: 6.3

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Procurement Policy.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council adopted a Procurement Policy at the Ordinary Meeting held on 26 October 2009.

BACKGROUND

Section 186A of the Local Government Act 1989 requires Council to prepare, approve, and comply with a Procurement Policy.

It further requires that Council review the Procurement Policy at least once in each financial year.

Council's current Procurement Policy was adopted on 26 October 2009. The recent Local Government Investigations and Compliance Inspectorate Audit Report identified review of the Procurement Policy as a high priority as it had not been reviewed in the 2010/2011 financial year, and Council committed to reviewing the policy by 31 January 2012.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Council's current Procurement Policy was prepared from a template provided by the Municipal Association of Victoria; a number of Council's adopted the template.

The updated policy has been prepared from a draft framework that has been prepared for all future Loddon Shire policies, procedures, and strategic documents.

The framework guides officers on preparation of those documents, and provides a standard that will ensure consistency in approach across the organisation as documents are reviewed.

The policy template provides a set of principles that defines what Council will do and why. In support of the policies adopted, the procedure template prescribes specific actions needed to be taken to implement a policy, and sets out how, when, and who will undertake those actions.

The draft framework identifies those policies to be considered by Council, which relate to customers and community, and those to be considered by the Management Executive Group, which relate to the internal business of Council.

The updated Procurement Policy, which is to be considered by Council, attempts to capture those things that are important to Council as an organisation as it undertakes all aspects of purchasing goods, services, and works, which is a significant cost in Council's annual budget.

This includes internal considerations such as controls and procedures to ensure consistency in approach, managing risk, ethical behaviour, obtaining value for money, and applying continuous

improvement to the process, and external considerations such as local and environmental sustainability.

The updated Procurement Policy which has been included as Attachment 6.3 is presented to Council for consideration.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt

Seconded: Cr Brooke

That Council adopts the Procurement Policy as amended.

Carried

UNCONFIRMED

6.4 LEVELS OF AUTHORITY

SUMMARY

The report seeks Council's approval of the updated Levels of Authority document.

Author: Duncan Campbell - Accountant
File No: 12/01/005
Attachment: 6.4

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses the updated Levels of Authority document.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council's current Levels of Authority document was endorsed by Council on 12 December 2011.

BACKGROUND

Council's Levels of Authority document provides staff with parameters to ensure that they operate with an appropriate level of authority in areas such as:

- Purchasing limits
- Cheque and payment signatories
- Media releases and comments
- Authorisation of timesheets and leave applications
- Employment related matters
- Write off of debtors
- Creation and change to bank accounts.

At the Ordinary meeting of Council held on 12 December 2011, the Levels of Authority document was updated to ensure that all positions were relevant and to update authority where it was deemed necessary.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Following adoption of the document it became apparent that there were some items that had not been considered that should be in the document. They include:

- Purchasing Officers had not been given authority to authorise payment of invoices under their purchasing limits. By not allowing this, responsibility for authorising most of the payments in the roads and infrastructure area fell with Manager Works by default. Due to the volume of invoices generated out of that area, this was very onerous and quite unworkable, and it was foreseen that this would cause delays in payments to creditors.
- Some of the leave provisions in the current Enterprise Bargaining Agreement had not been included in the document.

These inclusions provided an opportunity to place further scrutiny on the document, and as a result of this some areas under purchasing were limited further.

It also provided the opportunity to transfer the document into the draft strategic document framework that is currently being trialled, so this has been done. The new framework provides a better quality document that is enhanced with easy referencing.

The amended document has been included as Attachment 6.4.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke

Seconded: Cr Brownbill

That Council endorses the updated Levels of Authority document.

Carried

UNCONFIRMED

6.5 IMPROVING LIVEABILITY FOR OLDER PEOPLE INITIATIVE

SUMMARY

This report provides Council with information about the Improving Liveability for Older People Initiative.

Author: Wendy Gladman – Manager Community Services
File No: 12/12/001
Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Improving Liveability for Older People Initiative Report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil

BACKGROUND

Loddon Shire Council, with eleven other councils, has been invited to participate in the Improving Liveability for Older People Initiative (ILOP). State Government funding of \$1.5 million has been allocated to assist small towns with ageing populations in regional Victoria.

The ILOP will enable the participating councils to plan and deliver projects that will make a positive difference to the quality of life, social participation, health and well-being of people in towns with a significant ageing population.

A grant of \$100,000 has been approved to implement the two phase project over the next two years.

Council is the lead agency for the grant, with Inglewood & Districts Health Service and Boort District Health providing written confirmation of their partnership in the project.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Initial funding of \$20,000 supports the first phase of the ILOP providing the opportunity for Council to consult with local groups and the older population, and develop project plans aimed at creating more age-friendly communities.

Bendigo Loddon Primary Care Partnership (the PCP) has been engaged to undertake the initial consultation which includes:

- Consultation with various community groups
- Consultation with health and community service agencies
- Review of the Living it up in Loddon – Active Ageing Report and Active Ageing Plan.

It is anticipated that the first phase will be completed by the end of January 2012. Partner organisations, along with the PCP will, following the completion of the community consultation, prepare and submit a detailed plan outlining the ILOP projects within the Shire, totalling up to \$80,000. There is no limit to the number of projects within the plan.

A priority list will be provided to Council for endorsement. Priority will be given to those projects that have been identified as increasing:

- opportunities for older people to participate in community activities promoting good health and well being
- awareness of social isolation of older people and how communities can maintain and support participation of older people
- social and economic participation, and lifelong learning opportunities for older people
- engagement of older people in community leadership and volunteering
- projects that support strategies identified in Council's Plan 2010-2014, which include:
 - Encourage social networks to thrive
 - Reduce barriers to social participation
 - Encourage widespread community participation

The completion of projects identified in the plan, although facilitated by Council as the lead agency, may be carried out by other relevant agencies or community groups. The responsible agency for delivery will be identified in the plan.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brownbill

Seconded: Cr Brooke

That Council receives and notes the Improving Liveability for Older People Initiative Report.

Carried

7. DIRECTOR OPERATIONS' REPORTS

7.1 PLANNING APPLICATIONS CURRENTLY BEING PROCESSED

SUMMARY

Attachment 7.1 provides Council with a full list of planning applications currently under consideration and those planning permits issued between 1 and 31 December 2011.

Author: Tyson Sutton – Manager Planning and Local Laws
File No: 02/01/001
Attachment: 7.1 Planning Applications

RECOMMENDATION

That 'Planning Applications Currently Being Processed' report be received and noted.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil

BACKGROUND

Nil

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Nil

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke

Seconded: Cr Beattie

That 'Planning Applications Currently Being Processed' report be received and noted.

Carried

7.2 INTRODUCTION OF THE BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT OVERLAY

SUMMARY

The State Government has introduced the Bushfire Management Overlay to the Loddon Planning Scheme

Author: Tyson Sutton – Manager Planning and Local Laws
File No: 13/03/001
Attachment: BMO, Clause 52.47 of Loddon Planning Scheme

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the report on the introduction of the Bushfire Management Overlay within the Loddon Planning Scheme.

BACKGROUND

In November 2011 the State Government replaced the Wildfire Management Overlay (WMO) with the Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO). A new particular provision relating to the BMO was introduced at the same time.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

In response to the recommendations of the 2009 Bushfires Royal Commission the State Government has prepared the BMO to replace the WMO. The BMO is a direct translation of the former WMO in terms of its application across the municipality. A new particular provision has been introduced that sets out the requirements for an application made under the provisions of the BMO.

The BMO introduces a far more rigorous assessment of bushfire risk than the previous control and contains substantial mandatory application requirements. In making an application under the provisions of the BMO an applicant is required to submit specified information. This includes a locality and site description and a bushfire management statement.

The locality and site description must be in the form of a plan that is to scale and accurately describes the existing condition of the site and land for at least 250 metres from the site boundary.

The Bushfire Management Statement is a document prepared by the permit applicant and is used to determine if the requirements of the BMO have been met and whether a planning permit should be granted. It contains an:

- Bushfire Site Assessment prepared to calculate defensible space and construction requirements for new development
- Report demonstrating how the application meets the relevant objectives, standards, mandatory standard and decision guidelines set out in the new particular provision.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brownbill

Seconded: Cr Holt

That Council:

1. receives and notes the report on the introduction of the Bushfire Management Overlay within the Loddon Planning Scheme
2. advertises the existence of the Bushfire Management Overlay and where information on this overlay may be obtained.

Carried

UNCONFIRMED

7.3 ROAD NETWORK DEFECT RECTIFICATION COMPLIANCE SUMMARY REPORT

SUMMARY

Report provides a summary of Council's compliance against its Road Management Plan for the periods: 2010/2011 Financial Year and the First Quarter of 2011/2012 Financial Year.

Author: Steven Phillips
File No: 14/01/022
Attachment(s): Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the road network defect rectification compliance summary report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

At its ordinary meeting held on 26 July 2010, Council were presented with a report summarising road network defect rectification compliance against requirements specified within the Road Management Plan (RMP).

BACKGROUND

This report provides Council with evidence of the Loddon Shire's performance against requirements specified within the Loddon Shire Road Management Plan.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The following Defect Compliance Summary Report outlines Councils compliance against requirements specified within the Road Management Plan. The report indicates compliance by percentage for each of Councils Road Patrol Areas.

Defect Compliance Summary Report

Report Date: 3-January-2012

Table 1

Date Range: 1-July-2010 to 30-June-2011

Number of Works Actions	Number Completed By Due Date	Number Completed After Due Date	Number Not Completed	Compliance %	District
30	23	2	5	76.7%	Boort
293	265	28	0	90.4%	Newbridge
396	285	71	40	71.9%	Pyramid Hill
161	141	9	11	87.6%	Wedderburn

Table 2
Date Range: 1-July-2011 to 30-September-2011

Number of Works Actions	Number Completed By Due Date	Number Completed After Due Date	Number Not Completed	Compliance %	District
12	9	2	1	75.0%	Boort
76	62	9	5	81.6%	Newbridge
131	118	10	3	90.1%	Pyramid Hill
67	65	2	0	97.0%	Wedderburn

DEFINITIONS

Number of Works Actions - Within the date range, count the defects that were due for action

Number Completed by Due Date - From those defects in Column A to be rectified, how many were rectified by the due date

Number Completed After Due Date - From those defects in Column A to be rectified, how many were rectified outside the due date

Number Not Completed - Column A - Column B - Column C

Compliance % - Column B Divided by Column A

District - Grouped By The AssetSyst District

It is acknowledge that compliance for both periods identified in this Report are below the target of 100% of the defects repaired by due date.

For the period identified in Table 1 being 1-July-2010 to 30-June-2011, compliance with the Loddon Shire Road Management Plan was made difficult due to persistent wet weather including major flooding in January 2011 and resource limitations. There are still a number of outstanding defects from this period; this is a result of re-prioritising the outstanding defects with new defects as they arise. All defects were or continue to be maintained as safe, ether by signage or temporary repair.

For the 1st Quarter of 2011/2012 as identified in Table 2 compliance with the Loddon Shire Road Management Plan was made difficult due to wet weather, increased number of defects due to major flooding, available resources and prioritisation of defects with the Flood Restoration Program. All defects have been maintained as safe, ether by signage or temporary repair.

The focus for the next quarter is to eliminate all defects that are outstanding and complete current defects before there due date.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke

Seconded: Cr Beattie

That Council receive and note the road network defect rectification compliance summary report.

Carried

7.4 PLANNING CONDITIONS – YORKSHIRE ROAD COMPOSTING FACILITY

SUMMARY

Report provides Council with clarification regarding any specific road infrastructure and access conditions placed upon the mushroom composting facility currently established along Yorkshire Road, Newbridge.

Author: Ian McLauchlan
File No: 14/01/016
Attachment: Map 1 - Composting Facility Development and Access Roads.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the report regarding specific planning conditions placed upon the mushroom composting facility established along Yorkshire Road, Newbridge.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

During its ordinary meeting held on the 24th October 2011 Council requested that a report be provided identifying any specific transport or road infrastructure conditions which may have been included within the planning permit issued for the mushroom composting facility located on Yorkshire Road, Newbridge (Action No. 2.2 24/10/11).

BACKGROUND

On the 25th July 2001 a planning permit was approved for the establishment of a mushroom composting facility located upon Crown Allotments 1a, 1b, 4a and 4b (subsequently consolidated), Section 19, Parish of Tarnagulla.

The land subject to development fronts a 1.6km section of Yorkshire Road, which is currently categorised as Rural Gravel Access. The standard of road category for the balance of Yorkshire Road includes a further 6.2km section of Rural Gravel Access, 6.1km section of Rural Gravel Collector and a 4.4km section of sealed road (see attachment 1).

Yorkshire road begins at the Calder Highway and extends to the Bridgewater Maldon Road. The entrance to the compost facility is located approximately 3.4km east of the Bridgewater Maldon Road. In addition to the compost facility there are currently 5 rural addresses registered along Yorkshire Road with the majority of these located on the eastern portion of the road (gravel collector component).

A number of conditions were included within the approved planning permit issued in 2001 for this development. As requested by Council a summary of those conditions listed which relate to transport or road infrastructure requirements may be seen below:

Condition 1(a): The amenity of the area must not be detrimentally affected by the use or development through the transport of material, goods or commodities to or from the land.

Condition 7: Yorkshire Road must be upgraded by the Responsible Authority to support the vehicle movements associated with this use.

Condition 8: No vehicles associated with this use shall use Boyds Road.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Condition 7 identifies that; as the responsible authority Loddon Shire were required to upgrade Yorkshire Road to ensure that the road conditions could satisfactorily support vehicle movements associated with the use of the facility.

Accordingly the entire length of Yorkshire Road is currently categorised and is being maintained as an all-weather access.

At present Council Staff are not aware of vehicles (either cars or trucks) associated with the operations of the composting facility utilising Boyds Road, as such use would contravene the condition specified within the approved planning permit.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt

Seconded: Cr Brownbill

That Council:

1. receive and note the report regarding specific planning conditions placed upon the mushroom composting facility established along Yorkshire Road, Newbridge.
2. direct council staff to obtain up to date traffic counts on Yorkshire Road, consider the future of the road in light of the revised traffic counts and report the matter back to Council as soon as possible.

Carried

7.5 2011/2013 FLOOD RESTORATION PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

SUMMARY

This report outlines Councils progress of the 2011/2013 Flood Restoration Program covering the period to 31 December 2011.

Author: Steven Phillips. Manager Works
File No: 14/01/001
Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

Council receive and note the progress of the 2011/2013 Flood Restoration Program.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council received and adopted the 2011/2012 Works Program that included the Flood Restoration Program at the August 2011 ordinary Council Meeting.

BACKGROUND

This report is to inform Council of the progress of the 2011/2013 Flood Restoration Program component of the Works Program.

In March 2011 a claim for \$22,422,329.00 for costs to repair the damage caused by the flooding that occurred between September 2010 and January 2011 was submitted to the Natural Disaster Financial Assistance Council. The Claim was approved on 14th March 2011.

The delivery of the Program commenced in March 2011 with the final delivery date estimated as 31st May 2013, this assumes a program life of 27 months. At the end of this time all works relating to the Program need to be completed to allow for finalisation of expenditure prior to the end of the 2012/2013 financial year.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The following table outlines the total number of jobs included in the 2011/2013 Flood Restoration Program and the number of jobs that have been completed:

Year 1 2011/2012	Program	Completed	% Completed
Quarter 1	93	75	81%
Quarter 2	207	123	59%
Quarter 3	170	67	39%
Quarter 4	166	57	34%
TBA	173	20	12%
Year 2 2012/2013			
Quarter 1	243	77	32%

Quarter 2	237	74	31%
Quarter 3	227	52	23%
Quarter 4	174	34	20%
TBA	3	0	0%
Total	1693	579	34%

A number of jobs have already been completed from each quarter in both years one and two of the Program. This is a result of the nature of the damage caused by the flood events and the requirement to respond to Works Requests that are flood related. The ability to be flexible in the delivery of the Program has enabled Council to respond to Work Requests, weather conditions and ground conditions, therefore allowing for efficiencies to be gained in executing the Program.

The following table outlines the total activities within the Program and shows programmed versus total completed activities.

Activity	Programed	Completed	Units	% Completed
Local Road Grading	225.7	88.7	km	39%
Local Road Resheet	406.5	155.1	km	38%
Local Road Shoulder Sheet	58	31.7	km	55%
Local Road Construction	14	0.212	km	2%
Township Street Improvement	13	1	Jobs	8%
Township Drainage	1	0	Jobs	0%
Safety Program	8	5	Jobs	63%
Amenity Program	3	0	Jobs	0%
Local Bridges Culvert Construction	67	16	Jobs	24%
Local Floodway Culvert Construction	109	42	Jobs	39%

The above table indicates that 33% of the total activities within the Program have been completed to 31st December 2011.

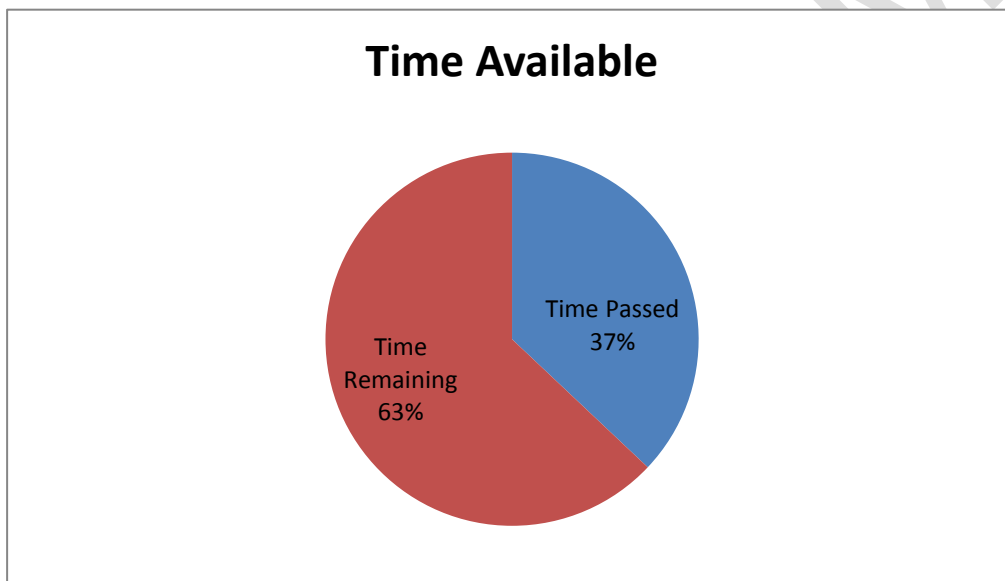
The following Table outlines Councils total expenditure to 31st December 2011 in delivering the Program:

Activity	Budget	Expenditure	%	Program Number
Local Road Grading	\$ 488,014	\$ 72,433	15%	360
Local Road Resheet	\$ 16,074,975	\$ 3,185,075	20%	352
Local Road Shoulder Sheet	\$ 2,432,134	\$ 257,264	11%	353
Local Road Construction	\$ 2,003,354	\$ 143,344	7%	351
Township Street Improvement	\$ 174,898	\$ 4,063	2%	356
Township Drainage	\$ -	\$ -	0%	371
Safety Program	\$ 5,956	\$ 299	5%	350
Amenity Program	\$ 500	\$ -	0%	349

Local Bridges Culvert Construction	\$ 786,500	\$ 195,999	25%	354
Local Floodway Culvert Construction	\$ 455,998	\$ 47,855	10%	359
General (To Be Distributed)	\$ -	\$ 3,100,889		330
Total	\$ 22,422,329.00	\$ 7,007,220.59	31%	

The expenditure to 31st December 2011 represents 31% of the total Budget and a breakdown by Activity can be seen in the above table.

A total of 27 months is available to deliver the Program of which 37% has passed. The following chart displays time passed and time remaining as a percentage of the total Program period:



During the first 10 months of the program, the following activities have been completed:

- 34% of the total Program by jobs
- 33% of the total activities within the Program
- 31% of the total Budget expended

Based on this information, progress of the Program is behind by 4% based on the total activities within the Program. This is due to the lag time required to recruit staff, purchase plant and source contractors required. It is anticipated that Council will be able to make up this shortfall and maintain the required progress to deliver the Program within the available time.

Council will receive a further updates on the progress of the delivery of the 2011/2013 Flood Restoration Program each quarter.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke

Seconded: Cr Holt

Council receive and note the progress of the 2011/2013 Flood Restoration Program.

Carried

UNCONFIRMED

7.6 RURAL ZONES REVIEW – PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS

SUMMARY

Report provides Council with a high level preliminary summary of the number and nature of submissions received following the recent consultation period for the Draft Rural Zones Review.

Author: Tyson Sutton – Manager Planning & Local Laws
 File No: 13/01/002
 Attachment: Rural Zones Review Submissions

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the preliminary summary report on submissions received in response to the Draft Rural Zones Review.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

At its July 2011 ordinary meeting Council resolved to place the draft Rural Zones Review on public exhibition.

BACKGROUND

The exhibition of the draft Loddon Shire Rural Zones review was completed on 22 December 2011. The exhibition consisted of the following:

- Notice in 3 locally circulating newspapers (Loddon Times, Northern Times and Bendigo Advertiser);
- Notice in 2 community newsletters (Pyramid Hill Press, East Loddon Community News);
- Two public meetings;
- Letters to 542 affected landowners;
- Numerous mayoral columns;
- Letters to 6 statutory authorities;
- Letters to special interest groups such as the VFF and local conservation bodies;
- Meetings with local real estate agents;

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

At the close of the exhibition period a total of 61 submissions were received including 4 from statutory authorities and 1 petition. A significant proportion of submissions are from land owners in the McIntyre/Moliagul area. A preliminary analysis of the submissions has been undertaken. The positions identified are summarised as follows:

Position	Number of Submissions
Support the recommendations	5
Oppose the recommendations	42
Neutral	5
Unclear	5

A number of themes have been identified in the submissions. These themes are as follows:

- The land identified is part of an existing agricultural enterprise.
- The proposed zone is unsuitable for the existing/proposed land use.
- Rezoning the land as recommended will result in a loss of property value.
- The introduction of the Rural Conservation Zone will impose unfair restrictions/obligations on landowners
- Would prefer an alternative zone be applied instead of the Rural Conservation Zone.

A total of 5 submitters have requested to be present there submissions to Council. Time is to be allocated in the February Council forum for these presentations.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt

Seconded: Cr Brownbill

That Council:

1. receive and note the preliminary summary report on submissions received in response to the Draft Rural Zones Review
2. hold a special forum on 8 February to consider all submissions.

Carried

7.7 LODDON SHIRE EVENTS SPONSORSHIP SCHEME – SUPPLEMENTARY ALLOCATION RECOMMENDATION

SUMMARY

Report recommends providing financial assistance under the Loddon Shire Events Sponsorship Scheme for three additional applications received under the "Minor Events Sponsorship Category" for events to be held between 1st January 2012 to 30th June 2012.

Author: Allan Stobaus - Manager Community and Recreation Development

File No: 19/02/004

Attachments: Loddon Shire Events Sponsorship Scheme: Recommended Allocations (Revised) for the period 1st January 2012 to 30th June 2012

RECOMMENDATION

That Council allocate a further \$1,200 in grants under the 2011/12 Loddon Shire Council Events Sponsorship Scheme towards 3 minor events as nominated within the attached spread sheet.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

At its Ordinary meeting held during June 2011, Council resolved to allocate a total of \$6,400 under the 2011/12 Loddon Shire Council Events Sponsorship Scheme towards 4 major events and 6 minor events during the period 1st July to 31st December 2011.

At its ordinary meeting held during December 2011, Council resolved to allocate a further \$5,000 under the 2011/12 Loddon Shire Council Events Sponsorship Scheme towards 3 major events and 5 minor events during the period 1st January to 30th June 2012.

BACKGROUND

The Loddon Shire Major Events Scheme was initiated in 1999, since this time approximately \$167,400.00 has been allocated to Community Groups in support of major and minor events.

The guidelines of the scheme are as follows;

1. Recipients of allocations are required to enter into a formal accountability process, this process is inclusive of the following;
 - A one page formal agreement outlining conditions of the grant is to be signed by the recipient organisation prior to receiving allocation.
 - A completion statement is to be completed by the recipient organisation confirming that the grant has been spent in accordance with the grant conditions.
2. Two funding categories have been introduced, these are as follows;
 - Major Event Category: Up to \$1,000 for events of regional or state significance i.e. state sporting events and/or major festivals, and that attract a significant number of visitors from outside the region.
 - Minor Event Category: \$400 for events of local and sub-regional significance i.e. annual sporting tournaments or local community festivals.

3. Two funding periods have been introduced, and that funding recommendations be reported to Council twice a year, as follows;
- For events planned during the period 1st January 2012 – 30th June 2012: Applications must be received no later than 5pm, 30th November 2011 with recommendations reported to Council at the December Council Meeting.
 - For events planned during the period 1st July 2012 – 31st December 2012: Applications must be received no later than 5pm, 30th May 2012 with recommendations reported to Council at the June Council Meeting.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

In addition to the 8 applications considered by Council in December, three further funding applications for minor events were also received on the 30th November 2011. However, as the agenda for the Council meeting closed on the 30th November, these three event applications were unable to be assessed in time for inclusion within the schedule presented to Council.

Subsequently, as these applications were received prior to the nominated closing time and have now been assessed as compliant against the minor events funding guidelines, approval is being sought from Council for a further \$1,200 allocation under the 2011/12 Loddon Shire Events Sponsorship Scheme.

Approval of these additional events will reduce the remaining un-allocated budget of the 2011/12 program to \$7,400.

The events in questions are as follows:

1. Boort Ladies Bowls Club are holding an invitational day on the 22 March 2012, 88 players are expected to participate in the event.
2. Boort Ladies Golf Club are holding their annual leather day event on 10 May 2012, it is expected that 70-80 participants will take part. Funds raised through the event assist with maintenance and upkeep of the Boort Golf Club.
3. Serpentine Bowls Club is holding its invitational fours event on 8 February 2012. It is expected to attract in excess of 80 participants.

Accordingly the attached event register has been amended to list a total of 11 funding applications for both major and minor events within Loddon Shire between 1st July 2011 and 31st December 2011.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke

Seconded: Cr Beattie

That Council allocate a further \$1,200 in grants under the 2011/12 Loddon Shire Council Events Sponsorship Scheme towards 3 minor events as nominated within the attached spread sheet.

Carried

8. DIRECTOR ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY REPORTS

8.1 2011 RACV GREAT VICTORIAN BIKE RIDE

SUMMARY

This report provides an overview of the Loddon section for the 2011 Great Victorian Bike Ride. The Loddon section commenced on Day 6 Thursday 1 December at Mitiamo sports ground for a lunch stop, hosting 2 camps at Boort and Wedderburn then concluding Day 8 Saturday 3 December at Rheola sports ground.

Author: Robyn Vella
File No: 16/07/002
Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the '2011 RACV Great Victorian Bike Ride' report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

At the August Council forum the Loddon Shire Tourism Manager conducted a presentation about the Loddon section of the "2011 RACV Great Victorian Bike Ride".

BACKGROUND

2011 Great Victorian Bike Ride

2011 Mighty Murray Great Victoria Bike Ride was conducted over 9 days, covering the Rural City of Swan Hill and the Shires of Gannawarra, Campaspe, Loddon, Central Goldfields and Mount Alexander.

The ride commenced on November 26 at Swan Hill and concluded on the December 4 2011 at Castlemaine. The camp site towns are listed below

- Day 1 – Swan Hill loop ride
- Day 2 – Swan Hill to Kerang
- Day 3 – Kerang to Barham
- Day 4 – Barham to Echuca
- Day 5 - Echuca Rest Day
- Day 6 – Echuca to Boort
- Day 7 – Boort to Wedderburn
- Day 8 – Wedderburn to Central Goldfields
- Day 9- Finish in Castlemaine

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Bus Transportation to the 2011 Great Victorian Bike Ride

Prior to the commencement of the 2011 Great Victorian Bike Ride some participants required transportation to the event. Loddon Shire Tourism Manager engaged with the coach company coordinating the transportation to provide refreshments at Bridgewater and Serpentine on their way to Swan Hill.

The transportation occurred on Friday 25 and Saturday 26 November catering for 1036 participants and volunteers. Loddon Shire coordinated the catering with Bridgewater and Serpentine Recreation Reserve Committees.

Day 6 Thursday 1 December

Mitiamo

The Loddon section commenced on Day 6 Thursday 1 December at Mitiamo sports ground for a lunch stop. The first cyclist arrived in Mitiamo at 9am. The cyclists received a warm welcome from Mitiamo Football/Netball Club, Dingee and Mitiamo Progress Association. These organisations provided refreshments for the cyclists. The Mitiamo Football/Netball Club organised a photo display of the January floods. Visitors were able to view how a community bands together when three creeks meet and overflow.



Mitiamo Football Oval

Pyramid Hill option

Due to Day 6 consisting of 114 kilometres, Bicycle Victoria provided an option for cyclists to board a shuttle bus at Mitiamo lunch stop and travel to Boort via the scenic route through Pyramid Hill. Bicycle Victoria coordinated the bookings and the bus. Loddon Shire Tourism Manager and Pyramid Progress Association provided the tour guides from Mitiamo to Pyramid Hill and the activities in Pyramid Hill.

On the day there was some confusion from cyclists on the day as to where the transfer would be located and once the problem was identified, Bicycle Victoria reacted and placed a secondary coach and bike truck at Rest Area 2, **(Mitiamo Boort Road near Calivil Mail Road)** giving riders who decided to ride past the Lunch Spot Transfer, another option of taking the transfer coach to Pyramid Hill.

Bicycle Victoria had 91 cyclists purchase this transfer option prior to the event and approximately another 20 cyclists purchased the transfer option during the event. Although cyclists had purchased this transfer option, it was not compulsory and many cyclists decided to continue riding as weather condition were pleasant.

Given that the Pyramid Hill community had gone to some lengths to organise activities and to show case their community to the cyclists, this was a disappointing outcome.

Durham Ox

For those riders who decided to cycle the 114 kilometres from Echuca to Boort, the district of Durham Ox provided refreshments at the Bicycle Victoria rest stop. Goulburn Murray Water and the North Central Catchment Management Authority organised a display depicting irrigation practices and environmental works being conduct in the area in particularly in relation to the Serpentine Creek and Loddon River.

Boort Camp site

The Boort working group with assistance from the Loddon Shire Tourism Department coordinated catering and activities making sure that the cyclists were successfully provided for leaving Boort with a memorable visitor experience. As the cyclists reach the Boort camp site Loddon Ambassadors from Boort Secondary School provided a warm welcome. By 6pm the Boort football oval was a display of tents.

The Boort community provided refreshments, bus tours to on farm tourist attractions, Art Exhibition, barefoot bowls, tennis, movie night, swimming pool inflatable, laser tag and fireworks display.



Boort Secondary School Boort Loddon Ambassadors

Comment from local business

Commercial Hotel

- largest trading day
- delivered 145 meals

IGA Supermarket

- Weekly customer door count **2000** Thursday 1 December **1400**

- Most common products purchased were large bottle water, chips, lollies and shape biscuits



Boort Football Oval

Day 7 Friday 2 December

Some cyclists started to depart Boort at 6.30am with their first rest stop at Borung.

Borong

At Borung the Wedderburn College Parents Association provided a festive morning with refreshments, animal farm and students singing. This rest stop was well received with local students engaging with other student's partaking in the event. All funds raised went to Wedderburn College.

Korong Vale

As cyclists arrived in Korong Vale they took the opportunity to visit Scully's Hotel, the Mechanics Institute Hall observing memorabilia from the early Railway before making their way to Bicycle Victoria's lunch stop at the original football arena. At the lunch stop the Korong Vale CFA and Bowling Club provided refreshments.

Wedderburn Camp site

The Wedderburn working group with assistance from the Loddon Shire Tourism department coordinated activities from Jacka Park (Party Central).

Cyclists started to arrive in Wedderburn mid-morning, by 4pm Donaldson Park was covered in tents.

The working group obtained sponsorship from Inglewood and Districts Community Bendigo Bank for Wedderburn ambassador polo shirts with text (Ask Me Im A Local).

Representatives from the working group walked around welcoming the cyclists and responding to questions.

Jacka Park was the focal point with stalls, refreshments, bus tours, tourist information and fireworks. Other activities around the town were barefoot bowls, tennis, swimming, Coachouse Gallery, RSL and Eucalyptus Stew Pot.

Loddon Shire Tourism department hire Inglewood Coaches to shuttle visitors to Inglewood. Eight visitors travelled to Inglewood.

The Loddon Visitor Information Centre attended to 575 walk in visitors on Friday 2 December with each visitor departing with a fridge magnet promoting the Loddon Shire Tourism Region.



Wedderburn Football Oval



Wedderburn Ambassadors

Day 8 Saturday 3 December

Rheola

At Rheola from 7am to 12 Noon Loddon farewelled cyclists. Representatives from the Rheola Rural Fire Brigade Ladies Hall Committee provided refreshments. Rostrata Country Farm Stay, Loddon Shire Tourism Department, Inglewood Development and Tourism Committee, Inglewood Resource Centre and Rheola Charity Carnival Committee set up stalls promoting the southern region of our municipality.

The catering committee provided feedback making a profit of \$940.00. The profit was shared amongst organisations in Rheola (details listed below)

- Rheola Hall \$300
- Rheola Ladies \$300
- St John Anglican Church \$100
- Rheola Rural Fire Brigade \$240



Rheola Sports Ground



Statistics on the 2011 RACV Great Victorian Bike Ride

- 3500 cyclists
- 360 volunteers
- 135 staff/contractors

Great Victorian Bike Ride Booklet

A Loddon 2011 Great Victorian Bike Ride booklet was designed and inserted in Bicycle Victoria's information pack which was mailed out to registered participants prior to the event. Inside this promotional booklet is vouchers donated by local Loddon operators to encourage repeat visitation in 2012.

Loddon Shire Tourism Department continued to promote and distributed the booklet whilst the event was in our Shire.

Some booklets are still available, staff and volunteers are distributing from the Loddon Visitor Information Centre as information is valid until 31/12/2012.

While the bus tours were not as successful as hoped (In particular the Pyramid Hill bus tour which did not go as planned), feedback has been positive from volunteers and locals who engaged in the 2011 RACV Great Victorian Bike Ride.

Loddon Shire has received positive feedback from cyclists involved in the event, an example of which is an email received from Mr Mike Ranger:

"Hi

I have recently completed the GVBR 2011 and want to congratulate you and the Shire Council on the wonderful support and hospitality everyone offered whilst the bike ride went thru your district

Your representatives and information services were an object lesson on how to respond to 4,000 daily visitors and make sure that they had a great time

Well done to everyone (including the volunteers at the stops)

Mike Ranger"

Growing Partnerships in 2012

Loddon Shire Tourism Manager in 2012 is meeting with Bicycle Victoria to discuss opportunities of future events and evaluating existing cycle/walking tracks with in Loddon Shire. Evaluating existing cycle/walking tracks is an action in the Loddon Shire Tourism Strategy 2011 – 2016.

Since the 2011 RACV Great Victorian Bike Ride the Loddon Shire Tourism Manager has engaged with a business **Event Support** situated in Phillip Island. This business has established cycling events such as Bass Hill Classic and Phillip Island 7 Seas Cycle Challenge. Early 2012 Loddon Shire Tourism Manager is meeting with Event Support to investigate a Loddon Cycling event.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke

Seconded: Cr Beattie

That Council receive and note the '2011 RACV Great Victorian Bike Ride' report.

Carried

UNCONFIRMED

8.2 SALE OF COUNCIL PROPERTIES - PROGRESS REPORT

SUMMARY

The sale of properties in Wedderburn and Arnold are proceeding in accordance with the Local Government Act. This report describes the method of sale and also proposes that conditions be incorporated into sale documents.

Author: Bryan McEwan
File No: 13/09/001
Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *Receive and note the Sale of Council Properties report*
2. *Support the 'conditions of sale' as described within this report*
3. *Support the 'method of sale' as described within this report*

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The report 'Sale of Council Properties' was presented to council at the November 2011 meeting

BACKGROUND

This report relates to the sale of council owned properties:

- Ridge Street Wedderburn (4 lots - vacant land), lots 2 – 5, PS 636975
- Racecourse Road Wedderburn (1 lot - vacant land), Lot 7 PS204089
- The former St Mary's Church in Arnold (Lot 1, TP 549980)

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

In accordance with section 189 of the Local Government Act 1989:

- All properties have been advertised through public notice and the minimum period of 4 weeks (required prior to any sale of council owned properties) has passed.
- All properties have been independently assessed and valued.

In total five submissions were received, three relating to the former St Mary's Church in Arnold, two relating to the site in Racecourse Road in Wedderburn and one relating to the Housing Estate in Ridge Street Wedderburn.

Of the three submissions relating to the Arnold property, two were from individuals and one from a community based consortium, with historical links to the property and the Arnold district. All have indicated that they would be interested in purchasing the property, with two of the three making formal offers and the third indicating their intention to do so.

Of the Racecourse Road property submissions, one has also included a formal offer and one potential.

While there has been an expression of interest relating to the Ridge Street properties, no formal offer has been received.

Conditions of sale

Council has previously considered conditions of sale (restrictive covenants) that would be applied to land offered for sale by council. This would allow council to have some control over the type of structure that is built on any of the vacant land sites and to ensure that the standard of construction is in line with community expectations.

It is proposed that the four lots comprising the council owned lots in **Ridge Street Wedderburn** be offered for sale and to include the following conditions as minimum standards:

- The construction of a dwelling, with a minimum 24 squares (220 m²) of living area
- All construction (including outbuildings and fences) to consist solely of new materials.
- The structure of the dwelling to incorporate a fully enclosed garage
- The dwelling is to be constructed of not less than 80% of brick, brick veneer; brick cement render, stone, masonry or masonry veneer.
- No front fence
- No construction to incorporate the use of galvanised iron or aluminium cladding.
- Any shed (or other outbuildings) construction is not to exceed 80m² in floor area or exceed 4m in height.
- Fencing to be of Colorbond, 1.8m in height and of the colour 'Domain'
- Allow for the construction of a single dwelling only.
- No ability to subdivide the property
- Construction to commence within 12 months of purchase and be completed within 2 years.

It is also proposed that minimum standards also apply to the **Racecourse Road** property. While not as prescriptive as those for the Ridge Street site, conditions of sale should incorporate:

Unless by prior agreement:

- The construction of a dwelling, with a minimum 14 squares (130 m²) of floor area
- All construction (including outbuildings and fences) to consist solely of new materials.
- No construction to incorporate the use of galvanised iron or aluminium cladding.
- The dwelling is to be constructed of not less than 80% of brick, brick veneer; brick cement render, stone, masonry or masonry veneer.
- Construction to commence within 12 months of purchase and be completed within 2 years.

No conditions of sale are proposed for the **Arnold property**

Method of sale

Where council has received formal offers, it is proposed that sales be negotiated directly with prospective purchasers.

Where properties have not resulted in formal offers or where final offers are not deemed to be acceptable, the sale of the properties will be managed through the appropriate Real Estate agent.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke

Seconded: Cr Brownbill

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Sale of Council Properties report
2. Support the 'conditions of sale' as described within this report
3. Support the 'method of sale' as described within this report

Carried

UNCONFIRMED

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

MOTION

Moved: Cr Beattie Seconded: Cr Brownbill

That the following items be treated as urgent business.

Carried

9.1 **SUPPORT FOR THE MURRAY TO MOYNE BIKE RIDE**

Cr Beattie advised that he had received correspondence from the Boort and District Hospital requesting sponsorship of \$1000 for the upcoming Murray to Moyne bike ride which is held to raise to funds for the Boort and District Hospital.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Beattie Seconded: Cr Holt

That Council provide sponsorship of \$1000 to the Murray to Moyne Bike Ride to support the Boort and District Hospital.

Carried

9.2 **SUPPORT FOR THE BOORT AND WEDDERBURN HARNESS RACING CUPS**

Cr Beattie advised that harness racing cups will be returned to Boort and Wedderburn in 2012. Councillor Beattie requested that Council staff investigate ways to support these two events and noted that the events will bring significant economic activity to both townships.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Beattie Seconded: Cr Holt

That the Economic Development unit be requested to provide a report to Council as a matter of urgency detailing ways in which Council can support the return of harness racing cups to Boort and Wedderburn.

Carried

9.3 **GARBAGE SERVICE TO SKINNERS FLAT**

Cr Holt requested that a garbage service be provided to the public recreation area at Skinners Flat Wedderburn. CEO advised that this was an operational matter and that it would be attended to immediately.

9.4 FOOTPATH IN FRONT OF BRIDGEWATER BAKERY

Cr Brownbill asked for an explanation of the Council's proposal for the repair of the footpath in the front of the Bridgewater Bakery. The Director of Operations gave Council a full explanation of the steps in place to ensure the footpath is repaired. The Director of Operations noted that some works were the responsibility of the property owner and some works being undertaken as part of flood recovery works.

10. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Closing of Meeting to the Public

RECOMMENDATION

That the meeting be closed to the public.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt

Seconded: Cr Brooke

That the meeting be closed to the public at 6.04 pm.

Carried

10.1 REVIEW OF ACTION SHEET

MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt

Seconded: Cr Beattie

That the Action Sheet be received and noted.

Carried

10.2 PLANNING AND LOCAL LAWS COMPLIANCE REPORT

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke

Seconded: Cr Brownbill

That Council receives and notes the Planning and Local Laws Compliance Report.

Carried

10.3 SALE OF COUNCIL PROPERTIES – SUBMISSIONS AND VALUATIONS

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke

Seconded: Cr Holt

That Council:

1. Approve the proposed sale value of the Ridge Street Housing Estate lots at \$35,000 per lot.
2. Direct Council officers to continue negotiations with prospective purchasers of the Racecourse Road and Ridge Street sites with a view to selling the properties.
3. Direct Council officers to continue negotiations with the prospective purchasers of the Arnold property.

Carried

10.4 BOORT CARAVAN PARK

MOTION

Moved: Cr Beattie

Seconded: Cr Brooke

That the following matter be treated as urgent business.

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Carried

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brownbill

Seconded: Brooke

That Council investigate and report back as a matter of urgency the problems being experienced by residents of the Boort Lakes Caravan Park in relation to electricity supply and sewerage services.

Carried

10.5 REOPENING OF MEETING TO PUBLIC

MOTION

Moved: Cr Gavan Holt Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie

That the meeting be reopened to the public at 6.32 pm.

Carried

11. NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on Monday 27 February 2012 at Serpentine commencing at 3.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 6.32 pm.

Confirmed this.....day of....., 2012

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Cr Geoff Curnow, Mayor