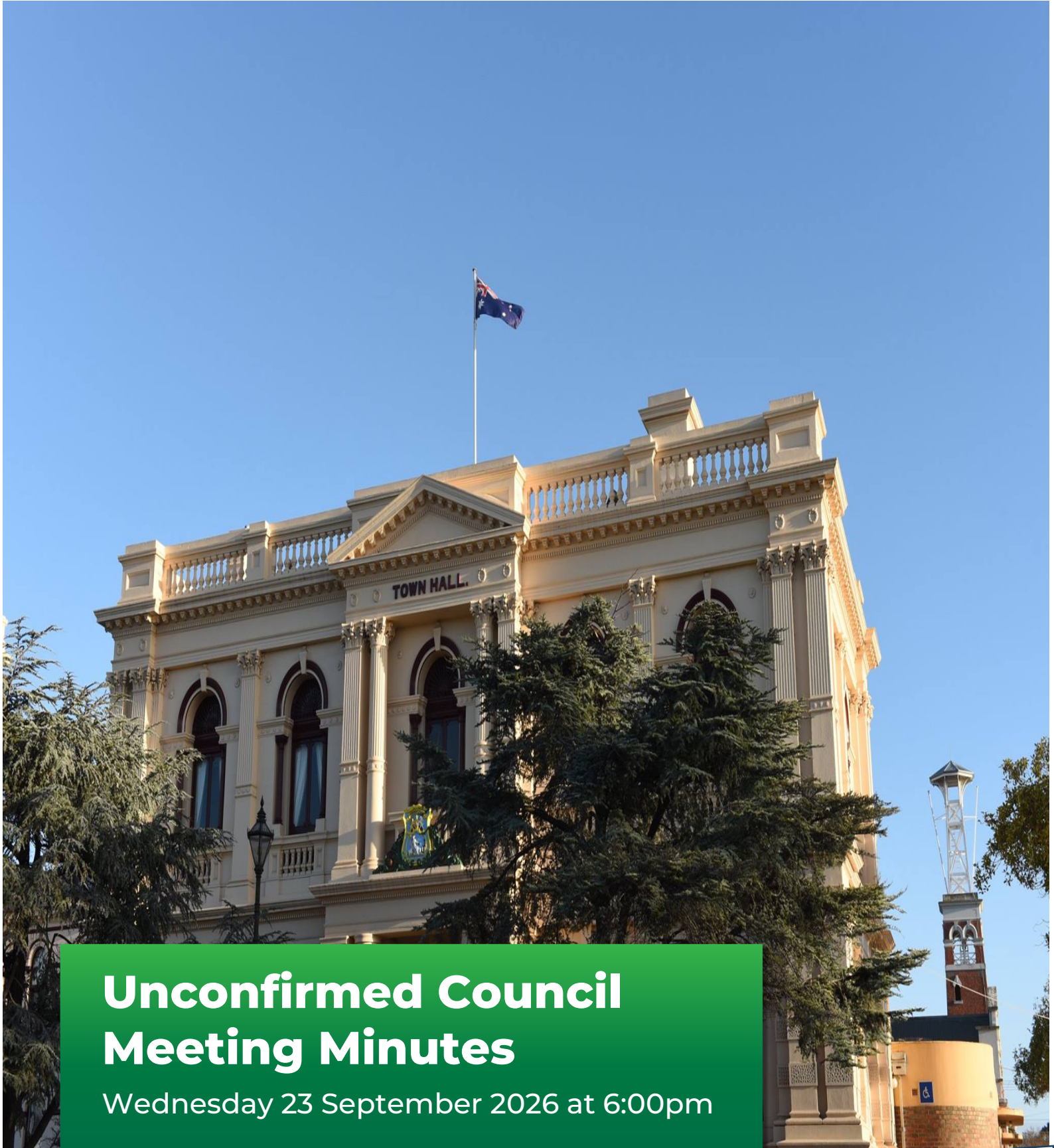




Unconfirmed Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 23 September 2026 at 6:00pm

Maryborough Town Hall, 71 Clarendon Street, Maryborough.

Attendees

The meeting commenced at 6:00pm.

PRESENT

Councillors:

Anna de Villiers (Deputy Mayor and Chair)

Grace La Vella (Online, joined at 5.58pm)

Geoff Bartlett

Liesbeth Long (online, joined at 5.58pm)

Gerard Murphy

Officers:

Chief Executive Officer, Peter Harriott

Acting Director Community Wellbeing, Carolyn Bartholomeusz

Director Assets and Planning, Bhavin Mehta

Director Corporate Services, Liam Routledge

Manager Governance and Risk, Molly Willmott

Manager Technology & Business Transformation, Rob Duoba

Melissa Hill Governance Officer (Minute taker)

1 Welcome

The Deputy Mayor, Cr de Villiers, welcomed attendees to the meeting and then read an Acknowledgement of Country and the Council Prayer.

2 Apologies and Leave of Absence

Cr Meyer was an apology.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That council approve leave of absence for Councillor Ben Green for the period 17 September 2026 to 1 October 2026.

Moved: Cr Murphy

Seconder: Cr Bartlett

CARRIED

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That council approve leave of absence for Councillor Anna de Villiers for the period 12 October 2026 to 30 October 2026.

Moved: Cr Murphy

Seconder: Cr Bartlett

CARRIED

3 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No Conflicts of Interest were declared.

4 Confirmation of Minutes from Previous Council Meetings

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26 August 2026 be confirmed.

Moved: Cr Geoff Bartlett

Seconder: Cr Grace La Vella

CARRIED

5 Minutes of Delegated and Advisory Committees

There were no minutes of delegated or advisory committees.

6 Petitions

There were no petitions presented.

7 Council Reports

7.1 Rail Advocacy Update

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council:

- Notes the report, which outlines transport advocacy efforts to date
- Notes the updated Transport Advocacy page in the 2026 Advocacy document
- Determines that Council will continue to engage with relevant stakeholder organisations, community representatives, and local governments, advocating for:
- Increased train services between Maryborough and Ballarat on weekdays, from two per day to five, to enable commuting for local residents to travel by train for work and study; attend business, medical, and other appointments; and to promote tourism and enhance social connectivity.
- Reinstate passenger train services between Maryborough and Mildura to establish Maryborough as a regional rail hub, reactivate rail as a public transport option at Bealiba and Dunolly, and improve public transport links between Melbourne and Mildura via Maryborough.

Moved: Cr Geoff Bartlett

Seconder: Cr Gerard Murphy

CARRIED

At 6:01pm, the live stream stopped recording. At 6:11pm, the following resolution was carried;

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council suspend standing orders to address a technical issue with the live stream

Moved: Cr La Vella

Seconded: Cr Meyer

CARRIED

At 6:45pm.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council, as per Governance Rules; 75 Live Streaming and Recording Proceedings S 75.3, adjourns the Council meeting on 23 September 2026 at 6:45 pm to Monday 28 September 2026 at 6 pm due to technical difficulties with the live stream.

Moved: Cr Bartlett

Seconded: Cr Murphy

CARRIED

11 Meeting Closure

Cr de Villiers closed the meeting at 6:45pm.