

**Minutes of the Meeting
of the Glenorchy City Council
held at the Council Chambers
on Monday, 30 January 2023 at 3.30pm**



Present (in Chambers): Alderman Bec Thomas (Mayor), Alderman Sue Hickey (Deputy Mayor), Aldermen Josh Cockshutt, Jan Dunsby, Molly Kendall, Steven King, Harry Quick, Stuart Slade and Russell Yaxley.

In attendance (in Chambers): Tony McMullen (General Manager), Emilio Reale (Director Infrastructure and Works), Jenny Richardson (Director Corporate Services), Allan Wise (Acting Chief Financial Officer), Tracey Ehrlich (Manager People and Governance), Andrea Marquardt (Acting Executive Manager Stakeholder Engagement), Marina Campbell (Manager Community), Jill Sleiters (Community Development Coordinator) and Jeet Thind (Accounts Team Leader).

In attendance (by video link): Marian Maclachlan (Executive Assistant to the General Manager)

Leave of Absence:

Workshops held since last Council Meeting

Date: Monday, 9 January 2023

Purpose: To discuss:

- Statement of Commitment on Housing
- Community Development and Arts and Culture Reviews
- Review of prayers at Council meetings

Date: Monday, 16 January 2023

Purpose: To discuss:

- Briefing on the Principal Activity Centre Specific Area Plan and Northern Accommodation Corridor Specific Area Plan
- Jobs Hub briefing
- Future of Local Government options paper

The meeting was live streamed on Council's website, Facebook page and YouTube channel. The peak number of viewers watching the live stream was 22 viewers and three members of the public attended in person.

The Chair opened the meeting at 3.30pm.

The Chair acknowledged and paid respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as the original and traditional owners and continuing custodians of the land and their elders, past, present and emerging.

The Chair read a statement noting that the meeting would be recorded and live streamed to members of the public, and about work health and safety at the Council meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

None.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution:

SLADE/COCKSHUTT

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday, 19 December 2022 be confirmed.

The motion was put.

FOR: Aldermen Dunsby, King, Thomas, Hickey, Cockshutt, Kendall, Yaxley, Slade and Quick

AGAINST:

The motion was CARRIED.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIR

None.

4. PECUNIARY INTEREST NOTIFICATION

The Chair asked if any Aldermen had, or were likely to have, a pecuniary interest or a conflict of interest in any items on the Agenda.

No interests were declared.

5. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Questions taken on notice – Eddy Steenbergen – Rosetta
(received 19 December 2022)

Q: Is live streaming and recording a full policy of Council, at least for this current term?

A: Council does have a policy for audio recording for Council meetings and we are reviewing the policy with the aim of incorporating live-streaming.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

Question on notice – Morris Malone – West Moonah
(received 20 January 2023)

Stage 2 of the 'Future of Local Government Review' indicates that boundary consolidation (amalgamation) is 1 option being contemplated for Council reform

Q1. Does this Council have a public position on amalgamations?

A: Council has not fully discussed detail to this level however Council will be considering the report further after meeting with the Premier and relevant Minister in early February, holding a workshop in mid-February, with a report that will go to Council on 27 February 2023 meeting for decision. Council will then be providing a response to the Chair of Local Government Board on 28 February 2023. Council's position will become clearer as the meetings evolve.

Q2. Does Council believe amalgamations will achieve consolidated revenue bases better able to streamline more efficient service delivery?

A: Once again, Council has not discussed detail to this level however will be able to provide its position when more information is known.

Q3. If amalgamations proceed can Council guarantee Glenorchy's rates won't increase, nor service delivery won't decline from existing levels?

A: It is too early to fully understand what the outcomes of the review will recommend. Council will consider the effect of any change through its annual processes including budget, annual plan and service levels.

Question on notice – Janiece Bryan – Montrose

(received 25 January 2023)

Q1: Two weeks ago, there was a fire in a garage in Tolosa St. Are our publicly owned historical records and artefacts held by the Glenorchy Historical Society still stored in a garage?

A: The records/items held by the Glenorchy Historical Society are not owned by Council. Council, therefore, has no say or control over their security or storage.

Q2. Does Council still have a Heritage Officer and has the Council secured our priceless and irreplaceable historical records and items to safely protect them from loss, damage and deterioration?

A: Yes. Council employs a Heritage Officer three days per week in the Planning Services section.

Council's Heritage Collection is subject to periodic inspection and assessment by an independent conservator. The purpose of this is to ensure the items in the Collection are appropriately and securely stored, to record movements of items in the Collections database, and to make recommendations wherever appropriate to address, for example, any condition issues requiring attention.

The most recent inspection of the Collection was carried out in 2022.

Q3. What is Council's intention in relation to curating, preserving and creating a permanent and safe home for them? Would Council consider creating a quality history room to ensure the ongoing preservation and knowledge sharing of the proud and important history of Glenorchy?

A: Council's Heritage Collection is currently in safe and secure storage. Selected items, typically artworks and honour boards, are on display in Council owned buildings (mostly in Chambers). Curatorial requirements of the Collection are assessed in the periodic inspections undertaken by a qualified conservator. The most recent such inspection was carried out in 2022.

Council acknowledges the importance of Glenorchy's history and the community's interest in it.

Council currently does not have an approved budget for human resources, nor property suitable for creation, upkeep, servicing, or staffing of a dedicated local history room.

Question on notice – Karen Tantari obo Australian Services Union
(received 27 January 2023) (representing workers at Glenorchy City Council)

Please find below question for public question time at Monday's Council meeting:

Councillors should be aware that initiating reviews within the organisation on the basis of ideological views about the delivery of council services, services that are valued and supported in ratepayer and community engagement, can lead to catastrophic impacts on the capacity of Council to deliver outcomes for the community.

The review of Council's Community Development Department was observed by the independent consultant with summary comments to the effect of, "Finally, while the review process was intended to be an opportunity to build better relationships with Alderman and ELT, to improve the way the team reports the impact of their work and achieves agreed priorities, it has still impacted staff wellbeing and team culture"...Staff have felt scrutinised and untrusted and that there is no value placed on their work by the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) or by Alderman.

The effect of this is apparent in that the commencement of the targeted review the community development team was already reduced to five members and at the time of writing this report there are only two remaining staff." The ASU notes that staff have left Council and been injured through this review.

This outcome sits at odds with Councillors desires to an "all boots on ground" response to escalating violence and damage in Glenorchy. The team worked hard to address long term complex social problems utilising their valuable expertise.

Q. Will Council be more careful in initiating service reviews on the mis-guided whims that Councils are purely roads, rates and rubbish into the future?

A: To characterise the community development review as a "mis-guided whim" is incorrect and unhelpful.

The carrying out of service reviews from time to time is an important part of Council's responsibilities to ensure that the services it provides meet community need and are within the community's capacity to pay.

Under the *Local Government Act 1993*) [s. 28(2)], Aldermen's responsibilities collectively include (in summary):

- deciding and monitoring programs for the efficient and effective provision of services;
- deciding and reviewing the council's resource allocation and expenditure activities;

- monitoring the way that services are provided by the council.

This Council is not just a “roads, rates and rubbish” council. We provide a broad range of some 50 services to our community, including services such as community development, child care, events and community engagement. This reflects an ongoing intent by Council to resource those services for the benefit of the community.

In relation to the Community Development review, there is an officer report on today’s agenda providing a status update.

This is an operational matter, however, the report advises that:

Agreed actions currently being implemented are:

- a restructure of the Community Development team to refocus on four priority outcomes
- development of a draft Reconciliation Action Plan
- the development of a Community Development reporting dashboard providing updated actions against the agreed timeframes.
- quarterly reporting to Aldermen.

While it is acknowledged that change processes can be unsettling, I am advised by the General Manager that staff were advised upfront that there was no agenda to reduce jobs as part of the review.

Some employees have chosen to leave Council during this process. Whether this is triggered by the review or a result of alternative job opportunities in the current buoyant job market is a matter of conjecture.

However, Community Development positions are being advertised by Council to fill those vacancies.

Question on notice – Shane Alderton – Austins Ferry (received 30 January 2023)

Q1. As a result of ongoing anti social behaviour occurring in our community around the council chambers and surroundings areas council has made the decision to employed security Guards in these areas. Can council please explain why it has chosen to fund the cost of Security Guards when this matter is really a community issue and not a ratepayer or council issue?

A: Council have engaged security officers in and around the Council forecourt and surrounding area as an interim measure. Council officers, with the security officers work with Tasmania Police to discourage antisocial behaviour so that the CBD is a place for everyone to enjoy and where our most vulnerable are safe and feel connected.

Tasmania Police has been supportive of the introduction of security officers and continue to work with Council to maximise the outcomes of this intervention. Glenorchy Police has increased the number of daily patrols through the CBD area and has made concerted efforts to make arrests where necessary.

Council recognise the role for community and established the CBD Round Table in late 2020 to bringing together agencies, schools, local businesses and other stakeholders affected by this behaviour to discuss and propose ways it could be addressed. A Community Action Plan was developed and is being actioned from this work.

Furthermore, Council have recently funded the PCYC in a pilot in Glenorchy to help address the service gaps in local service delivery and to work toward longer term solutions. The service will prioritise:

- youth and community engagement
- improved youth participation in schools and secondary or sporting activities
- increased community access to existing social infrastructure
- improved local vocational pathways; and
- reductions in anti-social behaviours.

Q2. If council feels it is obligated to provide some presence in these areas, why has it chosen to fund the cost of security Guards who have no powers to act on any anti social behaviour and are just as vulnerable as the rest of our community when faced with this behaviour. Has council considered funding the cost of a police presence as a much better alternative?

A: An important role of the security officers is to provide safety, as a first responder, in instances where the threat of harm or injury to the community is present. Council have worked closely with Tas Police in coordinating the security officer response with the role of Tas Police.

Over the period from November 2021 to the present, the security officers' trial has been effective in in returning a level of confidence to our community that the Council forecourt area / Glenorchy CBD is a place for all to enjoy safely by:

- reducing poor behaviours (daytime violence, public urination, vandalism, littering, alcohol consumption, the use of profane language and various other types of antisocial behaviour) in the immediate Council forecourt area
- de-escalating behaviours deemed unsafe
- quickly reporting any incidents to Tasmania Police that previously might not have been acted upon or noted; and

- wearing body worn cameras with the capacity to provide evidence to Tasmania Police where requested.

Q3. Is Council aware other organisations have funded the cost of a police presence and this has provided successful outcomes to many types of situations?

A: Councils approach has included working directly with community and local businesses.

Council is aware that Metro Tas have engaged Tasmania Police to assist with anti-social behaviour. You would need to pose your question directly with Metro to ascertain the result of this approach.

Q4. Relates to the future of the Glenorchy Football Club as reported in media circles. As council has a strong relationship with the Glenorchy football club both on a personal and commercial level is council monitoring this developing situation and will you be providing any support to the club if required?

A: Council is aware that the Glenorchy District Football Club is going through a difficult time. Council is monitoring and working with the club to assist them wherever possible. In our discussions, the GDFC have indicated that their post COVID recovery has been slower than expected and the club president has kept Council informed of their recovery strategies. The GDFC has an AGM later this week where a new president and board will be elected, Council will be re-engaging with the new team to keep discussing options that will assist in their recovery process.

Question without notice – Eddy Steenbergen – Rosetta

My questions relate to a workshop held on 16 January that is mentioned in today's Council Agenda. The Council was briefed on two specific area plans, which I've haven't seen mentioned before.

The first one relates to a Principal Activity Centre Specific Area plan.

Q1: What prompted it? What does it cover, and what is it for?

A: [Mayor] Council endorsed the Greater Glenorchy Plan and some of the actions arising from that Greater Glenorchy plan were to develop specific area plans for our CBD, so the workshop that we had on the principal activity centre was to look at the implementation of that action under the Greater Glenorchy plan.

[General Manager] When we developed the planning scheme provisions for Glenorchy under the new statewide planning regime there is provision for specific area plans to provide more fine-tuned planning provisions for distinct local areas. When we originally developed the interim planning scheme there were some specific planning provisions that were tailored to the Glenorchy CBD

area. The work in relation to this principle activity area specific area plan was about updating those provisions that are specific to the Glenorchy CBD. Essentially learning from the experience we've had with them over the journey from the interim planning scheme to now.

Q2: The Northern Accommodation Corridor Specific Area Plan - where is it? What does it cover, and what is it for?

A: [Director Infrastructure and Works] This is about looking at opportunities where accommodation could be placed along the northern corridor specifically along the Main Road, there is some opportunities to put accommodation above some of the commercial retail buildings. At present there are restrictions on the Main Street in relation to the zoning and height of buildings, so this Specific Area Plan is to look at the possibility of rezoning and allowing for denser residential apartments on top of some of those commercial buildings.

First stage being the Council workshop on 16 January, at which we looked at some proposals that might be possible. It's nothing specific, it's just to use them as examples of how it might work, then we need to develop more structured plans and Council would have to go through the Commission before any rezoning process.

Also, there will be a process to communicate with the public about this plan before it proceeds to rezoning.

Q2a. Are you able to advise when this will occur? This year, in the next two years?

A: [Director Infrastructure and Works] We are talking this calendar year.

7. PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS

None.

COMMUNITY

Community Goal: "Making Lives Better"

8. ACTIVITIES OF THE MAYOR

File Reference: Mayoral Announcements

Reporting Brief:

To receive an update on the recent activities of the Mayor.

Resolution:

KING/SLADE

That Council:

1. RECEIVE the report about the activities of Mayor Thomas during the period from Monday, 12 December 2022 to Sunday, 22 January 2023.

The motion was put.

FOR: Aldermen Dunsby, King, Thomas, Hickey, Cockshutt, Kendall, Yaxley, Slade and Quick

AGAINST:

The motion was CARRIED.

9. REVIEW OF COUNCIL SERVICES UPDATE

File Reference: Review of Council Services

Reporting Brief:

To update Council on the outcome of the independent review of Council's Community Development department.

Resolution:

KING/KENDALL

That Council:

1. NOTE the report of the review of Council services, including actions completed to date and next steps; concluding the review of Community Development.
2. ADOPT the Community Development Action Plan Summary 2022/23.

The motion was put.

FOR: Aldermen Dunsby, King, Thomas, Hickey, Cockshutt, Kendall, Yaxley, Slade and Quick

AGAINST:

The motion was CARRIED.

10. REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT ON HOUSING

File Reference: Housing

Reporting Brief:

To recommend Council adopts the revised Statement of Commitment on Housing.
The review of the Statement undertaken to improve clarity of Council's role.

Resolution:

KING/QUICK

That Council:

1. ADOPTS the revised Statement of Commitment on Housing in Attachment 4.

The motion was put.

FOR: Aldermen Dunsby, King, Thomas, Hickey, Cockshutt, Kendall,
 Yaxley, Slade and Quick

AGAINST:

The motion was CARRIED.

GOVERNANCE

Community Goal: "Leading our Community"

11. CODE OF CONDUCT PANEL DETERMINATION

File Reference: Code of Conduct

Reporting Brief:

To table the Code of Conduct Panel's determination report in relation to a complaint made by Mr Beau Thomson against Alderman Kelly Sims at the first meeting of the Council at which it is practicable to do so and which is open to the public in compliance with s. 28ZK(4) of the *Local Government Act 1993 (the Act)*.

Resolution:

DUNSBY/KING

That Council:

1. NOTE the tabling of the Code of Conduct Panel's determination report in relation to a complaint made by Mr Beau Thomson against Alderman Sims.
2. NOTE the suspension period for Alderman Sims from performing and exercising the functions and powers of office as an Alderman commenced 23 January 2023 for a period of three months, concluding at midnight 23 April 2023.

The motion was put.

FOR: Aldermen Dunsby, King, Thomas, Hickey, Cockshutt, Kendall, Yaxley, Slade and Quick

AGAINST:

The motion was CARRIED.

12. EXPECTATIONS OF BEHAVIOUR

File Reference:

Reporting Brief:

To table a letter to all Aldermen from the Director of Local Government for their information and consideration regarding expectations of behaviour.

Resolution:

HICKEY/DUNSBY

That Council:

1. NOTE the letter received from the Director of Local Government.

The motion was put.

FOR: Aldermen Dunsby, King, Thomas, Hickey, Cockshutt, Kendall,
Yaxley, Slade and Quick

AGAINST:

The motion was CARRIED.

13. GLENORCHY JOBS HUB STRATEGIC PLAN, STEERING COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND WORKPLAN

File Reference: Jobs Hub

Reporting Brief:

To seek Council approval of the draft Glenorchy Jobs Hub Strategic Plan, the Jobs Hub Steering Committee Terms of Reference and the detailed Workplan developed to ensure delivery of the Glenorchy Jobs Hub strategies and objectives.

Resolution:

DUNSBY/HICKEY

That Council:

1. APPROVE the Glenorchy Jobs Hub Steering Committee Terms of Reference
2. APPROVE the Glenorchy Jobs Hub Strategic Plan 2022 to 2025, and
3. APPROVE the Glenorchy Jobs Hub Workplan 2022 to 2025.

The motion was put.

FOR: Aldermen Dunsby, King, Thomas, Hickey, Cockshutt, Kendall, Yaxley, Slade and Quick

AGAINST:

The motion was CARRIED.

14. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS REVIEW PROCESS

File Reference: Local Government Elections

Reporting Brief:

The Minister for Local Government has written to all Tasmanian Council's seeking commentary to improve the local government election process following introduction of compulsory voting.

Resolution:

HICKEY/KING

That Council:

1. MAKE a submission to the Tasmanian Office of Local Government regarding the recently introduced Local Government Amended (Elections) Act 2022 in the terms set out under the heading "Proposed Submission Detail" in this report.

The motion was put.

FOR: Aldermen Dunsby, King, Thomas, Hickey, Cockshutt, Kendall, Yaxley, Slade and Quick

AGAINST:

The motion was CARRIED.

15. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT TO 31 DECEMBER 2022

File Reference: Corporate and Financial Reporting

Reporting Brief:

To provide the monthly Financial Performance Report to Council for the period ending 31 December 2022 and to seek approval to alter the 2022/23 budget.

Resolution:

DUNSBY/YAXLEY

That Council:

1. RECEIVE and NOTE the Financial Performance Report for the year-to-date ending 31 December 2022 as set out in Attachment 1.
2. APPROVE by absolute majority the variation of the 2022/23 budget by reducing the capital estimate by \$25,000 and increasing the expenditure estimate by \$25,000 pursuant to section 82(4) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

The motion was put.

FOR: Aldermen Dunsby, King, Thomas, Hickey, Cockshutt, Kendall, Yaxley, Slade and Quick

AGAINST:

The motion was CARRIED by an ABSOLUTE MAJORITY.

16. UPDATED COUNCIL POLICIES

File Reference: Council Policies

Reporting Brief:

To present the Fraud Control and Corruption Prevention Policy for review and adoption.

Resolution:

KENDALL/COCKSHUTT

That Council:

1. ADOPT the Fraud Control and Corruption Prevention Policy 2022 in Attachment 2.

The motion was put.

FOR: Aldermen Dunsby, King, Thomas, Hickey, Cockshutt, Kendall, Yaxley, Slade and Quick

AGAINST:

The motion was CARRIED.

17. NOTICES OF MOTIONS – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE / WITHOUT NOTICE

Question without Notice - Alderman Jan Dunsby

Q: Can a review of the timing of the announcement of the Citizen and Young Citizen of the year, plus supporting categories, be implemented, with an intent to return them to January.

Rationale.

January 2023 in Glenorchy was missing an element, an acknowledgement of Australia Day.

For many years we have celebrated the announcement of our Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year, and more recently some other awards. With a trial of moving these awards to May, we have created a void.

Council has progressively reduced its engagement in Australia Day, at its peak there was a full community event at Tolosa Park, and a luncheon that members of the wider community loved to join in and celebrate all things Glenorchy. Upon the demise of those, the Claremont, Austins Ferry, Granton Precinct introduced celebrations on the Village Green, which was lost when the Precinct program was disbanded.

The Citizens of the Year group took up the mantle of providing a luncheon/dinner to welcome the new Citizen and Young Citizen of the year. The cost of lunch for the new inductees was even paid for by donations from each of them. In recent years, some external donations have helped with that.

The Citizens of the Year group, who have continued to meet regularly, feel a significant tradition has been lost in our community. There is something special about being announced in January, increased media coverage, utilisation of Australia Ambassadors to value add to any community event and a full year ahead for the Citizen/Young Citizen to engage in council events. As an example, the latest citizen each year lays a wreath on behalf of the group on Anzac Day, again self funded by the members.

I realise sometimes tradition and emotion can cloud a vision for change, but I think we may have got this one wrong. I can speak from my personal experience, as the 2005 Citizen of the Year, and proud parent to the Young Citizen of the same year.

The council run luncheon at which the annual announcements were previously made (usually on 25 January) was cause for me (and others) to have a day of annual leave (or flex time) and enjoy the company of the treasures that are our valued Citizen and Young Citizens. Each awardee is a significant volunteer within our community, and they continue that volunteering, providing valued impact right across our city.

These reflections sit outside whatever date Australia Day may be celebrated in the future, but a self funding lunch and returning the award announcements to January will not impact financially, and has strong capacity to instill a rejuvenated engagement within our community.

A: Question taken on notice.

17.1. NOTICE OF MOTION - ALDERMAN KENDALL - PROPOSAL TO CALL ELECTED MEMBERS COUNCILLORS

File Reference: Notice of Motion

Reporting Brief:

To consider a notice of motion by Alderman Molly Kendall submitted in accordance with the requirements of regulation 16(5) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.

Resolution:

KENDALL/QUICK

That, in accordance with Section 25 of the Local Government Act 1993, the elected members of the Glenorchy City Council choose to be known as Councillors, rather than Aldermen.

The motion was put.

FOR: Aldermen Kendall and Quick

AGAINST: Aldermen Dunsby, King, Thomas, Hickey, Cockshutt, Yaxley and Slade

The motion was LOST.

Resolution:

KING/COCKSHUTT

That the meeting be closed to the public to allow discussion of matters that are described in Regulation 15 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.

The motion was put.

FOR: Aldermen Dunsby, King, Thomas, Hickey, Cockshutt, Kendall, Yaxley, Slade and Quick

AGAINST:

The motion was CARRIED.

The meeting was closed to members of the public and the live stream was terminated at 5.23pm.

CLOSED TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Closed session commenced at 5.23pm.

18. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES (CLOSED MEETING)

Resolution:

DUNSBY/QUICK

That the minutes of the Council meeting (closed meeting) held on Monday, 19 December 2022 be confirmed.

The motion was put.

FOR: Aldermen Dunsby, King, Thomas, Hickey, Cockshutt, Kendall, Yaxley, Slade and Quick

AGAINST:

The motion was CARRIED.

19. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

None.

20. NOTICES OF MOTIONS – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE / WITHOUT NOTICE (CLOSED)

None.

Resolution:

KING/SLADE

That the meeting be moved back into open Council.

The motion was put.

FOR: Aldermen Dunsby, King, Thomas, Hickey, Cockshutt, Kendall, Yaxley, Slade and Quick

AGAINST:

The motion was CARRIED.

The Chair closed the meeting at 5.25pm.

Confirmed,

CHAIR