Confirmed Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 27 May 2026 at 6:00pm

Maryborough Town Hall, 71 Clarendon Street, Maryborough.

CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS SHIRE COUNCIL

Attendees

The meeting commenced at 6:00pm.

PRESENT

Councillors:
Ben Green (Deputy Mayor)
Anna de Villiers (Deputy Mayor)
Grace La Vella
Geoff Bartlett
Liesbeth Long
Gerard Murphy

Officers:
Chief Executive Officer, Peter Harriott
General Manager Community Wellbeing, Emma Little
General Manager Assets Infrastructure and Planning, Amber Ricks
General Manager Corporate Services, Liam Routledge
Acting Manager Governance and Risk, Rob Duboa
Melissa Hill Governance Officer

1 Welcome

The Mayor, Cr Green opened the meeting at 6:00pm, welcomed attendees and then read an Acknowledgment of Country and the Council Prayer.

2 Apologies and Leave of Absence

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That council approve leave of absence for Councillor Jake Meyer for the period 19 May 2026 to 18 June 2026.

Moved: Cr Murphy

Seconder: Cr Long

CARRIED

3 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Cr Long declared a Conflict of Interest for Item 7.8 as they are the Founding President of the Central Goldfields Bushwalking & Hiking Club Inc. which oppose the Broiler Farm development.

4 Confirmation of Minutes from Previous Council Meetings

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 22 April 2026 be confirmed

Moved: Cr Bartlett

Seconder: Cr La Vella

CARRIED

5 Minutes of Delegated and Advisory Committees

There were no minutes of delegated and advisory committees.

6 Petitions

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Notes the receipt of 167 signatures relating to the “Save Our Local Tips” matter; and
2. Notes that while the petition does not meet the requirements of Section 9.53.4 of the Governance Rules (as it does not clearly state the request of the signatories), Council acknowledges the community interest reflected and receives the petition for information.

Moved: Cr de Villiers

Seconder: Cr Bartlett

CARRIED

7 Council Reports

7.1 Budget 2026-2027

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Adopts the 2026/27 Budget (as Attachment 1 to this report) with adjustments identified from the Draft Annual Budget to the Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Capital program and User Fees and Charges, as outlined within this Report;
2. Approves increased loan borrowings of $500,000 in line with the funding required within the budget for the Deledio Recreation Reserve – Pavillion Upgrade;
3. Adopts and declares the fees and charges as listed within the 2026/27 Budget for the financial year;
4. Declares an amount of $20.438m which Council intends to raise by General Rates and Annual Service Charges for the period 1 July 2026 – 30 June 2027 calculated as follows:
    - General Rates (including estimated supplementary rates) $13.169m,
    - Municipal Charges $1.691m; and
    - Service Rates and Charges (Waste Management) $5.578m
5. Declares a Municipal Charge of $202.00 for each rateable assessment in respect of which a Municipal Charge may be levied in the 2026/27 financial year;
6. Declares annual waste service charges and fees for the period 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027, comprising separate charges and fees for each waste service component and bin size as follows:
    - $223.00 for standard garbage collection
    - $194.00 for recycling collection
    - $261.00 for waste management
    - Additional service charges apply for:
    - $380.00 for an upsized garbage service
    - $96.00 for an opt-in organics service
    - and further notes that a household receiving the standard garbage and recycling services will incur a total annual waste service charge of $678.00, being the aggregate of the applicable service components.

6. Declares the rate in the dollar for each type of rate to be levied for the period as follows:

Type of Rate Value	**Cents in the $ on Capital Improved**
General rate for rateable residential properties – Maryborough	0.003382
General rate for rateable residential properties – Other	0.003044
General rate for rateable vacant land properties	0.004295
General rate for rateable commercial properties – Maryborough	0.005411

General rate for rateable commercial properties – Other	0.004762
General rate for rateable industrial properties	0.003636
General rate for rateable farm properties	0.002706

7. Adopts to levy the general rates and service charges referred to in this resolution by the service notice on each person liable to pay such rate or charge in accordance with section 158 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and;
8. In accordance with section 167 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, adopts the rates and charges declared by the Council for the 2026/27 financial year and declares that they must be paid as follows:

   By four instalments made on or before the following dates:

   Instalment 1 – 30 September 2026;

   Instalment 2 – 30 November 2026;

   Instalment 3 – 28 February 2027;

   Instalment 4 – 31 May 2027;

   OR

   By a lump sum payment made on or before 15 February 2027.
9. Thank the community members who participated in the community engagement process to inform the 2026/27 Budget

Moved: Cr Murphy

Seconder: Cr La Vella

CARRIED

7.2 Quarterly Finance Report - March 2026

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Notes the Quarterly Finance Report for the period ended 31 March 2026 (Attachment 1).
2. Notes the year-to-date net operating result and material variances outlined in this report, including the timing impact of the Federal Assistance Grant received in the prior financial year.
3. Notes that Council's cash position remains constrained, including negative unrestricted cash at March 2026, and that working capital and cash sustainability continue to be a key focus.
4. Requests that management continue to monitor financial performance and cash flows and report to Council through the next quarterly finance report (or earlier if material changes occur).

Moved: Cr Bartlett

Seconder: Cr Murphy

CARRIED

7.3 Draft Public Lighting Strategy for Community Engagement

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Endorse the Draft Public Lighting Strategy for the purpose of public consultation;
2. Notes that community feedback received during the consultation period will be considered and used to inform refinements to the Strategy; and
3. Notes that the final Public Lighting Strategy will be presented back to Council for adoption following completion of community consultation.

Moved: Cr Murphy

Seconder: Cr de Villiers

CARRIED

7.4 Dunolly Precinct Committee Community Asset Committee

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Authorise the Dunolly Historical Precinct Community Asset Committee, under the Instrument of Delegation, to operate the "Dunolly Country Market" on the fourth Saturday of each month, subject to the Dunolly Historical Precinct Committee Asset Committee:
   a) Nominating a responsible member to oversee the event and ensure all event approvals, risk assessments and compliance documentation are completed in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and council Requirements
   b) Demonstrating appropriate governance and financial management practices, including transparent collection and management of vendor fees and maintenance of relevant records.
2. Note that Council officers will work with the Dunolly Historical Precinct Community Asset Committee to ensure all necessary and appropriate registrations are identified, completed and maintained to the satisfaction of Council.
3. Note that this authorisation is conditional upon the Dunolly Historical Precinct Community Asset Committee meeting all Council event compliance, traffic management, asset protection, risk management and governance requirements to the satisfaction of Council and may be withdrawn if these requirements are not met.
4. Delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the authority to exercise the functions and powers necessary to give effect to this resolution in accordance with any delegation made under the Local Government Act 2020.

Moved: Cr Long

Seconder: Cr La Vella

CARRIED

MOTION

That Council Move to adjourn the meeting for 10 mins.

Moved: Cr Bartlett

Seconded: Cr La Vella

CARRIED

Mayor Green adjourned the meeting was at 6:56pm.

Mayor Green recommenced the meeting 7:04pm

Cr Bartlett made the following statement "I'd just like to make a clarifying statement in regards to my comments during the budget item 7.1. I'd like to um I stand by my words regarding uh cost shifting factors, but I'd like to withdraw any commentary that I've made about the upcoming election. So, I categorically withdraw that statement".

7.5 Adoption of Customer Charter after community feedback

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. adopt the Draft Customer Charter;
2. note the Draft Customer Charter replaces the 2018 Service Charter;
3. note the Draft Customer Charter aligns with the Local Government Act 2020, the Council Plan, the Financial Plan, Asset Plan, Unreasonable Customer Conduct Policy, and the Complaints Policy**;**
4. note that as prescribed under Sections 55 and 56 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, community feedback was invited in accordance with Council's Community Engagement policy.

Moved: Cr de Villiers

Seconder: Cr La Vella

CARRIED

7.6 Enterprise Asset Management System tender

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Awards Contract G2002-2025 for the Provision of Supply and Implementation of an Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) Solution to Asset Vision Pty Ltd for an initial term of three (3) years, for a total contract value of $333,438.00 (exclusive of GST).

2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer, or delegate, to undertake all necessary actions to execute Contract G2002-2025 on behalf of Council, including advising unsuccessful tenderers of the outcome of the procurement process.
3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to extend Contract G2002-2025 for a further period of two (2) years following the expiry of the initial term, at an estimated cost of $86,822 per annum (exclusive of GST), subject to satisfactory contractor performance, Council's operational requirements, and the availability of budget.
4. Notes that the total maximum contract value, inclusive of the extension option, is $507,082 (exclusive of GST).
5. Notes the confidential attachment forming part of this report.

Moved: Cr La Vella

Seconder: Cr de Villiers

CARRIED

7.7 Adoption of the Land Use Planning Framework and Urban Residential Land Opportunities Report

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Defer the Item.

Moved: Cr Anna de Villiers

Seconder: Cr Grace La Vella

CARRIED

7.8 D022-23 – 3280 Pyrenees Highway, Carisbrook

Cr Long left the room at 7:29pm due to a conflict of interest

MOTION

The council resolves to refuse planning permit application D02-223 for the proposed broiler farm development at 3280 Pyrenees Highway Carisbrook.

In making this decision, council:

1. Notes the increasing concentration of broiler farm development within the Moolort Plains and surrounding areas.
2. Recognizes ongoing community concerns relating to the cumulative impacts of intensive animal industries, including;
   a) traffic and road infrastructure impacts
   b) water use and potential impacts on groundwater systems
   c) rural amenity impacts including odour, dust, and noise
   d) landscape and visual impacts
   e) bio security risks
   f) environmental impacts
   g) potential land use conflicts with existing and future township growth.

3. Notes that further concentration of broiler farm developments within the municipality may compromise the long-term strategic planning objectives of the Central Goldfields Shire including;
   a) protection of township amenity
   b) future residential and economic growth opportunities associated with Carisbrook and surrounding areas
   c) tourism development opportunities including the proposed Castlemaine-Maryborough rail trail
   d) long-term land use compatibility and sustainable rural development outcomes.
4. Requests through the CEO that officers prepare a report outlining;
   a) the cumulative impacts associated with existing and approved intensive animal industries within the municipality.
   b) Planning mechanisms available to council to manage the scale, concentration, and distribution of broiler farm developments
   c) opportunities to prepare a strategic rural land use study and associated planning scheme amendments
   d) Potential a potential interim planning controls for local policy responses available to council
5. Requests the CEO investigate a preparation of a rural land use strategy of intensive agriculture strategy identifying;
   a) preferred locations for future broiler farm development
   b) areas where further concentration of intensive animal industries may create unacceptable cumulative impacts
   c) appropriate separation distances, infrastructure requirements, and environmental safeguards and;
   d) mechanisms for cumulative impact assessment.
6. Requests that that a report be brought back to council within six months, outlining;
   a) recommendations and strategic planning options
   b) funding implications
   c) potential planning scheme amendment pathways
   d) opportunities for stronger local planning policy and interim policy responses and;
   e) monthly progress update to councils' Councillors during the preparation process.
7. Affirms that council supports agricultural activity within the municipality while seeking to ensure that intensive animal industries occur at a scale and distribution comparable with;
   a) environmental sustainability
   b) rural amenity
   c) infrastructure capacity
   d) long-term strategic land use plan planning and;
   e) protection of a community wellbeing and future economic opportunities.

Moved: Cr La Vella

Seconder: Cr de Villiers

The motion was not put to the vote.
The motion was requested to be changed to follow correct procedure. The mover and seconder agreed to change the motion.
The changed motion was moved, seconded and voted on and became the Council Resolution.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

The Council issues a notice of decision to refuse planning permit application D02-23 for the proposed broiler farm development at 328A Pyrenees Highway Carisbrook.
Council will undertake to submit the prescribed form.

In making this decision Council will;

1. Affirm that council supports agricultural activity within the municipality while seeking to ensure that intensive animal industries occur at a scale and distribution comparable with;
   a) environmental sustainability
   b) rural amenity
   c) infrastructure capacity
   d) long-term strategic land use plan planning and;
   e) protection of a community wellbeing and future economic opportunities.
1. Recognizes ongoing community concerns relating to the cumulative impacts of intensive animal industries, including;
   a) traffic and road infrastructure impacts
   b) water use and potential impacts on groundwater systems
   c) rural amenity impacts including odour, dust, and noise
   d) landscape and visual impacts
   e) bio security risks
   f) environmental impacts
   g) potential land use conflicts with existing and future township growth.
2. Notes that further concentration of broiler farm developments within the municipality may compromise the long-term strategic planning objectives of the central Goldfields Shire including;
   a) protection of township amenity
   b) future residential and economic growth opportunities associated with Carisbrook and surrounding areas
   c) tourism development opportunities including the proposed Castlemaine-Maryborough rail trail
   d) long-term land use compatibility and sustainable rural development outcomes.
3. Requests through the CEO that officers prepare a report outlining;
   a) the cumulative impacts associated with existing and approved intensive animal industries within the municipality.
   b) Planning mechanisms available to council to manage the scale, concentration, and distribution of broiler farm developments
   c) opportunities to prepare a strategic rural land use study and associated planning scheme amendments
   d) Potential a potential interim planning controls for local policy responses available to council
4. Requests the CEO investigate a preparation of a rural land use strategy of intensive agriculture strategy identifying;
   a) preferred locations for future broiler farm development
   b) areas where further concentration of intensive animal industries may create unacceptable cumulative impacts
   c) appropriate separation distances, infrastructure requirements, and environmental safeguards and;
   d) mechanisms for cumulative impact assessment.

5. Requests that that a report be brought back to council within six months, outlining;
    a) recommendations and strategic planning options
    b) funding implications
    c) potential planning scheme amendment pathways
    d) opportunities for stronger local planning policy and interim policy responses and;
    e) monthly progress update to councils’ Councillors during the preparation process.
6. Notes the increasing concentration of broiler farm development within the Moolort Plains and surrounding areas.

Moved: Cr La Vella

Seconder: Cr de Villiers

CARRIED

Cr Liesbeth Long returned to the meeting at 7:43 pm.

8 General and other Urgent Business

No Councillor reports or Urgent Business was presented.

9 Notices of Motion

No Notices of Motion were presented.

10 Confidential Business

10.01 Move into Confidential

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

1. Close the meeting to the public in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 to consider confidential information.
2. The ordinary Council meeting will conclude at the completion of the confidential items.

Moved: Cr La Vella

Seconder: Cr Murphy

CARRIED

Item 10.1 was provided for under separate cover as it contained confidential information for the purposes of the local Government Act 2020.
The following item was considered confidential as the appointment process involved personal information; the matter will be dealt with in Confidential Business in accordance with section 66 of the Act.
This Confidential information was defined under section 3(1)(f) of the Act as personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about a person.
As of 28 May 2026, the information is no longer considered confidential as the appointment of the Audit and Risk Committee Chair has been made publicly available.

10.1 Appointment of Independent Audit and Risk Committee Chair

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Endorse the appointment of Michelle McLean as an Independent Member and Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee;
2. Note the appointment is for a three (3) year term commencing from 27 May 2026, subject to the Audit and Risk Committee Charter and any applicable legislative requirements
3. Noting the recruitment process was undertaken in accordance with section 53 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's Audit and Risk Committee Charter, appoints Michelle McLean as an independent member of the Audit and Risk Committee for a term of three (3) years commencing from the date of Council resolution and;
4. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to finalise and execute any documentation, and undertake any notifications, required to give effect to this resolution.

Moved: Cr Murphy

Seconder: Cr Bartlett

CARRIED

11 Meeting Closure

The Mayor, Cr Green closed the Council Meeting at 7:52pm.