

Meeting Minutes

Meeting	Community Awards Committee	
Date	Tuesday, 24 February 2026 4:30pm – 5:30pm	
Location	Conference Room 1 and online via MS Teams	
Attendees	Councillor Deb Gunn - Councillor	Dr Sarvesh Soni
	Matthew Bui - Community Representative	Bill McGillivray
	Beatrix van Lunenburg - Community Representative	Jim Bannan
	Preeti Prasad - Community Representative	Sarah Oldman
	Malcolm Shimmins - Community Representative	Melanie MacKertich
	Najam UsSaqib - Community Representative	
	Dhawa Lama - Community Representative	
Apologies	Zoe Brown Jacinta Stevens	
No Attendance	Zachary Melvaine	

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners 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.

No	Agenda item	Actions/Notes	Owner	Due Date
1	Declarations of Conflicts of Interest	The Chairperson asked those in attendance the following question: "Does any attendee have a conflict of interest in any matter on the agenda today?" NIL Conflict of interest.	The Chairperson, Preeti Prasad	N/A
2	Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting	Recommendation: THAT the following Minutes of the preceding Community Awards Committee Meeting as circulated, be confirmed: • Scheduled Meeting of Community Awards Committee held on 20 January 2026. The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed.	The Chairperson, Preeti Prasad	N/A



3	Voting on Award Categories	<p>Discussion and recipient winners decided by mutual vote for the below award categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access and Inclusion Citizen of the Year • Sustainable Citizen of the Year • Young Citizen of the Year • Senior Citizen of the Year • Citizen of the Year 	ALL	N/A
4	Finalise Award Recipients:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access and Inclusion Citizen of the Year: Ahmed Abumeis • Sustainable Citizen of the Year: Liz Buckley • Young Citizen of the Year: Mia Llewellyn • Senior Citizen of the Year: Barrie Stewart • Citizen of the Year: Dr. Swati Sharma 	The Chairperson, Preeti Prasad	N/A
5	Update on Award Presentation	<p>Sunday 15 March 2026 at the City of Whittlesea Community Festival, timings as follows:</p> <p>12.00pm Welcome to Country 12.10pm Mayoral Speech – Cr Lawrie Cox - Mayor City of Whittlesea 12.20pm Community Awards 12.45pm Awards End</p>	Melanie MacKertich	N/A
6	General Business	NIL	The Chairperson, Preeti Prasad	N/A
7	Meeting Close	Meeting ended at 5:15pm	The Chairperson, Preeti Prasad	N/A

Next Meeting:

Date	TBC
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Location	TBC
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