



Minutes

Youth Council Meeting
Monday 2 December 2024 at 6pm

Council Chamber at Civic Centre,
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang

Youth Councillors

Zachary Melvaine

Youth Mayor

Kaynat Virk

Deputy Youth Mayor

Angelica Banquil

Dean Connelly-Carpenter

Bavleen Kaur

Mustafa Khraim

Angela Rolevska

Esha Serai

Tanya Sharma

Sandy Tran

Emily Tricarico

Elly Watson

Sophie Winter

Officers

Jacinta Stevens

Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Bobbie-Lea Bright

Unit Manager Compliance & Governance

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1 Opening

1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions

The Youth Mayor opened the meeting at 6:01pm.

“Welcome to this Youth Council Meeting of 2 December 2024 which is being held in person in the Council Chamber at Civic Centre, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang.

I am Zachary Melvaine, Youth Mayor and I would like to introduce the Youth Councillors in attendance tonight:

Kaynat Virk, Deputy Youth Mayor
Angelica Banquil
Bavleen Kaur
Mustafa Khraim
Angela Rolevska (arrived 6:10pm)
Tanya Sharma
Sandy Tran
Emily Tricarico
Elly Watson
Sophie Winter

We also have in attendance Agata Chmielewski, Director Community Wellbeing.”

1.2 Apologies

Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO, Jacinta Stevens

Absent

Youth Councillor Dean Connelly-Carpenter
Youth Councillor Esha Serai

1.3 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement

The Youth Mayor read the following statement:

“On behalf of Council, I recognise the rich Aboriginal heritage of this country and acknowledge the Wurundjeri Willum Clan and Taungurung People as the Traditional Owners of lands within the City of Whittlesea.

I would also like to acknowledge Elders past, present and emerging.”

1.4 Youth Council Charter

The Youth Mayor read the following Youth Council Charter:

“We, the members of the City of Whittlesea Youth Council, commit to advocating for and being the voice of the youth within our municipality. We ensure a safe space for all, to engage in constructive collaboration on matters affecting young people. We aim to empower and foster community connectedness in our youth so they feel valued and supported to achieve their aspirations.”

1.5 Acknowledgements

The Youth Mayor made the following acknowledgements:

Council Elections - Mayor and Deputy Mayor Elected

Firstly, the Youth Council would like to congratulate the 11 new Councillors who were recently elected to represent the City of Whittlesea for the next four years. We would also like to congratulate Councillor Aidan McLindon who was elected as Mayor, and Councillor Daniela Zinni who was elected as Deputy Mayor. We are very much looking forward to working with the new Council and continuing to have the voices of our city’s youth heard and represented.

ABC Radio Interview

Last month, on Remembrance Day, I was honoured to be interviewed on ABC radio, speaking about how we remember this important day in our history. As an army cadet, it was a privilege to be at the Shrine of Remembrance, with thousands of others to commemorate this significant day.

City of Whittlesea's All Staff Forum

I would like to acknowledge Youth Councillor Angela Rolevska who presented at the City of Whittlesea’s All Staff Forum, to talk to Council staff about the role of the Youth Council. Thank you for taking the time to share with the organisation valuable information about our Youth Council and the work we do.

16 Days of Activism Event

Last week, our Deputy Youth Mayor, Kaynat was the MC as the 16 Days of Activism event held at Mill Park Library. The Let’s talk about Respect event, which was organised by the City of Whittlesea Youth Team, and was held on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, featured guest speakers and highlighted the significance of the day as we continue to advocate for gender equality and family violence prevention. Thank you Kaynat for being part of such an important event.

Youth Development Updates

The Youth Council would like to acknowledge and thank Alberto Giglia, former Coordinator, Youth Development at Council, who has recently resigned to move back to his hometown of Perth. Alberto had been our main point of contact at Council and was instrumental in guiding and helping us navigate our first year as a Youth Council. We wish Alberto all the very best on his new endeavours at the City of Rockingham.

On this note the Youth Council would also like to welcome Hristina Madzevska, who is here tonight and will be our new key contact in the Youth Development Team at Council. We're very much looking forward to working with you Hristina.

2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No declarations.

3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Youth Councillor Mustafa Khraim</i>
Seconded:	<i>Youth Councillor Angelica Banquil</i>

THAT the following Minutes of the preceding meeting as circulated, be confirmed:

- Youth Council Meeting held on 11 November 2024.

CARRIED

4 Officers' Reports

4.1 Youth Council Meetings Schedule for 2025

Director/Executive Manager: Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Report Author: Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

In Attendance: Unit Manager Compliance & Governance

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is for the Youth Council to adopt the proposed Youth Council Meeting schedule for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025.

Youth Council Meetings are conducted monthly so that the Youth Council may engage with Council Officers at Youth Council meetings for the purpose of providing expert advice to Council on topics and issues relevant to young people.

It is proposed that Youth Council Meetings are conducted on the first Monday of the month commencing in February.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council:

1. Adopt the Youth Council meeting schedule for 1 January 2025 to 30 December 2025 as follows:

2025
Monday 3 February 2025
Monday 3 March 2025 – Election of Mayor & Deputy Mayor
Monday 7 April 2025
Monday 5 May 2025
Monday 2 June 2025
Monday 7 July 2025
Monday 4 August 2025
Monday 1 September 2025
Monday 6 October 2025
Monday 1 December 2025

2. Attend a Council Briefing dinner with Councillors on the below dates, to inform Council of identified issues of priorities, projects and portfolio work undertaken by the Youth Council:
 - a. 25 March 2025; and
 - b. 26 August 2025.

3. Resolve that all Youth Council meetings will commence at 6pm and be held at the Civic Centre, Ferres Boulevard South Morang.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Youth Councillor Mustafa Khraim</i>
Seconded:	<i>Youth Councillor Tanya Sharma</i>

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CARRIED

YOUTH COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Youth Councillor Mustafa Khraim

VOTING			
UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

4.2 Recap on Youth Council Areas of Focus for 2024-2025

Director/Executive Manager: Director Community Wellbeing

Report Author: Unit Manager Youth Development

In Attendance: Youth Development Officer

Executive Summary

At the 5 February 2024 Youth Council Meeting all Youth Councillors agreed on the key focus areas for 2024.

Discussion will take place at this meeting to recap on achievements for 2024 and revisit the priority issues, topics and areas of focus set at the February 2024 Youth Council Meeting and if these are still current for the 2025 Youth Council term.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council confirm the priority issues, topics and areas of focus set at the February 2024 Council meeting are still agreed upon and will form part of the Key Focus Areas for 2025.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Youth Councillor Sophie Winter</i>
Seconded:	<i>Deputy Youth Mayor Kaynat Virk</i>

THAT the Youth Council confirm the priority issues, topics and areas of focus set at the February 2024 Council meeting are still agreed upon and will form part of the Key Focus Areas for 2025.

CARRIED

YOUTH COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Deputy Youth Mayor Kaynat Virk

VOTING

UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

5 Notices of Motion

No Notices of Motion

6 General / Urgent Business

No General or Urgent Business

7 Closure

There being no further business the Youth Mayor formally closed the meeting at 6:11pm.

Confirmed this 3rd day of February 2025.

Zachary Melvaine
Youth Mayor