



# **GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL**

## **SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

### **MINUTES**

20 OCTOBER 2015



## MEMORANDUM

**To** Mr Andrew Newton, Chief Executive Officer

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**Cc**

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**From** Cr Jim Magee, Mayor

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**Date** 28 September 2015

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**Subject** SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL, 20 October 2015

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Dear Andrew,

In accordance with Section 84(1) of the Local Government Act 1989, I hereby call a Special Meeting of the Council to be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 20 October 2015.

The business to be transacted at this meeting will be to consider Glen Eira City Council's 2014/15 Annual Report pursuant to Section 134 of the Local Government Act 1989.

Please call the Special Meeting as detailed above in accordance with Section 84(3) of the above Act.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Magee".

**Cr Jim Magee**  
**Mayor**



## MEMORANDUM

**To** Councillors

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**Cc**

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**From** Andrew Newton, Chief Executive Officer

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**Date** 28 September 2015

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**Subject** SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING, 20 October 2015

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In accordance with Section 84(3) of the Local Government Act 1989, you are hereby called to attend a Special Meeting of the Glen Eira City Council which has been called by the Mayor, Cr Jim Magee, and which will be held on **Tuesday 20 October 2015 commencing at 7.00pm** in the Council Chamber, corner Hawthorn Road and Glen Eira Road, Caulfield.

The business to be transacted at this meeting will be to consider Glen Eira City Council's 2014/15 Annual Report pursuant to Section 134 of the Local Government Act 1989.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. Newton".

**Andrew Newton**  
Chief Executive Officer



Glen Eira City Council

**Special Council  
Meeting  
20 October 2015**

Notice is hereby given under Section 134(2) of the Local Government Act 1989 that Glen Eira City Council ("Council") has prepared an Annual Report for the financial year 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.

In accordance with Section 84(3) of the Local Government Act 1989, Council will consider the 2014-15 Annual Report at a Special Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 20 October in the Council Chamber, Glen Eira Town Hall, corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield. The Meeting commences at 7pm.

Copies of the 2014-15 Annual Report can be obtained from Council's Service Centre, corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield during business hours. The Annual Report can also be viewed at Council's four libraries. Copies will be available on Council's website at [www.gleneira.vic.gov.au](http://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au)

**Andrew Newton**  
Chief Executive Officer

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**MINUTES of the SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL held on TUESDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2015**

The meeting opened at 7.00 pm in the presence of:

**His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Jim Magee  
Councillor Mary Delahunty  
Councillor Margaret Esakoff  
Councillor Jamie Hyams  
Councillor Michael Lipshutz  
Councillor Oscar Lobo  
Councillor Karina Okotel  
Councillor Neil Pilling  
Councillor Thomas Sounness**

**1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

On behalf of Council the Mayor read the following acknowledgement.

In the spirit of respect Council acknowledges the people and elders of the Kulin Nation who have traditional connections and responsibilities for the land on which Council meets.

**2. APOLOGIES - Nil**

**3. OATH OF OFFICE AND DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS**

The Chairperson reminded Councillors that we remain bound by their Oath of Office to undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of the municipal district of Glen Eira and to faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the Local Government Act or any other Act, to the best of their skill and judgement.

The Chairperson also reminded Councillors of the requirement for disclosure of conflicts of interest in relation to items listed for consideration on the Agenda, or which are considered at this meeting, in accordance with Sections 77 to 79 of the Local Government Act.

No Councillor disclosed any interest in any of the agenda items.

**4. PRESENTATION OF OFFICERS REPORTS**

4.1 Annual Report 2014-2015

**Item 4.1**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15**

**Enquiries:  
Chief Executive Officer**

**1. Background**

Council's 2014-2015 Annual Report was submitted to the Minister for Local Government at the end of September 2015 as required by the *Local Government Act*.

The Report was circulated in draft to all Councillors for comment in August.

The Act requires the Annual Report to be considered at a Meeting before the end of October.

Public Notice has been given of this Meeting and that the Annual Report is available for inspection.

**2. Recommendation**

That the Annual Report for 2014-2015 be adopted.

**Crs Hyams/Lipshutz**

**That the recommendation in the report be adopted.**

**The MOTION was put and CARRIED unanimously.**

## MAYOR AND CEO OVERVIEW

### RESPONSIVENESS

Our Service Centre handled 265,681 calls with an average wait time of 13 seconds and with 87 per cent of calls being handled by the first person to answer the call. In the independent state-wide *Community Satisfaction Survey*, we achieved an approval/disapproval rate of 72/4 (up from 68/2 last year) and were rated first in the state for customer service.

### PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

Public open space continues to be the priority for Council. We created a new park in Archibald and Gisborne Streets, Elsternwick — Riddell Park; upgraded Memorial Park in Caulfield North; commenced conversion of the former Glen Huntly Reservoir to 1.6 hectares of new open space; commenced the creation of a new park in Eskdale and Fitzgibbon Roads, Caulfield North; commenced upgrading the Elsternwick Plaza open space; and commenced statutory processes to acquire land for open space in Gardenvale and Carnegie. We also introduced a 5.7 per cent levy on multi-unit development to fund more and better public open space.

### DEVELOPMENT

We achieved commitments from the State Government to grade separate seven road and rail intersections. Glen Eira has more grade separations scheduled than any other municipality. 1,527 dwellings received planning permits from Council and a further 489 dwellings received planning permits at the direction of VCAT. The large majority were concentrated very close to railway stations.

### ADVOCACY

Following advocacy by Council, the Auditor-General undertook a Performance Audit of the management of the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Crown Land and made recommendations to Parliament. We are continuing to advocate for government to implement the Auditor-General's recommendations.

### SUSTAINABILITY

We increased our collection of green waste for recycling by 16 per cent to 10,533 tonnes. We planted 2,360 street trees (1,360 replacement and 1,000 additional). We installed solar panels on three Council buildings to generate around 52,000 kilowatt hours of electricity per year. We implemented further actions in the *Bicycle Strategy*.

### COMMUNITY WELLBEING

As part of its *Community Grants Program*, Council provided \$379,913 to 135 local not-for-profit community groups. We accommodated 485 teams playing community sport and delivered 124,381 hours of in-home support to 2,827 elderly, frail or disabled residents. There are no waiting lists for kindergarten, child care or home care within Glen Eira. *StoryTime* and *BabyTime* sessions held at Glen Eira libraries were attended by 61,806 children and parents. Glen Eira Sports and Aquatic Centre (GESAC) hosted 1,091,478 visitors. Of the 14,367 members at GESAC, 55 per cent are female.

### COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND ASSETS

We invested \$36.97 million in infrastructure and community facilities. We completed 99.7 per cent of the capital budget. The program comprised 66 per cent renewal and upgrade of existing assets and 34 per cent expansion or new assets. The redevelopment of the Julie Cooper Pavilion at Centenary Park, Bentleigh East neared completion. We removed 11,457 square metres of graffiti from private property.

### FINANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Our operating result was a \$13.9 million surplus. This was \$3.7 million better than budget owing mainly to the early receipt of the 2015–16 Victorian Grants Commission \$1.75 million; increased open space fees by \$1.47 million; and the carbon tax refund of \$876,000 from Clayton Regional Landfill.

Any surplus on operations is allocated to higher levels of capital investment. We continued to achieve above average capital investment, below average operating costs, reduced debt and the second lowest average rates and charges in Melbourne. On a cash basis, GESAC covered all operating costs, all loan repayments and all interest on the loan.

### EFFICIENCY

Our 12,000 residential parking permits were converted to electronic permits to enable faster approvals and renewals and greater privacy of residents' information. We introduced the ability for library users to check out and return their own items so that staff can spend more time helping users. We created Care Crew — a team of staff to keep our shopping strips clean and safe.

### OUR STAFF MEMBERS

We continued to invest in development, leadership and wellbeing programs for our staff members. Forty three staff members were recognised for their performance against our values — Teamwork, Initiative, Leadership, Customer Service and Respect. Staff turnover was 9.7 per cent. We would like to thank all managers and staff members for continuing to achieve Council's objectives and serve the Glen Eira community.

### SETBACKS

The Victorian Civil and Administration Tribunal (VCAT) overturned more of our planning decisions than ever before. VCAT is only required to "take account of" our policies — not apply them.

### KEY CHALLENGES

The grade separation projects of road and rail intersections will involve disruption and we need to ensure that all those affected are fully informed. The *National Disability Insurance Scheme* will change the way disability and aged care programs operate and are funded. The State Government will announce arrangements for increases in council rates to be regulated by the Essential Services Commission starting for 2016–17.

### FUTURE OUTLOOK

Our highest priority is to provide more and better open space.



**Cr Jim Magee**  
MAYOR



**Andrew Newton**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



**13. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 7.07PM

CONFIRMED THIS 4 NOVEMBER 2015

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**CHAIRPERSON**