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Surf Coast Shire Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday, 26 November 2024 at 6pm

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CR BODSWORTH: Good evening and welcome to our November Council Meeting. I'm Mayor Mike Bodsworth and it's a pleasure to welcome everyone here tonight and everyone watching from home for our first meeting of this Council term.

This meeting is being live streamed, so a big welcome to those tuning in online, and of course welcome to my fellow Councillors.

I would like to start by acknowledging that we are gathering on Wadawurrung country tonight and pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging. The Wadawurrung people have nurtured and protected these lands and waters for thousands of generations and I'm so grateful that we can be here today living and working on Wadawurrung country. Surf Coast Shire Council is committed to walking with the traditional owners of these lands on a genuine journey of reconciliation.

Surf Coast Shire also spans the traditional lands of the Gulidjan and Gadubanud people of the Eastern Maar Nation and I pay my respects to their Elders past and present also. I'd also like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands from which each of us are joining the meeting and would also like to acknowledge any Aboriginal people viewing this meeting tonight.

Before we move on with the agenda, I'd like to take this opportunity to formally congratulate our new Councillors on your election, very exciting first Council meeting, and equally congratulate returning Councillors on your re-election and I'd also like to acknowledge the outgoing Councillors - Rose Hodge, Heather Wellington, Kate Gazzard and Gary Allen - and thank them for their contributions to Council throughout their terms.

While Council meetings paused as the election period was on, events across the Shire have continued to be a huge highlight. It's been a very busy period full of fetes, fairs, festivals, open gardens, community walks and markets, gathering locals and visitors together. Among these fantastic events was the Surf Coast Kite Festival, which took place on Sunday, 27 October. Kites of all sizes and colours filled the sky at Fishermans Beach on what was a magical day. This event raises money for Jan Juc Preschool and delivers on its goal of creating an outdoor event that people of all ages can enjoy.

Another big highlight was the inaugural Torquay Triathlon. Almost 500 people participated in this event on Sunday, November the 10th, completing a 400m open water swim, 15km cycle and 4k run. The tri was very well organised and

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attracted participants of all ages and experience levels, with 40% of entrants being first timers. Off this first run success, the Torquay Tri will hopefully become a regular on the Surf Coast events calendar.

There are also some great events planned as we head towards summer. These include the unique Afterglow Night Trail Run, taking place on 7 December between Point Addis and Torquay, as well as the inaugural Great Ocean Road Women's Surf Festival, an inclusive surfing festival celebrating everything about women's surfing, which will also take place on 7 December.

The community-run carols have also begun, kicking off with the Deans Marsh Market and Carols on Sunday the 24th that a few of us were lucky enough to attend, and a shoutout to Deans Marsh Community Cottage for a really well-run event there. Next, Carols in Winchelsea on 7 December, Aireys Inlet on 8 December, Lorne on the 14th, and Anglesea on 22 December. These popular events offer an opportunity for locals and visitors to come together and celebrate.

And now to our agenda for tonight. Let's get under way. Council meetings operate according to our adopted Governance Rules, which include the following procedures. During the meeting, the mover of a motion or an amendment may speak for a maximum of 5 minutes to open the debate and then a further 2 minutes to make a closing statement. Any other Councillor, including the seconder, may speak to a motion for no more than 3 minutes.

I ask that members of the gallery avoid using mobile phones during the meeting as this can be distracting for Councillors as well as other members of the gallery. I also note that any unauthorised recording of the meeting is prohibited under our Governance Rules. However, you can access a copy of the official recording on our website after the meeting.

I would now like to recite the Pledge as a sign of our commitment: as Councillors, we carry out our responsibilities with diligence and integrity and make fair decisions of lasting value for the wellbeing of our community and environment.

Because we've got the full complement of Councillors here tonight, we don't have any apologies, so I'm going to skip apologies.

Confirmation of minutes - can I please have a mover and a seconder to confirm the minutes of the Council meeting held on 14 November 2024?

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Moved by Councillor Pattison and seconded by Councillor Schonfelder. Thank you. The motion is as per the recommendation and would anybody like to speak to this motion? No?

CR BARKER: Did you say 14 November?

CR BODSWORTH: Correct, 14 November. Do you have a question, Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: No.

CR BODSWORTH: Okay, thanks. So no Councillors wish to speak. We'll move to the vote. All those in favour? Thank you, Councillors. Councillor Barker.

CR BARKER: I'm just trying to find out what was on that meeting.

CR BODSWORTH: That was the Mayoral election meeting.

CR BARKER: Oh, yes.

CR BODSWORTH: Voting for?

CR BARKER: Yes.

CR BODSWORTH: Okay, thank you. So the vote is carried unanimously. And Councillors, I'm sure you'll bear with me on my first time as Mayor while I take a little bit of time to make sure I get everything correct. It's better to be correct.

Do we have any leave of absence requests from Councillors? No. Thank you.

Declarations of Conflicts of Interest. If a Councillor or an officer has a conflict of interest, they must declare it now and do so again just prior to the item being discussed. The Councillor and/or officer will be requested to leave chambers or for those online, to be placed by the host in a virtual waiting room whilst the matter is being considered. Once the matter is resolved, the Councillor and/or officer will be returned to the meeting. Are there any declarations of conflict of interest in relation to tonight's agenda? No. Thank you, Councillors.

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We have not received any submissions for tonight's meeting. We don't have any presentations for tonight's meeting, so we move on to Public Question Time. We have four community members who have submitted five questions total tonight. The first of these questions is from Jim Tutt, from Anglesea. I'll now read out Jim's question. He couldn't make it to be with us tonight. Before I do, I want to acknowledge Jim as a former Surf Coast Shire Councillor and acknowledge his contribution as a Councillor and also as a member of the Surf Coast and Anglesea community.

Jim's question: "The former Council resolved to not recognise or celebrate Australia Day (with no community consultation). As the new Council, is it not time to survey all Shire residents as to their support for an event that recognises and celebrates our multicultural society's past and current contributions to Australia's development? Note, City of Unley in South Australia just recently undertook such a review, having also discontinued Australia Day, the overwhelming response reinstate the event." That's Jim's question.

So I thank Jim for the question. I'm going to read out the answer as the Mayor because Jim's question relates to a matter of great importance to the Council. In 2021, Council resolved to no longer participate in celebratory events on 26 January. A key reason for our change in approach is that we've heard from First Nations people that this day signifies sadness and that the Pilk Purriyn event is a way Council acknowledges this. That event has proven to be a successful and popular event in reflection and truth-telling. We respect the right of others to participate in other events on that day.

There are risks undertaking broad engagement on this topic. We know it can create division in communities and cause hurt to First Nations people we are walking alongside on a journey to reconciliation. So thanks to Jim for his question.

We have a question from Julie Dingle, from Anglesea. I can see that Julie is here tonight, so I'd invite you, Julie, to come up and ask your question. Just take a seat and speak into the microphone, please.

JULIE DINGLE: Thank you. Firstly, congratulations to all of the Councillors on your election to the Surf Coast Shire. We are Surf Coast for Reconciliation. There's a few of us here. I'm part of that. We're a grassroots community action group who continue to support the Uluru Statement from the Heart. We support Voice, Treaty and Truth-telling. We're here to ask Councillors how are

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you continuing to support Council's commitment to our Reconciliation Action Plan, RAP, including Pilk Purriyn? Thank you.

CR BODSWORTH: Thank you, Julie, for the question. I'm going to answer this question. Council continues to support our commitment to reconciliation through our Reconciliation Action Plan process. This supports one of our themes in the Council plan. Council has almost completed our first Reconciliation Action Plan, being a Reflect RAP, with 75% of actions contained in the RAP now delivered. We're commencing work on our second Reconciliation Action Plan, which will be an Innovate RAP. We will continue to upskill our staff and to extend our relationships beyond traditional owners to also include the broader First Nations community.

Council is partnering with Wadawurrung traditional owners in delivering the Pilk Purriyn event on 26 January. Council plays a key role in supporting other agencies to connect with Wadawurrung traditional owners and we provide communications and event management support to Pilk Purriyn.

JULIE DINGLE: Thank you.

CR BODSWORTH: Thank you, Julie.

JULIE DINGLE: Thank you very much. Thank you.

CR BODSWORTH: Next we have a question from Mitchell Parsons, from Winchelsea: "Please provide an update and an estimated timeframe on the subdivision and sale of the Council-owned land at 325 Mousley Road, Winchelsea." As this question relates to operational matters, I'm going to refer it to the CEO for an answer. Thank you, Robyn.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thanks very much, Mayor Bodsworth. Mitch, thanks very much for your interest and your question tonight. Officers have been working through the land sale process. We've appointed an agent and it's expected that the properties will go to market early in 2025.

Part of the process includes the delivery of water and sewer services to both lots that will be sold and so the consultants have been working to finalise and complete the detailed design work required by Barwon Water that will need to be part of the tender documentation for works delivered to the site. So we need to complete that prior to the sale.

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The information about the sale of the land - we want to make sure that community have visibility of the timeline and the process, so we'll be doing regular updates on Council's website. So anyone interested, have a look at our Your Say page on the website for updates and we'll also communicate any major updates through the Winchelsea Star.

CR BODSWORTH: Thank you, CEO. Mitchell has a second question: "Should there be cause for delay in relation to the auction, please advise the nature of the delay, how Council is managing the delay, and the estimated timeframe for resolution."

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thanks, Mitch. So we're hoping there won't be any major delays. Our Council officers are meeting regularly to make sure we are on track to get the sale to market.

The initial plan was to try to get the sale under way prior to the end of 2024, but the advice from our agent is that we expect the sorts of commercial property owners and industrial buyers may be on holiday over that Christmas period, so the advice to us is to hold off until February next year to make sure that we are attracting all of the buyers to ensure we get a good price for that land. So our intention is to put the property to market in about February 2025 once everyone is back from their holiday period. But thanks, Mitch, for your question.

CR BODSWORTH: Thanks, Mitch, and thank you, CEO. We also have a question from Alex Jolly of Winchelsea on the same topic: "Please provide an update and timeframe about the auction of the industrial land at 325 Mousley Drive, Winchelsea." I'll also refer this question to the CEO.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: It's great to see so much interest from Winchelsea around the sale of this land at 325 Mousley Drive, Winchelsea. Alex, thank you also for your question.

So as I mentioned earlier, our intention is to have the property go to market in February 2025 and this is really to ensure that we achieve the best outcome in terms of price for Council when everyone is back from leave and the property market is operating more effectively. So look out for February 2025 and, as I said, check our website for any updates if you're interested. Thanks for your question, Alex.

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CR BODSWORTH: Thanks, Robyn, and thanks to all of our questioners tonight. We now move on to petitions. There are no petitions for tonight's meeting. And notices of motion - there are no notices of motion for tonight's meeting.

That brings us to our reports and item 4.1, Council Representation on Various Regional and Peak Organisations. The purpose of this report is for Council to appoint Councillors to various regional and peak organisations for the remainder of 2024 and for 2025. There has been an update to the proposed Councillor appointments following the publication of the agenda, so I'll ask officers to share this on the screen before we proceed. Just take a moment to read that. We have a recommendation before us. Does anybody wish to move a motion? Councillor Stapleton?

CR STAPLETON: As per the recommendation with the change. Thanks.

CR BODSWORTH: Thank you, and do we have a seconder? Councillor Pattison, thank you. Excuse me while I just keep up with my admin. I'd invite Councillor Stapleton to speak to the motion.

CR STAPLETON: Thank you, Mayor. I'm really happy to move this item and it's great to see that all Councillors have put themselves forward to represent Council on various committees, organisations and peak bodies to help progress the priorities of the Surf Coast community and to contribute to discussions on issues that are important to Surf Coast, but also to the broader region and local government sector.

From advisory roles and director positions, these organisations offer Councillors an opportunity to advocate on behalf of our community and also to listen and learn from those with lived experience in certain areas and to hear different perspectives about things taking place beyond the confines of Surf Coast Shire. It's a great way to engage with Councillors and other industry experts outside of Surf Coast and to share ideas and priorities with each other.

One of the key responsibilities for each Councillor is to report back to the whole Councillor group with updates and insights from the committee or organisation that they represent and I've found this a really valuable part of the process over the past four years. The Audit and Risk Committee, for example, plays a key role in helping Council fulfil its governance responsibilities, so it's important that all Councillors are kept in the loop with regard to current issues or areas of concern as well as things that Council is doing well in this area. I also appreciate hearing updates about the Geelong

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Regional Library as well as the G21 board and various G21 pillar groups, which provide a great opportunity to progress key initiatives across the entire region.

I'm very happy to be nominated as the MAV representative this year and having been the sub in recent years, I appreciate the importance of this role in terms of advocating successfully on behalf of Surf Coast Shire and more broadly representing the interests of local government at a state and federal level. I look forward to contributing to discussions on policy, strategic direction and professional development as your MAV representative and providing input on issues that impact our region as well as the sector as a whole.

Finally, I'm fully supportive of the change to make my fellow Otway Range Ward Councillor Leon Walker the rep on the Point Grey Community Reference Group and believe that as a Lorne local, Leon is much better placed to attend these meetings as Council's representative. The Point Grey development is a critical project for the Lorne community and the Community Reference Group plays an important role in assisting GORCAPA to balance community input with best practice as per the guidelines in the Marine and Coastal Act as they work on finalising the new master plan for this critical project. So I look forward to hearing from Leon with future updates and I'm also happy to be the sub for Leon if he's ever not available to attend any of these meetings.

Overall, I think the proposed Councillor nominations show that there's a good spread of representation from the Councillor group across the committees and organisations and I'm really happy to recommend that we appoint Councillors as per the positions that have been put forward. Thank you.

CR BODSWORTH: Thank you, Councillor Stapleton. Councillor Pattison?

CR PATTISON: Thank you. I also wanted to talk about the collaborative process that we've gone through to come up with this list of committee appointments. Obviously, all Councillors had an opportunity to put forward their preferences and not everybody gets what they wanted, but we worked together with our Mayor to come up with this list, so I think it's great that we have representation across all the committees and appointments from the whole Councillor group. Everyone is involved in a different way.

I'm really appreciative of the opportunity to continue on the Geelong Regional Library Corporation Board. The library in Torquay is an amazing asset for our community and also being part of that broader Geelong Regional Library Corporation, we can access the Armstrong Creek Library and the many

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wonderful libraries across our region, so that's a great part that our community - you know, we'll have a strong voice on that board.

And obviously the G21 pillar committees are really important and so we have a sub for all of those because having one of the Councillors present around those key topics of sustainability and health and wellbeing, there's a whole - there's two others, cultural and economic development and transport and planning, there's representation from across both industry and regional councils coming together focusing on those really important areas to progress things in our region. So I definitely am supportive of this motion.

CR BODSWORTH: Thank you, Councillor Pattison. Do any other Councillors wish to speak to the motion? Councillor Phelps.

CR PHELPS: Yes, I'd just like to say that as a first-time Councillor looking at this from the inside this time, it is quite interesting to see all these that the Councillors get to have a go at. So I'm on the Positive Ageing Advisory Committee. We do have a population, generally speaking, that is ageing and so there are - it's going to be very interesting to see where that goes in terms of advising Council what sorts of things would be good for an ageing population. Certainly, I've seen over the past few years some really good events and activities put on in Positive Ageing Week, but this just speaks to more generally across the shire what sorts of things the Shire needs to do to cater for an ageing population.

I'm also sub for Libby, Councillor Stapleton, on the Municipal Association of Victoria. I'm looking forward to learning a whole lot more about that at a much higher level above the Shire.

CR BODSWORTH: Thank you, Councillor Phelps. Councillor Barker.

CR BARKER: Thanks, Mayor. I'm happy to support the motion. I do have reservations on our involvement with G21 and I've raised this previously, especially since the allegations of misappropriating public funds through G21. I still think it's something that we probably shouldn't be involved in, but given that we are, my professional background is transport, so happy to serve on the transport pillar and be proven that we should be a part of it and my concerns be invalidated.

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CR BODSWORTH: Thank you, Councillor Barker. Do any other Councillors wish to speak to this item? Thank you, Councillors. We'll now put the - no, I'll invite Councillor Stapleton to offer any closing comments.

CR STAPLETON: It's all good, thanks, Mayor.

CR BODSWORTH: Okay. Thank you, Councillor Stapleton. I'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. Thank you, Councillors. The motion is carried unanimously.

So we move to item 4.2, the Quarterly Budget Report for September 2024. The purpose of this report is to receive and note the Quarterly Budget Report September 2024. This includes the Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Capital Works. We have a recommendation before us. Does anyone wish to move a motion? Thank you, Councillor Pattison.

CR PATTISON: As per the recommendation.

CR BODSWORTH: As per the recommendation, thank you. Do we have a seconder? Thank you, Councillor Phelps. Excuse me one second. Councillor Pattison, would you like to speak to the motion?

CR PATTISON: Sure. So our Quarterly Budget Reports are presented to Council each quarter and it's a great way for the community to transparently see how our finances are going and to understand what's happening in the Shire in the prior quarter and it demonstrates Council's financial position, including comparisons of actual financial versus budgeted results and explanation of any variances or things to consider when we look through those and those notes are at the bottom of each of those tables. So it's a great opportunity for community, ratepayers to understand what's happening - what's happened in the prior quarter and this report demonstrates a favourable position of \$2.9 million compared to budget due to an increased return on investments as well as some new drainage assets that have been included.

If we have a look at some of the specifics of the report, it shows there's a good current ratio which is looking at our current assets and our current liabilities and understanding how financially viable the Council is and it's in a healthy position. We also look at our capital works statements and demonstrating what's been spent over the July to September quarter.

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So I encourage people, if they're interested in the financial situation of our Council, have a look at our Quarterly Budget Report and it comes out regularly, so it's a great way for people to understand what's going on with the finances of the Council.

CR BODSWORTH: Thanks, Councillor Pattison. Councillor Phelps, would you like to speak to the motion?

CR PHELPS: No, I'm fine, thanks, Mayor.

CR BODSWORTH: Thank you. Do any other Councillors wish to speak? Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: Thanks, Mayor. I do like seeing the savings that get listed. It shows the budget position and where we're actually at and there are elements of some good savings, but what's more concerning is that it shows that we are relying on tens of millions of taxpayer funds to run the organisation. So we are either doing things or we are being compelled to do things that we can't afford to do on our own without taxpayers from Bunbury, Alice Springs, Brisbane, and the like, all subsidising the running of our organisation. This is something that is not financially sustainable, in my view. It is true and correct from my reading, but I don't necessarily agree with how it's being spent.

CR BODSWORTH: Thank you, Councillor Barker. Do any other Councillors wish to speak to the item? No. Thank you. Are there any closing comments, Councillor Pattison?

CR PATTISON: No closing remarks, no.

CR BODSWORTH: Thank you. We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. Thank you, Councillors. The motion is carried unanimously.

We move on to item 4.3, Award of Contract T25-004 - Tree Maintenance Services. The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to award contract T25-004 for Tree Maintenance Services. As part of this recommendation was redacted, I will now ask officers to share the unredacted recommendation on the screen before we proceed. We have a recommendation before us. Does anyone wish to move a motion? Thank you, Councillor Schonfelder. Your motion is as per the recommendation?

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CR SCHONFELDER: Yes, Mayor.

CR BODSWORTH: Thank you, Councillor Schonfelder. A seconder? Councillor Stapleton, thank you. Councillor Schonfelder, would you like to speak to the motion?

CR SCHONFELDER: Yes, please, Mayor, and I'd like to say that this motion is to seek Council's approval to award the contract T25-004 - Tree Maintenance Services and as you said earlier, Mayor, the contractors are listed on - well, they were listed on the screen and it comprises a panel of six qualified and experienced tree maintenance contractors that will support the ongoing maintenance of Council's open spaces, roadsides, park and reserves to ensure public risk is managed and to meet the requirements of Council's Tree Risk Management Plan and Road Management Plan.

A public tender process was conducted in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy. A total of 10 suppliers submitted tenders for this contract. Each submission was assessed against pre-determined evaluation criteria, including price and non-price criteria.

The contract will operate on a schedule of rates with CPI adjustment panel arrangement for an initial term of two years, with the option for extension of up to two further years. The anticipated value of the contract exceeds officers' delegated authorities and therefore requires a decision by Council.

Council has an ongoing requirement for external contractors to provide tree maintenance services to supplement the work performed by Council's Open Space Operations Team. Council is seeking to establish a panel of suitably qualified and experienced contractors to provide tree maintenance services on an as required basis.

About two years ago I was attending an MAV conference on behalf of the Council and a storm occurred in Victoria, with very high and erratic rainfall. I had never experienced such rainfall before in my lifetime and we did have damage to roads and to trees as a result of the high winds. So this, in a way, is addressing the possible future storm damage that may occur in our municipality. Thank you, Mayor.

CR BODSWORTH: Thank you, Councillor Schonfelder. Councillor Stapleton, would you like to speak to the motion?

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CR STAPLETON: Thanks, Mayor. I'm happy to support this motion. I'm comfortable that there's been a thorough procurement process and that due diligence has been undertaken by officers to assess the capacity of various tree maintenance contractors. It's really important that Council has this support to maintain its open spaces, roadsides, parks and reserves, but importantly, the contractors are also only operating on an as-needed basis, so as long as it's within Council's agreed scope and budget, all contracted work would be delivered as needed, so there's no commitment to a specific amount or frequency of work. So yes, happy to support it and hopefully we can authorise the CEO to execute these contracts on behalf of Council.

CR BODSWORTH: Thank you, Councillor Stapleton. Would any other Councillors like to speak to the motion? Councillor Barker.

CR BARKER: A question, what's the price ceiling for this contract?

CR BODSWORTH: Thanks, Councillor Barker. I'll refer that question to the CEO.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: So I might refer this to our GM of Community Life. We've got a - in the broader context, we have a budget, so we don't - we wouldn't go outside our budget. We have a contract for two years and then we have an option to extend, but our anticipation is that in that two years we wouldn't be going over \$700,000, I think. Let me just refer that, though, to our General Manager of Community Life just to confirm that.

MR DAMIAN WAIGHT: Through you, Mayor Bodsworth, that's correct, CEO, \$700,000 every two years with the extension of two years would be up to \$1.4 million over that four-year period. We think that's, based on historic spend, more than we would use under this contract. That's usually been around the \$230,000, \$240,000 a year annually, so we've got enough in the contract to cover that.

CR BARKER: I can speak to it.

CR BODSWORTH: Okay, go ahead.

CR BARKER: Historically, we've spent about \$200,000, \$250,000 per year on tree maintenance services. Based on those budget settings, I can't be in a position to support the contract. If those budgets were tightened, I definitely could.

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CR BODSWORTH: Thank you, Councillor Barker. Do any other Councillors wish to speak to the item? No. Thank you, Councillors. Councillor Schonfelder, do you have any closing comments?

CR SCHONFELDER: I'll reserve my right, thank you.

CR BODSWORTH: No? Okay. Thanks, Councillors. We'll now put the motion to a vote. All those in favour. And against? Thank you, Councillors. The motion is carried 8-1.

Item 4.4, Project Budget Adjustments and Cash Reserve Transfers - November 2024. This report contains proposed project budget adjustments and cash reserve transfers for Council approval. The report presents adjustments, including existing projects requiring adjustment, project closures, new projects to be initiated, Chief Executive Officer approved transfers under delegation or corrections to prior reports presented to Council. We have a recommendation before us. Does anyone wish to move a motion? Thank you, Councillor Stapleton. As per the recommendation?

CR STAPLETON: Yes, thanks.

CR BODSWORTH: Thank you. Do we have a seconder? Thank you, Councillor Pattison. Councillor Stapleton, would you like to speak to the motion?

CR STAPLETON: Thank you, Mayor. This is another report that contributes to Council's financial management principles and supports transparency by informing Council about changes to project budgets and presenting new projects or budget transfers for approval. This process ensures that Councillors and the community are kept informed of changes and the reasons for them whilst still allowing for smooth project delivery, as well as closure of projects that have undergone a series of governance checks. It also provides an opportunity for Councillors to approve budget transfer - sorry, losing my mouth - or new projects that have been endorsed by EMT.

Basically, it's just a way for all of us to make sure that we're across movements within the budget, which are often made from existing internal reserves, such as the Asset Renewal Reserve or Waste Reserve or sometimes it's to identify grant funding that has been received by Council and then allocated to a particular project. The great thing is that the table shows us

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where the money has come from, where it's been moved to and why the change is needed. Some of these transfers will need Council's approval and some will be approved by the CEO under delegation.

And while there are no new projects or projects requiring adjustment in this month's report, there are a number of closed projects where remaining budget allocation has been returned to the relevant funding source. There are also a number of budget transfers approved by the CEO under Councillor delegation, such as funding from the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program to provide important improvements to the Multi Arts Centre in Torquay, as well as additional asset renewal funding for the Winchelsea pool redevelopment, which I know the community is very keen for us to get finished. So that's it from me. Thank you, Mayor.

CR BODSWORTH: Thanks, Councillor Stapleton. Councillor Pattison?

CR PATTISON: Thank you, yes. It's a great way for community to see what's happening on the projects where there's overruns or savings that have come about and there's a lot of transparency in these reports, more so than other Councils, and I think at Surf Coast we should be proud of that because we really are very open about what's happening with our projects.

For example, the first one around our Anglesea landfill stage 3 liner, that's a project of \$1.44 million and we're reporting to Council a saving of \$34,000, so it's really - you know, in the life of that project and the budget of that project, it's quite a small amount of money, but they're all reported for the community to see the savings and the additional costs that are required on those projects and I think that's really good. People can understand what's happening and know what's happening with our projects through this transfer table. Thank you.

CR BODSWORTH: Thanks, Councillor Pattison. Do any other Councillors wish to speak to this motion? Councillor Phelps?

CR PHELPS: I'd just like to make a note I do appreciate the transparency of this particular table. There are some numbers in there that might take some mental twists for myself in terms of accounting standards and things, but it's great to have a breakdown such as this so you can zero in on specifically what's happening where and whether it's over or under.

CR BODSWORTH: Thank you. Councillor Barker?

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CR BARKER: Thanks, Mayor. Overall, glad to see some savings identified in a few different areas, but the area that is of concern to me at the moment is the amount of money being put into the Multi Arts Centre, an element that is scheduled for redevelopment and we're looking to spend over - well, allocate over \$150,000 there for some HVAC stuff and some other engineering.

Now, if we're going to be spending this money, I understand there's some elements that are imposed on us by the National Construction Code, so there's a little movement there, but we're looking to allocate \$75,000 for the HVAC system and there's insufficient detail in this report for me to endorse this allocation.

I can appreciate that moving to an electrification of the system will result in long-term savings, so that's a tick, but how it actually happens with regards to are we using existing infrastructure, is there new infrastructure, there's not enough detail on that for me to support this.

CR BODSWORTH: Thank you, Councillor Barker. Do any other Councillors want to speak to the item? Thank you. And are there any closing comments, Councillor Stapleton.

CR STAPLETON: No, that's fine, thanks, Mayor.

CR BODSWORTH: Thank you. We'll now put the motion to a vote. All those in favour. And against? Thank you. So the motion is carried 8-1.

Item 4.5, Council Meeting Dates and Locations 2025. The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the adoption of the 2025 Council meeting schedule. We have a recommendation before us. Does anyone wish to move a motion? Thank you, Councillor Schonfelder - as per the recommendation?

CR SCHONFELDER: Yes, Mayor.

CR BODSWORTH: Thank you, and Councillor Pattison seconding, thank you. Councillor Schonfelder, do you wish to speak to the motion?

CR SCHONFELDER: Yes, please, and I'd like to say that from the last term, one of the most enjoyable aspects of executing the role as a Councillor was to actually attend meetings in different towns within the shire and we have to remember that we did have a pandemic and we did have online meetings and I

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think it's very important to go out into the community and to go to Winchelsea and to go to Lorne and Aireys Inlet and Moriac to hold meetings. I know that many other municipalities in Australia and even overseas have Council meetings in different parts of their Councils, including our neighbouring Council the City of Greater Geelong hold meetings in different parts of that municipality also.

Our meetings are normally planned for the fourth Tuesday of each month. There is an exception, though, for this year, which will be the December meeting, which is proposed to be held on the second Tuesday of the month to avoid clashes with the Christmas period and also there's no Council meeting in January, taking into account high visitation period when many residents are taking holidays, and in April the Council meeting will be on the fifth Tuesday of the month due to Easter and the fact that many people do travel during that period.

It is proposed to hold two off-site meetings in 2025, with the March meeting in the Otway Range Ward and I'm not certain as to where it will be held in particular, but it will be held in that ward and the same with the August meeting, which will be held in the Winchelsea Ward.

So I'm really looking forward to attending those meetings and I have remarked previously in a prior Council meeting that when I drove home from Lorne to Barrabool at the Lorne meeting I did see an echidna cross the road and I stopped and I thought our municipality is not just for humans, it's for all life that exists and I gave way to that echidna and I felt that was sending a message to me about the importance of our very precious environment and this very beautiful municipality. Thank you, Mayor.

CR BODSWORTH: Thanks, Councillor Schonfelder. Councillor Pattison?

CR PATTISON: Thank you. It is with great pleasure to attend the Council meetings that are outside of the main Council Chambers, so it's really good to see that that will be happening in 2025. We started that I think last year or the year prior, when I was Mayor, and I really enjoyed that and good to see it's continuing along. And yes, I think the calendar makes sense and I'll be supporting it. Thank you.

CR BODSWORTH: Thanks, Councillor Pattison. Do any other Councillors wish to speak? Councillor Barker?

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CR BARKER: I'd like to move an amendment.

CR BODSWORTH: What's your amendment, Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: To change the date of the April meeting to the 22nd to maintain consistency for the fourth Tuesday of every month.

CR BODSWORTH: So do we have a seconder for that proposed amendment? Well, perhaps Governance can take a note of the amendment and display it for us. Thanks.

CR PATTISON: Mayor Bodsworth, I've got a question, please.

CR BODSWORTH: Go ahead, Councillor Pattison.

CR PATTISON: Could we seek clarification from officers as to the reasoning as to why, you know, the date was moved and not consistent with the fourth Tuesday?

CR BODSWORTH: Okay, thanks, Councillor Pattison. I'll refer that to the CEO.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thank you, Councillor Pattison. The reason we did that was really - the fourth Tuesday is the Tuesday immediately after Easter, so Easter Monday, so it's the Tuesday after that and our assumption was that many Councillors, as well as community, are often away over Easter. So we had thought that, given that period is school holidays, putting it in the fifth Tuesday allows Councillors capacity to prepare for the meeting and also help ensure that we have more community around in that final Tuesday of April and we're lucky we've got a five Tuesday month in April, which kind of makes it a bit easier as well.

CR BODSWORTH: Thank you. Do we have a seconder for the proposed amendment? Thank you, Councillors, so the proposed amendment lapses. We return to debate on the substantive motion. As far as my records go, we've heard from Councillors Schonfelder and Pattison. Councillor Barker, do you wish to speak to the motion?

CR BARKER: No, thanks.

CR BODSWORTH: No. Do any other Councillors wish to speak? Councillor Phelps.

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CR PHELPS: I'd just like to add my support for holding Council meetings out and about around the shire. That's a really good idea, I think. I've been to the Anglesea one and the Winchelsea one and you'll get a different crowd at the meetings and it's a great idea.

CR BODSWORTH: Thank you, Councillor Phelps. Any other Councillors? Thank you. And any closing comments, Councillor Schonfelder?

CR SCHONFELDER: Mayor, I'd like to say that Councillor Phelps and I would obviously prefer meetings to be held at Winchelsea and Moriac and I know that, from having attended those meetings, it's much closer to where I reside.

I'd also say that I really appreciate the administration holding the April meeting on the fifth Tuesday. As someone who is quite religious, I believe in the Dreamtime, but I also am a Christian, so I prefer to have it the week after as well. So thank you once again, Mayor.

CR BODSWORTH: Thank you, Councillor Schonfelder. We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. Thank you, Councillors. The motion is carried unanimously.

Item 4.6, Councillor Expenses and Attendance at Meetings - July to September 2024. The purpose of this report is to present a report of Councillor allowances, expenses and attendance at meetings for the September 2024 quarter. We have a recommendation before us. Does anyone wish to move a motion? Councillor Schonfelder and seconded by Councillor Phelps. As per the recommendation?

CR SCHONFELDER: Yes, Mayor.

CR BODSWORTH: Thank you, Councillors. Would you like to speak to the motion, Councillor Schonfelder?

CR SCHONFELDER: Yes, thank you. The Council notes the Councillor allowances and expenses summary for the September 2024 quarter and publishes the Councillor allowances and expenses summary on Council's website and notes the Councillor attendance at meetings summary for the September 2024 quarter.

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The adoption of this recommendation will ensure compliance with the Surf Coast Shire's 001 Councillor Entitlements, Expenses and Facilities Policy. The publication of these records provides transparent, accountable and open communication of Council information. Councillor allowances and expenses are defined in the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2022 by the following categories - travel expenses and professional development expenses and expenses to support the performance of the role.

I'd like to add, Mayor, that I had the honour of being the Municipal Association of Victoria representative in the last term of the Council and I congratulate Councillor Stapleton on her appointment. As a part of that role, representatives are invited to attend conferences and meetings in Victoria and I had a great dedication to meeting other members from large rural shires and learning more about lobbying State and Federal Governments about certain issues.

One example I'll give is that some members of the sector and some Councillors are against having wood heaters and wood fires and I actually witnessed at a Council meeting, a Municipal Association State Council meeting, that I know myself where I live in Barrabool I only have electricity, so if the electricity goes off, I can't use any heating. So the wood heating keeps me warm and I'm able to have a barbecue if there aren't fire restrictions so I can have food to eat for myself and my family.

That gives you just one example of the expenses and it's all transparent and it's all available for people to see as well, Mayor. Thank you.

CR BODSWORTH: Thank you, Councillor Schonfelder. Councillor Phelps?

CR PHELPS: I'd again just like to add a note that I do appreciate this is another step of transparency that I've seen in the Shire. In the past, when I've been keeping an eye on things, it's good to see the expenses and the attendances published on the website as well as at meetings like this. I like to see this sort of thing.

CR BODSWORTH: Thanks, Councillor Phelps. Do any other Councillors wish to speak to this motion? Councillor Grist?

CR GRIST: I'd just like to add that it would be even better if we have in the notes a more detailed breakdown of the travel and professional development expenses in future.

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CR BODSWORTH: Thank you, Councillor Grist. Do any other Councillors wish to speak to the motion? No. Thank you. Are there any closing comments?

CR SCHONFELDER: No, thank you.

CR BODSWORTH: Thanks. Councillors, we'll put the motion to the vote. All those in favour? Thank you, and the motion is carried unanimously.

4.7, Conflict of Interest Records. The purpose of this report is to present conflict of interest records received since the previous Council meeting. We have a recommendation before us. Does anyone wish to move a motion? Councillor Stapleton, thank you. As per the recommendation? Thank you. And Councillor Barker seconding. Thanks, Councillors. Councillor Stapleton, do you wish to speak to the motion?

CR STAPLETON: No, that's fine, thanks, Mayor.

CR BODSWORTH: Thank you. Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: No, thanks.

CR BODSWORTH: Do any other Councillors wish to speak to the motion? Thanks, Councillors. We'll put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. Thanks. The motion is carried unanimously.

Urgent Business - there is no urgent business for tonight's meeting. That brings the meeting to a close. There being no further items of business, I declare the meeting closed at 6.52pm. Thank you very much, Councillors, and thanks to members of the public.