

Minutes

Scheduled Council Meeting
Tuesday 17 October 2023 at 7:30 pm

Galada Community Activity Centre, 10A Forum Way, Epping



Administrators

Peita Duncan Acting Chair of Council

Christian Zahra AM Administrator

On 19 June 2020 the Acting Minister for Local Government appointed the Panel of Administrators for the City of Whittlesea and appointed Lydia Wilson as Chair of the Panel. The Panel of Administrators comprises of Lydia Wilson, Peita Duncan and Christian Zahra who will undertake the duties of the Council of the City of Whittlesea until the October 2024 Local Government Election.

Senior Officers

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

Frank Joyce Executive Manager Strategy & Insights

Janine Morgan Executive Manager Public Affairs

Jacinta Stevens Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO



Order of Business

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1 Opening

1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions

The Acting Chair of Council, Peita Duncan opened the meeting at 7:30pm.

"Welcome to this Council Meeting of 17 October 2023 which is being held in person at the Galada Community Centre, 10A Forum Way, Epping and being live streamed.

I am Peita Duncan, Acting Chair of Council and I would also like to introduce my Panel colleague, Administrator Christian Zahra. I would also like to introduce our Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd and ask that he in turn introduce the members of the Executive Leadership Team in attendance today."

"Good evening everyone, we also have with us:

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

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

1.2 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement

The Acting Chair of Council, Peita Duncan 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."

1.3 Diversity and Good Governance Statement

The Acting Chair of Council, Peita Duncan 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."



1.4 Acknowledgements

The Acting Chair of Council made the following acknowledgements:

OORJA Foundation Performance

I would personally like to thank on behalf of myself and Council the Oorja Foundation who performed here tonight. They are a local dance group who had three different groups performing for us from varying age groups and they were sensational. Thank you so much to the Oorja Foundation who practice in this very room here at Galada, a great way to commence our Community Council Meeting this evening.

Carers Week

This week is National Carers Week, an annual celebration that acknowledges the remarkable contribution carer across Australia make each day. The City of Whittlesea celebrates the tireless efforts of all those who provide support and care to loved ones facing various challenges. This week, there are a series of special events available for carers to provide the opportunity to meet other carers, share experiences, and connect with valuable support services. You can visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/carersweek for more information.

Administrator Christian Zahra made the following acknowledgements:

Seniors Festival

During the month of October, the City of Whittlesea is taking part in the Seniors Festival, a celebration recognising the contributions of seniors in our community.

We are very proud to be part of this state-wide initiative, supported by the Victorian Government. Throughout October, senior residents can look forward to getting out, getting active and making new friends at events including free golf lessons, dance classes, movies and music. For a full schedule of events, visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/seniorsfestival

Children's Week

In October, we will also be celebrating Children's Week, which is a national celebration that recognises the talents, skills, achievements and rights of children. The City of Whittlesea has partnered with the Victorian Government and Westfield Plenty Valley to run a celebration on Wednesday 25 October. Children can come along and enjoy art, dance, story time, face painting and more. Details are available on Council's website.



1.5 Attendance

Members:

Peita Duncan, Acting Chair of Council Christian Zahra AM, Administrator

Officers:

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
Frank Joyce, Executive Manager Strategy & Insights
Janine Morgan, Executive Manager Public Affairs
Jacinta Stevens, Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Apology:

Lydia Wilson, Chair of Council

2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No declarations.



3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s

COUNCII	COUNCIL RESOLUTION		
Moved:	Moved: Administrator Christian Zahra		
Seconded: Acting Chair of Council Peita Duncan			

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

- Scheduled Meeting of Council and Confidential Meeting of Council held on 19 September 2023.
- Joint Council Meeting between Whittlesea, Hume and Mitchell Councils held on 3
 October 2023.
- Additional Meeting of Council held on 12 October 2023.

CARRIED



4 Public Questions, Petitions and Joint Letters

4.1 Public Question Time

No questions from the public

4.2 Petitions

No Petitions

4.3 Joint Letters

No Joint Letters



5 Officers' Reports

5.1 Connected Communities

5.1.1 Ziebell's Farmhouse Museum and Heritage Garden

Responsible Officer: Director Community Wellbeing

Author: Unit Manager Arts, Culture and Events

In Attendance: Manager Active & Creative Communities

Purpose

This report seeks Council's endorsement to transition the management of Ziebell's Farmhouse Museum and Heritage Garden from the Friends of Westgarthtown to Council.

Recommendation

THAT Council:

- 1. Formally recognises and thanks the Friends of Westgarthtown for their work and dedication in managing and advocating for the Ziebell's Farmhouse Museum and Heritage Garden.
- 2. Endorses the transition of management of Ziebell's Farmhouse Museum and Heritage Garden to Council from the Friends of Westgarthtown, effective 1 November 2023.
- 3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign and execute a Service Agreement with the Friends of Westgarthtown for ongoing consultation and collaboration.
- 4. Notes that Council will initiate long-term planning for the Ziebell's Farmhouse Museum and Heritage Garden and adjacent properties as outlined within Council's Lalor and Thomastown Urban Design Framework. The planning process will be initiated within five years of FY2023-2024.
- 5. Notes that Council will establish a governance process in collaboration with landowners and custodians of adjacent properties to guide long-term planning for the Ziebell's Farmhouse Museum and Heritage Garden and adjacent properties.
- 6. Notes a subsequent report will be presented to Council in relation to the long-term plan for the Ziebell's Farmhouse Museum and Heritage Garden once planning for the site is complete.

COUNCII	COUNCIL RESOLUTION		
Moved:	Administrator Christian Zahra		
Seconded:	Acting Chair of Council Peita Duncan		

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for Ziebell's Farmhouse Museum and Heritage Garden.

CARRIED



ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Administrator Christian Zahra Acting Chair of Council Peita Duncan

VOTING				
UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED	
YES				



5.2 Liveable Neighborhoods

5.2.1 2023-46 Construction of Whittlesea Public Gardens Urban and Youth Space - Tender Evaluation

Responsible Officer: Director Infrastructure & Environment

Author: Senior Parks Project Manager

In Attendance: Unit Manager Parks Development

Purpose

It is proposed that contract number 2023-46 for Construction of Whittlesea Public Gardens Urban and Youth Space is awarded to:

- Open Space Victoria Pty Ltd
- For the lump sum price of \$1,991,018.49 (Excl. GST)

Recommendation

THAT Council:

 Resolve to award the following contract to Open Space Victoria Pty Ltd between the approximate period 18 October 2023 to 31 December 2024.

Number: 2023-46

Title: Construction of Whittlesea Public Gardens Urban and Youth Space

Cost: A lump sum of \$1,991,018.49 (Excl. GST)

Subject to Open Space Victoria providing contract security and certificate of currency for insurances, a requirement of the tender.

- 2. Approve the funding arrangements detailed in the confidential attachment.
- 3. Note any price variations, will be in accordance with the provisions as set out Table 4 of the confidential attachment.
- 4. Authorise the CEO to sign and execute the contract on behalf of Council.

COUNCII	COUNCIL RESOLUTION		
Moved:	Moved: Acting Chair of Council Peita Duncan		
Seconded:	Administrator Christian Zahra		

THAT Council adopt the recommendation in relation to the tender evaluation for Construction of Whittlesea Public Gardens Urban and Youth Space (Contract 2023-46).

CARRIED



ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

VOTING				
UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED	
YES				



5.3 Strong Local Economy

5.3.1 Building Blocks Partnership - Second Tranche

Responsible Officer: Director Community Wellbeing

Author: Unit Manager Early Years

In Attendance: Manager Children & Families

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to:

- Present the recommended second tranche of early years infrastructure projects to be undertaken in response to the *Best Start, Best Life* Reform, as outlined in the Draft Project Schedule from the Victorian School Building Authority (Attachment One (Confidential)).
- Seek endorsement to amend Council's Building Blocks Partnership Memorandum of Understanding with the Victorian School Building Authority endorsed by Council on 19 September 2022, to include the second tranche of projects as outlined in Confidential Attachment One.

COUNCII	COUNCIL RESOLUTION		
Moved: Chairperson Christian Zahra			
Seconded: Acting Chair of Council Peita Duncan			

THAT Council extend the speaking time for a further two minutes to allow the Manager Children & Families to present report.

CARRIED

Recommendation

THAT Council:

- Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to amend the existing Memorandum of Understanding with the Victorian School Building Authority to include the Building Blocks Partnership Agreement for 3 tranche two projects as outlined in the Draft Project Schedule in Confidential Attachment One. The Building Blocks Partnership Agreement will include the Victorian School Building Authority's funding contribution for each project.
- 2. Notes that once the Building Blocks Partnership Agreement for the second tranche of projects is executed by the City of Whittlesea and the Victorian School Building Authority, a joint public announcement will be made which will include a Statement of Intent. The Statement of Intent will detail the 3 tranche two projects and the Victorian School Building Authority's funding contribution for each project.



3. Notes that Council Officers will work with the Department of Education to update the City of Whittlesea Kindergarten Infrastructure Services Plan (KISP) endorsed by Council on 4 May 2021. Council Officers will also develop options to address unmet kindergarten demand identified in the updated KISP and develop a five-year workforce plan.

COUNCII	COUNCIL RESOLUTION		
Moved: Administrator Christian Zahra			
Seconded: Acting Chair of Council Peita Duncan			

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for the second tranche of the Building Blocks Partnership.

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

VOTING				
UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED	
YES				



5.4 Sustainable Environment

No reports

5.5 High Performing Organisation

5.5.1 2023-24 Growing Suburbs Fund

Responsible Officer: Director Customer & Corporate Services

Author: Coordinator Capital Programming & Reporting

In Attendance: Coordinator Capital Programming & Reporting

Purpose

This report provides an overview of the available grant funding through the 2023-24 Growing Suburbs Fund and seeks endorsement to proceed with applications for four projects.

Recommendation

THAT Council support and approve the submission of applications for four projects listed in priority order to the 2023-24 Growing Suburbs Fund administered by the Office of Suburban Development, Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions:

- 1. West Wollert Community Centre, \$1,500,000.
- 2. Whittlesea Public Gardens Stage 3, \$400,000.
- 3. Regent Street Reserve at Quarry Hills Regional Parklands, \$200,000.
- 4. Atrium Reserve at Quarry Hills Regional Parklands, \$200,000.

COUNCII	COUNCIL RESOLUTION		
Moved: Administrator Christian Zahra			
Seconded: Acting Chair of Council Peita Duncan			

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for the 2023-24 Growing Suburbs Fund.

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

VOTING				
UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED	
YES				



5.5.2 Capital Management Policy Review

Responsible Officer: Director Customer & Corporate Services

Author: Unit Manager Financial Compliance and Control

In Attendance: Chief Financial Officer

Purpose

The capital management policies (Investment Policy and Borrowing Policy) aim to ensure that the capital planning and investment decisions of Council are aligned with its strategic goals and financial sustainability.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	Chairperson Christian Zahra
Seconded:	Acting Chair of Council Peita Duncan

THAT Council extend the speaking time for a further two minutes to allow the Chief Financial Officer to present report.

CARRIED

Recommendation

THAT Council endorse the new capital management policies namely the:

- 1. Investment Policy.
- 2. Borrowing Policy.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	Administrator Christian Zahra
Seconded:	Acting Chair of Council Peita Duncan

THAT Council adopt the recommendation in relation to the review of the Capital Management Policy.

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Administrator Christian Zahra Acting Chair of Council Peita Duncan



VOTING			
UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			



5.5.3 2018-58 Cloud Infrastructure Services Variation

Responsible Officer: Director Customer & Corporate Services

Author: Unit Manager Technology Infrastructure & Support

In Attendance: Unit Manager Technology Infrastructure & Support

Purpose

It is proposed that contract number 2018-58 for Cloud Infrastructure Services is varied to suit operational requirements.

Recommendation

THAT Council, in relation to Contract No. 2018-58 for Cloud infrastructure Services:

- 1. Resolve to extend the existing contract with Thomas Duryea Logicalis Pty Ltd until 28 February 2025 at a cost of \$1,034,000 (excluding GST) bringing the cumulative contract value to \$2,800,442.41 (excluding GST).
- 2. Approve the funding arrangements detailed in the confidential attachment.
- 3. Authorise the CEO to execute the contract extension and approve payments to an amount not exceeding the new total contract sum of \$2,800,442.41 (excluding GST).

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	Acting Chair of Council Peita Duncan
Seconded:	Administrator Christian Zahra

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for the Infrastructure Services variation (Contract No. 2018-58).

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

VOTING			
UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			



5.5.4 Proposed Discontinuance and sale of road adjoining 40 Girvan Place South Morang

Responsible Officer: Director Customer & Corporate Services

Author: Property Advisor

In Attendance: Unit Manager Strategic Property

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to finalise the statutory procedures under the *Local Government Act 1989* and *Local Government Act 2020* for the discontinuance and sale of a section of road reserve in Girvan Place, South Morang. The section of road concerned is shown as Lot 1 on the road discontinuance plan (Attachment 2) and contained in certificate of title Volume 10064 Folio 265.

Recommendation

THAT Council:

- Notes that no submissions were received in response to Council having given
 public notice of a proposal to discontinue the section of road reserve adjoining 40
 Girvan Place, South Morang, shown as Lot 1 on the road discontinuance plan 2
 (Attachment 2).
- 2. Notes that the road reserve is no longer required for road purposes.
- 3. Resolves to discontinue and sell the road reserve and published a notice in the Victoria Government Gazette, in accordance with section 206 and clause 3(a) of Schedule 10 to the *Local Government Act 1989*.
- 4. Resolves that the land from the road reserve be sold by private treaty to the owners of 40 Girvan Place South Morang, pursuant to section 206 and clause 3(b) of Schedule 10 to the *Local Government Act* 1989 and section 114 of the *Local Government Act* 2020 for \$55,000 inclusive of GST.
- 5. Notes that the owners agreed to assume costs of \$16,690 inclusive of GST relating to the statutory processes undertaken by Council.
- Authorises the Chief Executive Officer, or any such other person as the Chief
 Executive Officer approves, to sign all documents relating to the sale of the land
 from the discontinued road reserve to the owners of 40 Girvan Place, South
 Morang.



COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	Acting Chair of Council Peita Duncan
Seconded:	Administrator Christian Zahra

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for the proposed discontinuance and sale of road adjoining 40 Girvan Place, South Morang.

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Acting Chair of Council Peita Duncan Administrator Christian Zahra

VOTING			
UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			



5.5.5 Unconfirmed Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee

Responsible Officer: Executive Manager Strategy & Insights

Author: Corporate Assurance Advisor

Purpose

To enable Council to have oversight and understanding of the Audit and Risk Committee operations and as required under Council's Audit and Risk Committee Charter, this report presents the unconfirmed Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meetings held on 5 and 12 September 2023.

Recommendation

THAT Council note the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meetings held on 5 and 12 September 2023.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	Administrator Christian Zahra
Seconded:	Acting Chair of Council Peita Duncan

THAT Council adopt the recommendation in relation to the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meetings held on 5 and 12 September 2023.

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

VOTING			
UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			



5.5.6 Councillor Code of Conduct

Responsible Officer: Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Author: Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council adoption of the Councillor Code of Conduct in preparation of the return to an elected Council.

Recommendation

THAT Council:

- 1. Resolve to adopt the Councillor Code of Conduct at attachment A to this report.
- 2. Note the Councillor Code of Conduct will be publicly available on Council's website.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	Acting Chair of Council Peita Duncan
Seconded:	Administrator Christian Zahra

THAT Council adopt the recommendation in relation to the Councillor Code of Conduct.

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Administrator Christian Zahra

VOTING			
UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			



6 Notices of Motion

No Notices of Motion

7 Urgent Business

The Chief Executive Officer advised there is one item of urgent business that needs to be considered tonight. The matter is confidential in nature as it relates to private commercial information as defined under section 3 of the *Local Government Act*. The matter relates to a service agreement with Whittlesea Community Connections and as such this matter will need to be discussed in camera.

In accordance with Governance Rule 19.4 this matter does not require a resolution of Council to admit the item to the agenda.

8 Reports from Council Representatives and CEO Update

8.1 Acting Chair of Council Peita Duncan Report

- Joint Council Meeting with Hume and Mitchell regarding the Cloverton Metropolitan Activity Centre on 3 October 2023.
- Coffee with Council Bundoora Cafe Lucio on 17 October 2023

8.2 Administrator Christian Zahra Report

- Joint Council Meeting with Hume and Mitchell regarding the Cloverton Metropolitan Activity Centre on 3 October 2023
- Coffee with Council Bundoora Cafe Lucio on 17 October 2023

8.3 Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson

- Internal Event: Adelaide Masters Games Presentation on 22 September 2023
- Internal Event: Senior Festival Launch and Hobby Showcase on 2 October 2023
- Joint Council Meeting with Hume and Mitchell regarding the Cloverton Metropolitan Activity Centre on 3 October 2023
- Northern Councils Alliance: Launch of Transport Priorities and EV Transition Plan on 5 October 2023
- Internal Event: Blessing of the Fleet on 7 October 2023
- Internal Event: Two Citizenship Ceremonies on 9 October 2023
- MAV State Council on 13 October 2023



8.4 Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

wat djerring – Celebrating First Birthday

Monday the 16 October was the first anniversary of the new management of the Animal Facility now called the 'wat djerring Animal Facility'. The animal facility for the past year has been successfully managed by the City of Whittlesea in partnership Merri-bek and Darebin Councils. The facility is not just dogs and cats but also rabbits, guinea pigs, birds, sheep, goats and the occasional ferret.

In July, we relaunched the Facility with a new name – wat djerring Animal Facility, meaning "we together" in Woi Wurrung language – which really encapsulates how important it is for us as a community and those in the animal care sector to work together towards the common goal of achieving positive outcomes for animals.

St Monica's College

I was delighted last week to be invited to speak at St Monica's College Year 12 graduation. It's fantastic to see the passion and drive of our young people and look forward to seeing the things they will do in our municipality and beyond. Congratulations to all the students and good luck to all of the year 12 students right across the municipality that are taking place at the moment.

Fire Preparedness Session

Last week the City of Whittlesea in partnership with the CFA, Whittlesea and Surrounds Fireguard Group, the City of Whittlesea, and Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action held a well-attended community session in Whittlesea. It was a great opportunity for communities to our north to ensure they are prepared for the upcoming season. Well done to all the agencies who supported this event.

Blessing of the Fleet

Earlie this month we held our 28th annual Blessing of the Fleet where local fire and emergency service personnel attended the Civic Centre for a special multi-faith ceremony and community event. Again, it was wonderful to see the turn out and for our community to show our support for the volunteers and career emergency service personnel.

Wilton Vale Wetland Boardwalk

The Wilton Vale wetland project in South Morang is now complete, with temporary fences to be removed once the grass begins to grow on-site. This project has repurposed more than 80% of the timber reclaimed from the demolished boardwalk. The recycled timber has found new life in fencing and seating at the site, as well as state-wide projects, including a furniture studio at Melbourne University and up-cycle experts, Revival in Collingwood.

WA Smith and Sycamore Reserve Masterplan Implementation

Phase two of consultation for our multi-year masterplan for WA Smith / Sycamore Reserve is underway. I would encourage the community to have a look at the draft master plan and provide their feedback with consultation is open until the end of October.



9 Confidential Business

9.0.0 Close Meeting to the Public

Under section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* a meeting considering confidential information may be closed to the public. Pursuant to sections 3(1) and 66(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Recommendation

THAT the Chair of Council recommends that the meeting be closed to the public for the purpose of considering details relating to the following confidential matters in accordance with Section 66(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020* as detailed.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	Administrator Christian Zahra
Seconded:	Acting Chair of Council Peita Duncan

THAT Council adopt the recommendation to Close the Meeting to the Public.

CARRIED

10 Closure

There being no further business the Acting Chair of Council formally closed the meeting at 8:17pm.

Peita Duncan		
Acting Chair of Council		

Confirmed this 21st day of November 2023.