



GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 30 JUNE 2026

MINUTES

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

Present

The Mayor, Councillor Dr Simone Zmood
Councillor Arabella Daniel
Councillor Margaret Esakoff
Councillor Jane Karlake
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, Cheyenne Thygesen-Sutton

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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**Apology**

Moved: Cr Daniel

Seconded: Cr Karslake

That the apology from Cr Parasol and Cr Ragni be received and noted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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 60(3) of the Glen Eira City Council Governance Rules. Councillors were then invited to indicate any such conflict of interest.

Procedural Motion

Moved: Cr Dr Zmood

Seconded: Cr Karslake

That Council:

1. where meetings are held in-person, can continue the meeting if the livestream of the meeting fails;
2. considers the meeting to be adjourned for 10 minutes from the commencement of any technical problem where a Councillor is participating virtually; and
3. where a Councillor is participating virtually and the meeting cannot be resumed within 30 minutes from the commencement of the technical problem, the meeting is to be reconvened on Monday 6 July 2026 at 7.30pm

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Suspend Standing Orders**Moved: Cr Dr Zmood****Seconded: Cr Zhang**

That Council suspend standing orders at 7.34.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Mayor suspended standing orders to congratulate members of the Glen Eira community who were recently recognised in the King's Birthday Honours with a Medal of the Order of Australia.

Resume Standing Orders**Moved: Cr Dr Zmood****Seconded: Cr Karslake**

That Council resumes 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

Josh Sher Glenhuntly	Question 1: Why are stakes been set up along Dorothy Ave without any consultation. As you are aware Glen Huntley is a densely populated suburb with many units and buildings recently developed. Where can residents and visitors now park without blocking traffic in any direction. Answer: The bollards were installed in response to ongoing community concerns about illegal rubbish dumping and illegal vehicle parking in the area. They also help prevent vehicle encroachment into tree root zones, which was causing damage to the existing street trees and impacting the amenity of the street. Importantly, the bollards do not restrict any existing legal on-street parking spaces. Their purpose is to deter unlawful parking and protect public assets, while maintaining access to legitimate parking within the street. Residents along Dorothy Avenue were notified in advance of the works, with a letter issued on 1 April 2026 outlining the purpose of the installation
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	prior to the works being undertaken in June. The design of the bollard installation seeks to balance the need for parking access with community concerns regarding illegal dumping and unlawful parking, while also protecting street trees, public assets and neighbourhood amenity.
Sam Healy Caulfield East	Question 2: We have been promised so much for the community for the racecourse including a new park, walking/cycling tracks around the racecourse etc which we are getting nothing. Can you give examples of successful advocacy this council or previous had achieved at the council? Answer: Thank you, Sam, for your question. The Caulfield Structure Plan, adopted by Council in 2022, identifies several opportunities to increase community use of public areas within the Reserve. These include improving walking and cycling connections and enhancing public spaces to create a better experience for users. Council has worked with relevant authorities to deliver part of the Outer Track along Queens Avenue in Caulfield, which will eventually connect with the remaining sections. Council continues to advocate and work with the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Trust to complete the track, so it can become a destination in its own right while also linking key places within the centre. Council is also working with developers to achieve high-quality design and well-considered planning outcomes that will deliver new attractive and functional public places and spaces. Further, Council is working with the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Trust, as the owner of the infield dog park, to identify opportunities to upgrade the facility and improve the experience for users.
Sam Healy Caulfield East	Question 3: With the possible sale of pawfield park and rest of the wedge (western stables) and the Neerim Stables being leased to the MRC ; will the council be actually losing unrestricted open space when so much was promised for the community? Why was the space behind the tennis courts turned into a Forrest. Previously this was an open space used by local dogs. Where will they now go especially with impending sale of pawfield park. I imagine people will exercise their dogs on Glen Huntly oval which is not a great result. Answer: Thank you, Sam, for your question. Council continues to advocate on behalf of the community for improved public open space at the Reserve. Our discussions with stakeholders are focused on achieving a net increase in publicly accessible open space. Council is also working with

	the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Trust, as landowner, to identify opportunities for them to improve the amenity and user experience of the infield dog park. We will be sure to provide your feedback to the Trust to inform future upgrades. Lastly, consistent with Council's Urban Forest Strategy and the Caulfield Structure Plan, the vision for Caulfield is to increase greening and recognise the important role of the urban forest in supporting community health and wellbeing, environmental sustainability, liveability and local character.
Jean Tate Ormond	Question 4: When the Council designated the off leash area within the CRR, the Council stated the wet play area would have an overflow filtration system. Due to numerous issues and occurrences of sick dogs, the area has now been closed. The rest of the area has also been identified as unsafe as it is essentially a car park for the MRC. Why did the Council designate this area as leash free without undertaking a proper risk-assessment as the community requested at the time and what steps have the Council taken to seek appropriate space within the reserve for dogs, as they also committed to at the time of voting in favour of this space? Answer: Council acknowledges community concerns regarding the off-leash area within the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve (CRR). It is important to note that Council is not the landowner. The reserve is Crown land managed by the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Trust, which is responsible for site management and infrastructure. The decision to close the wet play area was made by the Trust as land manager. When designating the off-leash area, Council considered available technical advice, site conditions and community feedback, and sought to address the need for additional off-leash space. Since its designation unfortunately the wet area has had to be closed off for safety reasons. Council has and continues to advocate for improved and appropriate open spaces. We are working with the Trust to identify improvements to this off leash area and will continue to raise community concerns with them. Importantly your feedback will be provided to the Trust and will assist to inform our advocacy.
Jean Tate Ormond	Question 5: Can the Council please look at appointing a dedicated advisory body for pet owners in the municipality? With approximately 50% of households owning a dog, plus additional households with other types of pets, these

	deserve proper input into decision-making. An example of the detrimental impact of pet owners not having a voice is that the council have showed support for restricting dogs access at the Caulfield Racecourse reserve with multiple councillors citing environmental concerns for dogs accessing the Southern Irrigation Dam, which has been a much-loved community space to safely exercise dogs for many years. Unfortunately dogs have been misrepresented as an environmental issue and threat to wildlife, which, if given proper voice to Council could be easily clarified as incorrect. Companion animals are vital to mental and physical health of many within the municipality and to exclude them from proper representation is discrimination. Please advise how we can support proper voice to Council for pet owners. Answer: Council recognises the importance of pets to many residents and values input from pet owners. Community views, including those of pet owners, are captured through consultation processes specific to new opportunities or improvements ensuring the information is relevant to each site and project. As mentioned previously, Council is not the landowner of Caulfield Racecourse Reserve. The reserve is Crown land managed by the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Trust, and decisions relating to access to the wetland are made by the land manager. In considering to declare the section of the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve as a dog off-leash area, feedback from the community was sought at the time. This feedback has been invaluable to informing our ongoing discussions with the Trust to improve and enhance this asset. Since late 2025 Council has four new advisory committees. In particular, the Diverse, accessible and welcoming advisory committee has Terms of Reference that enable officers to consult with this committee on a range of matters relevant to ensuring our spaces are diverse, welcoming and accessible, including opportunities for dog owners to have access to appropriate off leash spaces. Council will continue to consider opportunities to strengthen engagement with pet owners while balancing the needs of all users of shared public spaces.
Glen Eira Historical Society - Anne Kilpatrick Caulfield	Question 6: At the May 19 meeting, Council agreed to provide a summary of outcomes of the final State Government's Carnegie Activity Centre plan vs Council's Structure Plan on Council's website so changes would be clear to the Glen Eira community. With the release of the finalized plans for the Stage 2 Activity Centres last Friday, when will that Carnegie information be

	available and will Council provide similar detailed explanations for all the Stage 2 Activity Centres? Answer: Council placed an update to the Carnegie Structure Plan 2022- Amendment C237 webpage on 19th June 2026. This included information relating to the state led activity centre plan for Carnegie approved under Amendment C278. This update included changes to over shadowing controls between the two plans. Now that the Stage 2 plans have been released, we will provide a more detailed summary of the differences between the State led activity centre plans and Council's Structure Plans for Bentleigh, Caulfield and Glen Huntly by this Friday, 3 July. The state led plan for Elsternwick only refers to a range of heights associated with the Elsternwick Structure Plan. The plan does not illustrate how this height range is applied to different sites within the Elsternwick core. Therefore, a summary of the state led plan and Council's plan for Elsternwick can only be prepared once further information is released by the State Government. To note, the final controls for Stage 2 activity centre plans are yet to be issued so there may be further changes Council is not currently aware of.
Glen Eira Historical Society - Anne Kilpatrick Caulfield	Question 7: Bayside Council is taking the State Government to the Supreme Court to gain access to the detailed research and advice used by the State Government in formulating its Activity Centres program. Given the lack of response to the City of Glen Eira's requests for similar information and other questions contained in Council's submissions etc about the Activity Centres, will this Council be joining Bayside in that action or otherwise supporting them? We note that neighbouring Councils have been public about their criticisms and complaints whereas to date this Council has publicly simply reported Activity Centre changes rather than publicly advocating Council's position. Answer: Anne, thank you for your question. Council has been consistently advocating for best possible planning outcomes throughout the State Government's planning reforms and have been quite vocal and critical of their approach, including the haste of the reforms particularly the Activity Centres Program, the lack of transparency and supporting documentation, rushed and inadequate consultation, removal of notice and review rights, impact on heritage and residential neighbourhoods. As the Glen Eira Historical Society would be aware, Council developed five activity centre structure plans, along with a detailed Housing Strategy just prior to the State Government's release of the Victorian Housing Statement which triggered amongst other things, the Activity Centres Program. Whilst this impacted Council's planning vision for much of Glen Eira, it was this work which has provided a strong and evidence-based

	foundation for our ongoing advocacy. This resulted in the Stage 1 state led plan for Carnegie adopting the majority of Council's adopted Carnegie Structure Plan content. This is mirrored in our advocacy for Stage 2, where the state led plan for Elsternwick acknowledges Council's vision contained in the adopted Elsternwick Structure Plan which was subject to consultation early 2025. Glen Eira's constant advocacy and critical assessment of the Activity Centres Program is delivering positive and beneficial results. This is further reflected in the significant reduction to the inner catchments on the west side of Ormond, Bentleigh, McKinnon and the north side of Elsternwick recently contained in the final Stage 2 plans recently released. These changes represent positive outcomes for our community and demonstrate that Council's approach is having an impact. While we acknowledge Bayside City Council's approach, we consider Glen Eira's sustained focus on securing improved planning outcomes to be more beneficial in the long term. Council will continue to strongly represent the interests of the Glen Eira community, including advocating for greater transparency, robust evidence, and planning outcomes that align with Council's adopted strategies.
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6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OR MEETINGS

Moved: Cr Daniel

Seconded: Cr Zhang

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 9 June 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

Mayor, Cr Dr Zmood – National General Assembly – Canberra

Cr Zhang – National General Assembly – Canberra

Cr Young – National General Assembly – Canberra

9. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND RECORDS OF ASSEMBLY

9.1 Advisory Committees

9.1.1 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**Moved: Cr Karlake****Seconded: Cr Young**

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

1. Innovation and Financial Sustainability Advisory Committee - 11 May 2026
2. Diverse, Welcoming and Accessible Places Advisory Committee - 13 May 2026
3. Community Safety, Cohesion, Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee - 20 May 2026
4. Glen Eira Leisure (GEL) Advisory Committee - 27 May 2026

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.2 Records of Assembly

9.2.1 RECORDS OF ASSEMBLY**Moved: Cr Daniel****Seconded: Cr Zhang**

That Council notes the Records of Assemblies for:

1. 26 May 2026 Assembly;
2. 2 June 2026 Assembly; and
3. 9 June 2026 Pre-meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. OFFICER REPORTS (AS LISTED)

10.1 ADOPTION OF BUDGET, COUNCIL PLAN ACTION PLAN AND DECLARATION OF RATES & CHARGES 2026–2027

Moved: Cr Dr Zmood**Seconded: Cr Zhang**

That Council resolves to:

1. Pursuant to section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, adopts the Budget 2026–2027, as set out in **Attachment 1** to this report, including the proposed Schedules of Fees and Charges detailed in **Appendices E and F** of **Attachment 1**.
2. Pursuant to section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, adopts the Annual Action Plan 2026–2027, as set out in **Attachment 2** to this report.
3. Note the feedback received from the community in relation to the 2026–2027 Budget and Annual Action Plan, as summarised in **Attachment 3** to this report.
4. Pursuant to section 158 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, declares the rates and charges to be levied for the 2026–2027 financial year, as set out in section 4.1 of **Attachment 1**, noting that the total general rates increase of 5 per cent comprises the 2.75 per cent rate cap set by the Minister for Local Government and a one-year 2.25 per cent rate cap variation approved by the Essential Services Commission.
5. Declare that an amount of \$155,393,645 (before rebates) is the amount Council intends to raise by general rates, Cultural and Recreational Lands rates and annual service charges, comprising:
 - \$124,566,997 in General Rates
 - \$296,704 in Cultural and Recreational Lands rates; and
 - \$30,529,944 in annual service charges for waste management.
6. Declare a General Rate for the 2026–2027 financial year by the application of a uniform rate of 2.8277 cents in the dollar of the Net Annual Value of all rateable land in the municipal district.
7. In accordance with section 4(1) of the *Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963*, declare that the amounts payable for the 2026–2027 financial year for rateable land to which that Act applies be:
 - 76 per cent of the General Rate for land owned or occupied by the Melbourne Racing Club;
 - 50 per cent of the General Rate for land owned or occupied by the Yarra Yarra Golf Club;
 - 60 per cent of the General Rate for land owned or occupied by a sporting organisation operating with a liquor and/or gaming licence; and
 - 50 per cent of the General Rate for land owned or occupied by a sporting organisation operating without a liquor or gaming licence.
8. Pursuant to section 162 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, declare an Annual Service Charge relating to waste management for the 2026–2027 financial year as follows:
 - 240 litre bin – \$740

- 120 litre bin – \$370
 - Flats sharing a 240-litre bin – \$370
 - Family 240 litre bin – \$370
 - 240 litre medical service – \$370
 - Litter management charge – \$98
 - Additional recycling service – \$80
 - Additional green waste service – \$48
9. Grant a rebate of up to \$292.70 to each ratepayer who is an eligible recipient within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004* for the 2026–2027 financial year, grant Council's contribution to that rebate under section 169(1)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1989* to assist the proper development of the municipal district, record that in Council's opinion the rebate will assist the proper development of the municipal district by relieving a specified class of ratepayer of part of the burden of rate payments, and record that the rebate does not affect any right conferred under section 171(4) of the *Local Government Act 1989*.
10. Determine that rates and charges are payable by four instalments, due on
- 30 September 2026
 - 30 November 2026
 - 28 February 2027
 - 31 May 2027
11. Charge interest on any unpaid rates and charges from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*.
12. Resolve that the additional revenue generated from the approved rate cap variation for the 2026–2027 financial year be allocated to the Strategic Asset Reserve, in accordance with the Budget 2026–2027 and Council's Financial Management Principles.
13. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to levy and recover all rates, charges and other amounts referred to in this resolution in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*, the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Extension of Speaking Time

Moved: Cr Dr Zmood

Seconded: Cr Zhang

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Extension of Speaking Time

Moved: Cr Dr Zmood

Seconded: Cr Karslake

That Cr Daniel be granted a two minute extension of speaking time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.2 ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL PLAN 2026–2036

Moved: Cr Zhang**Seconded: Cr Daniel**

That Council adopts the recast 10 Year Financial Plan 2026–2036 as set out in Attachment 1 of this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

It is recorded that Cr Zhang vacated the Chamber at 8:41pm.

It is recorded that Cr Zhang entered the Chamber at 8:44pm.

10.3 ADVOCACY PRIORITIES 2026–2027

Moved: Cr Karlake**Seconded: Cr Young**

That Council adopts the Advocacy Priorities 2026–2027 (Attachment 1).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Extension of Speaking Time

Moved: Cr Dr Zmood**Seconded: Cr Zhang**

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.4 ADOPTION OF PRICING POLICY

Moved: Cr Karlake**Seconded: Cr Young**

That Council adopts the Pricing Policy as presented in Attachment 1 to this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.5 ADOPTION OF THE LEASING AND LICENSING POLICY 2026

Moved: Cr Daniel**Seconded: Cr Zhang**

- 1) That Council adopts the Leasing and Licensing Policy 2026, Attachment 1, and in doing so, revokes the Leasing and Licensing Policy 2019; and
- 2) amends clause 5.46 in Attachment 1 to include the words 'or renewal' in the third sentence, after the word 'continuation', so that the sentence reads: 'This support may include continuation or renewal of the current head lease and sublease arrangement'.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.6 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT AS AT 31 MAY 2026

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

That Council adopts the Financial Management Report for the period ending 31 May 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.7 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 29 May 2026 as shown in Attachment 1 of 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 9.23pm.

Confirmed this 4 August 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting

Chairperson.....