

Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 19 November 2024

Council Chamber
Hobsons Bay Civic Centre
115 Civic Parade, Altona

**HOBSONS
BAY CITY
COUNCIL**



OUR MISSION

We will listen, engage, and work with our community to plan, deliver, and advocate for Hobsons Bay to secure a happy, healthy, fair, and sustainable future for all.

OUR VALUES

Respectful
Community driven and focused
Trusted and reliable
Efficient and responsible
Bold and innovative
Accountable and transparent
Recognised

Council acknowledges the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of these municipal lands and waterways and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

CONDUCT OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings of Hobsons Bay City Council are to be conducted in accordance with Council's Governance Rules, which can be viewed at:

<https://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Council/About-Council/Governance/Governance-Rules>

Members of the public attending Council meetings must abide by the standards of behaviour set out in section 13.3 of the Governance Rules. Any person engaging in disruptive or disorderly behaviour may be required by the Chairperson to leave the meeting in accordance with the Governance Rules.

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**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19 November 2024 at
6.00pm.**

Present

Chairperson

Mr Aaron van Egmond

Chief Executive Officer

Councillors

Cr Daria Kellander

Altona Ward

Cr Diana Grima

Altona Meadows Ward

Cr Rayane Hawli

Altona North Ward

Cr Paddy Keys-Macpherson

Laverton Ward

Cr Kristin Bishop

Spotswood Ward

Cr Lisa Bentley

Williamstown Ward

Cr Michael Disbury

Williamstown North Ward

Officers

Mr Aaron van Egmond

Chief Executive Officer

Mr Andrew McLeod

Director Corporate Services

Ms Rachel Lunn

Director Sustainable Communities

Mr Matthew Irving

Director Infrastructure and City Services

Ms Diane Eyckens

Manager Corporate Integrity and Legal Counsel

Ms Paula Giaquinta

Lead Governance and Business Support

Ms Christine Maule

Governance Officer

Ms Susan Magro

Governance Officer and Minute Taker

Mr Bikalpa Rajbhandari

Governance Officer

1 Council Welcome and Acknowledgement

The Chairperson, Aaron van Egmond, welcomed the Councillors-elect and members of the gallery to the Swearing-in Ceremony and acknowledged that Council is gathered on the traditional land of the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation and offers its respect to Elders past, present and future.

2 Introduction and Congratulatory Remarks

The Chairperson congratulated the candidates on their election and explained that there is a statutory requirement under the *Local Government Act 2020* for each to take the Oath or Affirmation of Office and make a declaration to abide by the Model Councillor Code of Conduct before candidates can officially assume the role and responsibilities of a Councillor.

3 Oath or Affirmation of Office and Model Councillor Code of Conduct Declaration

The Chairperson explained the process for taking the oath or affirmation of office as follows:

Each Councillor-elect had the option to either take the oath or make an affirmation of office, which incorporates the declaration to abide by the Model Councillor Code of Conduct.

Each Councillor-elect was called forward one at a time in alphabetical ward order:

- Altona: Daria Kellander
- Altona Meadows: Diana Grima
- Altona North: Rayane Hawli
- Laverton: Paddy Keys-Macpherson
- Spotswood: Kristin Bishop
- Williamstown: Lisa Bentley
- Williamstown North: Michael Disbury

Each Councillor-elect spoke the oath or affirmation of office aloud, then signed the oath or affirmation of office.

The Chief Executive Officer witnessed the oath or affirmation of office.

The Chief Executive Officer and those in attendance congratulated the new Councillors, the Chief Executive Officer then asked the Councillor to take their allocated seat in the Chamber.

When all Councillors had been sworn in the Chief Executive Officer invited the Councillors to say a few words to the people in the gallery and viewers watching on the livestream.

Cr Daria Kellander – Altona Ward

Cr Kellander thanked the residents of Altona and Seaholme for their overwhelming support in re-electing her as their councillor for the Altona Ward. She said her campaign was grassroots and it started with some locals asking her to re-stand again and it grew from there with offers of support to deliver flyers and offers of public support. The encouragement from the community, the time and effort contributed by all during both her previous term as councillor for Cherry Lake Ward and during her re-election campaign made all the difference. She stated she is honoured to be re-elected as their councillor. She will continue to be an independent voice that is committed to always putting the community first. She pledges to continue advocating for the community needs and to continue the hard work that was started. She also thanked her family for their continued support.

Cr Diana Grima – Altona Meadows Ward

Cr Grima acknowledged all the candidates who ran in the election seeking to serve the community. She congratulated the councillors and also acknowledged her community who encouraged her to run for re-election. Cr Grima mentioned that when she was first elected, she just had her first child. She thanked her husband for his support. She thanked her community and colleagues. She also acknowledged her grandparents for their contribution and values that they taught to her.

Cr Rayane Hawli – Altona North Ward

Cr Hawli congratulated her fellow councillors on their election and stated that everyone brings something valuable to the table and she looks forward to working constructively and proactively with everyone to deliver their commitments and restoring trust in council. Cr Hawli mentioned that the people of Hobsons Bay has called for a council that reflects the values of the diverse community and one that is focused on them. She thanked everyone who supported and believed in her campaign. Cr Hawli thanked her parents for instilling in her the confidence to believe in herself and for standing by her every step of the way. She stated some of the meaningful moments for her has been hearing how young people, especially girls said they inspire to be like her when they grow up. Cr Hawli stated she is honoured to serve Hobsons Bay and excited to get to work to build a safer and more inclusive and thriving community.

Cr Paddy Keys-Macpherson – Laverton

Cr Keys-Macpherson congratulated the other councillors on their election and is looking forward to working with them over the next four years. He thanked the voters of Laverton Ward in Laverton and Altona Meadows for their support throughout the campaign period. Cr Keys-Macpherson mentioned he co-designed his campaign with his wife. He also thanked his parents, parents-in-law and siblings for their support. He is honoured to be the representative of his community. Cr Keys-Macpherson pointed out that his commitment for the next four years is to fight for a fair share for his ward and making sure that Hobsons Bay delivers for all residents across the municipality.

Cr Kristin Bishop – Spotswood Ward

Cr Bishop thanked the other councillors for their warm welcome to the councillor group and stated they are looking forward to working with them to form a cohesive group that treats each other with respect and inclusion of all views and representing all resident who voted for them which is an honour and joy. Cr Bishop said she ran a quiet campaign, and she knows there are a lot of residents who are keen to get to know her and know what her plans are in the role. Cr Bishop plans to bring structure and a sense that other people would get a voice from her. She thanked her family for encouraging her to stand for election and believing in her for her capabilities in doing this and succeeding.

Cr Lisa Bentley – Williamstown Ward

Cr Bentley thanked her husband and children for being by her side and giving her their unconditional love and support throughout this election journey. She thanked her friend and campaign manager who assisted in all marketing ideas. She extended a heartfelt gratitude to her family, friends and neighbours. She gave a special mentioned to longtime serving Hobsons Bay Councillors, Peter Hemphill and Angela Altair for their endorsement and ongoing support. As sitting councillor for the Williamstown Ward, Cr Bentley's intention is to work hard, listen and do whatever is necessary to be the voice of the people. Cr Bentley acknowledged the outgoing councillors for their own personal commitment to the community and she is looking forward to working alongside the newly elected councillors in a collaborative and open-minded manner to deliver what the community expects from local council, a better and fairer Hobsons Bay for all.

Cr Michael Disbury – Williamstown North Ward

Cr Disbury thanked his friends and family for their unwavering support. He gave a special shoutout to people who didn't know him and still stepped up to help tirelessly letter dropping around Williamstown North. Cr Disbury pointed out that his focused is on a back-to-basics, common-sense approach to local government prioritising local issues over state, federal or global agendas. Cr Disbury mentioned that he is committed to repaying that faith. He looks to champion local sporting clubs and local community groups, and advocate for reducing traffic congestion. Cr Disbury is confident that with five new councillors, they can bring fresh perspectives, new energy and a positive shift in the direction and dynamics of Council.

4 Conclusion

The Chief Executive Officer stated that the swearing-in ceremony concluded, thanked everyone for their attendance and invited all present for refreshments.

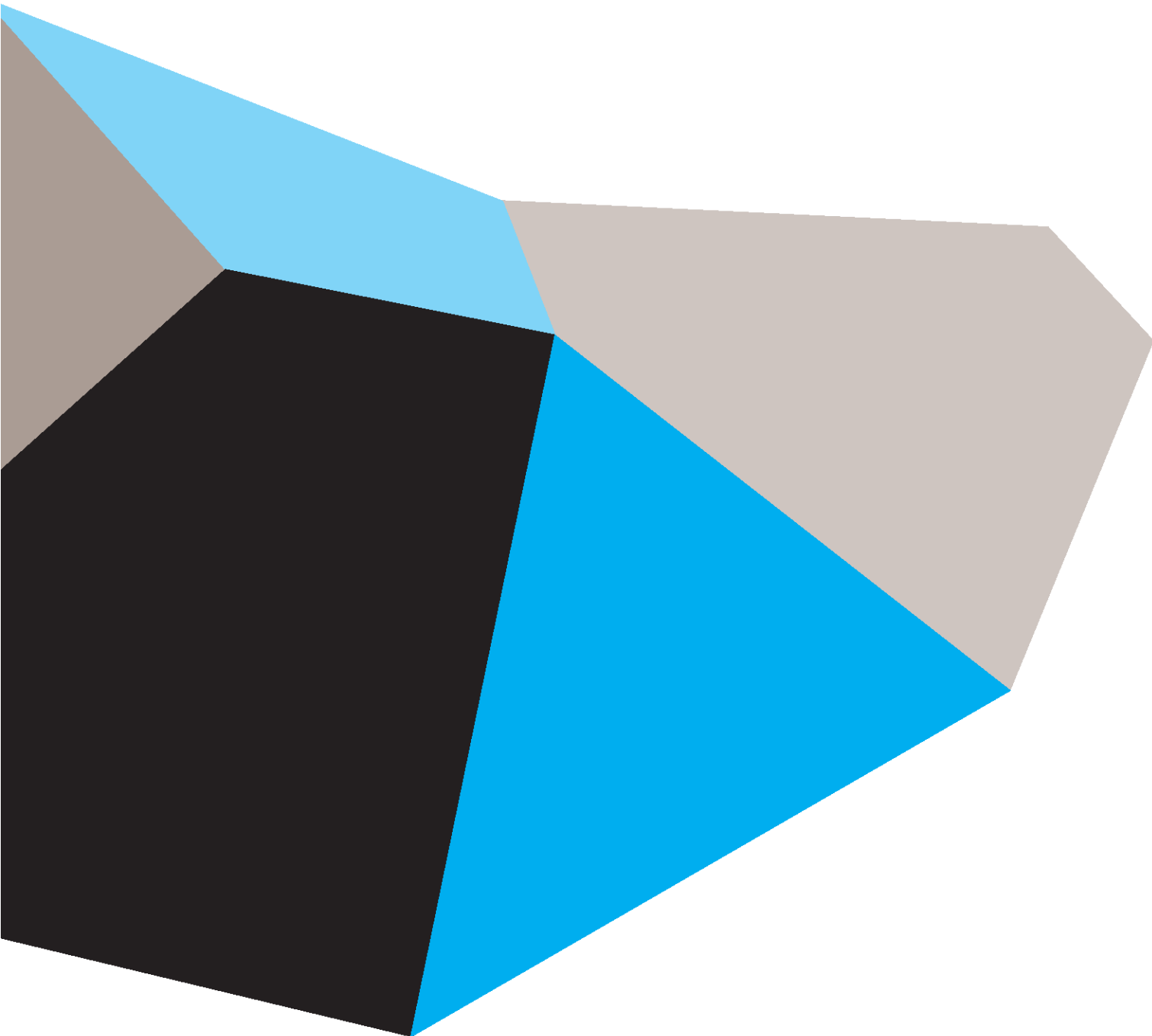
5 Close of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 6.37pm.

Chairperson – Aaron van Egmond

Signed and certified as having been confirmed.

10 December 2024



HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL

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