



WHITEHORSE  
CITY COUNCIL

# Whitehorse City Council

## MINUTES

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### **Council Meeting**

on

**Monday 30 March 2026 at 7:00 PM**

**Held in the  
Council Chamber  
Nunawading Civic Centre**

Meeting opened at 7:00pm

**Present:** Cr Kirsten Langford Mayor  
Cr Kieran Simpson Deputy Mayor  
Cr Peter Allan  
Cr Blair Barker  
Cr Prue Cutts  
Cr Andrew Davenport  
Cr Daniel Griffiths  
Cr Jarrod Gunn  
Cr Jason Martin  
Cr Ben Stennett  
Cr Hayley Weller

**Officers:** Simon McMillan Chief Executive Officer  
Stuart Cann Director Corporate Services  
Jeff Green Director City Development  
Lisa Letic Director Community Services  
Siobhan Sullivan Executive Manager Transformation  
Leigh Morris Manager Project Delivery and Assets  
Vivien Ferlaino Manager Governance and Integrity  
Sarah Candeland Coordinator Governance  
Jenna Moore Council Business Officer

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## 1 Welcome

### Prayer for Council

We give thanks, O God, for the Men and Women of the past whose generous devotion to the common good has been the making of our City.

Grant that our own generation may build worthily on the foundations they have laid.

Direct our minds that all we plan and determine, is for the wellbeing of our City.

**Amen.**

### Acknowledgement of Country

Whitehorse City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of the land we are meeting on and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders from communities who may be present today.

## 2 Apologies

Nil

## 3 Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

Nil

## 4 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the Council and Confidential Council Meeting 16 March 2026

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved by Cr Simpson, Seconded by Cr Cutts

That

1. the following administrative corrections be made to the minutes of the Council meeting for the 16 March 2026:
  - a) Page 10, 9.2 numbering of the amendment from 1 to 4
  - b) Page 22 add Cr Simpson having spoken to the item
2. Council note an administrative error in the agenda for the 16 March 2026 Council meeting at Item 10.1, noting that the attachment to the report states NHVic is undertaking the service review of the Neighbourhood House Coordination Program (NHCP) where this should be Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH)

instead. The record will be updated accordingly to ensure accuracy and completeness of Council's documents.

3. Council Note these errors are administrative in nature and does not alter the intent or substance of the decisions made by Council.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Spoke to item:** Cr Simpson (1)

## **5 Urgent Business**

Nil

## **6 Requests to Speak**

### **6.1 Ben Cooke, Tract**

### **6.2 David McJannet, Victoria Grange Residents Committee**

## **7 Public Question Time**

Nil

## **8 Petitions**

Nil

## **9 Notices of Motion**

Nil

**10 Council Reports****10.1 490-500 Burwood Highway, VERMONT SOUTH (LOT 1 PS 518296N) – Use and Development of the land for a Retirement Village, Remove, Destroy or lop vegetation and alteration of access to a Transport Zone 2 pursuant to Clause 52.29.****Department**

City Planning and Development

Director City Development

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WH/2025/2  
Attachment

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**SUMMARY**

This report provides Council with an assessment of Planning Application WH/2025/2 at 490-500 Burwood Highway, Vermont South, which seeks the approval for the use and development of the land for a Retirement Village, removal of vegetation and alteration of access to a road in a Transport 2 Zone.

The key considerations for the report include whether the proposed development achieves an acceptable built form outcome in relation to the 'Residential Growth' zoning, in balance with policy and character objectives for both the surrounding area and the applicable decision guidelines of the Design and Development Overlay Schedule 6 and Heritage Overlay Schedule 23. Consideration must also be afforded to car parking and road safety requirements and whether the proposed development of the subject site would avoid unacceptable offsite amenity impacts for nearby residences.

As part of the planning permit application process, notice was given to adjoining properties and through placement of signs along the Burwood Highway frontage. A total of 51 objections were received. The objections raised issues relating to building bulk and excessive scale of form, overshadowing, overlooking and concerns around increased traffic impacts. A consultation forum was held on 13 November 2025, chaired by Councillor Gunn, where the issues were explored, however, no specific resolution was reached between the parties. Objector concerns have been addressed in further detail throughout this report.

The application was referred externally to Transport for Victoria for changes of vehicle access into Burwood Highway and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action with regards to vegetation removal. Both referral authorities have supported the application subject to conditions.

This report assess the application against the relevant provisions of the Whitehorse Planning Scheme, including the purpose and decision guidelines of the Residential Growth Zone, Development Contributions Plan Overlay Schedule 1, Design and Development Overlay Schedule 6, Environmental

## 10.1 (cont)

Audit Overlay, Heritage Overlay Schedule 23, Significant Landscape Overlay Schedule 10, Vegetation Protection Overlay Schedule 5, Clause 52.06 (Car Parking), Clause 52.17 (Native Vegetation), Clause 52.29 (Land adjacent to the Principal Road Network) and Clause 65 (Decision Guidelines) and concludes that the proposal is acceptable subject to conditions.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

Moved by Cr Gunn, Seconded by Cr Cutts

That Council:

1. Being the Responsible Authority, having caused Application WH/2025/2 for 490-500 Burwood Highway, VERMONT SOUTH (LOTS 1 PS 518296N) to be advertised and having received and noted the objections is of the opinion that the granting of a Planning Permit for the Use and Development of the land for a Retirement Village in Residential Growth Zone Schedule 3, buildings and works within Heritage Overlay Schedule 23 and Design and Development Overlay Schedule 6, Remove, Destroy or lop vegetation in Vegetation Protection Overlay Schedule 5 and Significant Landscape Overlay Schedule 10, removal of native vegetation pursuant to Clause 52.17 and alteration of access to a Transport Zone 2 pursuant to Cause 52.29 is acceptable and should not unreasonably impact the amenity of adjacent properties.
2. Resolves to Grant a Planning Permit under the Whitehorse Planning Scheme for Planning Permit Application WH/2025/2 at 490-500 Burwood Highway, VERMONT SOUTH (LOTS 1 PS 518296N), and authorises the issue of a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, subject to conditions set out in Attachment 1 to the report.
3. Has made this decision having particular regard to the requirements of Sections 58, 59, 60 and 61 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Spoke to item:** Cr Gunn, Cr Cutts (2)

## 10.2 Contract 30651 - Demolition of Gowanlea, located at 1049 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill

**Department** Project Delivery and Assets  
Director Infrastructure

Attachment

### SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the budget allocation and contract award for the demolition of the vacated Gowanlea Senior Accommodation building located at 1049 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill.

The building is no longer required for Council purposes and presents safety and security risks, including unauthorised access, vandalism and anti-social behaviour. Demolition will return the site to a safe and manageable condition, allowing Council to consider future options for long-term use.

A selective tender process was conducted via the State Government's Construction Supplier Register (CSR). Five submissions were received and evaluated against the approved weighted criteria. City Circle Demolition & Excavation Pty Ltd (City Circle) achieved the highest score and is the preferred tenderer.

The recommendation is to accept City Circle's tender for a lump sum amount of \$834,404 (excluding GST) and allocate a total project budget of \$1,165,000 (excluding GST).

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved by Cr Allan, Seconded by Cr Weller

That Council:

1. Approves the unbudgeted operating expenditure of \$1,165,000 (excluding GST) for the Demolition of Gowanlea project to be funded from the current operating surplus, and to be incorporated into the 2025/26 full year forecast.
2. Accept the tender and authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign the formal contract document for Contract 30651 for the Demolition of Gowanlea received from City Circle Demolition and Excavation Pty Ltd (ABN 27 006 399 766), of 2/50 Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe Victoria 3079, for the tendered amount of \$834,404 (excluding GST), as part of the total expected project expenditure of \$1,165,000 (excluding GST).

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Spoke to item:** Cr Allan, Cr Weller, Cr Barker, Cr Martin (4)

### 10.3 Chinese Cultural Centre Advocacy

**Department** Communities, Engagement and Integrated Planning  
Director Community Services

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Attachment

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#### **SUMMARY**

At the 24 November 2025 Council meeting, Council resolved to receive a report from Council officers regarding the establishment of a Chinese Community and Cultural Centre in the Box Hill precinct. The report to:

- a. Identify potential funding options from Council, State and Federal Governments and any alternate funding from the Chinese community and associated organisations;
- b. Provide options for location within Box Hill and any appropriate management models;
- c. Advise how best for Council to consult with the local Chinese community and organisations on the establishment of Chinese Community and Cultural Centre.
- d. Include the submissions made to Council requesting the establishment of the Community and Cultural Centre.
- e. Consider adding a Chinese Community Cultural Centre to Councils advocacy program.

This report responds to the resolution and makes a number of recommendations in support of continued advocacy for a Chinese Cultural Centre in Whitehorse, ideally Box Hill.

## 10.3 (cont)

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Allan, Seconded by Cr Davenport

That Council:

1. Note this report.
2. Continue to support the Chinese Community of Whitehorse in their pursuit of a Chinese Culture Centre and endorse this project as Council advocacy priority.
3. Include the Chinese Culture Centre in Council's Advocacy Priorities Booklet and support the Chinese Community in their advocacy.
4. Write to Minster for Foreign Affairs, the Premier of Victoria and all relevant State and Federal Ministers and opposition leaders seeking support for this project and funding for a feasibility plan.
5. Allocate \$50,000 in the 2026/27 Budget, contingent upon securing external funding of at least an equivalent amount to support the development of a feasibility study, and incorporate this allocation into the final 2026/27 Budget to be considered for adoption in June 2026.

*Cr Gunn moved an amendment that was not accepted by the mover or seconder.*

**AMENDMENT**

Moved by Cr Gunn, Seconded by Cr Martin

That Council:

1. Note this report.
2. Continue to support the Chinese Community of Whitehorse in their pursuit of a Chinese Culture Centre.
3. Write to Minster for Foreign Affairs, the Premier of Victoria and all relevant State and Federal Ministers and opposition leaders seeking support for this project and funding for a feasibility plan.
4. Allocate \$50,000 in the 2026/27 Budget, contingent upon securing external funding of at least an equivalent amount to support the development of a feasibility study, and incorporate this allocation into the final 2026/27 Budget to be considered for adoption in June 2026.

**LOST**

**Voted FOR the item:** Cr Gunn, Cr Barker, Cr Stennett, Cr Martin (4)

**Voted AGAINST the item:** Cr Allan, Cr Weller, Cr Griffiths, Cr Davenport, Cr Simpson, Cr Langford, Cr Cutts (7)

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

Moved by Cr Allan, Seconded by Cr Davenport

## 10.3 (cont)

That Council:

1. Note this report.
2. Continue to support the Chinese Community of Whitehorse in their pursuit of a Chinese Culture Centre and endorse this project as Council advocacy priority.
3. Include the Chinese Culture Centre in Council's Advocacy Priorities Booklet and support the Chinese Community in their advocacy.
4. Write to Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Premier of Victoria and all relevant State and Federal Ministers and opposition leaders seeking support for this project and funding for a feasibility plan.
5. Allocate \$50,000 in the 2026/27 Budget, contingent upon securing external funding of at least an equivalent amount to support the development of a feasibility study, and incorporate this allocation into the final 2026/27 Budget to be considered for adoption in June 2026.

**CARRIED**

**Voted FOR the item:** Cr Allan, Cr Weller, Cr Griffiths, Cr Davenport, Cr Simpson, Cr Langford, Cr Cutts, Cr Martin (8)

**Voted AGAINST the item:** Cr Gunn, Cr Barker, Cr Stennett (3)

**A Division was called.**

**Division**

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
Cr Allan	Cr Barker
Cr Cutts	Cr Gunn
Cr Davenport	Cr Stennett
Cr Griffiths	
Cr Langford	
Cr Martin	
Cr Simpson	
Cr Weller	

**On the results of the Division the motion was declared CARRIED**

**Spoke to item:** Cr Allan, Cr Davenport, Cr Stennett, Cr Gunn, Cr Martin, Cr Barker, Cr Simpson, Cr Cutts, Cr Griffiths, Cr Langford (10)

## 10.4 Tender Evaluation Report - Contract 30728 - Redevelopment of East Burwood Reserve South Pavilion

**Department**

Project Delivery and Assets

Director Infrastructure

Attachment

**SUMMARY**

This report is to consider Tenders received for the redevelopment of East Burwood Reserve South Pavilion Contract 30728 and recommend the acceptance of the Tender received from Melbcon Pty Ltd, for the amount of \$10,070,500 including GST and to consider the overall project expenditure.

The Tender Evaluation Report is provided in Confidential Attachment 1.

Following the Tender and the completion of a comprehensive evaluation and assessment process, a suitable qualified company is recommended for appointment to deliver the East Burwood Reserve South Pavilion Redevelopment.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

Moved by Cr Gunn, Seconded by Cr Simpson

That Council:

1. Accept the Tender and sign the formal Contract document for Contract 30728 for the East Burwood Reserve South Redevelopment, Civil works and Multicourt Nets received from Melbcon Pty Ltd (ABN 89 094 370 457), of 333 Maroondah Highway, Croydon North, Victoria, 3136, trading as Melbcon Pty Ltd, for the Tendered amount of \$10,070,500.00, including GST; as part of the total expected project expenditure of \$13,780,705.40, including GST.
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to sign the necessary Contract documentation for Contract 30728.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Spoke to item:** Cr Gunn, Cr Simpson, Cr Barker, Cr Martin, Cr Allan, Cr Cutts (6)

## 10.5 S5 Instrument of Delegation from Council to the Chief Executive Officer

**Department** Governance and Integrity  
Director Corporate Services

Attachment

### SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present the *s5 Instrument of Delegation from Council to the Chief Executive Officer* (the Instrument) for adoption.

Section 11(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) enables Council to delegate powers, duties and functions to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

The Instrument is presented as a matter of good governance with no amendments proposed. Regularly reviewing and updating delegations ensures Council's powers are exercised lawfully, reflect current legislative requirements, and maintain appropriate accountability and oversight.

The Instrument is provided at Attachment 1.

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved by Cr Weller, Seconded by Cr Simpson

In the exercise of the power conferred by s 11(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act), Whitehorse City Council (Council) resolves that –

1. There be delegated to the person holding the position, or acting in or performing the duties, of Chief Executive Officer the powers, duties and functions set out in the attached Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument.
2. The instrument comes into force immediately upon this resolution being made and is to be signed by the Council's Chief Executive Officer and the Mayor.
3. On the coming into force of the instrument all previous delegations to the Chief Executive Officer are revoked.
4. The duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instrument must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Spoke to item:** Cr Weller, Cr Simpson, Cr Gunn (3)

10.6 (cont)

## 10.6 S6 Instrument of Delegation from Council to Members of Council Staff

### Department

Governance and Integrity  
Director Corporate Services

Attachment

### SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present the *s6 Instrument of Delegation from Council to Member of Council Staff* (the Instrument) for adoption.

The Instrument sets out the legislative powers Council may delegate directly to staff that cannot be sub-delegated by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Council subscribes to the Maddocks Delegations and Authorisations Service, which takes into consideration all legislative amendments up until January 2026. The Instrument has been reviewed and updated to ensure alignment with current legislative requirements and includes amendments to reflect the recent internal organisational review.

The Instrument is provided at Attachment 1.

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved by Cr Weller, Seconded by Cr Simpson

In the exercise of the powers conferred by the legislation referred to in the attached instrument of delegation, Whitehorse City Council (Council) resolves that:

1. There be delegated to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in the attached Instrument of Delegation to members of Council staff, the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument.
2. The instrument comes into force immediately upon this resolution being made and is to be signed by the Council's Chief Executive Officer.
3. On the coming into force of the instrument all previous delegations to members of Council staff (other than the Chief Executive Officer) are revoked.
4. The duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Spoke to item:** Cr Weller (1)

## 10.7 S18 Instrument of Sub-Delegation under the Environment Protection Act 2017 and S11B Appointment of Authorised Officers under the Environment Protection Act 2017

### Department

Governance and Integrity  
Director Corporate Services

Attachment

### SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present the Instrument of Sub-Delegation under the *Environment Protection Act 2017* (known as s18) and the s11B Appointment of Authorised Officers under the *Environment Protection Act 2017* for adoption.

These instruments have been updated to reflect revised position titles following the recent organisational review.

The delegation of powers and appointment of authorised officers enables appropriate staff within the organisation to administer and enforce various Acts, Regulations or Council local laws in accordance with the powers granted under legislation or a local law.

The s18 Instrument is provided at Attachment 1 and the s11B is provided at Attachment 2.

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved by Cr Weller, Seconded by Cr Simpson

That

1. In the exercise of the power conferred by s 437(2) of the *Environment Protection Act 2017* and the Instrument of Delegation of the Environment Protection Authority under the Act dated 4 June 2021, Whitehorse City Council (Council) resolves that -
  - a. There be delegated to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in the attached s18 Instrument of Delegation to members of Council staff, the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument.
  - b. The instrument comes into force immediately the common seal of Council is affixed to the to the instrument.
  - c. On coming into force all previous delegations to members of Council staff (other than the Chief Executive Officer) are revoked.
  - d. The duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be

## 10.7 (cont)

executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.

2. In the exercise of the power conferred by s 242(2) of the *Environment Protection Act 2017* and the Instrument of Delegation of the Environment Protection Authority under the Act dated 4 June 2021, Whitehorse City Council resolves that:
  - a. The members of Council staff referred to in the attached s11B instrument be appointed and authorised as set out in the instrument.
  - b. The instrument comes into force immediately upon this resolution being made and is to be signed by Council's Chief Executive Officer and remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Spoke to item:** Cr Weller (1)

## 10.8 Statutory Planning Report February 2026

**Department** City Development  
Director City Development

Attachment

### SUMMARY

At the 25 August 2025 Council Meeting, Council adopted a Motion which requires:

*That Council:*

...

*2. Receives a noting report each month at Council Meetings on town planning applications lodged, dealt with under delegation by Council officers and under consideration by VCAT (or other authority i.e. State Planning Minister)*

This report includes the following for noting by Council:

Report	
Applications lodged (for the month)	107
Applications determined under officer delegation (for the month)	80
Matters currently under consideration by VCAT	11
Other Matters under consideration by the state government within Whitehorse	2

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved by Cr Allan, Seconded by Cr Griffiths

That:

1. Council Receives and notes the Statutory Planning report for the month of February 2026.
2. The Statutory Planning reports be published on Council's Transparency Hub monthly with future reports no longer presented to Council for noting

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Spoke to item:** Cr Allan (1)

Council has since launched the Transparency Hub on Council's website since Council adopted this matter in August. Going forward the reports can be published on Council's Transparency Hub and Councillors notified when the report is available.

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10.9 (cont)

## 10.9 Records of Informal Meetings of Councillors

**Department** Governance and Integrity  
Director Corporate Services

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Attachment

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### SUMMARY

This report presents the Records of Informal Meetings of Councillors held since the last Council Meeting. In line with the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's Governance Rules, noting these Records promotes transparency, supports informed decision-making and ensures any conflicts of interest are publicly disclosed.

Records of Informal Meetings of Councillors are non-decision-making briefings used to share information and discuss matters that may later come before Council. Reporting these Records is standard governance practice and forms part of Council's public accountability framework.

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved by Cr Weller, Seconded by Cr Cutts

That Council notes the Records of Informal Meetings of Councillors attached to the report.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 11 Councillor Delegate and Conference / Seminar Reports

### 11.1 Reports by Delegates and Reports on Conferences / Seminars Attendance

**Department** Governance and Integrity  
Director Corporate Services

Verbal reports from Councillors appointed as delegates to community organisations/committees/groups and attendance at conferences and seminars related to Council Business.

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

Moved by Cr Weller, Seconded by Cr Simpson

That Council receives and notes the:

1. Reports from delegates, and;
2. Reports on conferences/seminars attendance.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Organisation/ Committee/Group</b>	<b>Date of Attendance</b>
Deputy Mayor Cr Simpson	Eastern Region Group of Council's Meeting	20 March 2026
Cr Davenport	Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation Meeting	18 March 2026
Cr Griffiths	Made a public statement in relation to comments made about the Visual Arts Committee.	NA
Cr Weller	Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation Meeting	18 March 2026
Mayor Cr Langford	Eastern Region Group of Council's Meeting	20 March 2026

## CLOSURE OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

### 12 Confidential Reports

#### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved by Cr Allan, Seconded by Cr Martin

That in accordance with Section 61(1) and 66(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council closes the Meeting to members of the public and adjourns for five minutes to consider the following items:

- 12.1 Notice of Rescission - 2026/2027 Whitehorse Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee Recruitment
- 12.2 Notice of Motion - 2026/2027 Whitehorse Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee Recruitment
- 12.3 Multicultural Advisory Committee - Membership Endorsement

This report is designated as Confidential Information in accordance with Section 3(1)(f) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, because it is personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs. This ground applies because the matter concerns disclosure of personal information

**CARRIED**

**Voted FOR item:** Cr Allan, Cr Weller, Cr Gunn, Cr Davenport, Cr Simpson, Cr Langford, Cr Cutts, Cr Martin (8)

**Voted AGAINST item:** Cr Griffiths, Cr Barker, Cr Stennett (3)

### 13 Close Meeting

The open Council Meeting was closed at 8.46pm and did not reopen to the public.

The confidential section of the Council Meeting opened at 8.52pm in order to deal with items 12.1, 12.2 and 12.3. The meeting closed at 9.17pm.

*These minutes are circulated subject to confirmation by Council at the next Council Meeting to be held on 20 April 2026.*