



City of Whittlesea

# Youth Council minutes

Monday 2 March 2026 at 6pm



Council Chamber,  
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang



**City of  
Whittlesea**

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# Youth Councillors

Youth Cr Ahmed Abumeis

Youth Cr Osama Akkad

Youth Cr Dhyani Bhavsar

Youth Cr Gabby Charman

Youth Cr Emma Fasciani

Youth Cr Suad Issa

Youth Cr Clare Joseph

Youth Cr Ethan Kosumo

Youth Cr Alana Luscombe

Youth Cr Charlize Pommier

Youth Cr Hemal Sharma

Youth Cr Mannat Sooch

Youth Cr Theresa Yan

# Officers

Jacinta Stevens

Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Justine Smith

Unit Manager Council Governance

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## **1 Opening**

### **1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions**

The Executive Manager Officer of Council & CEO opened the meeting at 6pm.

Welcome to the Youth Council Meeting of 2 March 2026 which is being held in person in the Council Chamber at Civic Centre, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang.

I am Jacinta Stevens, Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO and I will be the chairperson for tonight's meeting. I would like to introduce the Youth Councillors in attendance tonight:

Youth Cr Ahmed Abumeis  
Youth Cr Osama Akkad  
Youth Cr Dhyani Bhavsar  
Youth Cr Gabby Charman  
Youth Cr Emma Fasciani  
Youth Cr Suad Issa  
Youth Cr Clare Joseph  
Youth Cr Ethan Kosumo  
Youth Cr Alana Luscombe  
Youth Cr Charlize Pommier  
Youth Cr Hemal Sharma  
Youth Cr Mannat Sooch  
Youth Cr Theresa Yan

We also have in attendance Justine Smith, Unit Manager Council Governance.

### **1.2 Apologies/Absent**

Nil

### **1.3 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement**

The Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO 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 Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO 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 Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO made the following acknowledgements:

##### City of Whittlesea Community Festival

The City of Whittlesea will host its annual Community Festival this month. This much loved, free, family friendly event will be packed with lots of activities for all ages, live music performances, theatre shows, a pet expo, food trucks and community stalls.

There is also a dedicated Youth Zone featuring live performances from emerging young artists on the Youth Space Stage, games and sport like volleyball and pickleball, creative activities, breathwork, and sound baths. You’ll also find lawn games, chill-out spaces, interactive experiences, and pop-ups from local youth services and community partners.

The Community Festival is on Sunday 15 March, from 11am-5pm, at the Civic Centre lawns in South Morang.

#### 2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No declarations.

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Youth Cr Charlize Pommier</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Youth Cr Clare Joseph</i>

**THAT the Youth Council confirm the Minutes of the Youth Council Meeting held on 2 February 2026, as circulated.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 4 Officers' Reports

### 4.1 Youth Mayoral Election 2026-2027

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

**Report Author:** Councillor Support Officer

**In Attendance:** Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

#### Executive Summary

The election of the Youth Mayor will be conducted in accordance with the City of Whittlesea Youth Council Terms of Reference (TOR).

Section 7 of the TOR prescribes that the Youth Council will receive nominations for and vote on a Youth Mayor at the second meeting of the term.

Elections will be, by way of a silent ballot with nominations submitted via an Expression of Interest form prior to the meeting.

The term of the Youth Mayor is for one year.

#### Officers' Recommendation

**THAT the Youth Council conduct the 2026-2027 election for the position of Youth Mayor for a term of one year.**

#### Nominations

Youth Cr Ahmed Abumeis  
 Youth Cr Gabrielle Charman  
 Youth Cr Osama Akkad  
 Youth Cr Mannat Sooch  
 Youth Cr Emma Fasciani  
 Youth Cr Dhyani Bhavsar

*Youth Councillor Mannat Sooch withdrew her nomination for the position of Youth Mayor.*

#### NOMINEE 1

<b>Nomination 1:</b>	<i>Youth Cr Ahmed Abumeis</i>
<b>Seconded by :</b>	<i>Youth Cr Dhyani Bhavsar</i>

Youth Cr Ahmed Abumeis was invited to make a two-minute statement as to why they would like to be elected Youth Mayor.

**NOMINEE 2**

<b>Nomination 2:</b>	<i>Youth Cr Gabrielle Charman</i>
<b>Secoded by :</b>	<i>Youth Cr Mannat Sooch</i>

Youth Cr Gabrielle Charman was invited to make a two-minute statement as to why they would like to be elected Youth Mayor.

**NOMINEE 3**

<b>Nomination 3:</b>	<i>Youth Cr Osama Akkad</i>
<b>Secoded by :</b>	<i>Youth Cr Ethan Kosumo</i>

Youth Cr Osama Akkad was invited to make a two-minute statement as to why they would like to be elected Youth Mayor.

**NOMINEE 4**

<b>Nomination 4:</b>	<i>Youth Cr Emma Fasciani</i>
<b>Secoded by :</b>	<i>Youth Cr Theresa Yan</i>

Youth Cr Emma Fasciani was invited to make a two-minute statement as to why they would like to be elected Youth Mayor.

**NOMINEE 5**

<b>Nomination 5:</b>	<i>Youth Cr Dhyani Bhavsar</i>
<b>Secoded by :</b>	<i>Youth Cr Osama Akkad</i>

Youth Cr Dhyani Bhavsar was invited to make a two-minute statement as to why they would like to be elected Youth Mayor.

**Voting**

Voting for Youth Mayor is conducted in the order that nominations were received via email.

**VOTING – ROUND 1**

<b>Youth Cr Ahmed Abumeis</b>	3
<b>Youth Cr Gabrielle Charman</b>	3
<b>Youth Cr Osama Akkad</b>	1
<b>Youth Cr Emma Fasciani</b>	4
<b>Youth Cr Dhyani Bhavsar</b>	2

**VOTING – ROUND 2**

<b>Youth Cr Ahmed Abumeis</b>	2
<b>Youth Cr Gabrielle Charman</b>	3
<b>Youth Cr Osama Akkad</b>	2
<b>Youth Cr Emma Fasciani</b>	4
<b>Youth Cr Dhyani Bhavsar</b>	2

**VOTING – ROUND 3**

<b>Youth Cr Ahmed Abumeis</b>	3
<b>Youth Cr Gabrielle Charman</b>	3
<b>Youth Cr Osama Akkad</b>	1
<b>Youth Cr Emma Fasciani</b>	4
<b>Youth Cr Dhyani Bhavsar</b>	2

In accordance with Council’s Governance Rules, sub-Rule 6.7, the candidate with the lowest number of votes must be eliminated in each round of voting. The Youth Councillors will then vote again for the remaining candidates.

*Youth Cr Osama Akkad was therefore eliminated after receiving the fewest votes.*

**VOTING – ROUND 4**

<b>Youth Cr Ahmed Abumeis</b>	4
<b>Youth Cr Gabrielle Charman</b>	3
<b>Youth Cr Emma Fasciani</b>	4
<b>Youth Cr Dhyani Bhavsar</b>	2

*As per Council’s Governance Rules, sub-Rule 6.7, Youth Cr Dhyani Bhavsar was eliminated after receiving the fewest votes.*

**VOTING – ROUND 5**

<b>Youth Cr Ahmed Abumeis</b>	5
<b>Youth Cr Gabrielle Charman</b>	3
<b>Youth Cr Emma Fasciani</b>	5

*As per Council’s Governance Rules, sub-Rule 6.7, Youth Cr Gabrielle Charman was eliminated after receiving the fewest votes.*

**VOTING – ROUND 6**

<b>Youth Cr Ahmed Abumeis</b>	6
<b>Youth Cr Emma Fasciani</b>	7

**Results of the Election**

In accordance with Council’s Governance Rules, the Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO declared Youth Councillor Emma has received an absolute majority of votes and therefore is elected as the Youth Mayor of the City of Whittlesea for the 2026 Youth Council year.

## 4.2 Deputy Youth Mayor Election 2026-2027

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

**Report Author:** Councillor Support Officer

**In Attendance:** Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

### Executive Summary

The election of the Deputy Youth Mayor will be conducted in accordance with the City of Whittlesea Youth Council Terms of Reference (TOR).

Section 7 of the TOR prescribes that the Youth Council will receive nominations for and vote on a Deputy Youth Mayor at the second meeting of the term.

Elections will be, by way of a silent ballot with nominations submitted via an Expression of Interest form prior to the meeting.

The term of the Deputy Youth Mayor is for one year and is identical to the term of the Youth Mayor.

### Officers' Recommendation

**THAT the Youth Council conducts the 2026-2027 election for the position of Deputy Youth Mayor for a term of one year.**

### Nominations

Youth Cr Ahmed Abumeis

Youth Cr Gabrielle Charman

Youth Cr Mannat Sooch

Youth Cr Theresa Yan

#### NOMINEE 1

<b>Nomination 1:</b>	<i>Youth Cr Ahmed Abumeis</i>
<b>Secoded by :</b>	<i>Youth Cr Osama Akkad</i>

Youth Cr Ahmed Abumeis was invited to make a two-minute statement as to why they would like to be elected Deputy Youth Mayor.

#### NOMINEE 2

<b>Nomination 2:</b>	<i>Youth Cr Gabrielle Charman</i>
<b>Secoded by :</b>	<i>Youth Cr Suad Issa</i>

Youth Cr Gabrielle Charman was invited to make a two-minute statement as to why they would like to be elected Deputy Youth Mayor.

**NOMINEE 3**

<b>Nomination 3:</b>	<i>Youth Cr Mannat Sooch</i>
<b>Secoded by :</b>	<i>Youth Cr Hemal Sharma</i>

Youth Cr Mannat Sooch was invited to make a two-minute statement as to why they would like to be elected Deputy Youth Mayor.

**NOMINEE 4**

<b>Nomination 4:</b>	<i>Youth Cr Theresa Yan</i>
<b>Secoded by :</b>	<i>Youth Cr Clare Joseph</i>

Youth Cr Theresa Yan was invited to make a two-minute statement as to why they would like to be elected Deputy Youth Mayor.

**Voting**

Voting for Deputy Youth Mayor is conducted in the order that nominations were received via email.

**VOTING – ROUND 1**

<b>Youth Cr Ahmed Abumeis</b>	3
<b>Youth Cr Gabrielle Charman</b>	4
<b>Youth Cr Mannat Sooch</b>	2
<b>Youth Cr Theresa Yan</b>	4

**VOTING – ROUND 2**

<b>Youth Cr Ahmed Abumeis</b>	3
<b>Youth Cr Gabrielle Charman</b>	5
<b>Youth Cr Mannat Sooch</b>	1
<b>Youth Cr Theresa Yan</b>	4

**VOTING – ROUND 3**

<b>Youth Cr Ahmed Abumeis</b>	4
<b>Youth Cr Gabrielle Charman</b>	6
<b>Youth Cr Mannat Sooch</b>	1
<b>Youth Cr Theresa Yan</b>	2

In accordance with Council's Governance Rules, sub-Rule 6.7, the candidate with the lowest number of votes must be eliminated in each round of voting. The Youth Councillors will then vote again for the remaining candidates.

*Youth Cr Mannat Sooch was therefore eliminated after receiving the fewest votes.*

<b>VOTING – ROUND 4</b>	
<b>Youth Cr Ahmed Abumeis</b>	5
<b>Youth Cr Gabrielle Charman</b>	6
<b>Youth Cr Theresa Yan</b>	2

*As per Council's Governance Rules, sub-Rule 6.7, Youth Cr Theresa Yan was eliminated after receiving the fewest votes.*

<b>VOTING – ROUND 5</b>	
<b>Youth Cr Ahmed Abumeis</b>	5
<b>Youth Cr Gabrielle Charman</b>	8

### **Results of the Election**

**In accordance with Council's Governance Rules, the Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO declared Youth Councillor Gabrielle has received an absolute majority of votes and therefore is elected as the Deputy Youth Mayor of the City of Whittlesea for the 2026 Youth Council year.**

### 4.3 Youth Mayor, Deputy Youth Mayor and Youth Councillor Addresses

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

**Report Author:** Councillor Support Officer

#### Executive Summary

The Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO will invite the newly elected Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor to present a two-minute address.

Youth Councillors will then be invited to make a two-minute response to the Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor's addresses.

#### Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor Addresses

The Youth Mayor Emma Fasciani and Deputy Youth Mayor Gabrielle Charman addressed the meeting.

*The newly elected Youth Mayor Emma chaired the meeting from this point in the meeting.*

**5 Notices of Motion**

No Notices of Motion

**6 General / Urgent Business**

No Urgent Business

**7 Closure**

There being no further business the Youth Mayor formally closed the meeting at 6:44pm.

Confirmed this 4<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026.

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Youth Cr Emma Fasciani  
Youth Mayor