

# Minutes

Council Meeting

Tuesday 17 December 2024 at 6pm

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

# Councillors

Cr Aidan McLindon, Mayor	Kirrip Ward
Cr Daniela Zinni, Deputy Mayor	Bundoora Ward
Cr Nic Brooks	Thomastown Ward
Cr Blair Colwell	Mill Park Ward
Cr Lawrie Cox	Ganbul Gulinj Ward
Councillor Deb Gunn	Painted Hills Ward
Cr Stevan Kozmevski	Lalor Ward
Cr Jarrod Lappin	Mernda Ward
Cr David Lenberg	Epping Ward
Cr Christine Stow	North Ward
Cr Martin Taylor	South Morang Ward

# Executive Leadership Team

Craig Lloyd	Chief Executive Officer
Emma Appleton	Director Planning & Development
Agata Chmielewski	Director Community Wellbeing
Sarah Renner	Director Customer & Corporate Services
Debbie Wood	Director Infrastructure & Environment
Janine Morgan	Executive Manager Public Affairs
Jacinta Stevens	Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

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## 1 Opening

### 1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions

The Mayor, Cr McLindon opened the meeting at 6pm.

“Good evening everyone, welcome to this Council Meeting of 17 December 2024 which is being held in person in the Council Chamber at Civic Centre, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang and also being live streamed.

I am the newly elected Mayor, Cr McLindon and I would like to introduce our Councillors in attendance tonight. We have Deputy Mayor, Cr Zinni, Cr Kozmevski, Cr Lenberg, Cr Gunn, Cr Colwell, Cr Stow, Cr Brooks (*online*), Cr Cox, Cr Lappin and Cr Taylor.

I would also like to introduce our Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd and ask that he introduce the members of the Executive Leadership Team.”

“Good evening everyone, I would like to introduce our:

Director Planning & Development, Emma Appleton;  
Director Community Wellbeing, Agata Chmielewski;  
Director Customer & Corporate Services, Sarah Renner;  
Director Infrastructure & Environment, Debbie Wood;  
Executive Manager Public Affairs, Janine Morgan; and  
Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO, Jacinta Stevens.

These members of the Executive Leadership Team will join us during the meeting.”

### 1.2 Apologies

Nil

### 1.3 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement

The Mayor, Cr McLindon 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 Custodians of lands within the City of Whittlesea.*

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

Cr Colwell raised a point of order acknowledging the reading of Acknowledgment of Traditional Owners Statement was not completely correct in accordance with the Governance Rules. It should have been read as the *“Traditional Owners of lands within the City of Whittlesea.”*

#### 1.4 Diversity and Good Governance Statement

The Mayor, Cr McLindon read the following statement:

*“At the City of Whittlesea we are proud of our diversity and the many cultures, faiths and beliefs that make up our community. We strive to be an inclusive welcoming City that fosters active participation, wellbeing and connection to each other and this land. We commit as a Council to making informed decisions to benefit the people of the City of Whittlesea now and into the future, to support our community’s vision of A Place For All.”*

#### 1.5 Acknowledgements

The following acknowledgements were made:

##### **Redevelopment of Dalton Road, Derby Meadows and Stables Kindergartens**

We welcomed the news of a \$13 million contribution from the Victorian Government which will be used, alongside Council funding, for a major redevelopment of Dalton Road Kindergarten in Thomastown, Derby Meadows Preschool in Epping and Stables Kindergarten in Mill Park.

These upgrades will give more children access to high-quality early learning close to home.

##### **Economic Development Award**

At the 2024 National Economic Development Awards for Excellence in October, the City of Whittlesea proudly received the Marketing and Promotion Award for its Investment Attraction Marketing and Promotional Campaigns.

Well done to the team for this award. It’s great to see we are supporting local businesses to be successful here in the City of Whittlesea and look forward to producing many opportunities for the businesses yet to come.

##### **Business Awards**

Well done to the two City of Whittlesea businesses who collected awards at the Northern Business Achievement Awards recently.

Customer Service of the Year was awarded to Mantra Melbourne Epping and Best Small Business of the year went to Distinctive Features Cosmetic Tattoo and Beauty.

An outstanding achievement for two fantastic local businesses. We wish them well.

### **International Day of People with Disability**

On 3 December Council acknowledged International Day of People with Disability.

We are committed to building an inclusive and cohesive community that supports people of all abilities every day of the year.

Council celebrated International Day of People with Disability with events at Whittlesea Community Activity Centre, Galada Community Centre and supported the 'We are Champions' event at TRAC in Thomastown.

### **Study Hub**

I would like to acknowledge the Federal Government's funding of the new Suburban University Study Hub.

We are pleased that Epping has been selected as a site for this initiative which aims to make tertiary study more accessible for disadvantaged students and provide the community with access to upskills, supporting future job careers and pathways that are critical to our local economy.

### **Community Awards**

A reminder that our Community Awards are now open for nominations.

I would encourage people to think about those in the community who are going well above and beyond the call of duty and to please come forward and nominate them.

Nominations close 5 March so there's still plenty of time.

You can find all the details on Council's website.

### **Passing of Lindsay Mann**

The City of Whittlesea acknowledges the significant contributions of Lindsay Mann, former president of the Whittlesea Historical Society, who passed away on 3 November. Lindsay spent decades preserving and promoting local history.

His leadership, research, and dedication to heritage have greatly enhanced our community. We extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and the Whittlesea Historical Society during this time.

The Mayor, extended the acknowledgement stating the following:

*"For all of those in the community who felt his contribution, we maintain our thoughts with his family and friends".*

**2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

No declarations.

**3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s**

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr Stow</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr Kozmevski</i>

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

- **Unscheduled Council meeting held on 17 September 2024; and**
- **Council Meeting held on 19 November 2024.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Oath or Affirmation of Office**

In accordance with s 30 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Oath and Affirmation of Office was undertaken before the Chief Executive Officer on 12 November 2024. This was not undertaken during a Council Meeting.



## **4 Public Questions, Petitions and Joint Letters**

### **4.1 Public Question Time**

#### **Question from Nick Brain of Epping:**

Does the role of Councillors under the Local Government Act extend to exercise control over operational matters relating to the delivery of council services?

#### **Response:**

Thank you for your question.

Under the *Local Government Act*, the role of Councillors is clearly defined. Councillors do not have responsibility for operational matters. This is the remit of the CEO.

#### **Question from Mike Moore of Epping:**

What is the council doing to support and protect the rights of the LGBTQIA2s+ community?

#### **Response:**

Thank you for your question.

Our vision in the City of Whittlesea is to create a Place for All and we are committed to delivering a place where all people feel supported, safe and valued.

Not only are human rights protected across Australia through a range of laws, we also have our own policies and strategies in place to ensure we support everyone who lives and works in the City of Whittlesea, including our LGBTQIA+ community.

### **4.2 Petitions**

No Petitions

### **4.3 Joint Letters**

No Joint Letters

## 5 Officers' Reports

### 5.1 Waste to Energy Facility - 510 Summerhill Road, Wollert

**Director/Executive Manager:** Director Planning & Development

**Report Author:** Director Planning & Development

**In Attendance:** Manager Building & Planning  
Priority Development Planner

#### Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Endorse the Council Officer submissions lodged to the Department of Transport and Planning dated 2 April 2024 and 13 June 2024 at attachment 1 and attachment 2.
2. Endorse the Council Officer submission lodged to the Environmental Protection Authority dated 19 November 2024 at attachment 3.
3. Approve the Chief Executive Officer to write to the Minister for Planning, and the Minister for Environment as follows:
  - a. Bringing to the Minister's attention Council's objection to the planning permit application PA2302243.
  - b. Bringing to the Minister's attention Council's objection to the Environment Development Licence application APP024914.
  - c. Request Ministers to reject both applications for the reasons detailed in the Officer's submissions at attachments 1, 2 and 3.

#### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr Gunn</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr Taylor</i>

THAT Council:

1. Endorse the Council Officer submissions lodged to the Department of Transport and Planning dated 2 April 2024 and 13 June 2024 at attachment 1 and attachment 2.
2. Endorse the Council Officer submission lodged to the Environmental Protection Authority dated 19 November 2024 at attachment 3.
3. Approve the Chief Executive Officer to write to the Minister for Planning, and the Minister for Environment as follows:
  - a. Bringing to the Minister's attention Council's objection to the planning permit application PA2302243.
  - b. Bringing to the Minister's attention Council's objection to the Environment Development Licence application APP024914.

- c. Request Ministers to reject both applications for the reasons detailed in the Officer’s submissions at attachments 1, 2 and 3.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION**

*Cr Taylor and Cr McLindon*

**VOTING**

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED

## 5.2 Planning Scheme Amendment C269: Rezoning of 149 McKimmies Road, Bundoora: Planning Panel Outcomes and Adoption

**Director/Executive Manager:** Director Planning & Development

**Report Author:** Strategic Planner

**In Attendance:** Unit Manager Strategic Planning  
Strategic Planner

### Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the Panel Report at Attachment 2 and the recommended officer response to the Panel's recommendations at Attachment 6.
2. Adopt Planning Scheme Amendment C269wsea to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme in the form of the revised Amendment documents at Attachment 4.
3. Submit Amendment C269wsea, as per point 2 above, to the Minister for Planning for approval.
4. Advise the proponent and submitters to Amendment C269wsea of the above.

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr Lenberg</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr Stow</i>

THAT Council:

1. **Note the Panel Report at Attachment 2 and the recommended officer response to the Panel's recommendations at Attachment 6.**
2. **Adopt Planning Scheme Amendment C269wsea to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme in the form of the revised Amendment documents at Attachment 4 with the following changes to Development Plan Schedule 40:**
  - a) **The Transport Strategy, which is required to be prepared as part of the Development Plan, must include a provision to consider and if required by emergency services authorities, provide a secondary access/egress route for emergency services.**
  - b) **The Transport Strategy and Precinct Infrastructure Plan, which are required to be prepared as part of the Development Plan, must include an amended provision to require the upgrade of the intersection of McKimmies Road and Laurie Collins Drive to occur early in the development staging and must be completed prior to occupation of 200 dwellings on the site.**

- c) The Built Form Analysis Plan and Open Space and Landscape Plan, which are required to be prepared as part of the Development Plan, should clearly demonstrate that the subdivision layout and proposed landscape treatment of the residential properties adjoining the E6 road reservation secure amenity for the residents in these homes.
- 3. Submit Amendment C269wsea, as per point 2 above, to the Minister for Planning for approval.
- 4. Note officers will advise the proponent and submitters to Amendment C269wsea of points 1-3 above.
- 5. Request the CEO or their delegate to seek further expert assurance through formal correspondence from the Environmental Auditor on:
  - a) the status of remediation works relating to ground gas conditions on the site; and
  - b) the implementation of mitigation measures to provide for a safe environment for future residents; and

That officers provide an update to Councillors.
- 6. Request the CEO to write to the Minister for Transport Infrastructure and the Secretary, Department of Transport and Planning, to seek commitment:
  - a) To the timing for land acquisition, design and delivery of the E6 road as a critical piece of road infrastructure to support housing and economic growth of the region.
  - b) That the future design of the E6 road project incorporate effective landscape buffers and noise attenuation barriers to neighbouring properties.
  - c) That the future design of the E6 road project incorporate walking and cycling trails which contribute to the active transport network of the region.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION**

*Cr Lenberg, Cr Stow, Cr Zinni, Cr Colwell, Cr Cox and Cr McLindon*

**VOTING**

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED

### 5.3 Planning Scheme Amendments C286 and C287 - Heritage Overlay at 1470 Plenty Road, Mernda – Request for Authorisation and Interim Heritage Protection

**Director/Executive Manager:** Director Planning & Development

**Report Author:** Strategic Planner

**In Attendance:** Unit Manager Strategic Planning  
Strategic Planner

#### Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note that a request to the Minister for Planning to apply interim heritage protection via Amendment C286 was made under delegation by the Chief Executive Officer on 7 November 2024, as the heritage place is under threat of demolition and the condition of the heritage building is at risk of falling into further disrepair.
2. Seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit Amendment C287 to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme which seeks to apply a permanent Heritage Overlay to a portion of the land at 1470 Plenty Road, Mernda.
3. Advise the landowner of 1470 Plenty Road, Mernda, of Council's resolution to apply heritage controls to the property.

#### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr Stow</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr Lappin</i>

THAT Council:

1. **Note that a request to the Minister for Planning to apply interim heritage protection via Amendment C286 was made under delegation by the Chief Executive Officer on 7 November 2024, as the heritage place is under threat of demolition and the condition of the heritage building is at risk of falling into further disrepair.**
2. **Seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit Amendment C287 to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme which seeks to apply a permanent Heritage Overlay to a portion of the land at 1470 Plenty Road, Mernda.**
3. **Advise the landowner of 1470 Plenty Road, Mernda, of Council's resolution to apply heritage controls to the property.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

*Cr Stow*

## VOTING

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED

## 5.4 Victoria Government’s Housing Statement - Update on Plan for Victoria, Activity Centre Program and other Planning Reforms

**Director/Executive Manager:** Director Planning & Development

**Report Author:** Unit Manager Strategic Planning

**In Attendance:** Unit Manager Strategic Planning

### Officers’ Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the State Government’s progress update on the implementation of Victoria’s Housing Statement: The Decade Ahead 2024-2034 at Attachment 2.
2. Note the City of Whittlesea’s submission to the State Government’s *Plan for Victoria* consultation process, August 2024 at Attachment 3.
3. Note the City of Whittlesea’s submission to the State Government’s Activity Centre Program, September 2024 at Attachment 6.
4. Note the State Government’s *More Homes More Opportunity* announcements at Attachment 7.
5. Write to the Minister of Planning to seek assurance that Council will be consulted on proposed changes to the planning system announced as part of its *More Homes More Opportunity* announcements.

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr Zinni</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr Lenberg</i>

THAT Council:

1. **Note the State Government’s progress update on the implementation of Victoria’s Housing Statement: The Decade Ahead 2024-2034 at Attachment 2.**
2. **Note the City of Whittlesea’s submission to the State Government’s *Plan for Victoria* consultation process, August 2024 at Attachment 3.**
3. **Note the City of Whittlesea’s submission to the State Government’s Activity Centre Program, September 2024 at Attachment 6.**
4. **Note the State Government’s *More Homes More Opportunity* announcements at Attachment 7.**
5. **Write to the Minister of Planning to seek assurance that Council will be consulted on proposed changes to the planning system announced as part of its *More Homes More Opportunity* announcements.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



## COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

*Cr Cox and Cr McLindon*

## VOTING

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED

## 5.5 Governance Report

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

**Report Author:** Unit Manager Compliance & Governance

**In Attendance:** Unit Manager Compliance & Governance

### Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the Governance Report for December 2024.
2. Resolve to delegate to the members of staff holding the relevant positions the powers, duties and functions set out in the Instrument of Delegation (s6) from Council to Members of Council Staff attached at Attachment 1.
3. Resolve to commence operation of the s6 Instrument of Delegation from Council to Members of Council Staff at Attachment 1 immediately upon the signing by the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer, and common seal of Council being affixed to the Instrument.
4. Revoke the previous s6 Instrument of Delegation from Council to Members of Council Staff adopted by Council on 18 June 2024.
5. Note the Summary Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 3 December 2024 at Attachment 2 and will be made available on Council's website.
6. Resolve to adopt the revised Audit and Risk Committee Charter at Attachment 3.
7. Resolve, following a competitive expression of interest process to fill a vacant position, to appoint Lisa Tripodi as an independent member of the Audit and Risk Committee for a three-year term, concluding 16 December 2027.
8. Note that Marco Bini's three-year appointment as an independent member of the Audit and Risk Committee ceases on 30 June 2025, and:
  - a. Resolve not to extend the appointment of Marco Bini beyond 30 June 2025, and for the Chief Executive Officer or his delegate to write to Marco Bini advising him of this resolution and thank him for his contributions over the past three years.
  - b. Resolve to appoint Suzie Thoraval as the replacement independent member of the Audit and Risk Committee for a three-year term, commencing 1 July 2025 and concluding 30 June 2028.

<b>COUNCIL RESOLUTION</b>	
<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr Taylor</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr Lappin</i>

**THAT Council:**

1. Note the Governance Report for December 2024.
2. Resolve to delegate to the members of staff holding the relevant positions the powers, duties and functions set out in the Instrument of Delegation (s6) from Council to Members of Council Staff attached at Attachment 1.
3. Resolve to commence operation of the s6 Instrument of Delegation from Council to Members of Council Staff at Attachment 1 immediately upon the signing by the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer, and common seal of Council being affixed to the Instrument.
4. Revoke the previous s6 Instrument of Delegation from Council to Members of Council Staff adopted by Council on 18 June 2024.
5. Note the Summary Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 3 December 2024 at Attachment 2 and will be made available on Council’s website.
6. Resolve to adopt the revised Audit and Risk Committee Charter at Attachment 3.
7. Resolve, following a competitive expression of interest process to fill a vacant position, to appoint Lisa Tripodi as an independent member of the Audit and Risk Committee for a three-year term, concluding 16 December 2027.
8. Note that Marco Bini’s three-year appointment as an independent member of the Audit and Risk Committee ceases on 30 June 2025, and:
  - a. Resolve not to extend the appointment of Marco Bini beyond 30 June 2025, and for the Chief Executive Officer or his delegate to write to Marco Bini advising him of this resolution and thank him for his contributions over the past three years.
  - b. Resolve to appoint Suzie Thoraval as the replacement independent member of the Audit and Risk Committee for a three-year term, commencing 1 July 2025 and concluding 30 June 2028.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION**

*Cr Taylor and Cr McLindon*

<b>VOTING</b>		
<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>ABSTAINED</b>

## 5.6 Appointment of Councillor Representatives to Committees

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

**Report Author:** Unit Manager Council Governance

**In Attendance:** Unit Manager Council Governance

### Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Appoints Councillor representatives to the State-wide, Metropolitan, Regional and Whittlesea-based organisations as listed at Table A within the body of this report for a period of up to 12 months.
2. Note the Mayor, Cr McLindon will be appointed to the Outer Melbourne Councils and Northern Councils Alliance in accordance with their respective Terms of Reference and Charter.
3. Appoints Councillor representatives to the Council Advisory Committees as listed at Table B within the body of this report for a period of up to 12 months.
4. Appoints Councillor representatives to the Whittlesea City Council Standing Committees listed at Table C within the body of this report for a period of up to 12 months, and the Epping Cemetery Trust for the period of this Council term.
5. Note the Mayor, Cr McLindon and Deputy Mayor, Cr Zinni will be appointed to the CEO Employment Matters Advisory Committee (CEMAC) plus one other Councillor in accordance with the CEMAC Employment and Remuneration Policy.

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr Cox</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr Kozmevski</i>

THAT Council:

1. **Appoints Councillor representatives by way of nomination to the State-wide, Metropolitan, Regional and Whittlesea-based organisations as listed at Table A within the body of this report for a period of up to 12 months.**
2. **Note the Mayor, Cr McLindon will be appointed to the Outer Melbourne Councils and Northern Councils Alliance in accordance with their respective Terms of Reference and Charter.**
3. **Appoints Councillor representatives by way of nomination to the Council Advisory Committees as listed at Table B within the body of this report for a period of up to 12 months.**

4. **Appoints Councillor representatives by way of nomination to the Whittlesea City Council Standing Committees listed at Table C within the body of this report for a period of up to 12 months, and the Epping Cemetery Trust for the period of this Council term.**
5. **Note the Mayor will be appointed to the CEO Employment Matters Advisory Committee (CEMAC) plus two other Councillors in accordance with the CEMAC Employment and Remuneration Policy, and the terms of reference for CEMAC be amended to Mayor plus two Councillors.**

**Table A**

<b>State-wide, metropolitan or regional organisation</b>	<b>Nominees required</b>	<b>Appointments 2024-25</b>
Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)	One Councillor (voting rights) and one proxy	Cr Cox Cr Stow (Proxy)
Australian Local Government Women's Association Incorporated (ALGWA)	One Councillor (voting rights)	Cr Stow
Outer Melbourne Councils	Mayor (voting rights) and one proxy	Cr McLindon Cr Colwell (Proxy)
Metropolitan Transport Forum Inc.	One Councillor (voting rights)	Cr Brooks
Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action Executive (NAGA)	One Councillor	Cr Lappin
Northern Councils Alliance	Mayor (voting rights) and one proxy	Cr McLindon Cr Stow (Proxy)
Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA)	One Councillor (voting rights) and one proxy	Cr Stow Cr Zinni (Proxy)
Whittlesea Community Futures Partnership	One Councillor	Cr Zinni
Yarra Plenty Regional Library Board (YPRL)	One or two Councillor (voting rights)	Cr Kozmevski Cr Stow
Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee	CEO (Chair) (voting rights) One Councillor	Cr Taylor
Whittlesea Multicultural Communities Council (WMCC)	One Councillor and one proxy	Cr Brooks Cr Lenberg (Proxy)
City of Whittlesea Community Awards Committee	One Councillor	Cr Gunn
Whittlesea Reconciliation Group (WRG)	One Councillor (voting rights)	Cr Cox
Whittlesea Youth Commitment Strategic Advisory Group	One Councillor (optional)	Cr Colwell

**Table B**

<b>Council Advisory Committees</b>	<b>Nominees required</b>	<b>Appointments 2024-25</b>
City of Whittlesea Disability Advisory Panel	One Councillor	Cr Gunn
Whittlesea Disability Network (WDN)	One Councillor and one proxy	Cr Brooks Cr Lappin (Proxy)
City of Whittlesea Business Advisory Panel	Two Councillors and one proxy	Cr Taylor Cr Lenberg Cr Zinni (Proxy)

**Table C**

<b>City of Whittlesea Standing Committees</b>	<b>Nominees required</b>	<b>Appointments 2024-25</b>
Audit and Risk Committee (ARC)	Two Councillor (voting rights) and one proxy	Cr Taylor Cr McLindon Cr Lenberg (Proxy)
CEO Employment Matters Advisory Committee (CEMAC)  (External Independent Chairperson appointed until 28 February 2027)	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and two Councillors	Cr McLindon Cr Colwell Cr Kozmevski
Hearing of Submissions Committee (HoS)	Up to five Councillors	Cr Stow Cr Kozmevski Cr Taylor Cr Colwell Cr Lappin
Epping Cemetery Trust	Three Councillors as trustees appointed for the 4-year Council term	Cr Stow Cr Kozmevski Cr Gunn

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION**

*Cr Cox and Cr Kozmevski*

<b>VOTING</b>		
<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>ABSTAINED</b>

## 6 Notices of Motion

### 6.1 Reducing Council's reliance on Rates

**Councillor:** Mayor, Cr McLindon

**NoM No:** 2024/02

Please take notice that it is my intention to move the following motion at the Scheduled Meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday 17 December 2024 at 6pm:

#### Motion

THAT Council resolve:

1. As part of the review of the Long Term Financial Plan that the Chief Executive Officer identify opportunities to lower costs with the aim to reduce Council's reliance on rates, fees and charges, without compromising Council's service efficiency and delivery.

**Notice Received:** 3 December 2024

**Notice Given to Councillors:** 5 December 2024

**Date of Meeting:** 17 December 2024

#### PREAMBLE

The purpose of this motion is for Council to consider opportunities as part of reviewing the Long-Term Financial Plan in response to the current cost of living increases across the board.

#### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Mayor, Cr McLindon</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr Taylor</i>

THAT Council resolve:

1. As part of the review of the Long Term Financial Plan that the Chief Executive Officer identify opportunities to lower costs with the aim to reduce Council's reliance on rates, fees and charges, without compromising Council's service efficiency and delivery.

**MOTION LOST**



## COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

*Cr McLindon, Cr Taylor, Cr Colwell, Cr Cox, Cr Kozmevski and Cr Stow*

VOTING		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
<i>Cr McLindon</i>	<i>Cr Colwell</i>	
<i>Cr Zinni</i>	<i>Cr Cox</i>	
<i>Cr Brooks</i>	<i>Cr Gunn</i>	
<i>Cr Lenberg</i>	<i>Cr Kozmevski</i>	
<i>Cr Taylor</i>	<i>Cr Lappin</i>	
	<i>Cr Stow</i>	

## **7 Urgent Business**

No Urgent Business

## **8 Reports from Councillors and CEO Update**

### **8.1 Reports from Councillors**

#### **Deputy Mayor, Cr Zinni**

- Council Meeting (Election of Mayor & Deputy Mayor).
- Various Councillor Workshops/Inductions.
- Whittlesea Carols by Candlelight.
- MAV Mandatory Mayor & Deputy Mayor training sessions.
- Council Meeting 17 December 2024.

#### **Cr Kozmevski**

- Council Meeting (Election of Mayor & Deputy Mayor).
- Various Councillor Workshops/Inductions.
- Whittlesea Carols by Candlelight.
- Council Meeting 17 December 2024.

#### **Cr Lenberg**

- Interroll Australia Grand Opening in Epping with the Managing Director, Pat Cieri.
- Citizenship Ceremony with Mayor, Cr McLindon.
- Various Councillor Workshops/Inductions.
- Woolworths Pacific Epping opening.
- Carols by Candlelight.
- Council Meeting (Election of Mayor & Deputy Mayor).
- Council Meeting 17 December 2024.

#### **Cr Gunn**

- Badminton Courts opening at Laurimar Primary School with local Para Athlete Macka Mackenzie.
- Attended a Remembrance Day service at the Cenotaph with the Doreen RSL.
- Various Councillor Workshops/Inductions.
- Council Meeting (Election of Mayor & Deputy Mayor).
- Attended Diwali & Annakut at Orchid Road Community & Early Learning Centre.
- Attended Laurimar Dance Group 'Dance Power' end of year concert and awards ceremony at PRACC.
- Whittlesea Carols by Candlelight.
- Met with State Minister alongside Cr Lappin and local Nepalese community new executive committee.
- Christmas Carol opening at Collingrove Park alongside Rev. Richard Wilson.

- Council Meeting 17 December 2024.

#### **Cr Colwell**

- Various Councillor Workshops/Inductions.
- Council Meeting (Election of Mayor & Deputy Mayor).
- Whittlesea Carols by Candlelight.
- Attended Stables Kindergarten Mill Park alongside Minister Lily D'Ambrosio MP and Cr Brooks for the official funding announcement for refurbishments.
- Attended the Rivergum Cricket Club Christmas Party.
- Council Meeting 17 December 2024.

#### **Cr Stow**

- Attended Laurimar Dance Group 'Dance Power' end of year concert and awards ceremony at PRACC.
- Attended Epping Primary School 150-year celebration.
- Attended Plenty Valley FM Christmas Party.
- Whittlesea Carols by Candlelight.
- Council Meeting (Election of Mayor & Deputy Mayor).
- Council Meeting 17 December 2024.
- *"Also along the lines of dancing, I would like to congratulate Samantha Dodemaide, a local girl who I have seen grow up who is debuting on Broadway in Moulin Rouge. So, from local girl in the area, I would like to congratulate her."*

#### **Cr Brook**

- Various Councillor Workshops/Inductions.
- Council Meeting (Election of Mayor & Deputy Mayor).
- Met with Sabi from Turbans 4 Australia (Local food charity in Thomastown).
- Council Meeting 17 December 2024.

#### **Cr Cox**

- Attended Remembrance Day ceremony at Epping RSL.
- Various Councillor Workshops/Inductions.
- Council Meeting (Election of Mayor & Deputy Mayor).
- Attended Diwali & Annakut with BAPS community at the Kirrip Community Centre.
- Various 1 on 1 meetings with residents addressing their matters.
- Council Meeting 17 December 2024.

### **Cr Lappin**

- Various Councillor Workshops/Inductions.
- Council Meeting (Election of Mayor & Deputy Mayor).
- Met with Paris and her team at the Mernda Neighbourhood House.
- Met with Doreen/Mernda Nepalese community alongside Cr Gunn.
- Council Meeting 17 December 2024.

### **Cr Taylor**

- Attended Whittlesea Audit & Risk Committee meeting.
- Various Councillor Workshops/Inductions.
- Council Meeting (Election of Mayor & Deputy Mayor).
- Attended BAPS Diwali festival of light.
- Citizenship Ceremony.
- Whittlesea Carols by Candlelight.
- Communicated with several community groups including Whittlesea Bicycle users' group, South Morang sports precincts club which includes the South Morang Football, Netball and Cricket Clubs.
- Attended Bellevue Park Primary School for the student leadership awards ceremony.
- Gorge Road Business Action group regarding issues with Gorge Road upgrades.
- Council Meeting 17 December 2024.

### **Mayor, Cr McLindon**

- Whittlesea Carols by Candlelight.
- Attended the Positive Ageing End of Year Golf Tournament with the Director Community Wellbeing.
- Met with Brendan from Bread Hub.
- Council Meeting (Election of Mayor & Deputy Mayor).
- Council Meeting 17 December 2024.
- *"The amount of community organisations that I have met, I'm very proud to be part of the City of Whittlesea and the team here before us. There is nothing that we can't achieve, and if we can agree to disagree, get on with it and make sure our City gets the best ever."*

## **8.2 Chief Executive Officer Update**

### **Regional sports precinct**

Work is progressing well on preparing the site along Plenty Road at Mernda for construction of the regional sports precinct.

The earthworks have been under way for several months and our contractor is busy removing rocks and levelling the ground.

These preliminary works are being completed in advance of Council calling for tenders in 2025 for the facility's construction.

The regional sports precinct, which will initially include an indoor stadium with four multi-purpose sports courts, outdoor netball courts, a car park and shared paths, is Council's single largest investment in social infrastructure and the benefits will be felt across the region for generations to come.

The project is supported by funding from the Victorian Government.

### **Aboriginal Gathering Place**

The Aboriginal Gathering Place, under construction at Quarry Hills Parkland, is really starting to take shape. In recent weeks we've seen work on the slabs for the northern and southern buildings and the steel structures are starting to go up.

Work is also under way on the car park and access road. The facility will feature indoor and outdoor multi-purpose spaces, including a large community events space for up to 100 people, consulting suites and meeting rooms.

When complete, the Aboriginal Gathering Place will be a welcoming, inclusive and culturally safe space where both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people can gain knowledge about local Aboriginal history, traditions and values.

### **Gorge Road shopping precinct streetscape upgrade**

Council is upgrading the streetscape and parking surrounding the Gorge Road shopping precinct in South Morang to improve the experience of customers.

The project includes an expanded outdoor dining area with seating and tables, improved street lighting, construction of a raised pedestrian crossing over Reid Street and new trees to provide shade outside the shops.

The parking arrangements outside the shop will also change from angled parking to parallel parking to improve the safety of drivers along that busy stretch of road.

I would like to remind everyone that all the Gorge Road businesses are open and continuing to operate as normal, so please keep supporting them. Parking is available behind the shops, which is accessible via Reid Street.

This project is supported by the Victorian Government through a grant from its Growing Suburbs Fund.

### **Quarry Hills Connecting Trails**

A range of new walking and cycling paths at Quarry Hills Parkland are now open for the public to enjoy.

The new Quarry Hills Connecting Trails provide residents and visitors alike with the opportunity to experience nature and enjoy the parkland's natural beauty.

The new trails range in length from 300 metres to 1.5 kilometres and allow people to experience the parkland's stunning landscape from different perspectives.

The project was supported by the Victorian Government through its Suburban Parks and Growing Suburbs Fund programs.

### **Murnong Community Centre**

Construction of the Murnong Community Centre at 183 Olivine Boulevard, Donnybrook is well underway.

A large amount of rock has been removed from the site to allow for the pouring of the concrete slab and the steel frame to be installed.

The community centre is the first of five planned for Donnybrook and will include a two-room kindergarten, Maternal and Child Health services, mini-branch library, community hall, kitchen and flexible spaces for hire.

The City of Whittlesea has partnered with the Victorian Government to build this facility.

**9 Confidential Business**

No confidential business.

**10 Closure**

There being no further business the Mayor formally closed the meeting at 8:04pm.

Confirmed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025.

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Cr Aidan McLindon  
Mayor