



GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 17 MARCH 2026

MINUTES

**Meeting was held in the Council Chambers,
Corner Hawthorn & Glen Eira Roads, Caulfield
at 7:30 PM**

Present

The Mayor, Councillor Simone Zmood
Councillor Arabella Daniel
Councillor Margaret Esakoff
Councillor Jane Karlake
Councillor Sam Parasol
Councillor Luca Ragni
Councillor Kay Rimbaldo
Councillor Kimberley Young
Councillor Li Zhang

Council Officers Present

Chief Executive Officer, Lucy Roffey
Director Customer and Corporate Affairs, Kellie Vise
Director Sustainability, Assets and Leisure, Niall McDonough
Director Community Wellbeing, Jane Price
Director Planning and Place, Rosa Zouzoulas
Chief Financial Officer, John Vastianos
Manager Legal, Risk and Governance, Diana Vaynrib
Coordinator Councillor Business, Karling Colomiere
Councillor Business Officer, Mary Lennon

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1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The Mayor read the acknowledgement.

Glen Eira City Council Acknowledges the peoples of the Kulin Nation as Traditional Owners and Custodians, and pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. We Acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to land and waterways. Council extends its respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

2. APOLOGIES

Nil

3. REMINDER TO DISCLOSE ANY CONFLICTS OF INTEREST IN ANY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillors were reminded of the requirement for disclosure of conflicts of interest in relation to items listed for consideration on the Agenda, or any item that was considered at this meeting, in accordance with Section 130(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Rule 85 of the Glen Eira City Council Governance Rules.

Suspend Standing Orders

Moved: Cr Zmood

Seconded: Cr Zhang

That Council suspend standing orders at 7.33pm to invite statements in honour of Gladys Machin.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillors were invited to make a statement recognising the City of Caulfield's first female Councillor and female Mayor, Gladys Machin, following an unveiling of a new portrait in her honour at the Glen Eira Town Hall.

Resume Standing Orders

Moved: Cr Zmood

Seconded: Cr Zhang

That Council resume standing orders at 7.37pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no submissions for Public Participation.

5. WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL

There were seven Written Public Questions to Council.

<p>Helen Fischer Bentleigh</p>	<p>Question 1</p> <p>What is the future of Pawfield Park with the proposed Mount Scopus development? Will it stay in its current location and when can we expect more information about this?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>Thank you for your enquiry regarding the future of Pawfield Park in light of the proposed Mount Scopus development. Council is aware that Mt Scopus is proposing a project on freehold land that is adjacent to Pawfield Park and Caulfield Racecourse Reserve. We have had a preliminary discussion with the State Government, and they are in contact with Mt Scopus about that project. Council remains committed to advocating to the Government for the ongoing protection of open space, as well as for the provision of additional open space at the reserve, in line with Council's open space strategy. We will keep the community informed of any further information as we receive it.</p>
<p>Tamara De Silva Caulfield East</p>	<p>Question 2</p> <p>The access path from Glen Huntly Park to Pawfield Park was a collaborative undertaking between Council, State Govt, and the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Trust. The path has been built, BUT it stops just before Pawfield Park, with no access to Glen Eira Road, which was the original intention and plan. Why is this the case? Why is there no access to Pawfield Park?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>The original intention of the shared path project was to improve connections between Glen Huntly Park and Pawfield Park. The path itself was delivered through a collaborative project involving Council, the State Government and the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Trust (CRRT).</p> <p>However, as project planning progressed and in response to the proposed development within the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve, the CRRT revised its approach. Rather than extending the path directly into Pawfield Park and Glen Eira Road, the focus shifted to other improvements within the Reserve. These included opening up visual connections to Glen Huntly Park, improving pedestrian</p>

	<p>access points, and introducing a biodiversity garden along the eastern boundary.</p> <p>Any future changes to extend access into Pawfield Park would require further agreement between the project partners and consideration of land ownership, planning approvals and broader reserve objectives.</p>
<p>Krystyna Duszniak Caulfield North</p>	<p><u>Question 3</u></p> <p>Will Council act to protect the mature native trees at Pawfield park once the Mt Scopus development starts? These trees include a Moreton Bay Fig on the corner of Pawfield Park, which is a vital food source for our fruit bats and other wildlife. It is as old and significant as the Moreton Bay Figs outside of Lord Lodge and I seek assurances that Council will not allow its destruction, or the destruction of the other native trees in an around Pawfield Park.</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>Thank you for your question. As the relevant land manager of Pawfield Park, Council will be seeking to protect mature trees and will continue to prioritise outcomes that retain and enhance the park's existing canopy.</p> <p>We are aware of Mt Scopus' intentions for the MRC land along Kambrook Road and Booran Road. Council will strongly advocate for the retention of the Morton Bay Fig and any other mature trees, including opportunities to increase canopy cover where feasible.</p> <p>We will continue to work with relevant stakeholders through the appropriate planning and land management processes and will provide updates when possible.</p>
<p>Nicola Pronk Caulfield East</p>	<p>Question 4</p> <p>What has the Ministers response been to Glen Eira Council on its heritage reviews' still in progress?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>Many of Council's heritage amendments were submitted to the Minister for Planning during 2023 and 2024 and have not progressed. The Department of Transport and Planning, on behalf of the Minister, has advised that any heritage amendment applications which are affected by the Activity Centres Program have been put on hold until the program has been implemented. This has impacted the heritage amendments for Glen Huntly and Caulfield East, Elsternwick and Caulfield Station precinct.</p> <p>Despite Council's continued advocacy, there has been no update from the Minister.</p>

<p>Nicola Pronk Caulfield East</p>	<p>Question 5</p> <p>What is the current status of homes & commercial buildings identified as being under a heritage overlay in light of the Housing Choice Transport Zone core, inner and outer zones in Caulfield East & Caulfield (West of Kambrook Road)?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>Proposed heritage properties in Caulfield East are part of Amendment C252glen, submitted for authorisation to the Minister for Planning in May 2023. There has been no update on this Amendment.</p> <p>Proposed heritage properties west of Kambrook Road are part of Amendment C246glen (Caulfield North). Council publicly exhibited this Amendment from October to December 2025, and submissions received will be considered by an independent planning panel in late April 2026. At this stage, the Amendment is progressing as normal despite the Activity Centres Program.</p> <p>Existing heritage overlays will remain in place even if the property is within the proposed core or residential catchments of the Activity Centres Program (implemented through a Built Form Overlay or Housing Choice Transport Zone).</p>
<p>Glen Eira Historical Society: Anne Kilpatrick Caulfield</p>	<p>Question 6</p> <p>We note the lack of progress with current Heritage Planning Amendments affecting areas covered by the Caulfield to Bentleigh and Elsternwick Activity Centres project. Given the potential threat to the properties recommended for heritage protection by the project to date for all of the suburbs affected (not just the 5 named by train stations), will Council apply for interim heritage protection for these places in the Glen Eira Planning Scheme? If not, please explain why not.</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>Council will be seeking to address this matter in our submission to the State Government regarding Stage 2 of the Activity Centre Program and will continue to advocate for the advancement of all our heritage amendments. Our continued advocacy to State Government seeks their consideration of proposed heritage places and precincts when determining building heights in core areas, as well as in setting the boundaries for the inner and outer catchments.</p> <p>Should there be an immediate risk of demolition to a place proposed for a heritage property—such as when we are notified through a building or planning application—Council will take appropriate action to seek interim heritage overlay protection. However, it is not deemed suitable to apply for interim heritage</p>

	overlays for every site included in our heritage amendments. The State Government is already aware of our ongoing applications for heritage overlays on these sites, and pursuing interim protection for each could result in further delays and duplicate amendment processes within the system.
<p>Glen Eira Historical Society: Anne Kilpatrick Caulfield</p>	<p>Question 7</p> <p>Does Council know if any heritage places have been exempted from new Activity Centre Zones either in Glen Eira or elsewhere and if so, which ones and what are the grounds for that? This is on the basis of a response given at the 3/3/26 Activity Centre project team's drop in (for Caulfield to Bentleigh and Elsternwick) that the City of Stonnington's local heritage precinct HO133 Gascoigne Estate in Malvern has been exempted.</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>The State Government has not advised Council of any existing heritage places that will be exempt from the new activity centre zones to be implemented by the Activity Centres Program. Council has only seen the draft maps published on the Engage Victoria website and expect that no further information will be provided until the zones have been finalised and gazetted.</p> <p>We are not aware of any discussions between Stonnington and the Activity Centres Program team regarding the removal of the Gascoigne Estate in Malvern from the activity centre catchment.</p>

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OR MEETINGS

Moved: Cr Daniel

Seconded: Cr Rimbaldo

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 24 February 2026 be confirmed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. RECEPTION AND READING OF PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

Nil

8. REPORTS BY DELEGATES APPOINTED BY COUNCIL TO VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS

Cr Daniel – Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA)

Cr Zhang – Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Board Meeting

Cr Young – Local Government Working Group on Gambling (LWGOG)

9. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND RECORDS OF ASSEMBLY

9.1 Advisory Committees

9.1.1 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Moved: Cr Daniel

Seconded: Cr Zhang

That the minutes of the Advisory Committee meetings as shown below be received and noted:

1. Innovation and Financial Sustainability Advisory Committee 16 February 2026
2. Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee - 16 February 2026

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.2 Records of Assembly

9.2.1 RECORD OF ASSEMBLIES

Moved: Cr Karlake

Seconded: Cr Parasol

That Council notes the Records of Assemblies for:

1. 10 February 2026 Assembly;
2. 17 February 2026 Assembly; and
3. 24 February 2026 Pre-meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. OFFICER REPORTS (AS LISTED)

10.1 MID-YEAR REPORT (JULY TO DECEMBER 2025)

Moved: Cr Zmood**Seconded: Cr Karlake**

That Council adopts the *Mid-year Report* (Attachment 1) for the period ending 31 December 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.2 2026 STATE ELECTION ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

Moved: Cr Zmood**Seconded: Cr Ragni**

That Council endorses its advocacy priorities for the 2026 state election as outlined in Attachments 1 to 3 of this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Extension of Speaking Time**Moved: Cr Zmood****Seconded: Cr Daniel**

That Cr Ragni be granted a one minute extension of speaking time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

It is recorded that Cr Zhang vacated the Chamber at 8:34pm.

It is recorded that Cr Zhang entered the Chamber at 8:37pm.

10.3 CALL FOR REPORT - DRAINAGE AND FLOOD MITIGATION

Moved: Cr Rimbaldo**Seconded: Cr Ragni**

That Council:

1. Notes the information contained in this report regarding drainage and flood mitigation works.
2. Continues advocacy to Melbourne Water and the State Government for increased flood mitigation funding and collaboration.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.4 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE BIENNIAL REPORT

Moved: Cr Zhang**Seconded: Cr Karlake**

That Council adopts the Audit and Risk Committee's Biennial Report for the period September 2025 to February 2026 (Attachment 1 to this report) in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.5 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MINUTES

Moved: Cr Karlake**Seconded: Cr Zhang**

That Council adopts the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 27 February 2026 as shown in Attachment 1 of this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.6 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2026

Moved: Cr Esakoff**Seconded: Cr Young**

That Council notes the Financial Management Report for the period ending 28 February 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.7 COUNCILLOR GIFT POLICY

Moved: Cr Daniel**Seconded: Cr Rimbaldo**

That Council adopts the Councillor Gift Policy (Attachment 2 to this Report).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

12. ORDINARY BUSINESS**12.1 Requests for reports from a member of Council staff**

Nil

12.2 Right of reply

Nil

**12.3 Notice of Motion / Notice of Rescission **

Nil

12.4 Councillor questions

Nil

13. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil

14. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Confirmed this 7 April 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting.

Chairperson.....