



Shire of
Plantagenet

Mount Barker • Kendenup • Narrikup
Porongurup • Rocky Gully

ORDINARY MINUTES

**An Ordinary Meeting of Council was held at the
Shire of Plantagenet Council Chambers, Mount Barker
on Tuesday 28 April 2025**

Julian Murphy
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Resolution numbers: 033/26 to 049/26

Please Note: Council Meetings are audio-recorded in accordance with Regulation 14I of the Local Government Regulations 1996.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE NO
1	DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS.....	3
2	RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / LEAVE OF ABSENCE (PREVIOUSLY APPROVED)	3
3	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	4
3.1	RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE	4
3.2	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME - SECTION 5.24 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1995.....	4
4	PETITIONS / DEPUTATIONS / PRESENTATIONS.....	4
4.1	PRESENTATION – SUE ETHERINGTON, PRESIDENT EMPOWERING PLANTAGENET SENIORS (EPS).....	4
4.2	PRESENTATION – ALAN GREENHALGH REPRESENTING KENDENUP COMMUNITY AND MEN’S SHED INC.	6
5	DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST.....	8
6	APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE	8
6.1	CR M O’DEA	9
7	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.....	9
7.1	ORDINARY MINUTES OF COUNCIL HELD 24 MARCH 2026	9
8	ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION	9
9	REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS.....	10
9.1	DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATORY SERVICES REPORTS	10
9.1.1	PROPOSED ADOPTION OF LOCAL PLANNING POLICY FOR DAMS & WATER FEATURES FOLLOWING PUBLIC ADVERTISING	10
9.2	INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSETS REPORTS	17

9.3 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORTS18

9.3.1 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – MARCH 2026 18

9.3.2 LIST OF ACCOUNTS – MARCH 2026.....21

9.3.3 RESERVE ACCOUNTS – 2025/2026 ANNUAL REVIEW24

9.3.4 COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM 2025/2026 – CATEGORIES
3 & 4, ROUND 2 APPLICATIONS28

9.4 EXECUTIVE SERVICES REPORTS.....35

10 MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN36

**11 NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY
DECISION OF THE MEETING36**

12 CONFIDENTIAL36

12.1.1 TENDER CO3-2526 WILSON PARK STAGE ONE36

12.1.2 APPOINTMENT OF CEO RECRUITMENT PANEL.....38

12.1.3 CODE OF CONDUCT BEHAVIOR COMPLAINT41

13 CLOSURE OF MEETING.....43

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 5.00pm.

The Presiding Member acknowledged the traditional custodians of our area and their continuing connection to the land and community. We pay our respects to all members of the Menang Noongar community and their culture; and to Elders past and present.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / LEAVE OF ABSENCE (PREVIOUSLY APPROVED)

Members Present:

Cr L Handasyde	President (Presiding Member)
Cr B Bell	Councillor
Cr R Brown	Councillor – Joined late electronically at 5:12pm
Cr K Clements	Councillor
Cr A Fraser	Councillor
Cr M O’Dea	Councillor
Cr K Tyrer	Councillor
Cr W Sheard	Councillor

In Attendance:

Mr Julian Murphy	Chief Executive Officer
Mr Kevin Hemmings	Executive Manager Infrastructure and Assets
Mr Anthony Middleton	Executive Manager Corporate & Community
Ms Kylie Caley	Manager Finance
Ms Nolene Wake	Executive Officer

Apologies:

Nil

Members of the Public Present:

There were 14 members of the public present at the meeting.

Previously Approved Leave of Absence

Cr J Liebeck

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The Shire of Plantagenet disclaims any liability for any loss whatsoever and howsoever caused arising out of reliance by any person or legal entity on any such act, omission, or statement of intimation occurring during Council / Committee meetings or discussions. Any person or legal entity who acts or fails to act in reliance upon any statement does so at that person's or legal entity's own risk.

In particular and without derogating in any way from the broad disclaimer above, in any discussion regarding any planning application or application for a licence, any statement or limitation or approval made by a member or officer of the Shire of Plantagenet during the course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not taken as notice of approval from the Shire of Plantagenet. The Shire of Plantagenet warns that anyone who has an application with the Shire of Plantagenet must obtain and should only rely on WRITTEN CONFIRMATION of the outcome of the application, and any conditions attaching to the decision made by the Shire of Plantagenet in respect of the application.'

Please Note: Council Meetings are recorded audio-recorded, in accordance with Regulation 14I of the Local Government Regulations 1996.

3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

3.1 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil

3.2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME - SECTION 5.24 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1995

Nil

4 PETITIONS / DEPUTATIONS / PRESENTATIONS

4.1 PRESENTATION – SUE ETHERINGTON, PRESIDENT EMPOWERING PLANTAGENET SENIORS (EPS)

Ms Etherington addressed the Council in relation to a Community Grant application for EPS; noted as follows:

All important information is in the grant application, but what led us here;

firstly though, what we have done to improve the Hall:

- *Connected NBN*
- *Lined the bus drive through to give us more room*
- *Purchased fridges, freezers and ovens and other kitchen appliances and utensils, also tableware*
- *Purchased a cool room*
- *Refloored the hall and craft room -\$30,000 – State govt grant*
- *A grant submitted for the purchase of two commercial freezers*
- *Purchased a 7-seater car for transporting seniors to and from the centre. Albany City Motors assisted, we paid \$9,000 and then after 2 offers of assistance were not forthcoming, we took out an interest free loan of \$30,000 from the Bendigo Bank, this loan will be paid out on 3 December 2026.*

Onto now; *the new Aged Care Act, we were told no SAH package holders would be worse off. **Wrong.** There are now copayments required. We now have pensioners in our shire having to decide whether to pay for house cleaning, have meals provided or have a shower.*

After much discussion, and submissions to the Federal Govt, from October this year there will be no extra charge (copayment) for a shower.

Meals - yes they can come up from Albany at \$15-\$20 per main meal, plus delivery. Most of these meals are prepared in Perth; Lite and Easy, also prepared in Perth. Most of our seniors are country people, 3 veg and meat, we can and are providing this, along with other tempting meals.

When any senior comes out of hospital after anything major, they are entitled to 6 weeks of respite, provided by Silver Chain, including assistance with meals. Most times there is a few days wait, we work with the Hospital Social worker, Jo Carter, to provide free meals, we have also provided free meals to homeless people and the disadvantaged.

We can do this as we have wonderful locals and people from Albany who donate fruit and vegetables weekly. In the beginning of this year, our volunteers processed over 100 kilos of fruit. It's not just a main meal we can provide, but dessert too. We have eggs provided (stamped) and some meat from the Cranbrook shire (stamped). We have had locals, when they have had their own meat butchered, offering us meat too, but we cannot accept this as it not officially stamped.

Compliance - we now have a Compliance Officer to make sure we do everything, officially and legally. We just can't package meals with a sticker on top saying what's in the container.

As a matter of interest, we have served 17,355 meals, mains and desserts, since opening on 20 August 2020.

In closing we hope that you all look favourably on our application for a cook so we can deliver GO-PHER meals. We are an aging population.

4.2 PRESENTATION – ALAN GREENHALGH REPRESENTING KENDENUP COMMUNITY AND MEN’S SHED INC.

Mr Greenhalgh addressed the Council seeking financial support for the construction of the new community and men’s shed; noted as follows:

Councillors, thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

My name is Alan Greenhalgh and I am here on behalf of the Kendenup Community and Men’s Shed Inc. to talk about a project that has the potential to make a lasting positive difference to our community.

Kendenup is changing and experiencing steady growth. 2021 ABS figures place the population at 1,062, while the 2026 census is expected to show the town is now home to 1,140 people, increasing to 1,305 by 2036. In addition, Kendenup draws from a wider rural catchment increasing the current effective service population to 1,300 – 1,600 people.

Regional planning benchmarks show that towns with 1,000 – 2,000 residents typically support:

- Community hubs and Men’s Sheds
- Visiting medical and allied-health services
- Youth and intergenerational programs
- Volunteer-led outreach initiatives

There is an unquestionable need for spaces and programs that currently don’t exist. We are talking about dedicated spaces that help people connect, learn, and support each other.

The facility we are proposing is much more than a men’s shed. It will be a community hub – a place designed for men and women, young people and seniors, families and volunteers. A place for community outreach programs, hands – on learning, intergenerational activities, and community resilience. It will become the focal point for Kendenup, filling an unmet need and fostering friendships, a sense of community and unity.

Importantly, this building will be a Shire owned asset. It will sit on Shire land, it will serve the whole community, while strengthening the Shire’s long-term infrastructure base.

Any new Shire asset requires essential services for the building to function safely and effectively. One of the most significant assets is the electrical supply. The current network in the area is inadequate and upgrading and connecting 3 phase power will cost at least \$100,000.

This is not an optional upgrade – it is a requirement for safe operation of workshop equipment, ventilation, heating and cooling and future community uses. And because this building will belong to the shire, we are hoping the shire can manage and fund this essential service connection, just as it would for any other shire facility.

Practical civil works are also needed, such as, the driveway, crossover, and car parking spaces. These are standard in-kind contributions that local governments typically provide when developing community infrastructure on Shire land. They ensure the building is accessible, compliant and safe for all users. If the shire could carry out these civil works, it would be of great value to KCMS in our endeavours.

KCMS wants to emphasise that these contributions are not only reasonable – they make economic sense.

Investing in essential services and civil works now:

- Reduces future maintenance and upgrade costs.
- Ensures the building is fit for purpose from day one.
- Protects the value of the shire's own asset
- And avoids the far higher cost of retrofitting later.

In other words, early investment is the most cost-effective approach for the shire over the life of the building.

Your support is also crucial for another reason. Lotterywest has indicated that they will only fund 50% of the project. The other 50% must be sourced elsewhere.

While some of our own members are digging into their own savings indicating their commitment to the project, we are also seeking funding from other sources. Nevertheless, a demonstration of meaningful commitment from local government is not just helpful - it is the key that unlocks major external investment.

This is a genuine partnership opportunity.

Community volunteers, local fundraising, in-kind support, and external grants will all play a role. The Shire's involvement completes the picture and ensures the project is viable, sustainable and aligned with broader community goals.

Let me touch on what the community hub will deliver.

It will provide a safe, welcoming place for people who are isolated or struggling – something especially important in rural towns where mental health challenges often go unseen.

It will support young people who don't always find their place in sport, offering hands-on learning, mentoring, and a sense of belonging.

It will give retirees and seniors opportunities to stay active, and engaged, and socially connected.

It will create space for workshops, training, wellbeing programs, and partnerships with the schools, The Kendenup Progress Association, The Kendenup Townhall, service providers and emergency services.

It will strengthen Kendenup's resilience – supplying a central place for coordination and support when challenges arise.

Councillors, this is the kind of infrastructure that helps a small town thrive.

- It keeps people connected.
- It keeps people healthy.
- It keeps people in the town.
- It keeps the town growing and thriving.

Your contribution will unlock external funding, support community effort, and deliver a Shire-owned asset that will serve thousands of residents over its lifetime while representing a sound, long term economic investment.

On behalf of our volunteers, our families, and the people of Kendenup, I urge you to support this project.

Thank you for listening and for your ongoing support for the community.

5 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Part 5 Division 6 Local Government Act 1995

Cr B Bell

Item: 12.1.3 Code of Conduct Behaviour Complaint
Type: Impartiality pursuant to Schedule 1, Clause 22 of the Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021.
Nature: Accused of the breach.
Extent: N/A
Will be leaving the meeting.

Cr K Clements

Item: 12.1.3 Code of Conduct Behaviour Complaint
Type: Impartiality pursuant to Schedule 1, Clause 22 of the Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021.
Nature: Issued the breach.
Extent: N/A
Will be leaving the meeting.

6 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Section 5.25 Local Government Act 1995

6.1 CR M O'DEA

Moved Cr B Bell, seconded Cr W Sheard:

That Cr M O'Dea be granted Leave of Absence for the period 20 June 2026 to 28 June 2026 inclusive.

CARRIED (8/0)

NO. 033/26

For: Crs Handasyde, Bell, Brown, Clements,
Fraser, O'Dea, Tyrer and Sheard
Against: Nil

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**7.1 ORDINARY MINUTES OF COUNCIL HELD 24 MARCH 2026**

Moved Cr W Sheard, seconded Cr M O'Dea:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Shire of Plantagenet, held on 24 March 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED (8/0)

NO. 034/26

For: Crs Handasyde, Bell, Brown, Clements,
Fraser, O'Dea, Tyrer and Sheard
Against: Nil

8 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION

The President noted the passing of Cecilia (Cis) Sounness at the age of 103, acknowledging her many contributions to community groups in her long life.

9 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS

9.1 DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATORY SERVICES REPORTS

9.1.1 PROPOSED ADOPTION OF LOCAL PLANNING POLICY FOR DAMS & WATER FEATURES FOLLOWING PUBLIC ADVERTISING

Synergy Ref:	N67834
Attachment:	<u>A – Proposed Final Local Planning Policy No. 8 – Dams & Water Features</u> <u>B – Public Submissions to Draft Local Planning Policy No. 8</u> <u>C – Advice from the Department of Water & Environmental Regulation</u> <u>D – State Planning Policy 2.9 and extract from WAPC Planning for Water Guidelines</u> <u>E – Information Brochure – ‘Dams & Water Features’</u>
Responsible Officer:	André Pinto, Executive Manager Development & Regulatory Services
Author:	André Pinto, Executive Manager Development & Regulatory Services
Proprietor/Applicant:	n/a
Proposed Meeting Date:	28 April 2026

PURPOSE

This report recommends Council adopt a modified version of proposed *Local Planning Policy No. 8 – Dams & Water Features* following the completion of public advertising and further discussion with Council. The changes are outlined in this report with the final version of the policy included as **Attachment A**.

BACKGROUND

On 22 July 2025 a report was presented to the Council detailing the proposed introduction of a new *Local Planning Policy No. 8 – Dams & Water Features*. In summary, this report outlined:

- The construction of dams and water features is considered as development under the *Planning and Development Act 2005* and development (planning) approval is therefore required unless an exemption is provided for within the local planning scheme or a local planning policy.
 - As the Shire does not currently have any adopted exemptions, approval is required for dams of any size in any zone.
-

- A local planning policy is proposed as a way to introduce exemptions for dams and water features that are within specified 'acceptable development standards' and are considered relatively low risk.
- Proposed dams that are outside of these specified standards require approval and the proposed policy provides criteria for assessment. This acts as a safeguard for proposals that potentially have higher risk.
- The proposed policy is weighted towards supporting dams for productive rural land uses and weighted away from aesthetic or ornamental water features.
- The proposed policy does not address the availability of water within a catchment area as this is a matter assessed and regulated by the Department of Water & Environmental Regulation (DWER).
- The proposed policy will remove the need for Shire approval for the majority of dams, including most dams constructed without prior approval.

Council endorsed Draft Local Planning Policy No. 8 for the purpose of public consultation.

EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

Public advertising of proposed LPP 8 took place between 28 July and 25 August 2025, providing for a comment period exceeding the minimum requirement of 21 days.

Public notification occurred via the following means:

- Notice and publication of the draft policies on the Shire's website
- Notice in the Shire's social media
- Notice in Plantagenet News

Six submissions were received during the public comment period and one late submission was received after the public comment period. All submissions received are detailed in **Attachment B** including officer responses to the matters raised.

The most common issues raised in submissions were:

- The need for farming properties to have larger dams
- The shortage of qualified engineers to service dam construction projects
- Concerns about increased regulation

Responses to these issues are discussed in the Officer Comment section of this report.

The Department of Water & Environmental Regulation also provided advice relating to the proposed policy, as detailed at **Attachment C**. This advice provides guidance relating to how the Department regulates water use as well as direction for the levels at which to set requirements for engineering

certification, geotechnical investigations and hydrology reports. Proposed LPP 8 has been updated to be consistent with this guidance.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local planning policies are prepared, advertised and adopted in accordance with Part 2 of Schedule 2 of the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015*.

Existing and proposed local planning policies operate as subsidiary to *Local Planning Scheme No. 5* in providing guidance for discretionary decision making and the assessment of development requiring approval under the Scheme.

In the event the Council adopts LPP 8 as recommended in this report this will be given effect through publication on the Shire's website and a copy of each policy being made available at the Shire's administration offices (as per Schedule 2, Part 2, Clause 4(4) of the Regulations).

On 16 December 2025 the WA Planning Commission adopted a finalised version of *State Planning Policy 2.9 – Water* (SPP 2.9) and accompanying *Planning for Water Guidelines* (the Guidelines). SPP 2.9 provides for local planning schemes and policies to set development standards and exemptions from approval that are appropriate to the local context. The Guidelines also generally outline the matters that are to be considered as part of planning assessment for dams.

SPP 2.9 and an extract from the Guidelines (section directly relating to dams) are included as **Attachment D** to this report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report recommends final adoption of *Local Planning Policy No. 8 – Dams & Water Features*.

If adopted by Council, public notice will be given of the adoption of the policy to meet the requirements of the Regulations and to more generally inform our community. The policy will then form part of the local planning framework for the purposes of determining planning approval requirements and assessing planning applications.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

By increasing the range of development that is exempt from planning approval, the Shire will no longer receive certain types of applications and the associated fees. However, this is considered to have positive economic benefits within the community as low-risk forms of development are enabled with fewer approval requirements.

Shire staff will in many cases still be required to provide advice to development proponents as well as complete a planning compliance check before a building permit is processed. Process improvement will focus on improving communication materials to enable customer self-service and streamlining compliance checks to minimise resource requirements.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications for this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Improving the effectiveness and legibility of the policies discussed in the report will potentially reduce instances of planning applications being appealed to the State Administrative Tribunal.

It is noted that many landowners within the Shire have historically constructed dams without planning approval. By introducing exemptions from the need for approval for the most common sizes of dams LPP 8 will remove any retrospective requirement for planning approval.

ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no asset management implications as no assets are being created or acquired.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The Shire of Plantagenet Corporate Business Plan 2025 – 2029 provides:

At *Key Pillar 3 – Develop Our Economy* the following:

Strategy 3.5 – Lead and encourage development via a structured planning vision

Corporate Action 3.5.2 – Local Planning Scheme No.5 (2021) review (constant ongoing minor reviews)

At *Key Pillar 4 – Performance & Leadership* the following:

Strategy 4.3 – Commitment to continuous improvement in service delivery

Corporate Action 4.3.1 – Implement review processes in service delivery on a regular basis and as needed

Accordingly, the recommended outcome for this report aligns with the Corporate Business Plan.

RISK MITIGATION IMPLICATIONSLow Risk

This item has been evaluated against the Shire of Plantagenet Risk Assessment and Acceptance Criteria. The perceived level of risk is considered to be “Low” risk and can be managed by routine procedures and with currently available resources.

STRATEGIC RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are no strategic risk implications for this report.

REGIONAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no regional implications for this report.

OFFICER COMMENT

Public consultation provided valuable feedback which has enabled officers to review the draft policy in detail. As a result, several changes are proposed to address the matters that were raised as concerns within the submissions received.

- *The need for farming properties to have larger dams*

In response to this feedback, officers recommend amending the draft policy to include an additional 'acceptable development' category which provides for dams of up to 4ha on Rural zoned lots greater than 60 hectares.

This will allow for farming properties to have larger dams without the need for planning approval, noting that proposals for dams even larger than this can be approved by the Shire if consistent with the objectives of the policy.

- *The shortage of qualified engineers to service dam construction projects*

In response to this feedback, officers contacted two locally based engineering firms to seek informal advice on how they would approach certifying the construction of dams. It was noted that there are generally few engineers that specialise in this area and it was suggested that the Shire's approach is based on the level of apparent risk, with the need for specialist input considered relative to dam size and downstream conditions.

In addition, the advice received from the Department of Water & Environmental Regulation has suggested setting engineering requirements at a higher level.

As a result, officers recommend several changes to the proposed policy:

- An additional assessment criteria relating to safety and risk
- An additional section (part 6.3) with amended engineering requirements:
 - Engineering requested as standard for dams over 50,000m³ or with a dam wall over 10.0m in height
 - The ability for the Shire to request engineering certification where there is a significant risk to public infrastructure or private assets downstream
 - Clear assignment of responsibility and liability to the landowner

This approach is suggested as a reasonable compromise between the desire of landowners to minimise development costs and the responsibility of the Shire to ensure that the development of large dams does not result in a significant risk to life or property, and is based on advice received from the Department of Water & Environmental Regulation.

- *Concerns about increased regulation*

This is an unfounded concern – the proposed policy removes an existing requirement for planning approval for the majority of dams that are developed within the Shire.

Other minor recommended changes to the policy are:

- Providing clarification in Part 6 of the policy that the proposed exemptions from approval apply in certain Rural Residential zones only (the policy cannot override a specific requirement for approval in the Scheme for the other Rural Residential zones)
- Providing clarification in Part 6.1 of the policy that exemptions for small dams apply to all Rural and Rural Smallholdings zoned lots (not just lots under 10ha).
- Adding guidance as to when a hydrology report may be required, providing detail of the impact on localised water resources. This requirement will apply to large dams only where there is the potential to impact on other water users or the environment. This addresses requirements of State Planning Policy 2.9 and reflects the advice provided by the Department of Water & Environmental Regulation.

Furthermore, at the February 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting, Council opted to not adopt the policy at the time, and requested further changes were discussed. At the March 2026 Council Forum, discussions between Councillors and Officers occurred, mainly around the allowances provided under *Table 6.1- Acceptable Development Standards*, particularly around allowances for Rural Lots. Council felt these needed to be increased further, officers highlighted concerns around opening the policy up too much for its initial version. In turn, Council and Officers came to agree on a 'matrix table' approach for the Rural lots, essentially the larger the lot size, the greater the cumulative dam surface area could be based on a ratio. A ratio was then also discussed for the dam wall heights, as the wall height increases, so does the required setback from the lot boundary. These changes have now been made to the policy accordingly.

The recommended changes to the policy alter details relating to approval requirements and do not affect the overall intent of the policy. For this reason officers do not consider there to be a need to re-advertise any of these proposed changes.

All of these proposed changes are included in the recommended final version of the policy included as **Attachment A**.

To help communicate approval requirements to landowners, officers have prepared an information brochure based on the recommended final policy. This brochure is included as **Attachment E** to this report.

Proposed *Local Planning Policy No. 8 – Dams & Water Features* will remove the requirement for approval for the majority of dams, establish clear standards to help guide landowners, and provide assessment criteria to help the Shire assess planning applications. Overall, this will improve the clarity of development standards and reduce unnecessary 'red tape' for low-risk development.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL DECISION

Moved Cr K Clements, seconded Cr K Tyrer:

That Council adopts *Local Planning Policy No. 8 – Dams & Water Features*, inclusive of proposed modifications, as presented.

CARRIED (8/0)

NO. 035/26

For: Crs Handasyde, Bell, Brown, Clements,
Fraser, O'Dea, Tyrer and Sheard
Against: Nil

9.2 INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSETS REPORTS

Nil

9.3 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORTS

9.3.1 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – MARCH 2026

File Ref:	N67911
Attachment:	<u>Monthly Financial Report – March 2026</u>
Responsible Officer:	Anthony Middleton Executive Manager Corporate & Community
Author:	Kylie Caley Manager of Finance
Proposed Meeting Date:	28 April 2026

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the monthly financial reports for the month ending 31 March 2026.

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, regulation 34 states that a local government must prepare each month a statement of financial activity reporting on the revenue and expenditure, as set out in the annual budget.

Variances between budgeted and actual expenditure including the required material variances (10% with a minimum value of \$20,000) are included in the variance report.

EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

Nil

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

s.6.4 *Local Government Act 1995*, Part 6 - Financial Management
r. 34 *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*
r. 35 *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Policy implications do not apply for this report and it is the opinion of the author that policy development is not required.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This item reports on the current financial position of the Shire. The recommendation does not in itself have a financial implication.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications for this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications for this report.

ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no asset management implications as no assets are being created or acquired.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The Shire of Plantagenet Corporate Business Plan 2025 - 2029 provides:

At Key Pillar 4 Performance & Leadership the following:

Strategy 4.2:

‘A Shire that is open and transparent with its community.’

Corporate Action 4.2.3 - Develop effective reporting and communication tools relevant to the way our community access information

Strategy 4.3:

‘Commitment to continuous improvement in service delivery.’

Corporate Action 4.3.2 - Be transparent with our financial management by reporting regularly readable and meaningful financial data to the community

Accordingly, the recommended outcome for this report aligns with the Corporate Business Plan.

STRATEGIC RISK IMPLICATIONSLow Risk

This item has been evaluated against the Shire of Plantagenet Risk Assessment and Acceptance Criteria. The perceived level of risk is considered to be “Low” risk and can be managed by routine procedures and with currently available resources.

REGIONAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no regional implications for this report.

OFFICER COMMENT

The attached Statement of Financial Activity for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026 represents nine (9) months, or 75% of the year. The following items are worthy of noting:

- Closing surplus position of \$2.23m;
- Operating results:
 - 60% of budgeted operating revenue has been received; and
 - 74% of budgeted operating expenditure spent;

- Capital expenditure achieved 21.6% of budgeted projects, including:
 - Land & Buildings 9%
 - Furniture & Equipment 34%
 - Plant & Equipment 53%
 - Infrastructure – Roads, Drainage, & Footpaths 59%
 - Infrastructure – Parks & Ovals 3%
 - Infrastructure – Other 6%
- Cash holdings of \$9m of which \$7.6m is held in cash backed reserve accounts;
- Rates debtors outstanding equate to 7.7% of total rates raised for 2025/2026 (this includes deferred pensioner rates); and
- Page 10 of the statements detail major variations from year to date (amended) budgets.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL DECISION

Moved Cr B Bell, seconded Cr M O’Dea:

That Council notes the monthly financial statements for the period ending 31 March 2026 as presented.

CARRIED (8/0)

NO. 036/26

**For: Crs Handasyde, Bell, Brown, Clements,
Fraser, O’Dea, Tyrer and Sheard
Against: Nil**

9.3.2 LIST OF ACCOUNTS – MARCH 2026

File Ref:	N67912
Attachment:	<u>List of Accounts – March 2026</u>
Responsible Officer:	Anthony Middleton Executive Manager Corporate & Community
Author:	Kylie Caley Manager of Finance
Proposed Meeting Date:	28 April 2026

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the list of payments that were made during the month of March 2026.

EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

No external consultation has occurred in relation to this report.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

This information is provided to Council monthly in accordance with provisions of the *Local Government Act 1995* and *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*.

Regulation 12(1)(a) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* provides that payment may only be made from the municipal fund or trust fund if the Local Government has delegated the function to the Chief Executive Officer.

Regulation 13 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* provides that if the function of authorising payments is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, then a list of payments is to be presented to the Council at the next ordinary meeting and recorded in the minutes.

Regulation 13A of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* provides that a list of payments must be prepared and presented to Council each month for all credit, debit, or purchasing cards utilised by authorised employees during the month.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Council Policy – Purchasing Policy

Council Policy – Corporate Credit Card Policy

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Expenditure is in accordance with the 2025/2026 Annual Budget.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications for this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications for this report.

ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no asset management implications as no assets are being created or acquired.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The Shire of Plantagenet Corporate Business Plan 2025 - 2029 provides:

At Key Pillar 4 Performance & Leadership the following:

Strategy 4.2:

‘A Shire that is open and transparent with its community.’

Corporate Action 4.2.3 - Develop effective reporting and communication tools relevant to the way our community access information

Strategy 4.3:

‘Commitment to continuous improvement in service delivery.’

Corporate Action 4.3.2 - Be transparent with our financial management by reporting regularly readable and meaningful financial data to the community

Accordingly, the recommended outcome for this report aligns with the Corporate Business Plan.

RISK MITIGATION IMPLICATIONSLow Risk

This item has been evaluated against the Shire of Plantagenet Risk Assessment and Acceptance Criteria. The perceived level of risk is considered to be “Low” risk and can be managed by routine procedures and with currently available resources.

STRATEGIC RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are no strategic risk implications for this report.

REGIONAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no regional implications for this report.

OFFICER COMMENT

Accountability in local government encompasses various dimensions, as councils strive to fulfill a range of social, political, and financial objectives for the community's benefit.

These accountability principles are rooted in strong financial integrity, adherence to conflict-of-interest standards, and the expectation that local governments are fully responsible for community resources.

Council has delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer to make payments from the Shire's Municipal and Trust funds as required.

All payments are independently evaluated by the Manager of Finance to verify that expenditures are for the Shire of Plantagenet and comply with Council policies, procedures, the *Local Government Act 1995*, and relevant regulations. The review also ensures there is no misuse of corporate credit or fuel purchase cards.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL DECISION

Moved Cr K Clements, seconded Cr A Fraser:

That Council receives the list of accounts paid during the month of March 2026 as per the attached Schedule of Payments, and as summarised below:

Municipal Account (inclusive of credit card and fuel card purchases

Cheque Payments	47306	\$1,866.00
EFT Payments	EFT9787 – EFT9956	\$1,831,081.67
Direct Debit Payments		\$157,608.86
EFT Payroll Payments		\$506,177.50
Total Municipal Account Payments		\$2,496,734.03
Licensing Trust Account		
Direct Debit Payments		\$ 150,948.50
Total Licensing Trust Account Payments		\$ 150,948.50
TOTAL OF ALL ACCOUNTS		\$2,647,682.53

CARRIED (8/0)

NO. 037/26

For: Crs Handasyde, Bell, Brown, Clements,
Fraser, O'Dea, Tyrer and Sheard
Against: Nil

9.3.3 RESERVE ACCOUNTS – 2025/2026 ANNUAL REVIEW

File Ref:	N67940
Attachment:	<u>Annual Review of Reserve Accounts 2025/2026</u>
Responsible Officer:	Julian Murphy Chief Executive Officer
Author:	Anthony Middleton Executive Manager – Corporate & Community
Proposed Meeting Date:	28 April 2026

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to undertake a review of the appropriateness and balance of each reserve account and consider a Council Policy setting parameters around reserve account operations.

BACKGROUND

Section 6.11 of the *Local Government Act 1995* states that '*where a local government wishes to set aside money for use for a purpose in a future financial year, it is to establish and maintain a reserve account for each such purpose*'.

Cash reserves are established and maintained to accumulate funds for the following purposes:

1. To smooth funding allocations over future years (e.g. Plant reserve);
2. To offset liabilities in respect of previously earned employee entitlements to the extent they require an outflow of funds not allocated in the annual budget (e.g. Employee Entitlements reserve);
3. To meet statutory obligations (e.g. Public Open Space – WAPC 99183 reserve);
4. To fund the renewal of existing physical/built assets (e.g. Hockey Ground Carpet Replacement reserve);
5. To fund future strategic initiatives and the provision of new services and facilities to future residents (e.g. Mount Barker Swimming Pool Revitalisation reserve);
6. To buffer against unpredictable events (e.g. Natural Disaster reserve);
7. To hold unspent grants and contributions (e.g. Spring Road Roadworks reserve); and/or
8. Other purposes as determined by the Council from time to time.

The 2024/2025 review of reserve accounts was adopted by the Council at its meeting held 26 November 2024.

EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

Nil

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Section 6.11 of the *Local Government Act 1995* legislates reserve accounts.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Policy implications do not apply for this report. It is recommended that a new policy be created addressing specific reserve account treatments and minimum balances. For example, operating profits from the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards be transferred to the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards Capital Improvement reserve.

A recommended draft policy is attached.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

While the report does not in itself have a financial implication on the 'bottom line' of this year's finances, reserve accounts are one of the primary funding sources for major projects and a very important financial tool in managing the finances of the Shire day-to-day.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications for this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications for this report.

ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Reserve accounts can be used as a saving/funding mechanism for key asset upgrades and renewal, such as the several building renewal reserve accounts that have been established in the past. This item is central to good asset management and the ability to fund identified major upgrades, renewal and replacement of assets as identified in the asset management plan.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The Shire of Plantagenet Corporate Business Plan 2025 – 2029 provides:

At *Key Pillar 4 - Performance & Leadership* the following:

Strategy 4.3 – Commitment to continuous improvement in service delivery

Corporate Action 4.3.1 - Implement review processes in service delivery on a regular basis and as needed

Corporate Action 4.3.2 - Be transparent with our financial management by reporting regularly readable and meaningful financial data to the community

Accordingly, the recommended outcome for this report aligns with the Corporate Business Plan.

RISK MITIGATION IMPLICATIONS

Low Risk

This item has been evaluated against the Shire of Plantagenet Risk Assessment and Acceptance Criteria. The perceived level of risk is considered to be “Low” risk and can be managed by routine procedures and with currently available resources.

STRATEGIC RISK IMPLICATIONS

Maintaining a suitable forward planning process that is intrinsically linked to long term financial planning minimises many risks, including those associated with the funding of major projects or the provision of essential equipment and infrastructure.

REGIONAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no regional implications for this report.

OFFICER COMMENT

The attached review of reserve accounts seeks to ask the following questions:

1. Are existing reserve account definitions/purposes appropriate?
2. Do existing reserves cover all major future expenditure?
3. Are existing reserve account balances sufficient?
4. Is the operational parameters of reserve accounts clearly defined and agreed upon?

The existing reserve accounts held by the Shire have been well managed in the past according to a variety of ad-hoc criteria and processes. It is recommended that these criteria and processes be defined in writing and form part of a Council Policy to ensure they receive (at minimum) an annual review.

It is recommended that a new policy be created addressing specific reserve account treatments and minimum balances. For example, operating profits from the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards be transferred to the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards Capital Improvement reserve.

A recommended draft policy is attached.

Changes to reserve accounts are best implemented through the budget process and decisions on allocating more funds to reserve accounts cannot be made solely with an affordability lens being applied. As such, it is suggested that the

recommendations contained within the attached reserve account review are implemented via the 2026/2027 annual budget process.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL DECISION

Moved Cr W Sheard, seconded Cr R Brown:

That Council:

1. Receives the 'Annual Review of Reserve Accounts 2025/2026', as proposed;
2. Refers the recommendations contained within the review to the Draft 2026/2027 Budget for consideration; and
3. Adopts the draft policy titled 'Financial Management – Reserve Accounts', as proposed.

CARRIED (8/0)

NO. 038/26

**For: Crs Handasyde, Bell, Brown, Clements,
Fraser, O'Dea, Tyrer and Sheard
Against: Nil**

9.3.4 COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM 2025/2026 – CATEGORIES 3 & 4, ROUND 2 APPLICATIONS

Synergy Ref:	N67903
Attachment:	<u>1. Guidelines</u>
Responsible Officer:	Nicole Selesnew – Manager Community and Recreation Services
Author:	Isabelle Draffehn – Coordinator Community Events and Initiatives
Proposed Meeting Date:	28 April 2026

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to consider the Category 3 & 4 grant applications received in round 2 of the 2025/2026 Community Grant Program.

BACKGROUND

The Community Grant Program (CGP) aims to support projects that build community capacity, promote social participation and inclusion, and enhance community harmony. The CGP process was reviewed and updated in May 2025 to simplify application requirements for community volunteers, extend the application period for smaller and more straightforward grant requests, and better distinguish between different types of funding (e.g. industry support) to enable clearer comparison between applications. This review has been well received by both staff and community groups seeking funding. A copy of the CGP Guidelines is attached (Attachment 1).

Four (4) CGP categories are available:

- CEO Donation (up to \$1,000)
- Quick Response Grant (less than \$3,000)
- Community Grant (more than \$3,000)
- Industry Support (Triennium Community Grants)

There are two (2) funding rounds annually for Category 3 grants: Round 1 (August to September) and Round 2 (February to March).

Category 3 grants are open to incorporated not-for-profit organisations and charities, as well as unincorporated not-for-profit organisations applying through the auspice of an incorporated body. Applications must address the selection criteria outlined in the guidelines and include all required supporting documentation, such as budgets, receipts, quotes, and letters of support.

The following items are not eligible for funding under Category 3 grants:

- Alcohol
-

- Items that directly benefit an individual
- Contributions toward the applicant's operating costs (e.g. rent, wages, utility costs), excluding Shire fees and charges such as hall hire and waste fees
- Political activities

Category 4 grants are generally offered once annually (February to March). However, to support the transition to the revised process, a second round was advertised for 2025/2026 in conjunction with the Category 3 grant process.

Category 4 grants are open to incorporated not-for-profit organisations and charities, as well as unincorporated not-for-profit organisations applying through the auspice of an incorporated body. The assessment process includes a presentation to Council, which occurred prior to this meeting, as only one Category 4 application was received in this round.

A key distinction of Category 4 grants, compared to Categories 1–3, is that funding may be used for operating costs (e.g. rent, wages, and utility expenses) and funds may be approved for a three (3) year period, providing greater certainty for community organisations in planning their operations.

The following items are not eligible for funding under Category 4 grants:

- Alcohol
- Items that directly benefit an individual
- Political activities

Further details regarding ineligible items and program objectives are provided in the attached guidelines.

This agenda item relates to the 2025/2026 Category 3 and 4, Round 2 applications only.

EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

Round 2 of the CGP was promoted through local media. Consultation between Shire staff and applicants occurred as part of the application process.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

There is no statutory environment relevant for this report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The revised Community Grant Program Guidelines (Attachment 1) were adopted as Council Policy on 24 February 2026.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The adopted 2025/2026 Annual Budget allocates a total of \$155,000 to the Community Grant Program. To date, 24 applications have been supported in the 2025/2026 financial year, with total funding of \$148,463.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Applications submitted under Categories 3 and 4 in this funding round will be assessed for inclusion in the 2026/2027 Community Grant Program budget.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications for this report.

ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no asset management implications as no assets are being created or acquired.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The Shire of Plantagenet Corporate Business Plan 2025 – 2029 provides:

At *Key Pillar 1 - Community* the following:

Strategy 1.9 - Encourage and support the retention and attraction of volunteers

Corporate Action 1.9.2 - Review the annual grants program to ensure its relevant to clubs and association needs

At *Key Pillar 4 - Performance & Leadership* the following:

Strategy 4.4 - A progressive Shire with diverse thinking

Corporate Action 4.4.2 - Community Grant Program - Establish a grant program to support local businesses and community groups in delivering place-based projects, public art, and events

Accordingly, the recommended outcome for this report aligns with the Corporate Business Plan.

RISK MITIGATION IMPLICATIONSLow Risk

This item has been evaluated against the Shire of Plantagenet Risk Assessment and Acceptance Criteria. The perceived level of risk is considered to be “Low” risk and can be managed by routine procedures and with currently available resources.

STRATEGIC RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are no strategic risk implications for this report.

REGIONAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no regional implications for this report.

OFFICER COMMENT

The following provides a summary of Category 3 and 4 applications received for round 2, along with the relevant officer recommendations and comments:

Applicant	Project Summary	\$'s Requested	\$'s Recommended	Officer Comment
Mount Barker Senior Cricket Club	Mount Barker Firebirds – Game on Girls program 2026/2027 (8-week program in term 3 at the Mount Barker Recreation Centre)	\$5,000	\$0	Requires further work and refinement, incomplete application – suggest that support be given to equipment and Rec Centre usage under Category 2 of CGP.
Second Act Arts Inc.	Chronicle: Plantagenet Stories (Community arts initiative)	\$7,500	\$0	For consideration through other Shire budget areas – minimal objectives of the CGP met.
Plantagenet Village Homes	Supply and install window security screens for units at Redman Court	\$4,534	\$4,534	Strong application that meets the objectives of the CGP.
Mt Barker Wildlife Hospital –	Purchase of storage container to store wildlife care equipment and supplies	\$8,228	\$4,114	Application seeking 100% of the cash costs of the project. Worthy applicant, recommend support equalling 50% of the request.
Kendenup Tennis Club	Clubhouse access and inclusion project	\$8,000	\$8,000	Strong application that meets the objectives of the CGP. Application supports a strategy identified in the Club's Strategic Plan (Strategic Plan previously funded through the Shire's Every Club program).

Applicant	Project Summary	\$'s Requested	\$'s Recommended	Officer Comment
Friends of the Porongurup Range	Porongurup National Park Centenary Exhibition	\$10,000	\$10,000	Strong application that meets the objectives of the CGP.
Empowering Plantagenet Seniors (EPS)	Operational Support: GO - PHER Meals for the community	Yr 1 - \$49,500 Yr 2 - \$37,125 Yr 3 - \$24,750	Yr 1 - \$49,500 Yr 2 - \$37,125 Yr 3 - \$24,750	Funding History: 2024/25 - \$40,000 The proposal seeks funding to employ a cook which will enable EPS to expand service delivery, providing meals for people on an Aged Care Plan and supporting community members in need. This is a new program requiring initial start-up funding, with the expectation that it will become self-sustaining within four years as well as generate financial support for EPS. The initiative is expected to benefit a significant proportion of the Shire's population.

The adopted 2025/2026 Annual Budget allocates a total of \$155,000 to the Community Grant Program. To date, 24 applications have been supported in the 2025/2026 financial year, with total funding of \$148,463.

In the current funding round, Category 3 and 4 applications to the Community Grant Program total \$76,148 in requested funding for the 2026/2027 budget.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

Moved Cr B Bell, seconded Cr K Clements:

That Council approves the Community Grant Program Round 2, Category 3 and 4 applications, as follows:

1. Plantagenet Village Homes - \$4,534
2. Mt Barker Wildlife Hospital - \$4,114
3. Kendenup Tennis Club - \$8,000
4. Friends of the Porongurup Range - \$10,000
5. Empowering Plantagenet Seniors (EPS):
 - 2026/27 - \$49,500
 - 2027/28 - \$37,125
 - 2028/29 - \$24,750

AMENDMENT

Moved Cr M O'Dea, seconded Cr W Sheard:

That point 5 be removed from the motion.

CARRIED (7/1)

NO. 039/26

**For: Crs Handasyde, Brown, Clements,
Fraser, O'Dea, Tyrer and Sheard
Against: Cr Bell**

The amended motion became the substantive motion and was put to a vote.

COUNCIL DECISION

Moved Cr B Bell, seconded Cr K Clements:

That Council approves the Community Grant Program Round 2, Category 3 and 4 applications, as follows:

1. Plantagenet Village Homes - \$4,534
2. Mt Barker Wildlife Hospital - \$4,114
3. Kendenup Tennis Club - \$8,000
4. Friends of the Porongurup Range - \$10,000

CARRIED (7/1)

NO. 040/26

**For: Crs Handasyde, Brown, Clements,
Fraser, O'Dea, Tyrer and Sheard
Against: Cr Bell**

Reason for Change

More detail is required from the applicant on the use of a cook to offer services wider than 2 days a week and how it facilitates more options for clients, is not anti-competitive and covers unmet needs in the community.

Category 4 applications can be considered at the next council meeting.

9.4 EXECUTIVE SERVICES REPORTS

Nil

10 MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil

11 NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY DECISION OF THE MEETING

Nil

12 CONFIDENTIAL**12.1.1 TENDER CO3-2526 WILSON PARK STAGE ONE**

File Ref:	N67872
Responsible Officer:	Anthony Middleton Executive Manager of Corporate and Community Services
Author:	Samantha McLean Project Coordinator
Proposed Meeting Date:	28 April 2026

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to consider tenders received for Tender C03-2526 – Construction of Wilson Park Stage One.

MOTION THAT THE MEETING BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Moved Cr K Clements, seconded Cr M O’Dea:

5:24pm That in accordance with Section 5.23 (4) of the Local Government Act 1995 the meeting is closed to members of the public with the following aspect(s) of the Act being applicable to this matter:

Section 5.23 (4)

- (c) information contained in a tender received by the local government for a contract to the extent that the information —**
 - (i) is a tendered price; or**
 - (ii) a tendered methodology for calculating a price;**
- (d) information contained in a tender received by the local government for a contract to the extent that —**
 - (i) the information discloses any technology, or any manufacturing, industrial or trade process, that the tenderer proposes to use in performing the contract; and**

- (ii) the information has not previously been made public;
and
- (iii) the making public of the information would be likely to have an adverse effect on the tenderer's business interests.

CARRIED (8/0)

NO. 041/26

**For: Crs Handasyde, Bell, Brown, Clements,
Fraser, O'Dea, Tyrer and Sheard
Against: Nil**

5.25pm Members of the public left the meeting.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL DECISION

Moved Cr A Fraser, seconded Cr M O'Dea:

That Council awards Tender CO3-2526 Wilson Park – Stage One to Convic Pty Ltd, as per the tender submission.

CARRIED (8/0)

NO. 042/26

**For: Crs Handasyde, Bell, Brown, Clements,
Fraser, O'Dea, Tyrer and Sheard
Against: Nil**

12.1.2 APPOINTMENT OF CEO RECRUITMENT PANEL

Synergy Ref:	N67915
Attachments:	<u>CEO Recruitment Committee Terms of Reference</u> <u>Model Standards for CEO Recruitment Performance and Termination</u> <u>CEO Resignation April 2026</u> <u>Executive Recruitment Services – CEO Proposal</u> <u>Recruitment Services Proposal</u>
Responsible Officer:	Julian Murphy Chief Executive Officer
Author:	Julian Murphy Chief Executive Officer
Proposed Meeting Date:	28 April 2026

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

The chief executive officer's report is confidential because it deals with:
Section 5.23 (2) (b) a matter relating to the recruitment or employment of the CEO or a senior employee, including the following —

- (i) the termination of employment;
- (ii) a review of performance under section 5.38.

The chief executive officer's report has been provided to council under separate cover.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to consider the establishment of the CEO Recruitment Committee in accordance with the *Shire of Plantagenet Standards for CEO Recruitment, Performance and Termination 2021*.

MOTION TO SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS

Moved Cr Clements, Seconded Cr Bell:

That Council suspends standing orders.

CARRIED (8/0)

NO. 042/26

**For: Crs Handasyde, Bell, Brown, Clements,
Fraser, O'Dea, Tyrer and Sheard
Against: Nil**

MOTION TO REINSTATE STANDING ORDERS

Moved Cr Clements, Seconded Cr Bell:

That Council reinstates standing orders.

CARRIED (8/0)

NO. 043/26

For: Crs Handasyde, Bell, Brown, Clements,
Fraser, O'Dea, Tyrer and Sheard

Against: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

Moved Cr Bell, seconded Cr Fraser:

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the resignation of Mr Julian Murphy as CEO dated 15 April 2026;
2. Establishes the Chief Executive Officer Recruitment Committee as the selection panel in accordance with the *Shire of Plantagenet Standards for CEO Recruitment, Performance and Termination* and the proposed Terms of Reference;
3. Appoints the following people to the Chief Executive Officer Recruitment Committee:
 - Cr Handasyde (chairperson)
 - Cr Liebeck (deputy chairperson)
 - Cr Bell (member)
 - Mr Andrew Hammond (independent person)
4. Appoints Beilby Downing Teal as the independent human resources consultant to assist with the recruitment and selection of the Chief Executive Officer.

LOST (2/6)

For: Crs Bell, Fraser
Against: Crs Handasyde, Brown, Clements,
O'Dea, Tyrer and Sheard

RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL DECISION

Moved Cr Clements, seconded Cr Sheard:

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the resignation of Mr Julian Murphy as CEO dated 15 April 2026;
2. Establishes the Chief Executive Officer Recruitment Committee as the selection panel in accordance with the *Shire of Plantagenet Standards for CEO Recruitment, Performance and Termination* and the proposed Terms of Reference;
3. Appoints the following people to the Chief Executive Officer Recruitment Committee:
 - Cr Handasyde (chairperson)
 - Cr Liebeck (deputy chairperson)
 - Cr O'Dea (member)
 - Mr Andrew Hammond (independent person)
4. Appoints Beilby Downing Teal as the independent human resources consultant to assist with the recruitment and selection of the Chief Executive Officer.

CARRIED (8/0)

NO. 044/26

For: Crs Handasyde, Bell, Brown, Clements,
Fraser, O'Dea, Tyrer and Sheard
Against: Nil

Absolute Majority

12.1.3 CODE OF CONDUCT BEHAVIOR COMPLAINT

Synergy Ref: N67918

Attachment: [Final Assessor Report Complaint Cr Bell](#)
[Cr Bell Complaint Outcome](#)
[Cr Bell Response 2Feb2026](#)

Responsible Officer: Julian Murphy
Chief Executive Officer

Author: Julian Murphy
Chief Executive Officer

Proposed Meeting Date: 28 April 2026

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

The Chief Executive Officer's report is confidential because it deals with a matter under section 5.23(4)(f) of the Local Government Act 1995 relating to information the making public of which would be likely to impair the effectiveness of any lawful method or procedure for preventing, detecting, investigating or dealing with any contravention or possible contravention of the law.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to consider the Behaviour Complaints Committee recommendations relating to the Code of Conduct Behaviour Complaint determination made about Cr Bell.

5.35pm Cr Clements and Cr Bell left the meeting in accordance with section 5.105(4) of the Local Government Act 1995

MOTION TO SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS

Moved Cr O'Dea, Seconded Cr Sheard:

That Council suspends standing orders.

CARRIED (6/0)

NO. 045/26

For: Crs Handasyde, Brown,
Fraser, O'Dea, Tyrer and Sheard
Against: Nil

MOTION TO REINSTATE STANDING ORDERS

Moved Cr Sheard, Seconded Cr O'Dea:

That Council reinstates standing orders.

CARRIED (6/0)

NO. 046/26

**For: Crs Handasyde, Brown,
Fraser, O'Dea, Tyrer and Sheard
Against: Nil**

COUNCIL DECISION

Moved Cr O'Dea, seconded Cr Sheard:

That Council:

1. In relation to the Facebook post made by Cr Bell referring to GRV and UV rates on 15 August 2025, endorses the finding of the Behaviour Complaints Committee that Cr Bell was in breach of the Shire of Plantagenet Code of Conduct, Division 3, Behaviour, Part 8. Personal Integrity, Parts 1) (a), 1) (e) and Part 9, Relationship with Others, Parts 1) (b) and 1) (d); and
2. Endorses the plan to address Cr Bell's behaviour in relation to the breach that he attends further training.

CARRIED (6/0)

NO. 047/26

**For: Crs Handasyde, Brown,
Fraser, O'Dea, Tyrer and Sheard
Against: Nil**

COUNCIL DECISION

Moved Cr O'Dea, seconded Cr Sheard:

That Council endorses the action outlined in the confidential officer's report in accordance with section 5.105(1) of the Local Government Act 1995.

CARRIED (6/0)

NO. 048/26

**For: Crs Handasyde, Brown,
Fraser, O'Dea, Tyrer and Sheard
Against: Nil**

MOTION THAT THE MEETING BE OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

Moved Cr Sheard, seconded Cr Fraser:

6:15pm That the meeting proceed in public.

CARRIED (6/0)

NO. 049/26

**For: Crs Handasyde, Brown,
Fraser, O'Dea, Tyrer and Sheard
Against: Nil**

6.10pm Cr Clements and Cr Bell returned to the meeting.

The meeting was re-opened to members of the public and the Council decision for Items 12.1.1, 12.1.2 and 12.1.3 were noted.

13 CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Presiding member closed the meeting at 6.14pm.

CONFIRMED: CHAIRPERSON_____DATE:___/___/___