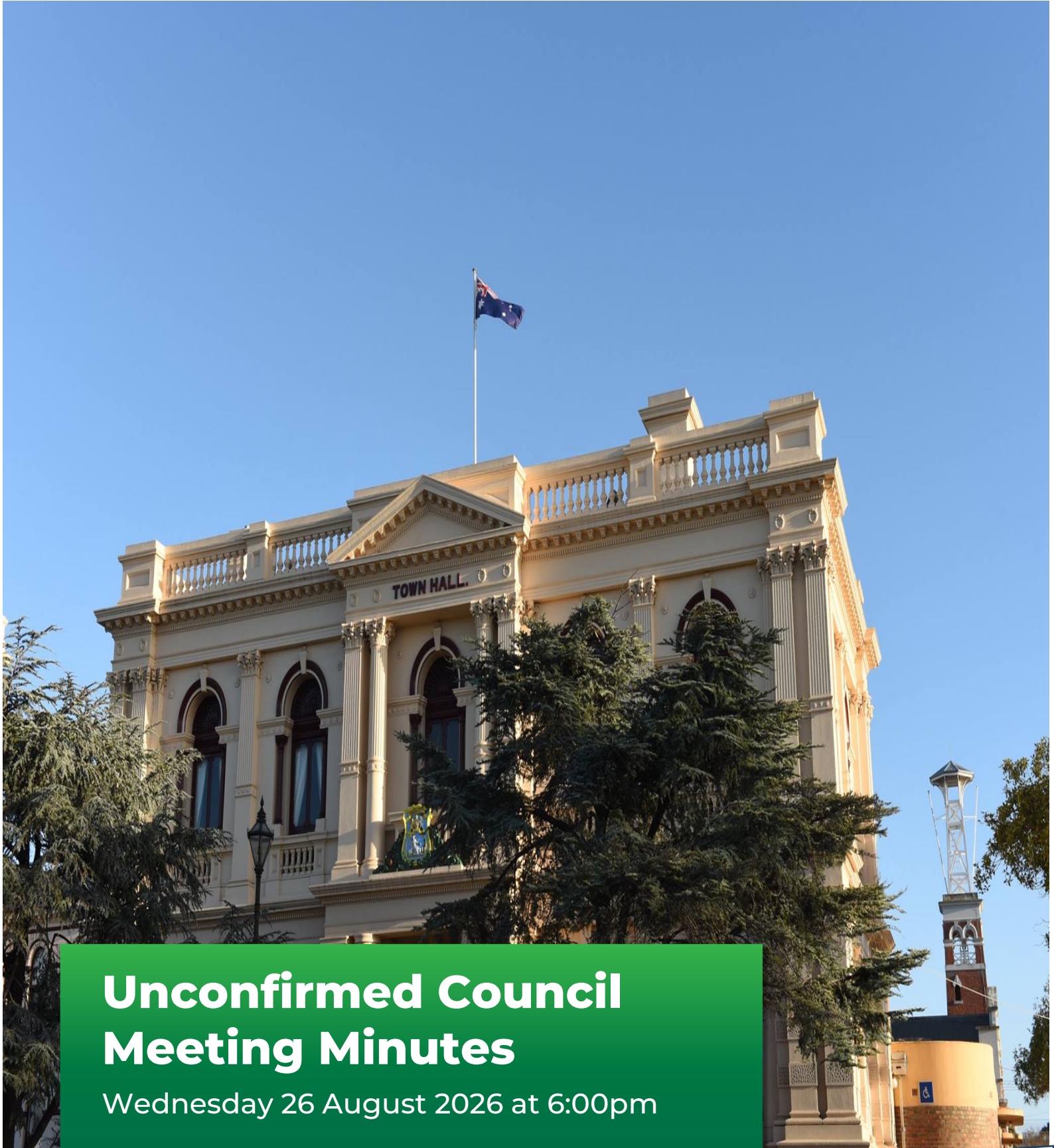




Unconfirmed Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 26 August 2026 at 6:00pm

Maryborough Town Hall, 71 Clarendon Street, Maryborough.

The meeting commenced at 6:00pm.

PRESENT

Councillors:

Ben Green (Deputy Mayor) (Online)

Anna de Villiers (Deputy Mayor)

Grace La Vella

Geoff Bartlett

Liesbeth Long

Jake Meyer

Gerard Murphy (Online)

Officers:

Chief Executive Officer, Peter Harriott

Director Community Wellbeing, Emma Little

Acting Director Assets and Planning, Bhavin Mehta

Director Corporate Services, Liam Routledge (Minute Taker)

Interim Manager Governance and Risk, Rob Duoba

1 Welcome

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

2 Apologies and Leave of Absence

There were no Apologies or Leaves of Absence declared.

3 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

A Conflict of Interest was declared by the CEO, Peter Harriott for Item 10.2; Confidential Business at 7:00pm after the Council Resolution that Council resolve to admit the matter Chief Executive Officer Annual Performance Review and Remuneration as Urgent Business for consideration at this meeting.

The item was discussed under Item 10 as this was deemed as Confidential Business.

4 Confirmation of Minutes from Previous Council Meetings

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 22 July 2026 be confirmed with the following corrections;

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Place on record its sadness and regret at the recent passing of Mr. Chris Meddows-Taylor and;
2. Record its appreciation for the contribution by Mr. Meddows-Taylor during his terms as Mayor and Councillor, and to the Central Goldfields community; and
3. Extend its sympathy and condolences to Mr Meddows-Taylor's partner, family, and friends.

Moved: Cr Green

Seconded: Cr La Vella

CARRIED

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council resume standing orders.

Moved: Cr Green

Seconded: Cr Bartlett

CARRIED

5 Minutes of Delegated and Advisory Committees

There were no minutes of Delegated and Advisory Committees.

6 Petitions

There were no Petitions presented.

7 Council Reports

7.1 2025 Energy Breakthrough Evaluation

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Notes the evaluation outcomes of the 2025 Energy Breakthrough event; and
2. Acknowledges the positive economic, community and educational impacts generated by the event.

Moved: Cr Long

Seconded: Cr Murphy

CARRIED

7.2 Bristol Hill Urban Bike Park - Feasibility Review and Project Closure

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Note that the Bristol Hill Urban Bike Park project has been cancelled due to the identification of significant factors limiting site viability. The initial grant funding from Sport and Recreation Victoria will be returned.
2. Note that ending the project at this stage is expected to preserve \$28,598 of the Council contribution that would otherwise have been required if the project continued.
3. Note that alternative cycling infrastructure opportunities will be identified in future that present a greater likelihood of successful delivery and community benefit.

Moved: Cr Grace La Vella

Seconded: Cr Geoff Bartlett

CARRIED

7.3 Walking and Cycling Strategy

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Endorses the Draft Walking and Cycling 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 Walking and Cycling Strategy will be presented back to Council for adoption following completion of community consultation.
4. Resolves to recommence the Walking and Cycling Advisory Committee to provide ongoing community input, advice and advocacy in relation to the implementation, monitoring and review of the Walking and Cycling Strategy, including opportunities for community engagement and advocacy for identified priorities, with the Committee to comprise:
 - 6–8 community members, appointed through an expression of interest process;
 - at least one Councillor representative, appointed by Council and;
 - one Council Officer, responsible for administrative support and minute taking

Moved: Cr Grace La Vella

Seconder: Cr Gerard Murphy

CARRIED

7.4 Update to the S6 Instrument of Delegation; Council to members of staff

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council defer the item until the next Council Meeting.

Moved: Cr Geoff Bartlett

Seconder: Cr Jake Meyer

CARRIED

8 General and other Urgent Business

8. URGENT BUSINESS

Chief Executive Officer Annual Performance Review and Remuneration

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council resolve to admit the matter Chief Executive Officer Annual Performance Review and Remuneration as Urgent Business for consideration at this meeting.
This will be discussed in Item 10 as this is deemed as Confidential Business.

Moved; Cr La Vella
Seconded; Cr Green

CARRIED

Reason for Urgency

Council's Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy requires the Chief Executive Officer's annual performance review to be completed within two months of the Chief Executive Officer's employment anniversary date.

The Chief Executive Officer's employment anniversary date is 1 July 2026, meaning the annual performance review must be completed by 1 September 2026.

The Chief Executive Officer Employment Matters Advisory Committee has completed the Chief Executive Officer's annual performance review and has made recommendations to Council regarding the outcome of the review and the Chief Executive Officer's remuneration.

The next scheduled ordinary Council meeting occurs after the 1 September 2026 deadline.

Accordingly, consideration of this matter at today's Council meeting is necessary to enable Council to comply with the time frame prescribed by its own Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy.

Deferring consideration until the next scheduled Council meeting would result in Council being unable to complete the Chief Executive Officer's annual performance review within the time frame required by the Policy.

The matter therefore cannot safely or conveniently be deferred and is appropriately considered as Urgent Business at this evening's meeting.

9 Notices of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion presented.

10 Confidential Business

10.1 Move into Confidential

Item 10.2 is considered confidential and has been provided under separate cover as it is confidential as defined under section 3 of the Local Government Act 2020:

- Section f. personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information
- Section k. information prescribed by the regulations to be confidential information for the purposes of this definition
- Section l. information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council close the meeting to the public in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 to consider confidential information.

Moved: Cr Grace La Vella

Seconder: Cr Jake Meyer

CARRIED

10.3 Move out of Confidential

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That the Council moves out of confidential session and resumes the open Council meeting.

Moved: Mayor Ben Green

Seconder: Cr Gerard Murphy

CARRIED

11 Meeting Closure

The Deputy Mayor, Cr de Villiers closed the Council Meeting at 7:10pm.