

Extraordinary Council Meeting

held at the Civic Centre, Civic Drive, Greensborough
on Wednesday 23 November 2022 commenced at 7:00pm.

Minutes

Carl Cowie
Chief Executive Officer

Friday 25 November 2022

Distribution: Public

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Nillumbik Shire Council

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Nillumbik Shire Council

Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting of Nillumbik Shire Council held Wednesday 23 November 2022 commenced at 7:00pm.

In accordance with Council's Governance Rule – Election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will be the first temporary Chairperson of the meeting at which the election of the Mayor is to be conducted but will have no voting rights.

The first temporary Chairperson chaired proceedings until the election of the second temporary Chairperson.

1. Welcome

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

2. Acknowledgement of Country by the Chief Executive Officer

Nillumbik Shire Council respectfully acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as the Traditional Owners of the Country on which Nillumbik is located, and we value the significance of the Wurundjeri people's history as essential to the unique character of the shire. We pay tribute to all First Nations People living in Nillumbik, give respect to Elders past, present and future, and extend that respect to all First Nations People.

We respect the enduring strength of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and acknowledge the ongoing impacts of past trauma and injustices from European invasion, massacres and genocide committed against First Nations People. We acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded.

Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people hold a deep and ongoing connection to this place. We value the distinctive place of our First Nations People in both Nillumbik and Australia's identity; from their cultural heritage and care of the land and waterways, to their ongoing contributions in many fields including academia, agriculture, art, economics, law, sport and politics.

3. Apologies

An apology for this meeting has been received from Cr Karen Egan.

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr Peter Perkins

SECONDED: Cr Frances Eyre

That the apology from Cr Karen Egan be noted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Disclosure of conflicts of interest

Nil

5. Presentation

The Chief Executive Officer Carl Cowie gave the following presentation to the outgoing Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Acknowledgement of the outgoing Mayor Cr Frances Eyre

It is my pleasure to say a few words on behalf of Council and the organisation acknowledging the contribution of Cr Frances Eyre for her year as Mayor of Nillumbik Shire Council.

Cr Eyre's leadership has been of immense benefit during a significant period for both Council and the Nillumbik community.

Coming out of the lockdowns of 2021, she helped us navigate the ups and downs of living with COVID and returning to business as usual both in the community and as a Council.

During this time Council has had many significant achievements including our Climate Action Plan, Access, Equity and Inclusion Policy and our Arts and Culture Strategy among many others.

With both Federal and State elections, Cr Eyre has been tireless in leading our advocacy efforts to ensure the best possible outcomes possible for our community. In particular, she's been a champion for increased mental health support.

Over the past year, Cr Eyre was appointed to the influential Local Government Mayoral Advisory Panel, advising the Minister for Local Government on issues including pandemic recovery, gender equality and strengthening relationships with First Nations Victorians.

She has represented also Council on the Northern Council Alliance and Interface group of councils.

On behalf of Council and all officers I would like to thank Cr Eyre for her work and present her with this small token of appreciation, which seeks to capture some of the highlights of your year as Mayor.

Councillor Eyre, thank you, if you could just come up and say a few words in closing.

Response from outgoing Mayor, Cr Frances Eyre.

Thank you Carl for those words on behalf of Council.

As my Mayoral term comes to an end, technically finished at 6am this morning so it has already ended but I'd like to say how much of an honour it has been to lead, represent, advocate and be the voice for our community and Council. I have really loved all that has been thrown at me over the last year, well almost everything, mostly everything I loved.

There's so much I am proud of from the past 12 months, and I'd like to start by thanking my fellow Councillors, Council staff and the community for all the support you've given me as Mayor. A shout out to the Deputy Mayor for being a stable and dedicated support. Thank you, Cr Ramcharan, I appreciate all that you have done to support me in the role and Council over this last year, so thank you very much. Thank you Councillors, for the trust and faith you have placed in me to lead our Council over the last year. Thank you all very much.

A big thank you also goes to my family – thank you to my husband and son for continually encouraging me, for giving me the space and support to do the long hours required and at a standard that I'm happy with - I recognise and acknowledge the behind the scenes things that you have done to help me to be able to do my role, so thank you very much to my family.

As Mayor I committed doing my best to getting out to all our townships and communities, to ensure your voice is heard right across Council.

During this time I've attended many wonderful community celebrations in particular the Volunteer appreciation evening and a highlight was the silent disco. We've had some amazing Citizenship ceremonies, and also the opening launch of the Diamond Creek Trail. There has been official openings, committee meetings, friends of group days, tours of facilities, wildlife adventures, environment and sustainability sessions, and it's all been a privilege - and an honour to meet so many in our community and hear about your dreams and aspirations as well as your concerns.

We have declared a Climate Emergency this year, implemented a dedicated Youth Strategy, and held the first inaugural Youth Summit – all of which I am very proud of. We have started our journey with the Neighbourhood Character Strategy and that's really important, not just to me but to our community.

The role isn't all about fun events, there is audit and risk, financials and budgeting, planning matters, traffic management and infrastructure and the need also to stay solvent.

Council relies on funding support from both state and federal governments to meet the needs of our community. With the federal election in May this year and a state election this month, a key focus has been our ongoing advocacy on a broad spectrum of issues ranging from further pandemic recovery support, mental health, to new infrastructure investment. It's been a busy year for advocacy and I'm pleased we've done it well.

Nillumbik has been very successful with grants this year over many different categories too, and the completion of the much-loved and heavily utilised Diamond Creek Trail and also the Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre were officially opened just to mention a few. This year we saw so many more launches that were held over and celebrations from different community groups because they were impacted by lockdown. Being selected as 1 of 10 Mayors from Victoria to sit on the Local Government Mayoral Advisory Panel has been an amazing opportunity – to be able to share Nillumbik's needs as Carl has mentioned some of the topics that were covered. To be able to feed this directly into the Local Government Ministers was really valuable and it was such an honour to be able to do that on behalf of Nillumbik. Being part of the Northern Council Alliance and the interface Councils has also been a privilege, not to mention getting to know my peers as well, the other Mayors and Councillors.

Not all projects that have been started in my Mayoral term have been completed but I hope to see them to fruition over the next few years, and I look forward to seeing our first Reconciliation Action Plan.

Projects don't need to be big and shiny, little projects can be just as meaningful for our community and I can't wait for the 3x3 basketball court to be completed in Alan Marshall Reserve. I know I keep talking about that but I'm really proud of having a 3x3 basketball court for Alan Marshall Reserve.

I look forward to continuing to advocate and support my community in 2023.

I know I will miss many parts of this role (not all), I will continue to be a strong advocate for Swipers Gully and of course continuing to keep the pressure on for Mental health support services, public transport to connect our rural townships, and the preservation of our Green Wedge.

I'm proud of what we've managed to achieve this year. I would like to thank our community for your passion, involvement, and constructive feedback in the different facets of civic life over the past year. And to my fellow Councillors, the CEO and Council staff especially Executive Services, my sincerest thanks for your efforts in what have been, and continue to be, challenging times.

So thank you and I wish everyone in our community a safe and wonderful festive season and hope that you can have a well-earned break over the coming months.

Acknowledgement of the outgoing Deputy Mayor Cr Ben Ramcharan

I would like to also acknowledge our outgoing Deputy Mayor Cr Ben Ramcharan.

Cr Ramcharan has been a great support to the Mayor over the past year, stepping in as required to represent Council at various Ministerial and community events.

In June of this year, Councillor Ramcharan attended the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly in Canberra with the Mayor, where they both advocated on important issues to the Nillumbik community.

As one of the youngest councillors, if not the youngest councillor Nillumbik has ever had, Cr Ramcharan has brought a new and refreshing perspective to Council.

He is a passionate advocate for the environment and for Youth and many other issues and has been Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee during an important year when we adopted our Climate Action Plan and declared a climate emergency.

Councillor Ramcharan's ongoing advocacy for the Green Wedge is also highly commendable.

On behalf of Council and all Officers, thank you very much for your work this past year. I would like you to come forward and receive a gift from Council and say a few words as outgoing Deputy Mayor.

Response from outgoing Deputy Mayor, Cr Ben Ramcharan

Thank you Carl for those lovely words. As outgoing Deputy Mayor, I'll keep it short because I think the outgoing Mayor Cr Eyre has really listed some of the achievements that we are most proud of and I'm certainly proud of the achievements that she listed so I don't want to go over that all over again. But it's really meant a lot to me to be Deputy Mayor of Nillumbik. I really love this community and this Shire as a whole. We have some of the most amazing places here in Nillumbik, which you don't really appreciate it until you show someone round and I showed some officers from the Place Making Team around my ward just the other day only using Google Maps, but it sort of makes you realise the really special places that we have here in Nillumbik. How lucky we are to call this place home.

So it's meant a huge amount to be Deputy Mayor of Nillumbik and I certainly learned a lot from Cr Eyre as the outgoing Mayor. Cr Eyre I really hope I've been able to support you well over the last year. I've learned a huge lot, a huge amount from watching you and I think one big thing I've learned it is really difficult to be Mayor. It's not an easy job. You don't just sit here at the front of the room chairing meetings once a month, there is so much work in between, Cr Eyre has held everything together behind the scenes all the little goings on and machinations of Council that are completely invisible

to most of the community. Cr Eyre is there keeping it all running smoothly or at least has been for last year and I think we can all really appreciate that.

In the meantime, she's been advocating for the Council on important issues that matter to the community as was mentioned before through Northern Councils Alliance, the Interface Group of Councils, and the Mayoral Advisory Panel, which must have had added a huge workload in your first year of Mayor. You still took that on, and I think, that was really commendable as well as also being present at a huge number of community events. I don't think there were many that you missed and I was more than happy to fill in for you at some of them because I could see that you really needed a rest because you were just doing so much.

I think one of the highlights for me was also the volunteer night and the silent disco was fantastic. I don't think I'll ever forget just standing there in the hall after we finished eating looking up at the stage and there's one person on the stage with the headset on green flashing lights nobody could hear the music, Cr Eyre was listening to, but she was standing on the stage dancing her heart out, and I think that that is really what made that silent disco go off and people might not have realised there was a silent disco in the next room if they hadn't seen the Mayor dancing with no music playing on stage, so you really did make that that event go off.

It's been a huge pleasure working with you, and I really look forward to the next year and seeing what we as a Council can achieve going forward and as Cr Eyre said all the plans and strategies that we put in place over the last two years it's now time to start implementing them and I'm really looking forward to seeing some results on the ground and I think it will be really rewarding for all of us because I know we've all put in a lot of work these last two years.

6. Appointment of a Second Temporary Chairperson

Council's Governance Rule – Election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor states that the Chief Executive Officer, as first temporary Chairperson, must invite nominations for a second temporary Chairperson, which do not need to be seconded.

The second temporary Chairperson will be responsible for chairing the Mayoral term.

The first temporary chairperson called for nominations.

Cr Geoff Paine nominated Cr Frances Eyre for the role of second temporary Chairperson.

In line with the Governance Rule – Election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, if there is only one nomination for the role of second temporary Chairperson, the candidate nominated is deemed to have been elected.

The first temporary chairperson declared Cr Frances Eyre elected for the role of second temporary Chairperson.

The second temporary Chairperson Cr Frances Eyre assumed the Chair.

7. **Mayoral Term**

In accordance with Section 26(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) a Council must before the election of the Mayor, determine by resolution whether the Mayor is to be elected for a 1 year or a 2 year term.

Nillumbik has traditionally elected a Mayor for a 1 year term.

Officer Recommendation

That Council resolves to elect the Mayor for a term of _____ year/s.

Motion

MOVED: Cr Geoff Paine
SECONDED: Cr Peter Perkins

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 Peter Perkins

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The second temporary Chairperson vacated the Chair and the Chief Executive Officer assumed the Chair for the Election of the Mayor.

8. 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, nominations must be seconded.

Cr Frances Eyre nominated Cr Ben Ramcharan for the Office of Mayor.

Cr Natalie Duffy seconded the nomination of Cr Ben Ramcharan.

Cr Ben Ramcharan accepted the nomination for the Office of Mayor.

Officer Recommendation

That Cr _____ be elected Mayor of Nillumbik Shire Council for the 2022/2023 Council year.

Motion

MOVED: Cr Frances Eyre

SECONDED: Cr Natalie Duffy

That Cr **Ben Ramcharan** be elected Mayor of Nillumbik Shire Council for the 2022/2023 Council year.

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

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr Frances Eyre

SECONDED: Cr Natalie Duffy

That Cr Ben Ramcharan be elected Mayor of Nillumbik Shire Council for the 2022/2023 Council year.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Mayor Cr Ben Ramcharan assumed the Chair.

9. 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.

On 7 March 2022, in accordance with section 23A of the *Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal and Improving Parliamentary Standards Act 2019* (Vic), the Tribunal made the Allowance payable to Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors (Victoria) Determination No. 01/2022.

The Determination applies to all Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors in all Victorian Councils.

In accordance with the determination the Deputy Mayor is not entitled to an additional allowance.

The Mayor calls for nominations for the office of Deputy Mayor, nominations do need to be seconded.

Nomination 1

Cr Peter Perkins nominated Cr Geoff Paine for the office of Deputy Mayor

Cr Frances Eyre seconded the nomination of Cr Geoff Paine.

Cr Geoff Paine accepted the nomination for the office of Deputy Mayor.

Nomination 2

Cr Natalie Duffy nominated Cr Natalie Duffy for the office of Deputy Mayor

Cr Richard Stockman seconded the nomination of Cr Natalie Duffy.

Cr Natalie Duffy accepted the nomination for the office of Deputy Mayor.

A vote was undertaken by show of hands for each nomination.

Cr Geoff Paine, 4 votes.

Cr Natalie Duffy, 2 votes.

Cr Geoff Paine received the majority of votes.

Officer Recommendation

That Cr _____ be elected Deputy Mayor of Nillumbik Shire Council for the 2022/2023 Council year.

Motion

MOVED: Cr Peter Perkins

SECONDED: Cr Frances Eyre

That Cr **Geoff Paine** be elected Deputy Mayor of Nillumbik Shire Council for the 2022/2023 Council year.

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

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr Peter Perkins

SECONDED: Cr Frances Eyre

That Cr Geoff Paine be elected Deputy Mayor of Nillumbik Shire Council for the 2022/2023 Council year.

CARRIED

10. 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 called for nominations for the Chairperson for Planning Matters.

Cr Natalie Duffy nominated Cr Peter Perkins for Chairperson for Planning Matters

Officer Recommendation

That Cr _____ to act as Chairperson for Planning Matters before the Planning and Consultation Committee for the 2023 Council year.

Motion

MOVED: Cr Natalie Duffy
SECONDED: Cr Geoff Paine

That Cr **Peter Perkins** to act as Chairperson for Planning Matters before the Planning and Consultation Committee for the 2023 Council year.

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

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr Natalie Duffy

SECONDED: Cr Geoff Paine

That Cr Peter Perkins to act as Chairperson for Planning Matters before the Planning and Consultation Committee for the 2023 Council year.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Mayor called for nominations for the Chairperson for Consultation Matters.

Cr Geoff Paine nominated Cr Frances Eyre for Chairperson for Planning Matters

Officer Recommendation

That Cr _____ to act as Chairperson for Consultation Matters before the Planning and Consultation Committee for the 2023 Council year.

Motion

MOVED: Cr Geoff Paine

SECONDED: Cr Peter Perkins

That Cr **Frances Eyre** to act as Chairperson for Consultation Matters before the Planning and Consultation Committee for the 2023 Council 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 Peter Perkins

That Cr Frances Eyre to act as Chairperson for Consultation Matters before the Planning and Consultation Committee for the 2023 Council year.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. 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 for the 2022/2023 Council year.

Officer Recommendation

That Council appoints Councillors as listed below as its representatives on Advisory Committees for the 2022/2023 Council year:

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

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr Frances Eyre

SECONDED: Cr Geoff Paine

That Council appoints Councillors as listed below as its representatives on Advisory Committees for the 2022/2023 Council year:

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

12. 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 2022/2023 Council year.

Officer Recommendation

That Council appoints Councillors as listed below as its delegates to external organisations for the 2022/2023 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
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)
Municipal Association of Victoria	Cr Cr (Proxy)
Nillumbik Reconciliation Group	Cr (Proxy) Cr <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 Proxy
Victorian Local Governance Association	Cr Cr (Proxy)

External Organisation	Councillor(s) appointed
Yarra Plenty Regional Library Board	Cr Cr Director Communities (Proxy)

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr Peter Perkins

SECONDED: Cr Richard Stockman

That Council appoints Councillors as listed below as its delegates to external organisations for the 2022/2023 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 Peter Perkins Cr Natalie Duffy
Eltham Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Cr Frances Eyre Deputy Mayor Cr Geoff Paine Cr Natalie Duffy
Hurstbridge Traders' Association	Cr Karen Egan Economic Development and Tourism Lead (Proxy)
Interface Councils Group	Mayor Cr Ben Ramcharan (Mayor of the day) Deputy Mayor Cr Geoff Paine (Deputy Mayor) (Proxy)
Metropolitan Transport Forum Inc.	Cr Richard Stockman Mayor Cr Ben Ramcharan (Proxy)
Municipal Association of Victoria	Cr Peter Perkins Cr Frances Eyre (Proxy)
Nillumbik Reconciliation Group	Cr Natalie Duffy Manager Community Partnerships (Proxy) <i>NRG will allow proxy to attend if Councillor Representative can't attend.</i>
Nillumbik Tourism and Business	Cr Peter Perkins Cr Richard Stockman (Proxy)
Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action	Deputy Mayor Cr Geoff Paine Mayor Cr Ben Ramcharan(Proxy)
Northern Council Alliance	Cr Ben Ramcharan (Mayor of the day) Cr Geoff Paine (Deputy Mayor) (Proxy)
Victorian Local Governance Association	Cr Frances Eyre Mayor Ben Ramcharan(Proxy)

External Organisation	Councillor(s) appointed
Yarra Plenty Regional Library Board	Cr Karen Egan Cr Natalie Duffy Director Communities (Proxy)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13. Delegated Committee(s) and Council meeting schedule for 2023

It is recommended the arrangements for the 2023 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 2023 meeting schedule listed in the table below is recommended.

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr Geoff Paine
SECONDED: Cr Richard Stockman

That Council adopts and advertises the Delegated Committee(s) and Council Meeting schedule for the 2023 Council year as listed below:

Delegated Committee	Council Meeting
14 February 2023	28 February 2023
14 March 2023	28 March 2023
11 April 2023	26 April 2023 (Wednesday)
9 May 2023	23 May 2023
13 June 2023	27 June 2023
11 July 2023	25 July 2023
8 August 2023	22 August 2023
12 September 2023	26 September 2023
10 October 2023	24 October 2023
14 November 2023	28 November 2023
	29 November 2023 (Election of Mayor)
	12 December 2023

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

14. Address by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor

The Mayor addressed the meeting as follows.

Address by the Mayor Cr Ben Ramcharan

I would like to just thank all of you for your support, it means a huge amount and what you said about me, it means along, which really helped me a lot in the work I have done over the last two years . It is never an easy job, it's frustrating. I say to many people, it is like banging my head against a brick wall sometimes, slowly I think that brick wall is starting to crack and things start to change and I think most of us probably do find that on Council and it is incredibly rewarding when you see change. So just being able to reflect on that and the words that were said about me, it really does mean a lot.

I am the youngest Mayor in Nillumbik. I believe the previous one was 27 when elected, so I am beating that by a year. I do think it is really important to have young people involved in politics to represent a different side of things and to bring a different perspective. So I am really, really pleased to be able to do that.

I'd like to thank my family, my parents and my sister who are in the room. You always supported me and I really wouldn't be sitting here now without you. I think your support over the last year has made it possible for me to be Deputy Mayor and I do hope that the next year doesn't put too much pressure on. I will be even more busy that I have been I am sure. So thank you for always being there for me and supporting me so much throughout my whole life and my time on Council as well.

I am really proud of the group of Councillors that we have got here. I think we work really well together when I see how some other Councils end up. It's okay to have different views in the room and we do, but we work collaboratively on all of them and we always seem to manage to respect each other's' opinions and come to an agreement that works for every body and I just think it's an honour to be part this Council and to worth with each and every single one of you in the interests of our community.

I really think that in our two years so far we have changed the direction of the organisation. It hasn't been easy and there is still a lot of work to do. Over time we have put in place plans and policies and have shown what our values are and I think that we are the Council who cares about the green wedge and about biodiversity and about action on climate change and about action on waste and supporting everybody in our community from all over the Shire. Not putting one area above the other, being a councillor for the whole of Nillumbik no matter which area you represent and I think that is incredibly important.

We set the strategy for the last two years and now it is time to implement it and that what the final two years of this term are about. There are going to be challenges. We certainly have issues with money as all councils do. Rate capping puts a lot of pressure on local government and it makes it difficult for us to do everything we want to do so we have to prioritise. We have to unfortunately cut some things out of the budget in order to fund things that really matter and those are the difficult decisions that we have to make as councillors.

We have difficulties with enforcement, and I think that rings true for a lot of the community who (not just in Nillumbik, but across councils across Victoria) and I think that's something we all need to work on together as a State and as a Council.

I think one thing that is affecting the sector and not just the Council sector but many sectors at the moment is shortfalls in staff and the difficulties in attracting good staff and I have so much appreciation for the staff that we have here at Council who do so much work.

Strategic Planners are in high demand at the moment which is difficult because we have a lot of really important strategic planning projects underway including our Neighbourhood Character Strategy, the Municipal Planning Strategy and a range of other things and to the team who are putting in a huge amount of work into that, with a number of staff down, thank you so much. They are key strategy projects for this Council and they need to be done and I know how hard it is to get that done when there are members of the team missing, because those skills are in high demand at the moment, so thank you.

I think I have got the daunting task now of moving my focus as Mayor, there really does need to be a focus on the whole Shire, more so than any other role on Council. You have to focus on the whole Shire and see the whole Shire as equal and see all the issues in all the wards which I know we all do but so far some of my biggest focuses have been in my ward, such as protecting land in Christmas Hills during the Melbourne Water land sales and trying to get a good planning outcome for the community there and I promise not to forget my Ward and the issues that people elected me to take action on. But I must extend my focus so that means not cutting out work for my ward but doing more work overall, which I am more than happy to do because as the Mayor that is my duty and I must do that for the sake of the whole Nillumbik Community because I am here to represent everyone.

I also need to stay true to the values that I was elected for and the platform that I put forward at the election including protecting our green wedge. Taking action on waste climate, safeguarding our wildlife, protecting neighbourhood character issues that I know our community cares about and that I'm really proud that we have a track record over the last two years of doing the right thing on those issues and I know we will continue to do that and I'm looking forward to my time as Mayor being able to be at the helm while this Council does the wonderful work that we have been doing so far.

So thank you all again for putting your trust in me, it really does mean a lot and I'm really looking forward to the year ahead and seeing what we can all achieve together.

The Deputy Mayor addressed the meeting as follows.

Address by Deputy Mayor Cr Geoff Paine

Thank you Mayor Ramcharan

Firstly I just want to thank all my fellow councillors for their support – we are here to work as a team, we disagree on many things but we in the end we have to work as a team. That's what I intend to keep on doing.

We get a lot of advice on council. The community spends a lot of time telling us how we can do our job better. A lot of advice is out there, emails, letters, some shouted from car windows and Facebook is an absolute front of advice on how we can do our job better. But it's been a steep learning curve – vertical sometimes over these past couple of years but as a group I think we are getting better as we go.

Very clearly there is a new kid on the block –and it's my job to back him up and support him and learn from him. So I am looking forward to working with Ben over the coming year and seeing what we can achieve together.

So thanks very much.

15. Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 7:56pm.

Confirmed: _____

Cr Ben Ramcharan, Mayor