

STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday 7 March 2022

Minutes of the Council Meeting of Strathfield Municipal Council held on 7 March 2022, in the Council Chambers, 65 Homebush Road, Strathfield.

COMMENCING: 6:00pm

PRESENT: Councillor Matthew Blackmore
Councillor Karen Pensabene
Councillor Benjamin Cai
Councillor Raj Datta
Councillor Nella Hall
Councillor Sharangan Maheswaran
Councillor Sandy Reddy

STAFF: Henry Wong, Chief Executive Officer
Anthony Hewton, GM, People Place & Civic Services
Stephen Clements, Deputy CEO and General Manager Planning, Environment and Urban Services
Melinda Aitkenhead, Director – Corporate and Financial Services
Francis Mangru, Executive Manager, Financial Services/Chief Financial Officer
David McQuade, Governance Manager

1. **OPENING:** The Prayer was read.

2. **RECOGNITION OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS:** The Recognition was read.

3. **APOLOGIES**

Nil.

4. **PECUNIARY INTEREST /CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Councillor Pensabene declared a non-significant, non-pecuniary interest for *Item 8.1 Mayoral Minute 3/22 - Lions Club Celebrating 75 Years*. Councillor Pensabene is a member of the Strathfield-Burwood Lions Club.

Councillor Cai declared a non-significant, non-pecuniary interest for *12.3 Parking Issues at Courallie Avenue*.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION:

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting meeting held on 1 February 2022, a copy of which has been furnished to each Councillor, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairman and General Manager be authorised to sign such minutes.

MOTION: (Pensabene / Datta)

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting meeting held on 1 February 2022, a copy of which has been furnished to each Councillor, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairman and General Manager be authorised to sign such minutes subject to the following amendment:

That Councillor Maheswaran's Conflict of Interest Declaration be amended to read:

Councillor Maheswaran declared a non-significant, non-pecuniary interest for *Item 12.10 Upgrade at the Junction of Underwood Road and Centenary Drive – Councillor Karen Pensabene*. Councillor Maheswaran has a professional client who owns property nearby to the intersection subject of this motion.

32/22

RESOLVED: (Pensabene / Datta)

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting meeting held on 1 February 2022, a copy of which has been furnished to each Councillor, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairman and General Manager be authorised to sign such minutes subject to the following amendment:

That Councillor Maheswaran's Conflict of Interest Declaration be amended to read:

Councillor Maheswaran declared a non-significant, non-pecuniary interest for *Item 12.10 Upgrade at the Junction of Underwood Road and Centenary Drive – Councillor Karen Pensabene*. Councillor Maheswaran has a professional client who owns property nearby to the intersection subject of this motion.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Pensabene, Cai, Datta, Hall, Maheswaran and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

6.1 NSW Flood Emergency – Councillor Matthew Blackmore

That Strathfield Council express our heartfelt concern for the people affected by the floods. Council offers technical assistance during recovery process of the crisis.

6.2 Acknowledgement to Ukraine – Councillor Karen Pensabene

On behalf of Strathfield Council to our Ukraine community that we are appalled at the situation occurring in Ukraine.

I attended a very moving service at the Ukrainian Church in Strathfield yesterday and we all prayed for strength, peace and unity for the Ukraine.

We, as a community here in Strathfield, will be prepared to help in any way possible. Many displaced relatives of our community will be arriving here soon, and we will need to be prepared to work with the church to show our compassion and lend a helping hand in any way possible,

If anyone would like to donate to the Save Ukraine Charity set up by the church, details can be found on their website. I would like to move that Strathfield Council donate an amount of money, \$5,000, be donated by Council.

6.3 Harmony Day – Councillor Karen Pensabene

We come together to celebrate Harmony Day on 21 March 2022. Created in 1999 to celebrate unity and diversity. Harmony Day was originally an Australian celebration but is now marked worldwide by conscientious citizens. Whether you want to be better friends with your neighbours or stand in the shoes of another, we've got some harmonious habits and unifying ideas to make your Harmony Day a picture of peace.

The theme for 2022 Everyone Belongs.

On behalf of Strathfield Council, we wish all our residents a Happy Harmony Day and whichever way you celebrate, that we show respect to all people who have come from different cultural backgrounds, that we all have different stories to tell and be supportive and respectful of your neighbours.

6.4 International Women's Day 2022 – Councillor Karen Pensabene

The theme for 2022 International Women's Day is Breaking the Bias.

The facts are evident as women clearly know that gender bias exists.

It is a reality and to a greater extent or lesser extent women experience gender bias every day. Women have been fighting for this change for an exceptionally long time, I have since the 70's.

There has been change, however, unequal pay, sexual harrassment and even outdated interview questions are still examples of the bias against women.

We as leaders, along with the State and Federal leaders are responsible for that change. What we focus on is what we can create, and without the support of all levels of government taking responsibility, we will not see the changes for our daughters and granddaughters.

Time has come for change and with the new direction of this Council is taking, I can assure our residents, we will be calling for implementing changes in this sector.

6.5 International Mother Language Day – Bengali Community – Councillor Raj Datta

That Council acknowledge and commemorate those in the Bengali community that had sacrificed to protect the right to speak in the Bengali national language. International Mother Language Day held on 21 February annually is supported by UNESCO and Council wishes to thank the Bengali community and support this initiative.

6.6 Hindu Council of Australia – Councillor Raj Datta

The Hindu Council of Australia has been around for over 40 years and as we know, there have been floods and people suffering. The Hindu Council of Australia has been helping communities across NSW including Lismore.

The Hindu Council of Australia is providing a tremendous service to the Indian sub-continent community but also the broader Australian community, providing help and disaster relief.

6.7 Nepalese Community – Councillor Raj Datta

A Charity event for donating wheelchairs for disabled children has been organised and I commend this contribution of the community and would like to acknowledge their contribution on behalf of Council.

6.8 Holy Festival – Councillor Sandy Reddy

I would like to acknowledge the Holy Festival that is celebrated throughout India and is held on 18 March 2022. The whole Strathfield community will be celebrating this event.

6.9 Friends of India Harvest Festival – Councillor Sandy Reddy

Friends of India Harvest Festival which was scheduled to be happening on 27 February 2022 was cancelled and today they have rescheduled the event for 26 March 2022. Invitations will be sent to Councillors tomorrow.

6.10 Friends of India and Health Professional Network – Women’s Health Seminar – Councillor Sandy Reddy

Friends of India and Health Professional Network both together are doing a seminar for women’s health which includes pregnancy, breast cancer, breast feeding, menopause and many more on 13 March 2022 which is open to the community to attend.

7. DEFERRED/OUTSTANDING MATTERS AWAITING REPORT

Nil.

8. MAYORAL MINUTE(S) IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL’S CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

8.1 Mayoral Minute 3/22 - Lions Club Celebrating 75 Years

33/22

RESOLVED: (Blackmore)

That Council:

1. Liaise with the Strathfield-Burwood Lions Club to find a suitable location within the Strathfield LGA for Council to provide a Lions Club Commemorative Garden. That the garden be installed prior to the 75-year Anniversary in September 2022.
2. That a report be prepared to an upcoming Councillor Workshop with prominent location options and any budgetary implications.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Pensabene, Cai, Datta, Hall, Maheswaran and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

The Mayor moved a Matter of Urgency, to be dealt with before the next Council Meeting, a MAYORAL MINUTE - 4/22 CONFIDENTIAL STAFF MATTER and requested that the Meeting proceed into Closed Session.

CLOSED SESSION

34/22

RESOLVED: (Blackmore)

That in accordance with Section 10A(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1993* the following matter be considered in Closed Session for the reason stated:

8.2 Mayoral Minute 4/22 - Senior Staff Matter

This matter is being considered in Closed Session as it relates to personnel matters concerning a particular individual (other than councillors) and on balance, the public interest in preserving confidentiality of personnel information outweighs the public interest in openness and transparency in Council decision making by discussing the matter in open meeting.

The meeting commenced Closed Session at 6:21pm.

The meeting commenced Open Sessions at 6:58pm.

OPEN COUNCIL RESUMED

Councillor Hall returned to the meeting at 6.58pm

Councillor Cai returned to the meeting at 6.58pm

8.2 Mayoral Minute 4/22 – Senior Staff Matter

35/22

RESOLVED: (Blackmore)

As resolved in Closed Session.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Pensabene, Datta, Maheswaran and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

9. COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR (SUBMITTED IN WRITING IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL'S CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE)

Nil.

10. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil.

11. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

11.1 Report from Traffic Committee Meeting held on 15 February 2022

36/22

RESOLVED: (Pensabene / Reddy)

That the minutes of the Traffic Committee meeting held on 15 February 2022 be noted and the recommendations be adopted.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Pensabene, Cai, Datta, Hall, Maheswaran and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

12. MOTIONS PURSUANT TO NOTICE

12.1 Support for Referendum to Amend Australian Constitution – Councillor Raj Datta

MOVED:

That Strathfield Council writes to the State Government of NSW by 30 April 2022, requesting it to write to the Federal Government confirming it is: *"Supportive of the proposal of the referendum to amend the Australian constitution to give the Australian Federal Government the power to fund Local Governments and to enshrine people's rights to democratically elect their Council"*, as it promised to the Local Government and Shires Association before the 2011 State election and also request that it undertakes a state wide civil campaign to inform the public on the proposed Constitutional changes to recognise Local Government and its benefits.

MOTION: (Datta / Hall)

1. That Strathfield Council writes to the State Government of NSW by 30 April 2022, requesting it to write to the Federal Government confirming it is: *"Supportive of the proposal of the referendum to amend the Australian constitution to give the Australian Federal Government the power to fund Local Governments and to enshrine people's rights to democratically elect their Council"*, as it promised to the Local Government and Shires Association before the 2011 State election and also request that it undertakes a state wide civil campaign to inform the public on the proposed Constitutional changes to recognise Local Government and its benefits.
2. That Council submit a Motion for the National General Assembly of Local Government by Friday 25 March 2022 "requesting that the Australian Federal Government hold a referendum to amend the Australian Constitution to give the Australian Federal Government the power to fund Local Governments and to enshrine people's rights to democratically elect their Council" as promised at the Local Government and Shires Association Conference before the 2011 State election.

37/22

RESOLVED: (Datta / Hall)

1. That Strathfield Council writes to the State Government of NSW by 30 April 2022, requesting it to write to the Federal Government confirming it is: *"Supportive of the proposal of the referendum to amend the Australian constitution to give the Australian Federal Government the power to fund Local Governments and to enshrine people's rights to democratically elect their Council"*, as it promised to the Local Government and Shires Association before the 2011 State election and also request that it undertakes a state wide civil campaign to inform the public on the proposed Constitutional changes to recognise Local Government and its benefits.
2. That Council submit a Motion for the National General Assembly of Local Government by Friday 25 March 2022 "requesting that the Australian Federal Government hold a referendum to amend the Australian Constitution to give the Australian Federal Government the power to fund Local Governments and to enshrine people's rights to democratically elect their Council" as promised at the Local Government and Shires Association Conference before the 2011 State election.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Pensabene, Cai, Datta, Hall, Maheswaran and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

12.2 Private Certification – Councillor Raj Datta

MOVED:

1. That Strathfield Council writes to the State Government by 30 May 2022, asking it to review its policy on private certification of residential developments as it has been causing great distress and financial suffering to many residents across NSW.
2. That the Council Officers prepare a brief for Councillors updating Councillors of Council's view on this issue and any limitations on Council's abilities to inspect and enforce DA conditions of consent which are not being met and present it to the Council at its May 2022 meeting.

MOTION: (Datta / Pensabene)

1. That Strathfield Council writes to the State Government by 30 May 2022, asking it to review its policy on private certification of residential developments as it has been causing great distress and financial suffering to many residents across NSW.
2. That the Council Officers prepare a brief for Councillors updating Councillors of Council's view on this issue and any limitations on Council's abilities to inspect and enforce DA conditions of consent which are not being met and present it to the Council at its May 2022 meeting.
3. That Council prepares a brief that includes the parliamentary brief into Private Certifiers.

38/22

RESOLVED: (Datta / Pensabene)

1. That Strathfield Council writes to the State Government by 30 May 2022, asking it to review its policy on private certification of residential developments as it has been causing great distress and financial sufferings to many residents across NSW.
2. That the Council Officers prepare a brief for Councillors updating Councillors of Council's view on this issue and any limitations on Council's abilities to inspect and enforce DA conditions of consent which are not being met and present it to the Council at its May 2022 meeting.
3. That Council prepares a brief that includes the parliamentary brief into Private Certifiers.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Pensabene, Datta, Hall, Maheswaran

Against the Motion: Councillor Cai and Reddy

12.3 Parking Issues at Courallie Avenue – Councillor Raj Datta

MOVED:

That Council prepares a comprehensive plan for addressing the reasonable parking issues at the Courallie Avenue precinct and present it to the Council at its June 2022 meeting.

MOTION: (Datta / Hall)

That Council write to all residents in the Centenary Park precinct to notify residents that the road in this area is a private road and is controlled by Strata and that Council has no control over parking issues in the Centenary Park precinct. Residents are advised to contact the Strata Management to organise parking arrangements for the residents.

39/22

RESOLVED: (Datta / Hall)

That Council write to all residents in the Centenary Park precinct to notify residents that the road in this area is a private road and is controlled by Strata and that Council has no control over parking issues in the Centenary Park precinct. Residents are advised to contact the Strata Management to organise parking arrangements for the residents.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Pensabene, Cai, Datta, Hall, Maheswaran and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

12.4 Illumination of Pathway that Connects Airey Park and Melville Reserve – Councillor Raj Datta

40/22

RESOLVED: (Datta / Hall)

That Council organise appropriate illumination of the pathway that connects Airey Park to Melville Reserve and provide a report to inform the Council by May 2022 when this task to address the residents' safety concerns might be completed.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Pensabene, Cai, Datta, Hall, Maheswaran and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

12.5 Fostering of the Arts to Tackle Graffiti – Councillor Sandy Reddy

MOVED:

1. That a report, including costs be provided to the April 2022 Council Meeting on tackling unwanted graffiti by fostering legitimate creative expression and art on buildings in the Strathfield Council.
2. The report should include but not limited to, details of Wall2Wall Mural Competition and the “Perfect Match” initiative by the Inner West Council and similar programs in other Council areas in Sydney and other capital cities as well as any programs run by any community groups.

MOTION (Reddy / Pensabene):

1. That a report, including costs be provided to the April 2022 Council Meeting on tackling unwanted graffiti by fostering legitimate creative expression and art on buildings in the Strathfield Council.
2. The report should include but not limited to, details of Wall2Wall Mural Competition and the “Perfect Match” initiative by the Inner West Council and similar programs in other Council areas in Sydney and other capital cities as well as any programs run by any community groups.
3. That Council officers report to Council on the performance of Council’s graffiti removal programme and investigate the use of graffiti proof paint in areas not designated for street art/murals in conjunction with private owners in our town centres.

41/22

RESOLVED: (Reddy / Pensabene)

1. That a report, including costs be provided to the April 2022 Council Meeting on tackling unwanted graffiti by fostering legitimate creative expression and art on buildings in the Strathfield Council Local Government Area.
2. The report should include but not limited to, details of Wall2Wall Mural Competition and the “Perfect Match” initiative by the Inner West Council and similar programs in other Council areas in Sydney and other capital cities as well as any programs run by any community groups.
3. That Council officers are to report to Council on the performance of Council’s graffiti removal programme and investigate the use of graffiti proof paint in areas not designated for street art/murals in conjunction with private owners in our town centres.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Pensabene, Cai, Datta, Hall, Maheswaran and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

13. GENERAL BUSINESS

CS1 Current Status of Council Resolutions

42/22

RESOLVED: (Pensabene / Hall)

That the report on the current status of Council resolutions be noted.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Pensabene, Cai, Datta, Hall, Maheswaran and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

CS2 Quarterly Budget Review as at 31 December 2021

43/22

RESOLVED: (Datta / Maheswaran)

The Budget Review Statement for quarter ending 31 December 2021 be received and adopted.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Pensabene, Cai, Datta, Hall, Maheswaran and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

CS3 Investement Report - January 2022

44/22

RESOLVED: (Hall / Reddy)

That the record of cash investments as at 31 January 2022 be received and noted.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Pensabene, Cai, Datta, Hall, Maheswaran and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

DEU1 Strathfield Council Options For A Circular Economy

45/22

RESOLVED: (Hall / Datta)

That Council:

1. Receive and note the report;
2. Continue its extensive waste education program, and
3. Work towards zero waste by 2036.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Pensabene, Cai, Datta, Hall, Maheswaran and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

DEU2 Strathfield Council Carbon Footprint

46/22

RESOLVED: (Reddy / Datta)

That;

1. Council note that is an active member of Resilient Sydney and is working with other metro councils on a pathway toward a 46% emission reduction target by 2036.
2. No additional budget allocation is required at the moment to fund further studies.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Pensabene, Cai, Datta, Hall, Maheswaran and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

DEU3 Electric Vehicles

47/22

RESOLVED: (Reddy / Pensabene)

That Council receive and note the report.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Pensabene, Cai, Datta, Hall, Maheswaran and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

DEU4 Cooks River Corridor - South Strathfield: Water Sensitive Urban Design

48/22

RESOLVED: (Reddy / Pensabene)

That Council receive and note the report.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Pensabene, Cai, Datta, Hall, Maheswaran and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

DEU5 Homebush West Traffic Study

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the report.

MOTION: (Maheswaran / Reddy)

That the report be referred back to Council officers for details of quotes from engineering firms that have been sought and the Terms of Reference on which these quotes were sought.

49/22

RESOLVED: (Maheswaran / Reddy)

That the report be referred back to Council officers for details of quotes from engineering firms that have been sought and the Terms of Reference on which these quotes were sought.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Pensabene, Cai, Datta, Hall, Maheswaran and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

DEU6 Safety Outdoor Dining

50/22

RESOLVED: (Hall / Datta)

That Council receive and note the report.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Pensabene, Cai, Datta, Hall, Maheswaran and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

DEU7 Night Time Safety Lighting at Pedestrian Crossings

51/22

RESOLVED: (Hall / Pensabene)

That Council note the update on the provision for lighting to pedestrian crossings.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Pensabene, Cai, Datta, Hall, Maheswaran and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

DEU8 Flag/Banner Holders in Strathfield LGA Shopping Centres and Outside Community Buildings

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council install Flag/Banner holders at sites provided in report.

2. Funding for these banner poles to be considered in future budget for next financial year 2022/23.

MOTION: (Reddy / Pensabene)

1. That Council install Flag/Banner holders at sites provided in report.
2. Funding for these banner poles to be considered in future budget for next financial year 2022/23.
3. To review locations and pole numbers for each location and discuss installation plans and specifications (including labour and supply costs) at a future Councillor Workshop.

52/22

RESOLVED: (Reddy / Pensabene)

1. That Council install Flag/Banner holders at sites provided in report.
2. Funding for these banner poles to be considered in future budget for next financial year 2022/23.
3. To review locations and pole numbers for each location and discuss installation plans and specifications (including labour and supply costs) at a future Councillor Workshop.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Pensabene, Cai, Datta, Hall, Maheswaran and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

14. MATTERS OF URGENCY IN ACCORDANCE WITH CLAUSE 241 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT GENERAL REGULATION, 2005

Nil.

15. CLOSED SESSION

Nil.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8:14pm.

The foregoing Minutes were confirmed at the meeting of the Council of the Municipality of Strathfield on 5 April 2022.

Chairman _____

General Manager _____