



**MORNINGTON  
PENINSULA**  
*Shire*

**MINUTES**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**TUESDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**6.30PM**

**MUNICIPAL OFFICES  
BESGROVE STREET, ROSEBUD**

## MORNINGTON PENINSULA SHIRE COUNCIL

### WARDS AND COUNCILLORS

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Briars</b>   | <b>Cr Steve Holland<br/>Cr Anthony Marsh<br/>Cr Despi O'Connor</b> |
| <b>Cerberus</b> | <b>Cr Lisa Dixon</b>   |
| <b>Nepean</b>   | <b>Cr Susan Bissinger<br/>Cr Sarah Race</b>                        |
| <b>Red Hill</b> | <b>Cr David Gill</b>   |
| <b>Seawinds</b> | <b>Cr Simon Brooks<br/>Cr Antonella Celi<br/>Cr Debra Mar</b>      |
| <b>Watson</b>   | <b>Cr Kate Roper</b>   |

### EXECUTIVE TEAM

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Mr John Baker<br/>Ms Tanya Scicluna<br/>Ms Sam Stanton<br/>Mr Mike McIntosh<br/>Mr Bulent Oz</b> | <b>Chief Executive Officer<br/>Director – Community Strengthening<br/>Director – Corporate Strategy and Business Improvement<br/>Director – Planning and Infrastructure<br/>Chief Financial Officer</b> |
|---|---|

### RECORDING

Please note, this Council Meeting was livestreamed to the Mornington Peninsula Shire's YouTube channel and a recording of the meeting is available on the Shire's website.

Recording of persons in the public gallery is not intended but may occur incidentally. By attending this meeting, you consent to being filmed at the meeting and the possible use of subsequent recordings in a live streaming or published video of the meeting.

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# 1 OPENING AND WELCOME

Meeting opened at 6.31pm

Appointed Chairperson – Mayor, Cr Steve Holland

## 1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

(Read by Cr Brooks)

*Mornington Peninsula Shire acknowledges the Bunurong people, who have been the custodians of this land for many thousands of years; and pays respect to their elders past and present. We acknowledge that the land on which we meet is the place of age-old ceremonies, celebrations, initiation and renewal; and that the Bunurong peoples' living culture continues to have a unique role in the life of this region.*

## 2 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

### Present

Mayor, Cr Steve Holland (Chairperson)  
Cr Susan Bissinger  
Cr Simon Brooks  
Cr Antonella Celi  
Cr Lisa Dixon  
Cr David Gill  
Deputy Mayor, Cr Debra Mar  
Cr Anthony Marsh  
Cr Despi O'Connor  
Cr Sarah Race  
Cr Kate Roper

### 2.1 Apologies

Nil.

### 2.2 Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest Pursuant to Sections 126 – 131 of the *Local Government Act 2020*

Nil.

**2.4 Councillor Briefing Sessions**

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the record of Councillor Briefing Sessions for 15 August 2023.

**COUNCIL DECISION**

**Moved:** Cr Celi  
**Seconded:** Cr Race

**That the recommendation be adopted.**

**Carried Unanimously**

**2.5 Council Decision Register**

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the Decision Register Summaries for 2019-2023 (Attachments 1-5) as of 28 August 2023.

**COUNCIL DECISION**

**Moved:** Cr Roper  
**Seconded:** Cr Mar

**That the recommendation be adopted.**

**Carried**

## 2.6 Public Question Time

### QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

#### The Voice Referendum

Ms Darcy, a resident of Rye, asked the following question:

*As residents of the Mornington Peninsula, we would like to know when will you listen to, learn from and support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, to take up the invitation of the Uluru statement to walk with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in a movement of the Australian people for a better future and make a statement endorsing a Yes vote in the referendum. This is a basic human rights issue.*

Dr Russell, a resident of Mount Martha, asked the following question:

*The referendum will shape the future of our nation. Residents expect politicians, including local Councillors, to show leadership. At least 12 Victorian local Councils have demonstrated political courage by endorsing a Yes Vote. Why has Mornington Peninsula Shire Council chosen not to take a public position on an Indigenous Voice to Parliament?*

Dr Russell, asked a follow up question:

*Would the Councillors agree to vote on the following statement in recognition of the expressed wish of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for changing the constitution:*

*“We support changing the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice?”*

Council advises that later this year Australians will have their say in a referendum about whether to change the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

The Voice would be an independent and permanent advisory body. It would give advice to the Australian Parliament and Government on matters that affect the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Voting in the referendum will be compulsory for all eligible Australian citizens aged 18 years and over.

This is an important choice, and Council will be actively encouraging all Peninsula residents to take the time to inform themselves about this issue.

It is up to each individual to seek out the arguments for and against the proposal and to vote according to their conscience.

Mr Frederick Crump, a resident of Hastings, asked the following question:

*A few weeks ago, twenty written requests were submitted mostly to do with road safety. We still have as follows: Bent, twisted, out of alignment and road signs lying on the ground after five years or more. Where does the buck stop?*

This question was taken on notice, a written response will be provided to the submitter and a copy of the response will be loaded to the website with the minutes.

### 3 COUNCILLORS AND DELEGATES REPORTS

#### **Friends of Lospalos** Cr Brooks

The Friends of Los Palos have just returned from their first visit to Lospalos post Covid-19.

Undertaking the 'Specs for Los Palos' program where they undertook eyesight tests and dispensing of glasses for the community, led by member and Optometrist Colleen Hammond.

They ended up assessing a wide variety of community members undertaking:

- 344 people attending
- 308 full eye tests conducted
- 36 external prescriptions fulfilled
- 365 glasses distributed
- 28 referrals to Dili hospital for people requiring surgery or further review.

The group also met with local government officials who were keen to strengthen the relationship. Covid-19 has affected their governance capabilities as it has here.

For those not aware, Lospalos is an isolated community to the east of Dili. It takes a day to travel in by four-wheel drive from Dili. The local convent provided accommodation for the group.

Cr Brooks thanked the group for their successful visit and for their ongoing works to help our near neighbour who has not had an easy path to independence.

Cr Brooks also thanked the Shire officers who helped from this end with assistance with test cards and branded polo shirts with the Friends of Lospalos and the Shires logos. The group represented the Shire and met with Shire counterparts in Lospalos.

#### **Peninsula Advisory Committee for Elders (PACE)** Cr Dixon

As delegate to PACE Cr Dixon advised that after PACE endorsement at their meeting last week, the full Positive Ageing Strategy 2020-2025 Year Two/Three Annual Report is being presented tonight.

The report is a true testament of the dedication and committed work of this amazing group of elders whom Cr Dixon admires and very much respects.

Cr Dixon thanked everyone involved including Shire officers, for all their hard work and all the updates that were sent through for this amazing piece of work.

As the PACE delegate, Cr Dixon is proud to submit the full Report to Council from PACE.

At the meeting last week: the following updates were discussed.

**Helen - Positive Ageing Strategy**

- Year 2/3 Action Plan Report

The 61-page document was tabled, with an electronic copy to be provided to all PACE members after PACE endorsement at their August meeting.

Cr Dixon thanked all the officers who sent in their commentary regarding progress achieved over reporting period - an enormous amount of positive ageing work was done during reporting period.

Helen spoke to a three-page summary of Snapshot of Achievements.

- Year 4 Progress Measures

The aim is to streamline the reporting document as well as to simplify the reporting process. With this in mind, over the next few weeks Shire officers will have the opportunity to refine their progress measures for the new reporting period: July 2023 - 30 June 2024.

**Laurencia - Positive Ageing Summit 2023 – Update**

These community engagement sessions will be called Positive Ageing Community Conversations.

Key Dates:

**Wednesday – 8 November Hastings Hub**

**Monday – 13 November Rye Civic Hall**

**Wednesday – 15 November Peninsula Community Theatre Mornington**

- The Positive Ageing Strategy is based on the principle that Ageing well is everyone's business and requires a whole of Council, whole of Community approach. These Community Conversations are seeking to understand what is working for ageing well on the peninsula and how we can all work together to overcome issues and barriers that are getting in the way of ageing well. We are particularly keen to capture any new emerging issues. This will include attending a one off 'Facilitators Workshop' which will be close before the first Community Conversation

**Alice - Seniors Dance Project**

Provided overview of this exciting new Shire initiative that is being funded by Council Positive Ageing investment. A program of senior's dance classes and opportunities will be offered at various Shire venues across the peninsula, commencing 29 September and running through till 2024. There will be classes and performance – including Bollywood, Greek and Ballroom dancing. It is intended to be designed for people 55 years+; it will also be recorded and live streamed. Promotion is soon to begin and will include hard copy flyers, newsletter articles, as well as electronically.

As you can see, an extremely active group, who sometimes, many have difficulty keeping up with.

**Attendance**

Cr Marsh left the meeting at 6.40pm and did not return.

**Health and Wellbeing Committee** Cr Celi

As delegate of the Health and Wellbeing Committee Cr Celi advised that the meetings have been powering ahead in 2023 and together with Cr Despi O'Connor, Cr Celi would like to report that the Committee continues to collaborate with key stakeholders on a range of projects to deliver on the Shire's Municipal Council & Wellbeing Plan and Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2030 Preventing violence against women and their children that by legislation requires annual reporting under the Gender Equality Act 2020.

Cr Celi tabled as part of her delegates report the

- Gender Equality Strategy Year 3 Annual Report for 2022/23
- Gender Equality Strategy Year 4 Annual Action Plan 2023/24

The annual report and action plan outlines how the Shire works in partnership with key stakeholders to operationalise the Strategy's objectives and provides progress updates on the six key settings that address the determinants of promoting gender equality as well as health and wellbeing outcomes for our community.

The Annual Report and Action plan are rich in content but in brief I am pleased to say that over thirty gender equity actions have been achieved or progressed over the last financial year across the strategy's six key settings.

I won't go through all of them but there are some highlights worthy to speak to:

**Key Setting 1 – Education and Training**

- Our Libraries have delivered over 100 Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) programs to 483 children and continues to encourage girls to participate in non-traditional fields such as engineering and science.

**Key Setting 2 – Work and Economic Security**

- The Shire's Workplace Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP) has been developed and 11 gender impact assessments have now been conducted across the organisation.

**Key Setting 3 – Health, Safety and Wellbeing**

- The Shire has embedded gender equity considerations into emergency management planning for our relief Centres. The Standard Operating Procedures now give regard to the safety of women and consideration to mothers/primary carers in the setup of these centres. This is a significant reform to our emergency management planning, and I applaud the effort by all involved.

**Key Setting 4 – Leadership and Representation**

- In partnership with Mornington Chamber of Commerce an International Women's Day (IWD) was held on 8th March in Mornington. The event recognised and promoted women-owned businesses and businesses supporting local women and girls across the Peninsula.
- Some great opportunities were also provided for women to contribute to climate change solutions with an increased uptake of women leading projects from the Climate Change Grants, Climate Conversations training and Energy Hero training.

**Key Setting 5 – Sport and Recreation**

- The draft Sports Club Management Policy has been developed and encourages clubs to provide inclusive sporting environments with new fees and charges offering incentive-based discounts for female participation.

**Key Setting 6 – Media Arts & Culture**

- The Arts and Culture team continue to promote gender equity and have encouraged high women's participation rates through programs such as the Artist in Residence program, the Mayor's Short Story Writing Awards and the Arts Workshop

I applaud the achievements in the Gender equality report but there is still a lot of work to be done to breakdown the gender bias and inequality whether conscious or unconscious, that still exists in our community and by empowering all genders to work and support each other we can create a safe and inclusive society for everyone across all ages and settings.

I extend a big thank you to our Community Partnerships and Community Wellbeing team of officers and the members of the health and wellbeing committee for their tremendous work and effort in delivering on our Council & Wellbeing Plan and Gender Equality Strategy outcomes.

## **4 MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

### **PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE**

#### **4.1 Augusta Street Group, Mount Martha Special Charge Scheme Re-instigation**

##### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council re-instigates the Augusta Street Group, Mount Martha Special Charge Scheme with a 50% contribution from Council to the cost of the project, as per Council's Special Charge Schemes Policy for Infrastructure Works.

##### **COUNCIL DECISION**

**Moved:** Cr O'Connor

**Seconded:** Cr Race

**That the recommendation be adopted.**

**Carried Unanimously**

#### 4.2 Flinders Foreshore Precinct Conservation Management Plan - Revised for adoption

##### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and considers the stakeholder submissions at Attachments 3 and 4 to this report.
2. Adopts the updated Flinders Foreshore Precinct Conservation Management Plan (Biosis, 2023) (CMP) as at Attachment 2 to this report.
3. Informs the community about the adoption of the updated CMP.
4. Applies to Heritage Victoria to update mapping of the former Fishermen's huts in the Victorian Heritage Inventory and include the site of the former cable testing hut in the Victorian Heritage Register mapping, as recommended by the updated CMP.

##### COUNCIL DECISION

Moved: Cr Gill  
Seconded: Cr Mar

That Council:

1. **Receives and considers the stakeholder submissions at Attachments 3 and 4 to this report.**
2. **Adopts the updated Flinders Foreshore Precinct Conservation Management Plan (Biosis, 2023) (CMP) as at Attachment 2 to this report as amended to include Charles Reis, Save Flinders Pier campaign in the acknowledgments and authorises the Director – Planning and Infrastructure to make editorial and administrative changes to Attachment 2 as required.**
3. **Informs the community about the adoption of the updated CMP.**
4. **Applies to Heritage Victoria to update mapping of the former Fishermen's huts in the Victorian Heritage Inventory and include the site of the former cable testing hut in the Victorian Heritage Register mapping, as recommended by the updated CMP.**

**Carried Unanimously**

#### 4.3 Draft Pedestrian Access Strategy

##### RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves the draft Pedestrian Access Strategy 2023 and supporting documents (Attachments 1 and 2) for community consultation for a period of six weeks.

##### MOTION

Moved: Cr Bissinger

Seconded: Cr Brooks

That the current 2019 footpath strategy remains in place until the viability of contracting external consultants is explored and considered to provide a new Pedestrian Access Strategy that meets the needs of residents in consultation with Councillors and the Department of Transport and Planning.

Amendment Lost

##### COUNCIL DECISION

Moved: Cr Gill

Seconded: Cr Brooks

1. That Council approves the draft Pedestrian Access Strategy 2023 and supporting documents (Attachments 1 and 2) for community consultation for a period of six weeks.
2. That gravel pathways are an acceptable alternative to formal pathways for consideration in less trafficked areas and where local character and the environment are important to consider.

Carried

**4.4 Options for a Strategic Planning Response to Intrusive Advertising Signage Across the Mornington Peninsula**

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council notes the options outlined in this report for future strategic work to strengthen local planning policy in relation to signage and considers this as part of Council's annual budget process.

**COUNCIL DECISION**

**Moved: Cr Gill**  
**Seconded: Cr Dixon**

- 1. That Council notes the options outlined in this report for future strategic work to strengthen local planning policy in relation to signage and considers this as part of Council's annual budget process.**
- 2. That Council seeks community input and expertise in order to tighten out policy and prepare planning scheme changes regarding signage in accordance with the guidelines outlined in this report and strongly advocate to the State Government regarding such changes in order to help protect the amenity and character of our towns and villages.**

**Carried Unanimously**

**ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

That the meeting be adjourned at 7.58pm for a short recess.

**RESUMPTION OF MEETING**

That the meeting be resumed at 8.11pm.

## COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING

### 4.5 Wastewater Management Policy

#### RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council adopts the proposed Wastewater Management Policy (Attachment 1) which confirms Council's commitment to advocate for reticulated sewerage in high-risk un-sewered townships
2. That officers develop a 2024-2028 Wastewater Management Plan in line with the Environment Protection Authority Obligations for Managers of Land or Infrastructure.

#### COUNCIL DECISION

Moved: Cr Brooks

Seconded: Cr Roper

That the recommendation be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

**4.6 Draft Our Library Strategy - Public Exhibition**

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council approves the public exhibition of the Draft Our Library Strategy 2024-2029 (Attachment 1) from 11 September to 13 October 2023.

**COUNCIL DECISION**

**Moved: Cr O'Connor**

**Seconded: Cr Mar**

**That the recommendation be adopted.**

**Carried Unanimously**

**4.7 Creative Grant Amendment Recommendation**

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council endorses the recommendation to increase the capped value per application of the Creative Grants for 2023-2024 to \$10,000.

**COUNCIL DECISION**

**Moved: Cr Roper**

**Seconded: Cr Race**

**That the recommendation be adopted.**

**Carried Unanimously**

## OFFICE OF THE CEO

### 4.8 Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation

#### RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council in the exercise of the powers conferred by section 224 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and the other legislation referred to in the attached Instruments of Appointment and Authorisation, Council resolves that:
  - A. The member of Council staff referred to in Attachment 1 be appointed under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.
  - B. The member of Council staff referred to in Attachment 1 be appointed under the *Land Act 1958*.
  - C. The Instruments come into force upon the resolution of Council.

#### COUNCIL DECISION

Moved: Cr Mar  
Seconded: Cr Brooks

That the recommendation be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

## 5 NOTICES OF MOTION

Notices of Motion must be received 10 clear business days prior to a meeting.

### 5.1 Notice of Motion 417 (Cr Gill) - Performing Arts Storage

#### MOTION

That consideration be given as part of the draft 2024/2025 Council budget process to undertaking a feasibility study for theatre production storage facilities to be co-located with Shire-owned performance facilities.

#### COUNCIL DECISION

Moved: Cr Gill

Seconded: Cr Brooks

That the Motion be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

**6 URGENT BUSINESS**

Nil.

**7 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

Nil.

## **8 MEETING CLOSE**

As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

**Confirmed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of September 2023**

.....  
**Mayor, Cr Steve Holland, Chairperson - Council**