



# Council Meeting - Minutes

Held on Tuesday 21 November 2023

Council Chamber, Malvern Town Hall



# **Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday 21 November 2023 Order of Business**

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The meeting commenced at 7:00pm

**Councillors Present:**

**Cr Nicki Batagol  
Cr Joe Gianfriddo  
Cr Marcia Griffin  
Cr Kate Hely  
Cr Jami Klisaris  
Cr Matthew Koce  
Cr Polly Morgan  
Cr Mike Scott  
Cr Melina Sehr**

**Apologies:**

Nil

**Council Officers Present:**

<b>Dale Dickson</b>	<b>Chief Executive Officer</b>
<b>Simon Holloway</b>	<b>Acting Director Environment &amp; Infrastructure</b>
<b>Cath Harrod</b>	<b>Director Community &amp; Wellbeing</b>
<b>Daniela Mazzone</b>	<b>Acting Director Organisation Capability</b>
<b>Julia Gallace</b>	<b>Chief Financial Officer</b>
<b>David Thompson</b>	<b>Executive Manager Legal &amp; Governance</b>
<b>Judy Hogan</b>	<b>Civic Support Officer</b>
<b>Talea Leenaerts</b>	<b>Executive Assistant Mayor &amp; Councillors</b>
<b>Carmel Brown</b>	<b>Business Support Officer – Governance</b>
<b>Matthew Beale</b>	<b>IT Support Officer</b>

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and the Governance Rules, the Chief Executive Officer, Dale Dickson chaired the meeting pending the election of the Mayor.

## **1 Reading of the Statement of Reconciliation**

The Chief Executive Officer, Dale Dickson read the following Statement of Reconciliation:

*We acknowledge we are meeting on the Traditional Lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong peoples of the East Kulin Nations and pay our respect to their Elders past and present.*

*We extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We acknowledge their living connection to Country, relationship with the land and all living things extending back tens of thousands of years.*

## **2 Introduction of Councillors & Executive Staff**

The Chief Executive Officer introduced the Councillors and the Council Officers present.

## **3 Apologies**

There were no apologies for the meeting.

## **4 Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interests.

## **5 Business**

### **5.1 Election of Mayor**

The Chief Executive Officer called for nominations for the position of Mayor of the City of Stonnington for 2023-24.

Cr Marcia Griffin nominated Cr Joe Gianfriddo for the position of Mayor of the City of Stonnington for 2023-24.

Cr Nicki Batagol seconded the nomination of Cr Joe Gianfriddo.

Cr Joe Gianfriddo accepted the nomination.

Cr Jami Klisaris nominated Cr Polly Morgan for the position of Mayor of the City of Stonnington for 2023-24.

Cr Melina Sehr seconded the nomination of Cr Polly Morgan.

Cr Polly Morgan accepted the nomination.

The Chief Executive Officer asked if there were any further nominations.

There were no further nominations.

The Chief Executive Officer invited Councillors nominated, Cr Joe Gianfriddo and Cr Polly Morgan to speak in support of their nomination.

Cr Joe Gianfriddo spoke.

Cr Polly Morgan spoke.

The Chief Executive Officer asked Councillors to vote by show of hands for candidate, Cr Joe Gianfriddo.

Following the show of hands, Cr Joe Gianfriddo receiving an absolute majority of the votes and was elected as Mayor of the City of Stonnington for 2023-24.

The Mayor, Cr Joe Gianfriddo was then assisted into the Mayoral Robes and Chain and assumed the seat as Chair for the meeting.

## 5.2 Election of Deputy Mayor

The Mayor, Cr Joe Gianfriddo called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor of the City of Stonnington for 2023-24.

Cr Marcia Griffin nominated Cr Nicki Batagol for the position of Deputy Mayor of the City of Stonnington for 2023-24.

Cr Nicki Batagol seconded the nomination.

Cr Nicki Batagol accepted the nomination.

Cr Kate Hely nominated Cr Mike Scott for the position of Deputy Mayor.

Cr Mike Scott seconded the nomination.

Cr Mike Scott accepted the nomination.

The Mayor, Cr Joe Gianfriddo asked if there were any further nominations.

There were no further nominations.

The Mayor, Cr Joe Gianfriddo invited Councillors nominated, Cr Nicki Batagol and Cr Mike Scott to speak in support of their nomination.

Cr Nicki Batagol spoke.

Cr Mike Scott spoke.

The Mayor, Cr Joe Gianfriddo asked Councillors to vote by show of hands for candidate, Cr Nicki Batagol.

Following the show of hands, Cr Nicki Batagol did not receive an absolute majority of the votes.

The Mayor, Cr Joe Gianfriddo then asked Councillors to vote by show of hands for candidate, Cr Mike Scott.

Following the show of hands, Cr Mike Scott receiving an absolute majority of the votes and was elected as Deputy Mayor of the City of Stonnington for 2023-24.

### 5.3 2024 Schedule of Fixed Council Meetings

MOTION:

MOVED: Cr Mike Scott

SECONDED: Cr Jami Klisaris

***That the Council resolve:***

- 1. To ADOPT the schedule of fixed Council meetings for 2024, (refer Attachment 1), and publish the details of the fixed Council meetings on the Council website.***
- 2. To CONDUCT the 2024 fixed Council meetings and any Unscheduled or Special meetings:***
  - a. partially in person and partially by electronic means; but if all Councillors attend in person then***
  - b. wholly in person; but if no Councillor attends in person and five or more Councillors request to attend by electronic means then***
  - c. wholly be electronic means.***

**Carried**

## 5.4 Councillor Assignments for 2023-2024

MOTION:

MOVED: Cr Jami Klisaris

SECONDED: Cr Marcia Griffin

***That until such time as the Council resolves otherwise to:***

- 1. APPOINT Councillor membership of Council's Audit & Risk Committee in accordance with the table below:***

<b>Audit &amp; Risk Committee</b>	<b>Member(s)</b>
<b>Audit &amp; Risk Committee</b>	Cr Joe Gianfriddo Cr Marcia Griffin Cr Polly Morgan

- 2. APPOINT Council's representative on External Management Committees/Boards in accordance with the table below:***

<b>External Management Committees/Boards</b>	<b>Member(s)</b>
<b>Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)</b>	Cr Nicki Batagol Substitute: Cr Joe Gianfriddo
<b>M9</b>	Mayor, Cr Joe Gianfriddo

- 3. APPOINT Councillor membership of Council's External/Internal Advisory Committees in accordance with the table below:***

<b>External/Internal Advisory Committee</b>	<b>Member(s)</b>
<b>Stonnington Disability and Inclusion Advisory Committee</b>	Cr Polly Morgan
<b>Stonnington LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee</b>	Cr Mike Scott
<b>Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Advisory Committee</b>	Chair: Mayor, Cr Joe Gianfriddo Cr Nicki Batagol Cr Marcia Griffin Cr Jami Klisaris
<b>Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Committee</b>	Chair: Cr Mike Scott

**4. APPOINT Councillors to chair Council's Internal Advisory Committees and Project Steering Committees in accordance with the table below:**

<b>Internal Advisory Committee and Project Steering Committee</b>	<b>Member(s)</b>
<b>Community Grants Working Group</b>	Chair: Mayor, Cr Joe Gianfriddo All Councillors
<b>Volunteer Awards Evaluation Panel</b>	Chair: Mayor, Cr Joe Gianfriddo All Councillors
<b>Prahran Town Hall Redevelopment Steering Committee</b>	Cr Matthew Koce Cr Mike Scott Cr Melina Sehr
<b>Toorak Park Redevelopment Steering Committee</b>	Chair: Cr Marcia Griffin Deputy Chair: Cr Nicki Batagol Cr Polly Morgan
<b>Chapel Street Transformation Steering Committee</b>	Chair: Cr Matthew Koce Cr Kate Hely Cr Jami Klisaris Cr Melina Sehr

**5. Consider the outstanding Councillor Assignments/Appointments for the 2023-24 mayoral year at the Council meeting in December 2023.**

**Carried**

**The Mayor, Cr Joe Gianfriddo made the following address:**

*Thank you to my Councillor colleagues for entrusting me with this honour.*

*I want to thank everyone here tonight; this is a distinct and profound privilege.*

*To everyone in the gallery, a very warm and heartfelt thank you for your support and attendance this evening.*

*Stonnington is a wonderfully rich and diverse community, and it truly is an honour to serve the amazing people in this community.*

*I want to acknowledge each councillor here tonight, who gives up hours of their personal time to serve on this council. We often disagree, that's democracy, but how we disagree is what counts.*



*I want to thank Cr Marcia Griffin, Cr Nicki Batagol and Cr Kate Hely for their support and encouragement.*

*I want to thank former Mayor, Cr Jami Klisaris and Deputy Mayor, Cr Melina Sehr for their years of dedication and service to this council. Jami, you know we all agree that you are a champion in Council meetings of fairness, and I can only hope I can learn that from you. Congratulations to Cr Mike Scott for being elected deputy - I am confident we will work so well together!*

*Personally, I want to thank my family and friends who are here tonight and those that are supporting from home. Thank you to my partner, Dean, for his tireless support and advocacy for better local government, and my amazing 18-year-old daughter Kiara. You have been so inspiring, and I look forward to your journey in local government in the coming years. Being your “dad” is a joy every day.*

*But this isn't about me. Really it is about YOU. The amazing people within the Stonnington Community. The people who we are trusted to serve and support in the good times and the bad. People who work hard, make lives here, raise kids here, walk dogs together, and do life together. Stonnington is a wonderful kaleidoscope of people, places, architecture, connection, nature, and colour.*

*We have our challenges too, and against these headwinds we will ensure that we run a responsible organisation that places our community and customer at the heart of all we do. There is much to revitalise in this council and together with my fellow councillors we are up for the challenge.*

*As an organisation, we have some hard decisions to make, but most importantly we need to restore trust. Trust in government is at an all time low. Whilst I don't have a fancy mayoral program, I do give this promise – that I will champion a council that places our customers and community at the forefront of every decision and every action we take.*

*Our community satisfaction is at an all time low, I want us to change that.*

*I plan to run a united team and ensure that all councillors are offered every opportunity to be involved, lead and serve. The group has many talents and abilities. This is about the sum of all of us not any individual.*

*I want everyone to think about what is possible here. This community is strong, bold, and ambitious. We can improve peoples lives. It takes courage, commitment, transparency, and trust. We must deliver on what we say we will. We must support small business, cut red tape, make things easier, be responsive to service needs and ensure we focus on value for money. I will passionately work with the CEO and our executive team to realign the performance metrics of this council to the impact and outcomes delivered to our residents and customers.*

*We must be champions of service, champions of responsiveness, champions of value, champions of change.*

*We must bring back that wonderful belief in CIVIC PRIDE. I want our community to be proud of Stonnington.*

*We must put the resident back at the centre of everything we do.*

*I want to also thank the staff in Council who are committed to our community, we acknowledge your contribution and look forward to the year ahead.*

*Let's get on with it. Everything is on the table. Every idea is possible.*

*We can, and we will. Thank you.*

**The Deputy Mayor, Cr Mike Scott made the following address:**

*Let's applaud Mr. Dickson for successfully navigating his first mayoral election in Stonnington. I'm thrilled about working alongside him as we shape the ongoing efforts that make Stonnington an amazing place to call home.*

*To my colleagues, Cr Sehr, your over 20 years of navigating the council and three successive years as deputy mayor showcase your dedication. Your corporate savvy and project management finesse have been the backbone of our governance, providing invaluable service to the residents of Stonnington. Thank you.*

*Cr Klisaris, after two successful years as our Mayor, congratulations. Your legal prowess and governance skills have expertly steered us through challenging times. Your even-handed approach to chairing meetings and your contribution have been instrumental. Best wishes for your future endeavours, and thank you for steering the ship for the past two years.*

*Mayor Gianfriddo, in your short time on council, it's been a pleasure working alongside you. Your experience in the building and property sector has helped council make better decisions. While our opinions may not always align, we openly engage in respectful conversation. I look forward to seeing how you steer the ship for the final year of this council term.*

*It's time for fresh perspectives that inject value into the work of this council, supporting our community across the board. Together, we can bring a different style of leadership to the table, further enhancing community outcomes as we guide Stonnington into 2024 and beyond.*

*The significance of the role I've been elected to fulfill is not lost on me. As your Deputy Mayor, I pledge to uphold the position with the respect it deserves - a cornerstone of all that we do. Whether making decisions, engaging with our diverse community, or collaborating with council officers, respect will be the guiding principle. Even in moments of disagreement, it's essential we respect one another.*

*For Stonnington to truly thrive, we need leadership that goes beyond mere experience and intelligence. We need individuals ready to pose different questions, lead with compassion, and view new challenges through a new lens.*

*Together, let's foster collaboration within the councillor team, ensuring the entire Stonnington community continues to revel in the greatness of this city.*

*Thank you.*

Councillors then congratulated both the Mayor, Cr Joe Gianfriddo and the Deputy Mayor, Cr Mike Scott.

## **6 Close of Meeting**

The meeting concluded at 7:47pm

Confirmed on 4 December 2023.

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**CR JOE GIANFRIDDO, MAYOR**