



Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 24 November 2020

Council Chamber
Hobsons Bay Civic Centre
115 Civic Parade, Altona 3018

HOBSONS
BAY CITY
COUNCIL



OUR MISSION

We will listen, engage and work with our community to plan, deliver and advocate for Hobsons Bay to secure a happy, healthy, fair and sustainable future for all.

OUR VALUES

Respectful

Community driven and focused

Trusted and reliable

Efficient and responsible

Bold and innovative

Accountable and transparent

Recognised

Council acknowledges the peoples of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of these municipal lands and waterways, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

Councillors:

Cr Tony Briffa JP	Cherry Lake Ward
Cr Daria Kellander	Cherry Lake Ward
Cr Peter Hemphill	Strand Ward
Cr Jonathon Marsden	Strand Ward
Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud	Strand Ward
Cr Diana Grima	Wetlands Ward
Cr Matt Tyler	Wetlands Ward

Aaron van Egmond
Chief Executive Officer
Hobsons Bay City Council

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**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24 November 2020 at
7.04pm.**

Present

Councillors

Cr Tony Briffa JP	Cherry Lake Ward
Cr Daria Kellander	Cherry Lake Ward
Cr Peter Hemphill	Strand Ward
Cr Jonathon Marsden	Strand Ward
Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud	Strand Ward
Cr Diana Grima	Wetlands Ward
Cr Matt Tyler	Wetlands Ward

Officers

Mr Aaron van Egmond	Chief Executive Officer
Mr Sanjay Manivasagasivam	Director Infrastructure and City Services
Mr Andrew McLeod	Director Corporate Services
Ms Penelope Winslade	Director Sustainable Communities
Ms Diane Eyckens	Manager Corporate Integrity
Ms Jennifer Legge	Manager Communications, Engagement and Advocacy
Mr Roger Verwey	Manager Digital Services
Mr Eli Afram	Digital Transformation Coordinator
Ms Briony Davis	Governance Officer and Minute Secretary

The Chief Executive Officer advised that in accordance with rule 2.4 of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules, he would be the temporary Chairperson for proceedings relating to the election of the Mayor.

1 Council Welcome and Acknowledgement

The Chief Executive Officer opened the meeting, welcomed Councillors and members of the gallery, and acknowledged that Council is gathered on the land of the Kulin Nation and offers its respect to elders past and present.

A particular welcome was extended to the Member for Gellibrand, Tim Watts MP; outgoing Councillors Angela Altair, Colleen Gates and Sandra Wilson and their families; Mayor of Buloke Shire Cr Daryl Warren; former Councillor and Mayor of Hobsons Bay Leigh Hardinge OAM and his wife Merridee Hardinge, 2020 Citizen of the Year Myly Nguyen; former Citizen of the Year Geoff Mitchelmore OAM, and former Citizen of the Year Sharon Walsh and Kim Walsh, both representing the Altona Village Traders Association.

2 Welcome to Country

The Chief Executive Officer introduced the Welcome to Country, which was delivered by Boon Wurrung Senior Cultural Officer, David Tournier.

3 Apologies

Nil.

4 Confirmation of Minutes

4.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Confirmation of the minutes of the Council Meeting of Hobsons Bay City Council held on 13 October 2020 (copy previously circulated).

Motion

Moved Cr Tony Briffa, seconded Cr Jonathon Marsden:

That Council confirms the minutes of the Council Meeting of Hobsons Bay City Council held on 13 October 2020.

Carried

5 Election of Mayor

The procedure for the election of the Mayor followed section 25 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and section 2 of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules.

5.1 Determination of Mayoral Term

Motion

Moved Cr Tony Briffa, seconded Cr Peter Hemphill:

That Council:

1. Resolves the Mayoral term to be a period of one year commencing upon the election of the Mayor on 24 November 2020.
2. Notes that the next election of the Mayor, to be determined when Council adopts its annual timetable of meetings, must be held on a day that is as close to the end of the one-year term as is reasonably practicable.

Carried

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Resolves the Mayoral term to be a period of one year commencing upon the election of the Mayor on 24 November 2020.
2. Notes that the next election of the Mayor, to be determined when Council adopts its annual timetable of meetings, must be held on a day that is as close to the end of the one-year term as is reasonably practicable.

5.2 Election of Mayor

The Chief Executive Officer invited nominations for the Office of Mayor for 2020-21.

Nominations for the Office of Mayor for 2020-21

Cr Jonathon Marsden was nominated by Cr Peter Hemphill.

In accordance with section 25(6) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, as there were no further nominations, the Chief Executive Officer declared Cr Jonathon Marsden to be duly elected as Mayor.

The Chief Executive Officer invited other Councillors to congratulate Cr Jonathon Marsden.

Councillors congratulated Cr Jonathon Marsden on his election as Mayor, noting in particular his active involvement in the community and the high esteem in which he is held, the aplomb with which he served an earlier term as Mayor in the previous Council, his high integrity and his interest in roads, safety and environmental issues.

The Mayor was robed by the Chief Executive Officer and presented with the Mayoral Jewel of Office.

The Chief Executive Officer invited Cr Jonathon Marsden to take the chair at the head of the Council table and offered congratulations. The Mayor chaired the remainder of the meeting.

5.3 Mayoral Response

Cr Jonathon Marsden thanked the Chief Executive Officer and all in attendance.

Cr Marsden acknowledged the distinguished guests present, and in particular the outgoing Mayor of Hobsons Bay, Cr Colleen Gates, and outgoing Councillors Angela Altair, Michael Grech and Sandra Wilson, thanking them for their dedicated service to the community.

Cr Colleen Gates was originally elected to Hobsons Bay City Council in 2012 and served two terms, or eight years in total, as a Councillor of Hobsons Bay. In 2020 Cr Gates did not stand for re-election in Hobsons Bay, but was successfully elected to Campaspe Shire Council.

Angela Altair served as a Councillor of Hobsons Bay for just under 22 years, having first been elected to Council in 1999. Michael Grech, who was unable to attend the meeting, was elected alongside Cr Marsden in 2016 and served one term of four years on Council. Sandra Wilson, the outgoing Deputy Mayor, was first elected in 2012 and served two terms as a Councillor of Hobsons Bay.

Speaking on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and Victoria's second lockdown, Cr Marsden acknowledged the work of the previous Council on a COVID-19 budget that included support packages to address hardship and underpin recovery from the pandemic, and stated that the new Council was already turning its mind towards continuing that work.

Cr Marsden observed that Hobsons Bay has the makings of a very good Council in its new Council, stating that Councillors had already begun to talk about what it could achieve and that he was impressed by the energy brought by the newly elected Councillors.

Cr Marsden announced that he looked forward to working on a number of initiatives already underway.

The first of these initiatives is Council's project to create a virtual energy network connecting all solar photovoltaic installations on Council buildings, which community groups and sporting groups would be encouraged to join, in order to provide low-cost clean energy to households and retailers. Cr Marsden highlighted that the project served the dual purpose of lowering costs, essential in recovering from the COVID-19 downturn, and lowering emissions to achieve Council's goal of carbon neutrality by 2030.

Turning to the subject of COVID-19 recovery, Cr Marsden also indicated that he wished to see continued revitalisation of Hobsons Bay's high streets, which Council had begun during the election period through the installation of infrastructure to allow safe outside dining, and ongoing support for recovery.

Cr Marsden acknowledged that the process of Hobsons Bay's recovery from COVID-19 would take time, and that for the next one or two years Council would likely be preoccupied with recovery from the downturn in employment in key business sectors that have lost clientele and staff, such as retail, entertainment, and hospitality, and with attracting people back to the high streets of Hobsons Bay.

Cr Marsden looked forward to working on the Coastal and Marine Management Plan, which is due to come out soon. With the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*, Cr Marsden said, Council is at the point of designing the infrastructure that it wishes to keep, preserve, maintain and renovate, such as the jetties in the Williamstown maritime precinct and beaches, such as Williamstown Beach, which are due for a facelift to bring up to the standard of Altona Beach.

Cr Marsden also spoke of the importance of maintaining Hobsons Bay's wetlands, not only as beautiful places for the community to swim, walk and run in, but also as significant ecosystems for sequestering atmospheric carbon and contributing to meet Council's goals for 2030.

Cr Marsden highlighted Council's tree planting program, under which about 8,000 or 9,000 trees will be planted per year over the next four or five years.

Cr Marsden stated that he was keen to work with other Councillors in promoting active transport, which has boomed during the COVID-19 lockdown as people rediscovered the beauty of Hobson Bay by walking, cycling, and riding in their wheelchairs and scooters.

Cr Marsden also stated that he intended to focus the continuing business of Council to maintain essential services, clean streets, well-maintained neighbourhoods, and places the community can take pride in.

Cr Marsden looked forward to working towards reconciliation with First Nations peoples through truth-telling and treaty.

Cr Marsden indicated that he would elaborate further on these initiatives at a future Council Meeting after conferring with other Councillors and beginning work on the Council Plan.

Cr Marsden stated that harnessing the considerable and diverse talents of the people gathered in the Council Chamber would be key to Council's success, and that for Councillors this meant speaking their minds, voting according to their conscience, listening to their citizens, and making decisions always in the best interests of the people of Hobsons Bay.

Cr Marsden concluded by congratulating and welcoming the new Council of Hobsons Bay, including Cr Tony Briffa and Cr Daria Kellander for Cherry Lake Ward, Cr Peter Hemphill and Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud for Strand Ward, and Cr Diana Grima and Cr Matt Tyler for Wetlands Ward.

6 Election of Deputy Mayor

6.1 Election of Deputy Mayor

The Mayor invited nominations for the Office of Deputy Mayor for 2020-21.

Nominations for the Office of Mayor for 2020-21

Cr Daria Kellander was nominated by Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud.

In accordance with section 25(6) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, as there were no further nominations the Mayor declared Cr Daria Kellander to be duly elected as Deputy Mayor.

The Mayor invited Cr Daria Kellander to speak.

Cr Daria Kellander thanked her family, friends, the Hobsons Bay community and other Councillors for their support, saying that she was honoured to be elected Deputy Mayor in her first year on Council and did not take the privilege lightly, saying that the people of Hobsons Bay have recognised that change is needed to bring fresh perspectives and new ideas into Council. Cr Kellander stated her commitment to working hard for the residents of Hobsons Bay and bringing collaboration between experienced and new Councillors, and across Hobsons Bay's wards, in order to accomplish the work that needs to be done.

The Mayor invited other Councillors to congratulate Cr Daria Kellander

Cr Matt Tyler congratulated Cr Daria Kellander on her election as Deputy Mayor, stating that it was energising to see the old and the new represented in the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor and noting in particular Cr Kellander's fierce commitment to her community.

7 Close of Meeting

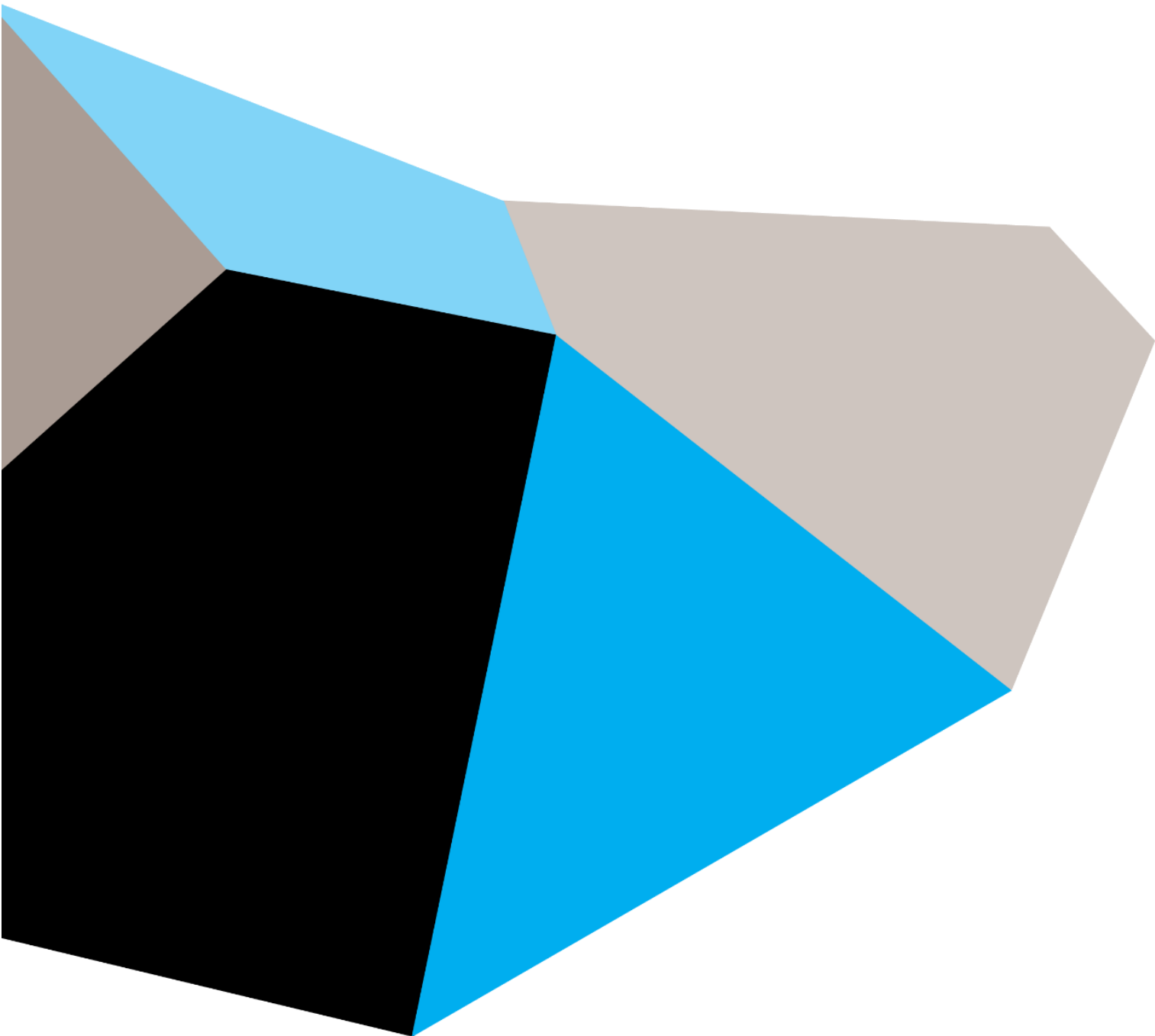
The Mayor invited all present to the Civic Reception in the foyer.

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7.35pm.

Chairperson – Cr Jonathon Marsden

Signed and certified as having been confirmed.

8 December 2020



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