



GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 19 MAY 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 Rimbardo
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
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. Councillors were then invited to indicate any such conflict of interest.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was one submission for Public Participation.

5. WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL

There were twelve Written Public Questions to Council.

<p>Warrick Alldridge Murrumbeena</p>	<p>Question 1:</p> <p>Murrumbeena Park Amenity Council has erected signs informing of a new, full-size netball/multi-sport court built over the dedicated Dog Off-Leash Area, with no consultation. This is a very popular and well used area for the local community. This will result in most of Murrumbeena Park being dedicated sport ground or playground. Council appears to be prioritising the interests of organised sport groups and disregarding the needs of residents who use this open space daily for health and wellbeing (activity, exercise, socialising with the community) alongside their dog walking.</p> <p>If Council is to move the Dog Off-Leash Area to the current, smaller carpark space, will Council confirm no loss of amenity by: Making</p>
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	<p>the new space dedicated Dog Off-Leash, Ensuring there is no loss of space (per m2) available and prioritising completion of the Dog Off-Leash Area prior to construction of a court?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>Council understands how important the dog off-leash area is to local residents and park users and acknowledges the value it provides for recreation, exercise and social connection.</p> <p>The relocated dog off-leash area is intended to remain a designated space for off-leash dog use, consistent with its current function, and the intention is that the relocated dog off-leash area will be of a comparable overall size to the existing area. Final dimensions and layout will be confirmed during detailed design, with a focus on maintaining usability and amenity.</p>
<p>Tamara De Silva Caulfield East</p>	<p>Question 2:</p> <p>Does the recent reinstallation of the lights at Pawfield Park mean that Council is committed to retaining that park when Mt Scopus starts its development on both sides of it and will you confirm that the park and its tens of magnificent trees will NOT be sold to Mt Scopus?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>Thank you for your enquiry regarding the future of Pawfield Park in light of the proposed Mount Scopus development.</p> <p>We have had preliminary discussions with the State Government, and they are in contact with Mt Scopus about their future plans. At the moment there are no firm details to provide comment on. 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.</p> <p>We will keep the community informed of any further information as we receive it.</p>
<p>Tamara De Silva Caulfield East</p>	<p>Question 3:</p> <p>At the recent fantastic Council event film & panel discussion to celebrate David Attenborough's 100th Birthday, Dr Jacinta Humphrey, Urban ecologist University of Melbourne was asked what was the one thing people could do to help nature. Her response was to plant an indigenous shrub in your garden or in a pot in your apartment balcony to sustain indigenous insects and small birds. Other Councils have a dedicated Gardens for Wildlife Officer, a position which helps educate and support people about planting indigenous. When will Glen Eira Council follow suit and create such a position?</p>

	<p>Answer:</p> <p>Glen Eira recently appointed a Climate and Biodiversity Officer position. A key part of this Officer’s position is to support activities such as that proposed by your question and was an active part of designing the David Attenborough 100th Anniversary event.</p> <p>Glen Eira also has a dedicated Parks Team that run indigenous planting events, to educate and encourage the community to plant locally indigenous plants both on Council land and within their properties.</p>
<p>Krystyna Duszniak Caulfield North</p>	<p>Question 4:</p> <p>Council begins its meetings with words that state: "We acknowledge and uphold the Traditional Owners’ continuing relationship to the land and waterways." In what way is the continued planting by Council of inappropriate tree species for our region, ie non-indigenous trees, “paying respect to our First Nations People” and Country? In your answer please provide evidence of the direct relationship between the trees you plant, and respect for Country.</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>Council recognises that caring for Country includes supporting healthy, functioning ecosystems, which is why we prioritise indigenous species in our planting programs for their strong biodiversity and cultural value. Over the last 5 years, we have planted nearly 45,000 indigenous plants through our seasonal planting programs.</p> <p>At the same time, Glen Eira is a highly urbanised environment where site conditions, such as soil, space, heat, and infrastructure, can limit what species will successfully grow.</p> <p>For this reason, we apply a “right plant, right place” approach.</p> <p>Importantly, Council is actively increasing the proportion and diversity of indigenous plantings over time, including working with nurseries to improve future supply.</p>
<p>Krystyna Duszniak Caulfield North</p>	<p>Question 5:</p> <p>Many of us are depressed about the disappearance of our local flora and fauna. We live with this “eco anxiety” partly because Council tackles climate change through similar practices as past Councils; that is, to look to non-indigenous flora (especially trees) as the best “fight against climate change”. And yet, there ARE still remnants of indigenous eco-systems left in Glen Eira. Instead of restoring them, you seem to continue to use the same mentality of “we know better than what was here before”, using climate change as an excuse to plant yet more inappropriate trees. What scientific evidence do you have that the trees that existed on the lands of the Boon</p>

	<p>Wurrung/Bunurong and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples, which had survived millennia of geographical and climate change, are not the correct species to plant now. Could you please cite the scientific sources behind your reasoning of avoiding indigenous tree plantings?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>There is strong scientific consensus that indigenous vegetation plays a critical role in supporting local ecosystems, which is why Council prioritises indigenous species in our biodiversity planning and seeks to increase their extent over time.</p> <p>However, the challenge in Glen Eira is that the landscape is now highly modified. For this reason, best practice in urban forestry is to use a mix of species, prioritising indigenous where feasible, but also selecting other species that can establish successfully, increase canopy cover, and improve resilience to climate change.</p>
<p>Helen Fischer Bentleigh</p>	<p>Question 6:</p> <p>Last year The City of Glen Eira ordered 13,000 plants from Bayside indigenous Plant Nursery. This year that order was for 2500 plants. Has council ordered more indigenous plants from VINC or other indigenous nurseries to make up this huge reduction in numbers and could you please break down the order into ground, middle and tree layers?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>This year, Council has not reduced its focus on indigenous planting, in fact, we have increased it overall. While the order from Bayside Indigenous Nursery was just under 3,000 plants, this was complemented by an additional 14,000 plants sourced from other indigenous nurseries, including Victorian Indigenous Nurseries Co-operative and Regen Nurseries.</p> <p>In total, we have exceeded our annual target of 10,000 plants, consistent with the more than 20,000 indigenous plants delivered last season.</p> <p>These plantings include a mix of groundcovers, shrubs, and trees, designed to create layered habitats that better support biodiversity outcomes across our parks and open spaces. Approximate breakdown is 70-75% groundcovers, grasses and forbs, 25-30% shrubs and ~2% trees.</p> <p>Overall, the program remains strong, with a significant and ongoing investment in indigenous planting across the municipality.</p>

<p>Helen Fischer Bentleigh</p>	<p>Question 7:</p> <p>Council continues to plant European and other exotic street trees in Glen Eira, rather than indigenous trees. The former provides no biodiversity value; the latter provide everything our birds and insects need for food and habitat. Do those responsible for this decision making realise the damage they are doing to our biodiversity? In your answer, please provide specific insights into exotic tree species planted recently and their benefits to biodiversity.</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>Indigenous species are critical for supporting local fauna, and Council prioritises them in our biodiversity planning and continues to increase their use over time.</p> <p>However, non-indigenous trees do provide biodiversity value. In an urban environment like Glen Eira, many native and some exotic species can still provide habitat, food sources such as nectar or canopy cover, and contribute to cooling and overall ecosystem function.</p> <p>Council's approach is to use the best available evidence to select species that will survive, grow to maturity, and deliver long-term benefits. This includes a mix of species, prioritising indigenous where suitable, but also using other trees that can establish successfully in constrained urban conditions and support canopy resilience.</p>
<p>Glen Eira Historical Society: Anna Kilpatrick Caulfield</p>	<p>Question 8:</p> <p>Amendment C237glen Carnegie Structure Plan was formally lapsed on 14/5/26. The Victorian Government's website for its recently finalised Carnegie Activity Centre plan does not provide the detail for what has been adopted/what has not been adopted out of the Carnegie Structure Plan into their Carnegie Activity Centre plan. We therefore request Council to provide a detailed comparison on Council's website to help inform residents of Carnegie and Glen Eira.</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>The Minister for Planning has approved Amendment C278glen, which implements the state led activity centre plan for Carnegie. This largely replicates Council's proposed Amendment C237glen, the Carnegie Structure Plan.</p> <p>This amendment introduces the new Built Form Overlay (BFO) control, which applies to the same core area identified in the adopted Carnegie Structure Plan.</p> <p>In general terms, the building heights now established across the main commercial core are broadly consistent with those outlined in the Carnegie Structure Plan.</p> <p>Council will provide a summary on its website outlining which</p>

	<p>elements of the Structure Plan have been directly translated into the planning controls, and where any variations have occurred.</p>
<p>Sally Clarke Caulfield North</p>	<p>Question 9:</p> <p>It's very inspiring to see local species returning to our neighbouring Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve, because they've planted the right things. What is a local species of bird that GE Council hopes to see back in our area, and which plants are you planting to encourage this?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>Council's Biodiversity Plan includes actions to identify key species that are currently rare or absent, with the aim of supporting their return through targeted planting and habitat creation.</p> <p>While that work is still being finalised, a good example would be small native bush birds, which rely on dense, diverse indigenous vegetation for shelter and food.</p> <p>Importantly, this includes restoring biodiversity corridors and strengthening existing habitat areas, so species can move safely through the landscape rather than being isolated.</p> <p>While at the point we are not in a position name specific species, our approach is very much focused on creating the right conditions to support their return.</p>
<p>Michelle Dunstone Murrumbeena</p>	<p>Question 10:</p> <p>RE Proposed building of full netball/basketball court in Murrumbeena park where the dog park is: The QR code on the information posters in the park links to a webpage that claims that "...the project builds on the endorsed Murrumbeena Park Masterplan 2019". We have concerns that this claim could be seen as misleading and therefore we ask for more information. Observed deviations from Murrumbeena Park Masterplan 2019: 1) A full playing court is planned in the dog park area. 2) The dog off leash area is now going to be moved to the car park where the currently planned grass area is smaller. Could you please advise: 1) when that consultation occurred to change the masterplan? 2) and how the records relating to that consultation can be viewed?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>The proposal forms part of the implementation of the Murrumbeena Park Masterplan, adopted by Council in 2019, supported by further engagement in 2022. Through these processes, Council identified strong demand for increased active recreation opportunities, including court-based activities. While the Masterplan illustrated a half-court, subsequent consultation with stakeholders confirmed this would not meet demand. The proposed full-size multipurpose court responds to this.</p>

	<p>Accommodating a full-size court requires a broader reconfiguration of uses across the park, including adjustments to active and passive areas. This is necessary to meet demonstrated community demand and deliver the outcomes of the adopted Masterplan.</p> <p>The current preliminary engagement is being undertaken so that feedback can inform the proposal. More detailed plans and supporting technical information will be developed as the proposal progresses.</p>
<p>Rosetta Manaszewicz McKinnon</p>	<p>Question 11:</p> <p>For the period November 1st, 2025 to April 30th, 2026, how many applications did council receive for canopy tree removal under council's Canopy Tree Protection Law, as well as the individual numbers for canopy removal as part of development applications under Section(s) 55 and/or 56 of our planning scheme and the total number of trees already, or allowed to be removed for this time period?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>During the period 1 November 2025 to 30 April 2026, Council received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 61 x Canopy Tree Protection Local Law • 65 x Planning Permit applications just for tree removal under clauses 43.05 (Neighbourhood Character Overlay) or 52.37 (Canopy trees). • 14 x Planning permit applications for development of the land and removal of trees. <p>Determining the total number of trees removed during this period would require a detailed manual review of all 140 applications. This work has not been completed within the timeframe for responding to this question, accordingly, Council is not in a position to provide a verified total at this time.</p>
<p>Rosetta Manaszewicz McKinnon</p>	<p>Question 12:</p> <p>For the above applications, how many applications in each category were granted a permit for canopy tree removal, how many were refused, and how many decisions are still pending?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>Of these applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31 x Local law applications approved. • 19 x Local law applications refused or did not require a permit upon further review. • 2 x Local law applications are under review.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 42 x Planning permits approved.• 2 x Planning permits refused. <p>There are 9 canopy tree protection local law and 12 planning permit applications where decisions are still pending.</p>
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6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OR MEETINGS

Moved: Cr Parasol

Seconded: Cr Rimbaldo

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28 April 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 Rimbaldo – Metropolitan Transport Forum (MTF)

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

9. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND RECORDS OF ASSEMBLY**9.1 Advisory Committees**

Nil

9.2 Records of Assembly**9.2.1 RECORDS OF ASSEMBLY**

Moved: Cr Daniel

Seconded: Cr Ragni

That Council notes the Records of Assemblies for:

1. 14 April 2026 Assembly;
2. 21 April 2026 Assembly; and
3. 28 April 2026 Pre-meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. OFFICER REPORTS (AS LISTED)

10.1 MURRUMBEENA AND CARNEGIE (PART) HERITAGE REVIEW - AMENDMENT C281

Moved: Cr Ragni**Seconded: Cr Karlake**

That Council:

1. Adopts the City of Glen Eira – Murrumbeena and Carnegie (part) Heritage Review Volumes 1 and 2 dated April 2026 (GJM Heritage Pty Ltd) and all recommendations contained within this document (**Attachment 1**);
2. Adopts the heritage citation, statement of significance and incorporated document listing exemptions for planning permission for the North Road Pumping Station, 341-345 North Road, Caulfield South (**Attachment 2**);
3. Notes the rectification of a minor error in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay at HO219. The suburb “Caulfield North” will be replaced with “St Kilda East” (**Attachment 3**);
4. Notes the proposed deletion of the Lindsay Avenue Neighbourhood Character Overlay and Design and Development Overlay from the planning scheme (**Attachment 3**);
5. Seeks authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit Planning Scheme Amendment C281glen to implement all of the recommendations noted in recommendations 1-4;
6. Authorises the Manager City Futures to undertake minor changes to the amendment, including changes requested by the Minister for Planning or the Department of Transport and Planning to receive authorisation, where changes do not affect the purpose or intent of the amendment.
7. Subject to receiving authorisation from the Minister for Planning, places Amendment C281 on public exhibition for a period of one month.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

It is recorded that Cr Ragni vacated the Chamber at 8:17pm.

It is recorded that Cr Ragni entered the Chamber at 8:18pm.

10.2 CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT PLANNING PANEL FOR PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C240GLEN - MCKINNON HERITAGE REVIEW

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

That Council:

1. notes the recommendations of the Panel in relation to Amendment C240glen (**Attachment 1**)
2. adopts Amendment C240glen in accordance with Section 29(1) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* as exhibited but amended in accordance with recommendations 2 and 4 of the Panel Report as follows;
 - 2 Amend the HO275 Statement of Significance to:**
 - a. add “*Nicholls Buildings, erected 1928*” to the tenth contributing element in ‘*What is significant?*’ to the building parapet description
 - b. add “*row of fourteen premises on the north side of McKinnon Road constructed as one project by local identity and builder, Leslie Sydney Nicholls*” in ‘*Why is it significant?*’ to the sentence describing the highly intact precinct of interwar commercial buildings.
 - 4 Amend the HO264 Statement of Significance to:**
 - a. replace ‘*Front verandah and turned timber posts*’ with ‘*Front verandah as an element contributing to the place’s significance*’
 - b. delete ‘*verandah fretwork*’ as a later alteration that does not contribute to the place
 - c. add “*The verandah posts, fretwork and floor tiling are not original but are stylistically appropriate for the heritage place*” at the end of the ‘*What is significant?*’ section.
3. adopts all revised amendment documentation (**Attachment 2**)
4. submits the adopted Amendment C240glen to the Minister for Planning for approval in accordance with Section 31 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*
5. authorises the Manager City Futures to undertake all changes to the amendment documentation in accordance with Council’s resolution and to make any administrative changes required where changes do not affect the purpose or intent of the adopted amendment
6. advises all submitters to the Amendment of Council’s resolution in relation to Amendment C240glen.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

It is recorded that Cr Young vacated the Chamber at 8:32pm.

It is recorded that Cr Young entered the Chamber at 8:35pm.

10.3 2026.141 PROVISION OF LIBRARY COLLECTIONS, FURNITURE, EQUIPMENT & ASSOCIATED REQUIREMENTS

Moved: Cr Daniel**Seconded: Cr Ragni**

That Council:

1. appoint the panel of suppliers as recommended. A full listing is provided in the Confidential Attachment 1 to this report;
2. authorise the Chief Executive Officer to advise Procurement Australia of Council's decision;
3. note the attachments to the report remain confidential in accordance with section 3(1)(g) and section 66(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020* or until Council resolves otherwise;
4. authorise Council officers to disclose any confidential information in relation to this item, but only to the extent necessary to give effect to the resolution; and
5. authorise Council officers to disclose the successful tenderers name in the meeting minutes for this item.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.4 2026.241 PROVISION OF TEMPORARY, PERMANENT RECRUITMENT AND OTHER ASSOCIATED SERVICES

Moved: Cr Zhang**Seconded: Cr Parasol**

That Council:

1. appoint the panel of providers as recommended, with the full listing set out in Confidential Attachment 1 to this report;
2. authorises the Chief Executive Officer to advise Procurement Australia of Council's decision;
3. note the attachments to the report remain confidential in accordance with section 3(1)(g) and section 66(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020* or until Council resolves otherwise; and
4. authorise Council officers to disclose any confidential information in relation to this item, but only to the extent necessary to give effect to the resolution.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.5 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT AS AT 30 APRIL 2026

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

That Council notes the Financial Management Report for the period ending 30 April 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.6 APPOINTMENT OF SIGNATORIES FOR THE 2025–26 FINANCIAL REPORT

Moved: Cr Esakoff**Seconded: Cr Karlake**

That Council appoints:

1. Mayor (Cr Simone Zmood) and Deputy Mayor (Cr Li Zhang) to sign the 2025–26 Financial Statements and Performance Statement; and
2. Cr Jane Karlake and Cr Luca Ragni as alternative signatories for the 2025–26 Financial Statements and Performance Statement, if the Mayor or Deputy Mayor are unavailable.

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 8.46pm.

Confirmed this 9 June 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting

Chairperson.....