



MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

20 AUGUST 2025



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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL HELD 20 AUGUST 2025 IN ST KILDA TOWN HALL AND VIRTUAL VIA TEAMS

The meeting opened at 6:32pm.

IN ATTENDANCE

Cr Crawford (Chairperson), Cr Buckingham, Cr Cunsolo, Cr Halliday, Cr Hardy, Cr Jay, Cr Makin, Cr Mears, Cr Thomann (online).

Chris Carroll, Chief Executive Officer, Paul Wood, Acting General Manager City Growth and Development, Kylie Bennetts, General Manager Community Wellbeing and Inclusion, Lachlan Johnson, General Manager, Operations and Infrastructure, Claire Stevens, General Manager Organisational Capability and Experience, Robyn Borley, Director Governance and Performance, Mitch Gillett, Acting Head of Governance and Advocacy, Dana Pritchard, Manager Open Space, Recreation and Community Resilience, Claire Ulcoq, Coordinator Open Space, Patricia, Stewart, Planning Lead - Fishermans Bend, Emily Williams, Senior Council Business Advisor, Jema Pierson, Business Support Officer Project Delivery.

The Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Kulin Nation. We acknowledge their legacy and spiritual connection to the land and waterways across the City of Port Phillip and pay our heartfelt respect to their Elders, past, present, and emerging.

1. APOLOGIES

Nil.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Crs Mears/Makin

That the minutes of the Meeting of the Port Phillip City Council held on 6 August 2025 be confirmed.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED unanimously.

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil.



CONDOLENCE MOTION -

Wayne 'Mouse' Thompson, a vibrant and influential locals, known for his iconic in-line skate shop, Apache Junction on Acland Street who sadly passed away on 2 August 2025.

Moved Crs Jay/Thomann

That Council

- Expresses its deep regret on the passing of Wayne 'Mouse' Thompson.
- Offers its sincere condolences to their family and places on record its appreciation for their service to the City of Port Phillip.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED unanimously.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUBMISSIONS

Public Questions are summarised below. The submissions were made verbally and can be listened to in full on our website: <http://webcast.portphillip.vic.gov.au/archivephp>.

Public Question Time:

- **Paul Hickey:** In 2017 it took us 22 months to get an application through for rebuilding our fence. We discovered dysfunctionality across building, heritage and planning and our application was lost three times. We were promised improvement by the Council at the time but a recent conversation with a Neighbour suggest these issues still persist. What actions has the Council taken since 2017 to address this?

I thank the Council for standing up to the survey on the Grand Prix Amendment. The Victorian Government has failed to consult affected residents about extending the event from 3 days to 3 weeks, we as residents deserve the right to be heard. I have been here before to express to you our frustrations the Grand Prix corporation failures relating to parking and amenity issues during the event. Can the Council contact Nina Taylor MP to ask for a removal of the GP amendment bill 2025?

Trees were put up on the nature strips but we were not consulted about these. I maintain 100 meters of nature strip and the trees have made this job a lot harder. If the Council would like to put trees in, they should take care of the maintenance of the nature strips. Why were these trees planted without engaging residents first?

Paul Wood, Acting General Manager City Growth and Development acknowledged the historical experience that Paul had in 2017 in relation to planning, heritage and building matters. While they were unable to speak to the specific circumstances referenced from a several years ago, they outlined the improvements that have been made, and continue to be made, to planning and building processes. Council has placed a strong focus on service delivery, tracking customer complaints and improving the active management of applications. Paul advised that service improvements had been implemented with a focus on customer service and making quicker decisions, last year in planning the average time it took to get to a decision was reduced by approximately 30 days and the percentage of applications decided within the statutory timeframe had increased by approximately 11 to 12% compared to the year prior. This year, additional improvements had already been observed, with performance sitting above the metropolitan average in planning. While Council continued to

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reflect on customer feedback, it also made ongoing improvements to better respond to that feedback.

Mike Fisher, Manager City Planning and Sustainability advised that Council worked closely with community stakeholders to inform our submission, which was endorsed at the most recent Council meeting and has now been published on Council's website. The submission reflects key concerns raised by the community, including:

- The short timeframe for public consultation, which risks excluding community voices and undermining trust in the process.*
- Disruption to sporting clubs that rely on uninterrupted access to the lake.*
- Restrictions on passive recreation, negatively impacting residents' wellbeing.*
- Potential environmental impacts on the lake's biodiversity.*

Council remains committed to working with the Australian Grand Prix Corporation (AGPC) and local Members of Parliament to ensure the concerns of our community continue to be represented.

In relation to trees planted on the nature strip, the question was taken on notice.

Council Report Submissions:

Item 11.1 Dog-Off Leash Area Changes

- Terence Glenane
- Louisa Larkin
- Sally Blair
- Sonia Oflaherty
- Brodie Mitchell
- Jen Bishop
- Michelle Watson
- Anabel Jones

Item 11.2 Balaclava & East St Kilda Urban Forest Plan

- Helen Halliday

Item 11.3 PDMR/00002/2024 Ministerial Referral for Planning Scheme Amendment C218port

- Michael Hurst

5. COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME

- **Councillor Cunsolo:** Can officers please provide an update on Dog related signage on the foreshore?

Dana Pritchard, Manager Open Space, Recreation and Community Resilience advised that over the last few months we have been undertaking audits on all of our signage across the municipality including the foreshore. We are now in the final stages of designing those signs and will bring these to Council before they are installed. Officers are aiming to have all the foreshore signs installed before summer begins, pending the outcome of item 11.1 'Dog Off-Leash Area Changes' at tonight's meeting.



6. SEALING SCHEDULE

Nil.

7. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

Nil.

8. PRESENTATION OF CEO REPORT

Nil.

9. A HEALTHY AND CONNECTED COMMUNITY

Nil.

10. AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT CITY

Nil.

11. A SAFE AND LIVEABLE CITY

11.1 Dog Off-Leash Area Changes

PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek Council's approval of amendments to Council Order No. 5 to give effect to changes to dog on and off-leash areas (designated areas and prohibited areas).

Moved Crs Crawford/Makin

That Council:

- 3.1 Adopts Council Order No. 5 (**Attachment 1**) under section 26 of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* and authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) to make any minor editorial amendments to finalise Council Order No. 5 for gazettal.
- 3.2 Notes the gazettal will make the following updates to dog off leash areas:
- 3.2.1 Fennell Reserve in Port Melbourne to be designated as a dog off-leash area.
- 3.2.2 The section of Port Melbourne beach between Station Pier and Bay Street to be designated as a dog off-leash area between 7:30 PM and 10:00 AM the next day during summer (1 November to 31 March).
- 3.2.3 The section of Elwood Beach between Point Ormond to the rock groyne in front of Elwood Angling Club to be designated as a dog off-leash area between 7:30 PM and 10:00 AM the next day during summer (1 November to 31 March).
- 3.2.4 The Community Synthetic Ground (Pitch 3) at JL Murphy Reserve to be changed to a dog prohibited area.

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- 3.3 Notes the gazettal will also include approved amendments to the 'cat curfew' and 'commercial dog walking' restrictions approved by Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan at Council's Ordinary Council Meeting on 6 August 2025.
- 3.4 Notes that Order No. 5 will be published in the Government Gazette and in a newspaper circulating in the municipal district of Council.
- 3.5 Notes that Council Order No. 5 will take effect, once published in the Government Gazette, and Council Order No. 4 will subsequently cease at that time.
- 3.6 Notes that no changes will be made to the current conditions at SS Anderson (Pitch 1) at JL Murphy Reserve, North Port Oval, Robinson Reserve and Howe Crescent Reserve West.
- 3.7 Requests Council officers investigate changing Anzac Gardens in South Melbourne, Point Ormond Reserve and the section of beach north of the Point Ormond rock groyne in Elwood to a dog off-leash area, subject to heritage advice and community engagement.
- 3.8 Resolves to make the current gate opening arrangement (7:30 PM to 7:00 AM) a permanent operational measure at Eastern Reserve North.
- 3.9 Notes that when the Places for People: *Public Space Strategy 2022-32* is next reviewed it will include an updated action to continue to undertake further planning work to identify appropriate sites for dog off-leash areas across the municipality.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED unanimously.

11.2 Balaclava & East St Kilda Urban Forest Precinct Plan

PURPOSE

- 1.1 To present the new Balaclava and East St Kilda Urban Forest Precinct Plan for Council adoption (refer to **Attachment 1** and **Attachment 2**).

Moved Crs Halliday/Buckingham

That Council:

- 3.1 Adopts the Balaclava and East St Kilda Urban Forest Precinct Plan as outlined in **Attachments 1 and 2** and delegates authority to the CEO to make minor editorial changes that do not materially alter the content, to finalise the document for publication.
- 3.2 Notes that the Plan includes initial funding for primary projects identified in the action plan, and that a municipality wide review of secondary projects will be undertaken once all nine Urban Forest Precinct Plans are complete. Projects not currently funded will be considered for external grant opportunities and future Council budget processes to ensure fair and equitable delivery across the municipality.
- 3.3 Notes that one Urban Forest Precinct Plan has been delivered in the first 12 months of the Urban Forest Strategy allowing for the development of a template to guide future plans.

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- 3.4 Notes the remaining eight Urban Forest Precinct Plans will be delivered by the end of the 2026/27 financial year and that the Urban Forest Strategy will be updated to reflect this revised timeline.
- 3.5 Thanks residents and community members who submitted a petition noted by Council on 18 June 2025, which requested the inclusion of the area bounded by St Kilda Road Inkerman Street – Chapel Street – Dandenong Road within the current planning phase of the Urban Forest Precinct Plan.
- 3.6 Notes and requests that officers advise the lead petitioner that:
 - 3.6.1 As part of the Urban Forest Strategy development, the municipality was divided into neighbourhoods to enable a more targeted and place-based approach to managing the urban forest. These neighbourhood boundaries align with those established in the Places for People: Public Space Strategy 2022–2032.
 - 3.6.2 The area highlighted in the petition will be included in the St Kilda and St Kilda West Urban Forest Precinct Plan, which is scheduled for delivery within the next two financial years.
 - 3.6.3 To ensure consistency across all precincts each plan will be developed in alignment with the principles and objectives outlined in the Urban Forest Strategy. This ensures a unified approach to achieving targets and measurable outcomes including increasing urban canopy cover, enhancing species diversity, improving vegetation health, and boosting biodiversity.
 - 3.6.4 In developing the Balaclava & East St Kilda Urban Forest Precinct Plan, walkability analysis extended beyond neighbourhood boundaries to include nearby activity centres such as Windsor, Orrong Road, and Glen Eira Avenue. This broader approach will be applied to future precinct plans to ensure broader connectivity and integration across adjacent areas.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED unanimously.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting for a break at 8:01pm

Councillor Thomann left the meeting at 8:02pm and did not return for the remainder of the meeting.

The meeting resumed at 8:10pm.

11.3 PDMR/00002/2024 - Ministerial Referral for Planning Scheme Amendment C218port

PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide a Council position for a request to the Minister for Planning to prepare, adopt and approve Amendment C218port into the Port Phillip Planning Scheme for 264-270 Normanby Road, South Melbourne.

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Moved Crs Halliday/Makin

Recommendation – Part A

- 3.1 That Council advise the Minister for Planning via the Department of Transport and Planning, that the following information is required prior to progressing to a decision:
- a) Design changes arising from a minimum 10 metre tower setback from Normanby Road.
 - b) Further detail regarding the proposed façade strategy, landscaping and public realm outcomes.
 - c) Further details addressing Environment Sustainable Design (ESD) considerations, specifically.

Recommendation – Part B

- 3.2 In the event that the application for a Planning Scheme Amendment is supported in its current form, Council recommends the Incorporated Document include the following amendments:
- a) Increase the tower setback from Normanby Road to a minimum of 10 metres.
 - b) Replacement of podium-level finishes with higher quality materials, such as brick or other durable and visually appropriate alternatives.
 - c) Improvements to the ground floor layout and access arrangements to ensure universal accessibility to the building.
 - d) Wind amelioration treatments that create a comfortable pedestrian environment within the public realm, with such treatments appropriately integrated into the building's architectural design.
 - e) A revised Landscape Plan and Public Realm Plan.
 - f) A Sustainability Management Plan (SMP) and Water Sensitive Urban Design Response (WSUDR) demonstrating how the proposed development will achieve a minimum 5 Star Green Star Buildings rating, including relevant credits.
 - g) A Water Sensitive Urban Design Response (WSUDR) utilising MUSIC modelling and incorporating a rainwater tank with a minimum effective volume of 0.5 cubic metres per 10 square metres of catchment area.

Recommendation – Part C

- 3.3 That Council authorise the Manager City Development to instruct Council's Statutory Planners and / or Council's advocate with the Minister for Planning in relation to design changes on any future Standing Advisory Committee hearing /or any independent advisory committee appointed by the Minister for Planning to consider the applications, or design changes.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED unanimously.



11.4 Planning Scheme Amendment C224port - Anomaly Correction

PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek Council's endorsement to progress Amendment C224port, which corrects errors and anomalies in the Port Phillip Planning Scheme and request Ministerial approval.

Moved Crs Jay/Hardy

That Council:

- 3.1 Requests officers lodge a request via the online Amendment Tracking System to the Minister for Planning to prepare and approve Amendment C224port to the Port Phillip Planning Scheme to make updates and address technical corrections, pursuant to Section 20(A) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, and generally in accordance with the documentation provided at Attachment 1 & 2 of this report.
- 3.2 Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or their delegate) to make minor changes to the C224port Amendment documents to correct any drafting errors identified by officers or the Department of Transport and Planning, provided those changes do not materially alter the overall intent of the Planning Scheme Amendment.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED unanimously.

12. A VIBRANT AND THRIVING COMMUNITY

Nil.

13. AN ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED COMMUNITY

13.1 Audit and Risk Committee - Annual Review of the Committee Charter

PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek Council's adoption of the updated Audit and Risk Committee Charter 2025

Moved Crs Makin/Halliday

That Council:

- 3.1 Adopts the updated Audit and Risk Committee Charter (Attachment 1) and
- 3.2 Notes that the updated Charter will be published on Council's website.
- 3.3 Authorises the Chief Executive Officer, or their delegate to make minor amendments that do not materially alter the Charter.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED unanimously.

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13.2 Audit and Risk Committee - Biannual Report as at 30 June 2025

PURPOSE

- 1.1 To present the Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report as at 30 June 2025.

Moved Crs Crawford/Mears

That Council:

- 3.1 Notes the Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report as of 30 June 2025, which details activities of the Committee covering scheduled meetings held 25 February 2025, 15 May 2025 (annual workshop) and 24 June 2025.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED unanimously.

13.3 Councillor Expenses Monthly Reporting - July 2025

PURPOSE

- 1.1 To report on the expenses incurred by Councillors during July 2025 in accordance with the Councillor Expenses and Support Policy.

Moved Crs Hardy/Mears

That Council:

- 3.1 Notes the monthly Councillor expenses report for July 2025 (attachment 1) and that this will be made available on Council's website.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED unanimously.

13. A TRUSTED AND HIGH-PERFORMING ORGANISATION

Nil.

14. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

15. REPORTS BY COUNCILLOR DELEGATES

Mayor Crawford reported as the Councillor Delegate to the Linden New Art Board who will be celebrating 40 years next year. It will be a particularly important year celebrating the long history and contribution that the Art Gallery has provided to the City. The Mayor was very excited to announce the upcoming Postcard Show scheduled to open in approximately two weeks. The show had received a record number of entries, and the Mayor encouraged everyone to mark their calendars and attend the event.

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Councillor Makin as the both Councillor delegate and deputy chair to the Metropolitan Transport Forum reported that the Forum was scheduled to meet with Minister Williams the following afternoon. The meeting aimed to discuss public transport commitments across metropolitan Melbourne. Additionally, the Forum had been preparing advocacy platforms to support key transport priorities within Port Phillip, including the need for more frequent and reliable services, as well as long-awaited and promised tram and metro upgrades.

Councillor Cunsolo reported as the Councillor delegate to the Gasworks Art Park board. A new CEO Sam Strong had recently been appointed and it's very exciting to see their new ideas coming through. The Board was also preparing to celebrate its 40th anniversary in the coming year.

16. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

17. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Nil.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 8:19pm.

Confirmed: 2 September 2025

Chairperson _____