

# Extraordinary Council Meeting

to be held at the Civic Centre, Civic Drive, Greensborough  
on Wednesday 24 November 2021 commencing at 7:01pm.

## Minutes

**Carl Cowie**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

Friday 26 November 2021

Distribution: Public

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**Nillumbik Shire Council**

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**Nillumbik Shire Council**

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Nillumbik Shire Council held  
Wednesday 24 November 2021. The meeting commenced at 7:01pm.**

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**Councillors present:**

Cr Richard Stockman	Blue Lake Ward
Cr Karen Egan	Bunjil Ward
Cr Natalie Duffy	Edendale Ward
Cr Peter Perkins	Ellis Ward
Cr Ben Ramcharan	Sugarloaf Ward
Cr Frances Eyre	Swipers Gully Ward
Cr Geoff Paine	Wingrove Ward

**Officers in attendance:**

Carl Cowie	Chief Executive Officer
Vince Lombardi	Chief Financial Officer
Hjalmar Philipp	Director Operations and Infrastructure
Blaga Naumoski	Executive Manager Governance, Communications and Engagement
Corrienne Nichols	Executive Manager Communities
Jeremy Livingston	Executive Manager Business Transformation and Performance
Rosa Zouzoulas	Executive Manager Planning and Community Safety
Eddie Cheng	Manager, Information Technology
Licardo Prince	Communications and Advocacy Lead
Natalie Town	Senior Communications Officer
Katia Croce	Governance Lead

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The Chief Executive Officer chaired proceedings until the second temporary Chairperson was elected.

**1. Welcome**

Members of the public were advised the meeting will be livestreamed and recorded and the live stream and video recording will be made publicly available on YouTube and Council's website.

**2. Acknowledgement of Country by the Chief Executive Officer**

The Acknowledgement of Country was provided by the Chief Executive Officer.

**3. Apologies**

Nil

**4. Disclosure of conflicts of interest**

Nil

**5. Appointment of Second Temporary Chairperson**

*The Chief Executive Officer called for nominations for the appointment of a second temporary Chairperson.*

*Cr Natalie Duffy nominated Cr Karen Egan for the position of second temporary Chairperson*

*Cr Richard Stockman seconded the nomination for Cr Karen Egan.*

**Recommendation**

**That Cr \_\_\_\_\_** be nominated as second temporary Chairperson.

**Motion**

**MOVED: Cr Natalie Duffy**  
**SECONDED: Cr Richard Stockman**

**That Cr Karen Egan** be nominated as second temporary Chairperson.

THE MOTION WAS PUT TO THE VOTE AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

**Council Resolution**

**MOVED: Cr Natalie Duffy**  
**SECONDED: Cr Richard Stockman**

**That Cr Karen Egan** be nominated as second temporary Chairperson.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Cr Karen Egan assumed the Chair as the second temporary Chairperson.*

6. Mayoral Term

**Recommendation**

**That** Council resolves to elect the Mayor for a term of \_\_\_\_\_ year/s.

**Motion**

**MOVED: Cr Geoff Paine**  
**SECONDED: Cr Frances Eyre**

**That** Council resolves to elect the Mayor for a term of **one** year.

THE MOTION WAS PUT TO THE VOTE AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

**Council Resolution**

**MOVED: Cr Geoff Paine**  
**SECONDED: Cr Frances Eyre**

**That** Council resolves to elect the Mayor for a term of one year.

**CARRIED**

*Cr Karen Egan vacated the Chair and the Chief Executive Officer assumed the Chair for the Election of the Mayor.*

**7. Election of Mayor**

The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) requires the Councillors to elect a Councillor to be the Mayor of the Council. Any Councillor is eligible for election to the Office of Mayor. The election of the Mayor must be chaired by the Chief Executive Officer and conducted in accordance with section 25 of the Act and Council's Governance Rules.

The Mayor must be elected by an absolute majority vote.

The Mayor is responsible for leading the Council and has a number of roles which are both legislative and functional. The legislative requirements are outlined in Division 3 of the Act. The Act states that Council must elect a Mayor at a meeting that is open to the public no later than one month after the date of a general election.

The Mayoral position is responsible for leading the Council. The Mayor has responsibilities towards, and is accountable to, all Councillors and the Mayor's leadership style should reflect this.

Section 18 of the Act outlines the role and specific powers of the Mayor to:

- chair Council meetings;
- be the principal spokesperson for the Council;
- lead engagement with the municipal community on the development of the Council Plan;
- report to the municipal community, at least once each year, on the implementation of the Council Plan;
- promote behaviour among Councillors that meets the standards of conduct set out in the Councillor Code of Conduct;
- assist Councillors to understand their role;
- take a leadership role in ensuring the regular review of the performance of the Chief Executive Officer;
- provide advice to the Chief Executive Officer when the Chief Executive Officer is setting the agenda for Council meetings; and
- perform civic and ceremonial duties on behalf of the Council.

In addition to the role outlined above, specific powers of the Mayor (section 19 of the Act) include:

- to appoint a Councillor to be the chair of a delegated committee;
- to direct a Councillor, subject to any procedures or limitations specified in the Governance Rules, to leave a Council meeting if the behaviour of the Councillor is preventing the Council from conducting its business;
- to require the Chief Executive Officer to report to the Council on the implementation of a Council decision.

The Mayor's role, however, extends well beyond officiating at Council Meetings or other municipal proceedings. Additional important roles are providing leadership, promoting positive relationships, and modelling good governance.

The Mayoral term commences from this meeting and becomes vacant at the time and on the day of the election of the next Mayor.

*The Chief Executive Officer called for nominations for the Office of Mayor.*

*Cr Natalie Duffy nominated Cr Frances Eyre for the Office of Mayor.*

*Cr Karen Egan seconded the nomination of Cr Frances Eyre.*

*Cr Frances Eyre accepted the nomination for the Office of Mayor.*

**Recommendation**

That Cr \_\_\_\_\_ be elected Mayor of Nillumbik Shire Council.

**Motion**

**MOVED: Cr Natalie Duffy**

**SECONDED: Cr Karen Egan**

That **Cr Frances Eyre** be elected Mayor of Nillumbik Shire Council.

THE MOTION WAS PUT TO THE VOTE AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

**Council Resolution**

**MOVED: Cr Natalie Duffy**

**SECONDED: Cr Karen Egan**

That Cr Frances Eyre be elected Mayor of Nillumbik Shire Council.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*The newly elected Mayor Cr Frances Eyre assumed the Chair.*

**8. Election of Deputy Mayor**

The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) outlines that Council may establish an office of Deputy Mayor (s20A) and if an office of Deputy Mayor is established, the legislative requirements of the Deputy Mayor are provided in Sections 21 and 27 of the Act.

The Act states the Deputy Mayor must undertake the role of the Mayor if:

- the Mayor is unable for any reason to attend a Council meeting or part of a Council meeting; or
- the Mayor is incapable of performing the duties of the office of Mayor for any reason, including illness; or
- the office of Mayor is vacant.

Should Council not elect a Deputy Mayor, it must appoint an Acting Mayor in the above circumstances.

The term of a Deputy Mayor is identical to the term of the Mayor as resolved by Council.

The Deputy Mayor is not entitled to any additional allowance. The current provisions under the former *Local Government Act 1989* still apply even though these sections are repealed.

On 17 June 2021, the Minister for Local Government requested that the Tribunal make the first Determination. The Determination will come into effect on 18 December 2021 - 6 months from the day the Tribunal received the Minister's request.

Until the Determination takes effect, allowances payable to Council members continue to be determined by individual Councils in accordance with limits set by the Victorian Government.

*The Mayor Cr Frances Eyre called for nominations for the office of Deputy Mayor.*

*Cr Karen Egan nominated Cr Natalie Duffy for the office of Deputy Mayor.*

*Cr Richard Stockman seconded the nomination of Cr Natalie Duffy.*

*Cr Natalie Duffy declined the nomination for the office of Deputy Mayor making the following statement:*

*Thank you Cr Egan for your nomination tonight. It's been an honour and a privilege to serve the community for the last 12 months. I would like to graciously decline your invitation and nomination so that I can concentrate on my health and contribute in the way that I have been doing at the moment. I would just like to say that that is an honour and hopefully you might consider that another time in the future.*

*The Mayor Cr Frances Eyre called again for nominations for the office of Deputy Mayor.*

*Cr Geoff Paine nominated Cr Ben Ramcharan for the office of Deputy Mayor.*

*Cr Peter Perkins seconded the nomination of Cr Ben Ramcharan.*

*Cr Ben Ramcharan accepted the nomination for the office of Deputy Mayor.*

**Recommendation**

**That** Cr \_\_\_\_\_ be elected Deputy Mayor of Nillumbik Shire Council.

**Council Resolution**

**MOVED: Cr Geoff Paine**  
**SECONDED: Cr Peter Perkins**

**That Cr Ben Ramcharan** be elected Deputy Mayor of Nillumbik Shire Council.

THE MOTION WAS PUT TO THE VOTE AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

**Council Resolution**

**That** Cr Ben Ramcharan be elected Deputy Mayor of Nillumbik Shire Council.

**CARRIED**



**9. Appointment of Chairpersons to Delegated Committee**

Planning and Consultation Committee (the Committee) has delegated powers from Council to determine any issue, take any action or do any act or thing as set out in the Instrument of Delegation (resolved by Council on 23 February 2021).

The Committee was effective 11 March 2021, with all seven Councillors being appointed to Committee.

The Instrument of Delegation for the Committee and the Terms of Reference were adopted by Council on 23 February 2021.

The scope of the Committee’s responsibilities includes all matters within the following portfolio areas

- **Planning**
  - Planning applications
  - Land-use planning policy
  - Planning scheme and amendments

(excluding adoption or abandonment of amendments, which must be determined by Council)
- **Consultation**
  - Section 223 process
  - Community Engagement

Meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm.

Unless otherwise notified, meetings will be held at the Civic Centre, Civic Drive, Greensborough.

*The Mayor Cr Frances Eyre called for nominations for the position of Chairperson for Planning Matters.*

*Cr Geoff Paine nominated Cr Peter Perkins for the position of Chairperson for Planning Matters.*

*Cr Karen Egan seconded the nomination of Cr Peter Perkins.*

*Cr Peter Perkins accepted the nomination for the position of Chairperson for Planning Matters.*

**Recommendation**

**That** Cr \_\_\_\_\_ to act as Chairperson for Planning Matters before the Planning and Consultation Committee.

**Motion**

**MOVED: Cr Geoff Paine**  
**SECONDED: Cr Karen Egan**

**That Cr Peter Perkins** to act as Chairperson for Planning Matters before the Planning and Consultation Committee.

THE MOTION WAS PUT TO THE VOTE AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

**Council Resolution**

**MOVED: Cr Geoff Paine**  
**SECONDED: Cr Karen Egan**

**That** Cr Peter Perkins to act as Chairperson for Planning Matters before the Planning and Consultation Committee.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*The Mayor Cr Frances Eyre called for nominations for the Chairperson for Consultation Matters.*

*Cr Peter Perkins nominated Cr Geoff Paine for the position of Chairperson for Consultation Matters.*

*Cr Ben Ramcharan seconded the nomination of Cr Geoff Paine.*

*Cr Geoff Paine accepted the nomination for the position of Chairperson for Consultation Matters.*

**Recommendation**

**That** Cr \_\_\_\_\_ to act as Chairperson for Consultation Matters before the Planning and Consultation Committee

**Motion**

**MOVED: Cr Peter Perkins**  
**SECONDED: Cr Ben Ramcharan**

**That Cr Geoff Paine** to act as Chairperson for Consultation Matters before the Planning and Consultation Committee

THE MOTION WAS PUT TO THE VOTE AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

**Council Resolution**

**MOVED: Cr Peter Perkins**  
**SECONDED: Cr Ben Ramcharan**

**That** Cr Geoff Paine to act as Chairperson for Consultation Matters before the Planning and Consultation Committee

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**10. Councillor appointments to Internal Advisory Committees**

Council has a range of advisory committees which provide an important mechanism for consultation with the community and key stakeholders. Advisory committees provide advice to Council but do not make formal decisions.

Council appoints Councillors as representatives on its advisory committees and reviews these appointments annually.

Following consultation with Councillors, the appointments listed in the table below are recommended.

<b>Recommendation</b>
-----------------------

**That** Council appoints Councillors as listed below as its representatives on Advisory Committees for the 2021/2022 Council year:

<b>Advisory Committee</b>	<b>Councillor(s) appointed</b>
Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee	Cr (Chair) Cr
Audit and Risk Committee	Cr (Mayor of the day) Cr (Deputy Mayor)
CEO Employment Matters Advisory Committee	All Councillors
Economic Development Advisory Committee	Cr (Chair) Cr
Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee	Cr (Chair) Cr
Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee	Cr (Chair) Cr
Inclusion and Access Advisory Committee	Cr (Chair) Cr
Living & Learning Advisory Committee	Cr (Chair) Cr
Panton Hill Bushland Reserves System User Group Advisory Committee	Cr (Chair) Cr

Positive Ageing Advisory Committee	Cr (Chair) Cr
Recreation Trails Advisory Committee	Cr (Chair) Cr
Nillumbik Youth Advisory Committee	Cr Youth Council Mayor chairs the meetings

<b>Motion</b>
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**MOVED: Cr Ben Ramcharan**

**SECONDED: Cr Geoff Paine**

**That** Council appoints Councillors as listed below as its representatives on Advisory Committees for the 2021/2022 Council year:

<b>Advisory Committee</b>	<b>Councillor(s) appointed</b>
Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee	<b>Cr Geoff Paine</b> (Chair) <b>Cr Peter Perkins</b> <b>Cr Natalie Duffy</b>
Audit and Risk Committee	<b>Cr Frances Eyre</b> (Mayor of the day) <b>Cr Ben Ramcharan</b> (Deputy Mayor)
CEO Employment Matters Advisory Committee	All Councillors
Economic Development Advisory Committee	<b>Cr Geoff Paine</b> (Chair)
Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee	<b>Cr Ben Ramcharan</b> (Chair) <b>Cr Karen Egan</b>
Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee	<b>Cr Richard Stockman</b> (Chair) <b>Cr Natalie Duffy</b>
Inclusion and Access Advisory Committee	<b>Cr Peter Perkins</b> (Chair) <b>Cr Ben Ramcharan</b>
Living & Learning Advisory Committee	<b>Cr Richard Stockman</b> (Chair) <b>Cr Geoff Paine</b>
Panton Hill Bushland Reserves System User Group Advisory Committee	<b>Cr Ben Ramcharan</b> (Chair)

Positive Ageing Advisory Committee	<b>Cr Natalie Duffy</b> (Chair) <b>Cr Frances Eyre</b>
Recreation Trails Advisory Committee	<b>Cr Richard Stockman</b> (Chair) <b>Cr Karen Egan</b>
Youth Advisory Committee	<b>Cr Natalie Duffy</b> Youth Council Mayor chairs the meetings

THE MOTION WAS PUT TO THE VOTE AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

<b>Council Resolution</b>
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**MOVED:** Cr Ben Ramcharan

**SECONDED:** Cr Geoff Paine

**That** Council appoints Councillors as listed below as its representatives on Advisory Committees for the 2021/2022 Council year:

<b>Advisory Committee</b>	<b>Councillor(s) appointed</b>
Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee	Cr Geoff Paine (Chair) Cr Peter Perkins Cr Natalie Duffy
Audit and Risk Committee	Cr Frances Eyre (Mayor of the day) Cr Ben Ramcharan (Deputy Mayor)
CEO Employment Matters Advisory Committee	All Councillors
Economic Development Advisory Committee	Cr Geoff Paine (Chair)
Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee	Cr Ben Ramcharan (Chair) Cr Karen Egan
Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee	Cr Richard Stockman (Chair) Cr Natalie Duffy
Inclusion and Access Advisory Committee	Cr Peter Perkins (Chair) Cr Ben Ramcharan
Living & Learning Advisory Committee	Cr Richard Stockman (Chair) Cr Geoff Paine

Panton Hill Bushland Reserves System User Group Advisory Committee	Cr Ben Ramcharan (Chair)
Positive Ageing Advisory Committee	Cr Natalie Duffy (Chair) Cr Frances Eyre
Recreation Trails Advisory Committee	Cr Richard Stockman (Chair) Cr Karen Egan
Youth Advisory Committee	Cr Natalie Duffy Youth Council Mayor chairs the meetings

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**11. Councillor appointments to External Organisations**

Council is a member or participant in a range of external organisations at a local, regional or sector level.

Councillors are appointed to represent Council as delegates to those organisations. In some cases, an alternate is also appointed who can attend if the primary Councillor is not available.

Following consultation with Councillors, the appointments listed in the table below are recommended for 2021/2022 Council year.

<b>Recommendation</b>
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**That** Council appoints Councillors as listed below as its delegates to external organisations for the 2021/2022 Council year:

External Organisation	Councillor(s) appointed
Banyule/Nillumbik Local Learning and Employment Network Inc. Board	Appointment of Cr Frances Eyre was resolved by Council on 24 August 2021. <i>A new Councillor Representative to this organisation is to be made in August 2023 in accordance with Board Guidelines</i>
Diamond Creek Traders' Association	Cr Cr Cr
Eltham Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Cr Cr Cr
Hurstbridge Traders' Association	Cr Cr (Proxy)
Interface Councils Group	Cr (Mayor of the day) Cr (Deputy Mayor) Proxy
Metropolitan Transport Forum Inc.	Cr Cr (Proxy)
Metropolitan Local Government Waste Forum	Cr Cr (Proxy)
Municipal Association of Victoria	Cr Cr (Proxy)
Nillumbik Reconciliation Group	Cr Cr (Proxy) <i>NRG will allow proxy to attend if Councillor Representative can't attend.</i>

Nillumbik Tourism and Business	Cr Cr (Proxy)
Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action	Cr Cr (Proxy)
Northern Council Alliance	Cr (Mayor of the day) Cr (Deputy Mayor) Proxy
Victorian Local Governance Association	Cr Cr (Proxy)
Yarra Plenty Regional Library Board	Cr Cr Executive Manager Communities (Proxy)

<b>Motion</b>
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**MOVED: Cr Geoff Paine**

**SECONDED: Cr Karen Egan**

**That** Council appoints Councillors as listed below as its delegates to external organisations for the 2021/2022 Council year:

<b>External Organisation</b>	<b>Councillor(s) appointed</b>
Banyule/Nillumbik Local Learning and Employment Network Inc. Board	Appointment of Cr Frances Eyre was resolved by Council on 24 August 2021. <i>A new Councillor Representative to this organisation is to be made in August 2023 in accordance with Board Guidelines</i>
Diamond Creek Traders' Association	<b>Cr Peter Perkins</b> <b>Cr Natalie Duffy</b>
Eltham Chamber of Commerce and Industry	<b>Cr Frances Eyre</b> <b>Cr Geoff Paine</b> <b>Cr Natalie Duffy</b>
Hurstbridge Traders' Association	<b>Cr Karen Egan</b> <b>(No Proxy appointed)</b>
Interface Councils Group	<b>Cr Frances Eyre</b> (Mayor of the day) <b>Cr Ben Ramcharan</b> (Deputy Mayor) Proxy
Metropolitan Transport Forum Inc.	<b>Cr Geoff Paine</b> <b>Cr Richard Stockman</b> (Proxy)



Metropolitan Local Government Waste Forum	<b>Cr Geoff Paine</b> <b>Cr Ben Ramcharan</b> (Proxy)
Municipal Association of Victoria	<b>Cr Peter Perkins</b> <b>Cr Frances Eyre</b> (Proxy)
Nillumbik Reconciliation Group	<b>Cr Natalie Duffy</b> <b>Cr Richard Stockman</b> (Proxy) <i>NRG will allow proxy to attend if Councillor representative can't attend.</i>
Nillumbik Tourism and Business	<b>Cr Geoff Paine</b> <b>(No Proxy appointed)</b>
Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action	<b>Cr Geoff Paine</b> <b>Cr Ben Ramcharan</b> (Proxy)
Northern Council Alliance	<b>Cr Ben Ramcharan</b> <b>Cr Frances Eyre</b> (Proxy)
Victorian Local Governance Association	<b>Cr Frances Eyre</b> <b>Cr Ben Ramcharan</b> (Proxy)
Yarra Plenty Regional Library Board	<b>Cr Karen Egan</b> <b>Cr Frances Eyre</b> Executive Manager Communities (Proxy)

THE MOTION WAS PUT TO THE VOTE AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

<b>Council Resolution</b>
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**MOVED:** Cr Geoff Paine

**SECONDED:** Cr Karen Egan

**That** Council appoints Councillors as listed below as its delegates to external organisations for the 2021/2022 Council year:

<b>External Organisation</b>	<b>Councillor(s) appointed</b>
Banyule/Nillumbik Local Learning and Employment Network Inc. Board	Appointment of Cr Frances Eyre was resolved by Council on 24 August 2021. <i>A new Councillor Representative to this organisation is to be made in August 2023 in accordance with Board Guidelines</i>
Diamond Creek Traders' Association	Cr Peter Perkins Cr Natalie Duffy

Eltham Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Cr Frances Eyre Cr Geoff Paine Cr Natalie Duffy
Hurstbridge Traders' Association	Cr Karen Egan (No Proxy appointed)
Interface Councils Group	Cr Frances Eyre (Mayor of the day) Cr Ben Ramcharan (Deputy Mayor) Proxy
Metropolitan Transport Forum Inc.	Cr Geoff Paine Cr Richard Stockman (Proxy)
Metropolitan Local Government Waste Forum	Cr Geoff Paine Cr Ben Ramcharan (Proxy)
Municipal Association of Victoria	Cr Peter Perkins Cr Frances Eyre (Proxy)
Nillumbik Reconciliation Group	Cr Natalie Duffy Cr Richard Stockman (Proxy) <i>NRG will allow proxy to attend if Councillor representative can't attend.</i>
Nillumbik Tourism and Business	Cr Geoff Paine (No Proxy appointed)
Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action	Cr Geoff Paine Cr Ben Ramcharan (Proxy)
Northern Council Alliance	Cr Frances Eyre Cr Ben Ramcharan (Proxy)
Victorian Local Governance Association	Cr Frances Eyre Cr Ben Ramcharan (Proxy)
Yarra Plenty Regional Library Board	Cr Karen Egan Cr Frances Eyre Executive Manager Communities (Proxy)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**12. Delegated Committee(s) and Council meeting schedule for 2022**

It is recommended the arrangements for the 2022 meeting cycle be as follows:

- Meetings occur on Tuesday nights throughout the year unless otherwise notified.
- The Delegated Committee(s) will commence at 7.00pm, usually on the second Tuesday of the each month.
- Council meetings will commence at 7.00pm, usually on the fourth Tuesday of each month.
- Unless otherwise notified, meetings will be held at the Civic Centre, Civic Drive, Greensborough.
- At least one week of each school holidays has been left free of meetings.

Following consultation with Councillors, the 2022 meeting schedule listed in the table below is recommended.

<b>Council Resolution</b>
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**MOVED: Cr Karen Egan**  
**SECONDED: Cr Ben Ramcharan**

<b>That</b> Council adopts and advertises the Delegated Committee(s) and Council Meeting schedule for the 2022 Council year as listed below:	
<b>Delegated Committee</b>	<b>Council Meetings</b>
8 February 2022	22 February 2022
8 March 2022	22 March 2022
12 April 2022	26 April 2022
10 May 2022	24 May 2022
14 June 2022	28 June 2022
12 July 2022	26 July 2022
9 August 2022	23 August 2022
13 September 2022	27 September 2022
11 October 2022	25 October 2022
8 November 2022	22 November 2022
	23 November 2022 – (Election of Mayor)
	13 December 2022

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**13. Address by the Mayor**

The Mayor Cr Frances Eyre addressed the meeting as follows:

*“Thank you Councillors for the trust and faith you have placed in me to lead our Council for the coming year. I thank and acknowledge our outgoing Mayor, Councillor Perkins.*

*I’ve learnt a lot from your leadership of our Council, and truly appreciate the help you’ve given me as I’ve navigated my role as a new councillor. I’m grateful that I will have you, and Councillor Egan, as former Mayors to draw upon for advice, alongside all councillors, as we continue to work in the best interests of our community.*

*It is an enormous honour to be Nillumbik’s new Mayor. I’m told that I’m the first Nillumbik Mayor and councillor to have previously served as a Nillumbik council officer. I worked for Council for seven years as a Community Development Officer, supporting communities, clubs and groups to help make Nillumbik the best it could be. This included a particular focus on our rural communities.*

*As Mayor, I look forward to getting out to all our townships and communities, to ensure your voice is heard right across Council. We are here for you. This doesn’t mean I’ll forget my roots in Swipers Gully Ward. I love representing the ward I live in, and I’ll continue to work on advancing the ideas that local residents share with me.*

*I will strive to ensure all we do as a Council – our meetings, our consultations, and our day-to-day interactions – are driven by respect. Respect for each other as councillors, respect for staff, and most importantly, respect for the community we are here to serve. And we all deserve respect from others in return, whether this be in person or online.*

*Over the past year our Council has laid the groundwork for what we want to achieve over our term, particularly through our Council Plan. We’ve undertaken a lot of consultation to bring our community with us as we work through important issues.*

*I acknowledge there are times we’ve fallen short. Where our community feels they haven’t been consulted or heard by Council. As your new Mayor, I say to our community: I am here to listen. I am here to act on your behalf, and in your best interest. As councillors we’re told how important it is that we adhere to the “no surprises” principle in working with each other. I extend this to our community too – that Council shouldn’t surprise you in the decisions we make.*

*As we enter the second year of our Council term, there is so much to do. Community recovery from the pandemic is critical, and Council will continue supporting our local businesses, organisations, and residents to get back on their feet. We know many have done it tough during this pandemic. The community support we provide here at Council is, I believe, more important than ever.*

*Other priorities include the mental health crisis facing our young people, inappropriate development, our ageing population, and working on our parks, reserves & trails - especially as we’ve learnt to appreciate them even more during lockdown.*

*I will work with all levels of government to make sure that Nillumbik receives the support and services we deserve. I am passionate about Gender Equality. There’s still a lot to do to make it part of business as usual at school, work, in sports and organisations such as Council. And bullying, discrimination, and harassment have no place in our community.*

*There are two elections coming up in the next 12 months, both of which are significant opportunities for Council to present our local priorities. I will be a passionate and determined advocate for our Shire.*

*To be where I am today is a combination of many things, but it is family that started my journey in working with community. Both my parents fled to Australia – my dad at 21 as a conscientious objector to being conscripted into the Army in the Netherlands. He fled to Australia days before presenting for duty. My mother came here aged 5 with her parents as political refugees from Italy on a boat after my Nonno was liberated from Birkenau concentration camp. Like so many, they faced language barriers, discrimination and the struggle to live week to week as they made their home here in Australia.*

*It's our personal experiences, our upbringing, the people in our lives that mould the person we become. In my situation it taught me respect, to listen, to be thrifty, patient, and not to judge someone before getting to know them. I bring these values to my work. It is why giving people a voice is so important to me. It is something that is free but not always given freely. Sadly, my parents are no longer with us, but I hope they would be very proud of where I am standing today – they demonstrated what it was like to be embedded in the community, making it a better place.*

*My biggest supporters are here tonight – my husband Christian and son Josh. Thank you for your love and support as I've commenced this new chapter. And thank you to my family, friends, and everyone who has supported me in my role as Councillor. As the year is almost at an end, I wish everyone in our community a wonderful Christmas and festive season. I'm looking forward to working with you all as your Mayor.*

*Thank you."*

#### **14. Address by the Deputy Mayor**

The Deputy Mayor Cr Ben Ramcharan addressed the meeting as follows:

*"My goal in life is to make a difference in the world and to leave it a better place than I found it and that is why I love this job so much. It gives me the opportunity to really do good for my community and for the environment and for everyone around me, and to try and make the world a better place and that's why I have loved being a Councillor and I'm so pleased to be Deputy Mayor now.*

*The first year on Council was incredibly difficult as I think it is for everyone. It's an uphill battle trying to get your head around all the different things that are going on and figuring out how you actually do your job, and what your job even is.*

*Everybody wants to meet their new Councillor, you've got all this extra reading to do and you don't know which parts of the reading you can cut off and ignore and which parts you really need to dig in to, so I think especially the first six months were incredibly difficult and I was working almost all day every day to try and keep up.*

*I've really appreciated outgoing Mayor Peter Perkins' assistance as Mayor. He has been an incredible guide for me, I'm sure for the other Councillors, and Councillor Eyre mentioned that before. I've really appreciated his advice and his guidance while I have been picking up this role.*

*I feel like I've finally come out the other side now and I finally understand the role and how to actually make things happen so I feel like I can make a difference. It almost felt like the learning curve was over but here we go again, I am Deputy Mayor and I'm going to have a heck of a lot to learn I'm sure over the coming months.*

*It's really an honour to be the youngest ever Deputy Mayor in Nillumbik. I was elected last year as the youngest ever Councillor at 24. I am 25 now, I'll be 26 soon but I am the youngest Deputy Mayor and I really hope it shows to the young people out there, that you can do this. That you can be elected to anything really, and you can make a difference in your community.*

*I really think it's incredibly important to have young people represented at all levels of government. We are the future and the decisions that are made by the government today will affect us, and our children, and our children's children long into the future. So I'm really pleased to be here as the young voice on Council and I think our new Youth Council which was set up by this Council earlier in the year, is a really positive step forwards in making sure that we can listen to our youth. I'm sure Councillor Duffy will do a fantastic job as the Councillor appointed to the Youth Council in the coming year.*

*We really do have a great team on this Council. All Councillors are incredibly caring and capable, and all of us have a passion to do the best we can for our community. We have a range of different expertise and backgrounds, we may not always agree on what's best and in fact we have some very robust debate on certain issues but I truly believe that the heart of every Councillor here is in the right place and all of us really want what's best for the community. So I'm really pleased to be working with this team and going forwards being the Deputy Mayor, I'm sure we'll be able to work very well together.*

*I'm really looking forward to having the guidance of Councillor Eyre as I learn this role. I'm sure she'll be a fantastic mentor for me and give me the support that I'm sure she's received from Councillor Perkins over the last year in learning the role, and I hope I can support her as well.*

*Over the coming year as Deputy Mayor, I plan to spend more time here in the Council office. I've already got a little desk set up for myself downstairs. I feel like you can't really be a leader in an organisation if you don't have the contact and through COVID it's been so difficult to maintain that contact. I really hope that by working onsite, I can get to know the organisation a lot better, get to know the staff, get to know what the staff are up to and really have a good helicopter view of all the operations of Council to really inform my decision making, and hopefully we get some more done. So I'm looking forward to the coming year having that much closer contact with all the officers.*

*As Deputy Mayor, I now know it's my duty to have a shire wide vision. I've spent the last year getting to know Sugarloaf ward and I've met some incredible people and now it's time for me to meet other people from the rest of the Shire because I'm not just here to represent my ward, I'm here to represent everyone and that's what I plan to do. So I can't wait to meet all the groups and all the leaders from other communities within the Shire and I'm really looking forward to the next year and seeing what we can all achieve together as a Council.*

*Thank you."*

## **15. Close of meeting**

The meeting closed at 7:34pm.

Confirmed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cr Frances Eyre, Mayor**