

Minutes

Youth Council Meeting
Monday 3 February 2025 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

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1 Opening

1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions

The Youth Mayor opened the meeting at 6pm.

“Welcome to this Youth Council Meeting of 3 February 2025 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
Dean Connelly-Carpenter (arrived 6:21pm)
Bavleen Kaur
Mustafa Khraim
Angela Rolevska
Emily Tricarico
Elly Watson
Sophie Winter

We also have in attendance Jacinta Stevens, Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO.”

1.2 Apologies

Youth Councillor Tanya Sharma
Youth Councillor Sandy Tran

Absent

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:

Welcome Back

As this is our first meeting back for the year, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. I know we are all looking forward to our second year on the Youth Council.

Official Opening of the First Response Youth Service Refuge

In December, Deputy Youth Mayor Kaynat attended the official opening of the First Response Youth Service refuge in South Morang. This new facility, in which the City of Whittlesea was a proud partner, will provide essential support to young people aged 16-25 and their children experiencing homelessness. It offers 12 emergency response beds, and specialised youth-focused services, including youth workers.

City of Whittlesea Community Awards

The City of Whittlesea Community Awards are currently open for nominations. The awards celebrate the contributions of those who live, work, volunteer or study in our municipality, and who go above and beyond for the community. Last year, our Deputy Youth Mayor Kaynat was awarded the Young Citizen of the Year award for her work on projects and campaigns addressing issues facing young people’s health and wellbeing. If you know someone in the community deserving of recognition, please consider nominating them via the City of Whittlesea website. Awards will be presented at the Community Festival in March.

2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No declarations.

3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Deputy Youth Mayor Kaynat Virk</i>
Seconded:	<i>Youth Councillor Mustafa Khraim</i>

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

- Youth Council Meeting held on 2 December 2024.

CARRIED

UNCONFIRMED

4 Officers' Reports

4.1 MPHWP & DAP - Health Priorities

Director/Executive Manager: Director Community Wellbeing

Report Author: Unit Manager Healthy & Inclusive Communities

In Attendance: Unit Manager Healthy & Inclusive Communities
Manager Community Strengthening

Executive Summary

This report presents an overview of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) and the Disability Action Plan (DAP) – including how we are ensuring there is a Youth lens in our plan development. Our health profile, that will provide localised data, is near completion and will inform the writing of these documents.

Community consultation has commenced, and our focus groups are being designed. At the time of writing, we did not have data for early indicators of our community's health priorities. We will have compiled data ready for the presentation to Youth Council.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council:

1. In collaboration with all Youth Councillors provide feedback to the Councillor Support Officer.
2. Note the feedback will be tabled at the next Youth Council meeting for noting.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Youth Councillor Mustafa Khraim</i>
Seconded:	<i>Youth Councillor Angela Rolevska</i>

THAT the Youth Council:

1. In collaboration with all Youth Councillors provide feedback to the Councillor Support Officer.
2. Note the feedback will be tabled at the next Youth Council meeting for noting.

CARRIED

YOUTH COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Youth Councillor Mustafa Khraim

Youth Councillor Angela Rolevska

VOTING			
UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

UNCONFIRMED

4.2 Youth Council's Involvement at CoW's 2025 Community Festival - Youth Precinct

Director/Executive Manager: Director Community Wellbeing

Report Author: Youth Development Officer

In Attendance: Youth Development Officer

Executive Summary

The 2025 City of Whittlesea Community Festival is an upcoming large-scale event designed to bring together local community through music, activities, and partnerships.

A highlight of the festival is the Youth Precinct which showcases tailored activities, young performers, and stakeholders to engage young people, as well as provide an opportunity for City of Whittlesea Youth Services to connect with a wider audience.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council:

1. Attend City of Whittlesea's 2025 Community Festival Youth Precinct on 16 March 2025 from 11am to 5pm.
2. In the lead up to the Community Festival 2025, act as Community Festival – Youth Precinct ambassadors to encourage local youth participation and raise awareness of the festival through schools, social media, and peer networks.
3. On the day of the Community Festival 2025, engage with young people and the wider community by conducting surveys, collecting feedback, and promoting Youth Council initiatives. This will also include working alongside the core FReeZA committee who will be conducting similar engagements for events.
4. Following the Community Festival 2025, provide feedback on festival programming to ensure that future events are inclusive and youth-focused, as well as planning for further Youth Council involvement at other major City of Whittlesea and FReeZA events.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Deputy Youth Mayor Kaynat Virk</i>
Seconded:	<i>Youth Councillor Dean Connelly-Carpenter</i>

THAT the Youth Council:

1. Attend City of Whittlesea’s 2025 Community Festival Youth Precinct on 16 March 2025 from 11am to 5pm.
2. In the lead up to the Community Festival 2025, act as Community Festival – Youth Precinct ambassadors to encourage local youth participation and raise awareness of the festival through schools, social media, and peer networks.
3. On the day of the Community Festival 2025, engage with young people and the wider community by conducting surveys, collecting feedback, and promoting Youth Council initiatives. This will also include working alongside the core FReeZA committee who will be conducting similar engagements for events.
4. Following the Community Festival 2025, provide feedback on festival programming to ensure that future events are inclusive and youth-focused, as well as planning for further Youth Council involvement at other major City of Whittlesea and FReeZA events.

CARRIED

YOUTH COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Deputy Youth Mayor Kaynat Virk

VOTING			
UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

4.3 Amendments to the Youth Council Terms of Reference

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

Report Author: Councillor Support Officer

In Attendance: Councillor Support Officer

Executive Summary

The Youth Council Terms of Reference define the purpose, objective, structure, resourcing and management of the City of Whittlesea Youth Council. The Youth Council Terms of Reference was published in October 2023 prior to the recruitment of the 2024-25 Youth Council.

The Terms of Reference defines that a member of the Youth Council cannot re-apply for membership following the completion of a term of membership (24 months). This has been identified as a disadvantage for Youth Council members who are aged under 16 years old during their term of membership as they do not have the opportunity to nominate for Youth Mayor or Deputy Youth Mayor.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council:

1. Resolve to accept the proposed amendment to the Terms of Reference at Attachment 1.
2. Note the amended Youth Council Terms of Reference will come into effect immediately and will be circulated to relevant officers, Council staff and Youth Council members.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Youth Councillor Angela Rolevska</i>
Seconded:	<i>Youth Councillor Bavleen Kaur</i>

THAT the Youth Council:

1. **Resolve to accept the proposed amendment to the Terms of Reference at Attachment 1.**
2. **Note the amended Youth Council Terms of Reference will come into effect immediately and will be circulated to relevant officers, Council staff and Youth Council members.**

CARRIED

YOUTH COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Youth Councillor Angela Rolevska

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 6:48pm.

Confirmed this 3rd day of March 2025.

Zachary Melvaine
Youth Mayor