

STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday 6 June 2023

6:30pm

Ironbark Room, Strathfield Council

Library and Innovation Hub

65-67 Rochester Street, Strathfield

Minutes of the Council Meeting of Strathfield Municipal Council held on 6 June 2023, in the Ironbark Room, Strathfield Council, Library and Innovation Hub, 65-67 Rochester Street, Strathfield.

COMMENCING: 6:30pm

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

STAFF: Michael Mamo, General Manager
Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community
Clare Harley, Director Planning and Environment
Cathy Edwards-Davis, Director Engineering and Operations
Don Johnston, Chief Financial Officer
Melissa Mallos, General Counsel
Warwick Lawrence, Manager Governance and Risk
Jack Britton, Senior Coordinator Governance and Risk
David McQuade, Senior Governance Officer

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

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

3. **APOLOGIES**

Councillor Maheswaran.

4. **DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST (NATURE OF INTEREST TO BE DISCLOSED)**

Councillor Hall declared a Non-Pecuniary/Significant conflict of interest for item *CCS9 Small Grant Report – Rotary Club of Strathfield* and will manage the conflict of interest by leaving the meeting during discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Hall declared that she is a member of the Rotary Club of Strathfield board.

Councillor Datta declared a Non-Pecuniary/Significant conflict of interest for item *EO2 Proposed Closure of Exeter Road, Homebush West* and will manage the conflict of interest by leaving the meeting during discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Datta declared that he lives in close proximity to the subject location.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

5.1 Suburb Name Change from Belfield to Strathfield South - Councillor Nella Hall

I wish to acknowledge the Councillors in the previous and current terms of Council for the successful suburb name change from Belfield to Strathfield South. It has been a long process that started during last term of Council. Councillors have been supportive and staff have done a great job following up.

5.2 2023 NSW Local Government Excellence Awards - Councillor Karen Pensabene

I wish to acknowledge and congratulate our Library Team and our Open Space Team for their nominations in the 2023 NSW Local Government Excellence Awards held this past week.

Our Library Team was nominated for the innovative work on creating extended library hours for our residents. The hours have now increased to 84.5 hours per week. Staffed 53 hours, and extended 51.5 hours.

An amazing result from our Library staff and even though we didn't win, I am sure we all recognize their continued work making our Library an especially important part of our community.

Our Open Space team were nominated in the Organisational Diversity and Inclusion category for diversity in their team.

Well done to both our teams and we look forward to many more nominations next year.

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

133/23

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Reddy)

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 2 May 2023, 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 Chairperson and General Manager be authorised to sign such minutes.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

134/23

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Reddy)

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 9 May 2023, 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 Chairperson and General Manager be authorised to sign such minutes.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

7. MAYORAL MINUTE(S) IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL'S CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

7.1 Mayoral Minute 19/23 - Damaging Increase in Emergency Services Levy Costs

135/23

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Hall)

1. Council notes and supports representations we have made to the Treasurer, the Minister for Emergency Services, the Minister for Local Government and local State Member(s):
 - a) Expressing Council's strong opposition to the NSW Government's last-minute decision to impose an enormous Emergency Services Levy (ESL) cost increase on Councils for 2023/24 by scrapping the ESL subsidy for councils and at a time after Council has publicly advertised its Operational Plan and annual budget to the community;
 - b) Noting that as a consequence of the unannounced 73 per cent increase in the State Emergency Service budget and an 18 per cent increase in the Fire and Rescue NSW budget, Council's 3.7 per cent rate increase to provide essential community services and infrastructure has been significantly eroded;
 - c) Advising that the Government's decision may/will lead to a reduction in important local services and/or the cancellation of necessary infrastructure projects; and
 - d) Calling on the NSW Government to take immediate action to:
 - i. restore the ESL subsidy in 2023/2024
 - ii. urgently introduce legislation to decouple the ESL from the rate peg to enable Councils to recover the full cost
 - iii. develop a fairer, more transparent, and financially sustainable method of funding

critically important emergency services in consultation with local government.

2. Council notes that we have written to the Chair of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) advising that Council's forced emergency services contribution is manifestly disproportionate to the 2023/2024 rate cap, which has resulted in additional financial stress.
3. Council notes that we have written to the President of LGNSW seeking the Association's ongoing advocacy to bring about a relief in the burden of Councils' emergency services contribution.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

7.2 Mayoral Minute 17/23 - Leading a Reform Agenda on Waste

136/23

RESOLVED: (Reddy / Hall)

That Council note:

1. Councils have a key role to play in reducing waste and its impact on the environment.
2. Across the Sydney metropolitan area, 55 per cent of household and commercial waste goes to landfill each year, resulting in loss of valuable resources, costing businesses and households more than \$750 million in waste levies each year.

Council resolves to:

3. Work with other Sydney Councils on:
 - a. Reducing waste,
 - b. Improving environmental outcomes where waste has to be processed and
 - c. Finding solutions for the residue that is left.
4. Ask the NSW Government to invest the revenue from its waste levy for council and industry initiatives that:
 - a. Accelerate the transition to a circular economy.
 - b. Build the waste infrastructure needed to meet the growing pressures of population growth, loss of landfill capacity and a lack of competition in the sector.
 - c. Educate and support communities to reduce waste.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

7.3 Mayoral Minute 18/23 - Targeted Waste Education and Awareness Program

137/23

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Hall)

That Council:

1. Develop and deliver a targeted waste education and awareness campaign to educate and guide residents on;
 - Council services; bulky clean-up collection and how to utilise the online booking service,
 - Utilise recycling, donation and/ or repair services for unwanted items or items in disrepair,
 - Explanation and implementation of the mandated new 'Food Organics, Garden Organics' (FOGO) waste stream.
2. Give consideration to the allocation of funding from the Domestic Waste Reserve in the 2023/24 financial year budget to be adopted on 27 June 2023 for the cost of the program.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

8. ITEMS BY EXCEPTION

Items by Exception

138/23

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Reddy)

That in accordance with Section 13 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice the items below be dealt with by exception and that they be adopted as recommended by a single Motion:

- GMU1 Draft Bressington Park Plan of Management
(Note: That the Purpose of the Report be corrected to read 'At the Council Meeting of 7 March 2023' not At the Council Meeting 6 June 2023)
- GMU2 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup Live Site
- CCS1 Mayoral and Councillor Annual Fees
- CCS2 Sundry Debtor Write Offs
- CCS3 Investment Report - April 2023
- CCS4 Tenders Advertised and Awarded April and May 2023

- CCS5 Current Status of Council Resolutions
- CCS6 Working with the Community Churches and Organisations
- CCS7 Small Grant Application - Marian Court
- CCS8 Small Grant Application - Ms Victoria MacFarlane
- CCS10 Small Grant Application - Homebush West Public School P&C
- CCS11 Councillor Workshop 30 May 2023
- EO1 Draft Public Space Advertising Policy
- 11.1 Report from Multicultural and Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting on 10 May 2023
- 12.1 Indian Independence Day - Councillor Raj Datta
- 12.3 Uluru Statement from the Heart and Proposed Referendum - Councillor Nella Hall
- 12.4 Establishing a Review Panel for Rejected Applications under Part O of the Strathfield Development Control Plan 2005 – Councillor Matthew Blackmore
- 12.5 Poker Machines in Strathfield Town Centre - the Social and Economic Harm to Strathfield Residents - Councillor Matthew Blackmore
- 12.6 Developing Homebush West Shopping Centre - Councillor Benjamin Cai

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

Against the Motion: Nil

GMU1 Draft Bressington Park Plan of Management

139/23

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Reddy)

That the draft Plan of Management for Bressington Park be adopted.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

GMU2 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup Live Site

140/23

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Reddy)

1. Council host a live site, pending licensing approval from Optus, at Strathfield Square to screen the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup games which involve Australia and the semi-finals, third place final and final.
2. Consideration be given to allocating a budget of \$62,000 for the setup of the live site for up to 8 screenings as part of adopting the 2023/2024 Budget at the Extra-Ordinary Council meeting to be held on 27 June 2023.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS1 Mayoral and Councillor Annual Fees

141/23

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Reddy)

That Council, in accordance with Sections 248 and 249 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, adopt the maximum annual fees payable to the Councillors and Mayor effective from 1 July 2023 for a Metropolitan Small Council as per the determination of the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal (April 2023) being:

- Councillors \$21,730
- Mayor \$47,390

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS2 Sundry Debtor Write Offs

142/23

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Reddy)

That Council write off the following debts:

1. \$535,635.68 – indexation amount of developer contribution – Debtor 31479
2. \$24,634.00 – structural integrity of an awning – Debtor 32875

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS3 Investment Report - April 2023

143/23

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Reddy)

That the record of cash investments as at 30 April 2023 be received and noted.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS4 Tenders Advertised and Awarded April and May 2023

144/23

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Reddy)

That Council tenders advertised and awarded in April and May 2023 be received and noted.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS5 Current Status of Council Resolutions

145/23

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Reddy)

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

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS6 Working with the Community Churches and Organisations

146/23

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Reddy)

That Council note the update provided in this report.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS7 Small Grant Application - Marian Court

147/23

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Reddy)

That Council approve the Small Grant Application from the Environment Group of Marian Court Residents Committee.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS8 Small Grant Application - Ms Victoria MacFarlane

148/23

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Reddy)

That Council approve \$1,200 to be provided to Ms Victoria MacFarlane in relation to a Small Grant Application.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS10 Small Grant Application - Homebush West Public School P&C

149/23

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Reddy)

That Council approves the Small Grant Application from Homebush West Public School P&C.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS11 Councillor Workshop 30 May 2023

150/23

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Reddy)

That the report be received and noted.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

EO1 Draft Public Space Advertising Policy

151/23

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Reddy)

1. That Council place the draft Public Space Advertising Policy on public exhibition.
2. That should Council receive negligible feedback, that Council delegate for the General Manager to finalise the Public Space Advertising Policy.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

11.1 Report from Multicultural and Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting on 10 May 2023

152/23

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Reddy)

That the Minutes of the Multicultural and Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting held on 10 May 2023 be noted and the recommendations be adopted.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

12.1 Indian Independence Day – Councillor Raj Datta

153/23

RESOLVED ON THE NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR RAJ DATTA

Moved by: (Blackmore / Reddy)

1. That Council approves instituting the ceremony of raising the Indian flag in front of the Strathfield Council each year at a suitable date around the 15 August 2023, India's Independence Day, to celebrate India's Independence Day which falls on the 15 August 2023.
2. That the Indian coloured lights be turned on at Council Chambers over a week covering the 15 of August 2023.
3. That community members and appropriate dignitaries are invited to attend the annual event and light refreshments are provided.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

12.3 Uluru Statement from the Heart and Proposed Referendum – Councillor Nella Hall

154/23

RESOLVED ON THE NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR HALL

Moved by: (Blackmore / Reddy)

That Council no longer offer a venue free of charge for representatives (for or against) the Uluru Statement from the Heart and proposed Referendum.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

12.4 Establishing a Review Panel for Rejected Applications under Part O of the Strathfield Development Control Plan 2005 – Councillor Matthew Blackmore

155/23

RESOLVED ON THE NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEW BLACKMORE

Moved by: (Blackmore / Reddy)

That a report be provided back to Council which considers:

1. The establishment of a review process for rejected applications under Part O of the Strathfield Consolidated Development Control Plan 2005.
2. The establishment of an internal Council Officer peer assessment Panel for the purpose of undertaking reviews of rejected applications made in relation to Part O of the Strathfield Consolidated Development Control Plan 2005.
3. The composition of the panel comprising of Council Officers only.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

12.5 Poker Machines in Strathfield Town Centre - the Social and Economic Harm to Strathfield Residents – Councillor Matthew Blackmore

156/23

RESOLVED ON THE NOTICE MOTION BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEW BLACKMORE

Moved by: (Blackmore / Reddy)

1. Council writes to the Hon. Chris Minns MP - Premier of NSW, the Hon. David Harris MP – Minister for Gaming and Racing, the Hon. Ron Hoenig MP - Minister for Local Government to demand that Section 209 of the Gaming Machines Act 2001 be amended to be in line with Section 8A of the Local Government Act 1993 so that Strathfield Council is not neglecting its responsibility to residents.
2. Council strongly opposes the approval of Poker Machines being installed in the Strathfield Town Centre because Poker Machines will build a gambling culture in Strathfield CBD and will cause social and economic harm to the residents of Strathfield.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

12.6 Developing Homebush West Shopping Centre – Councillor Benjamin Cai

157/23

RESOLVED ON THE NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR BENJAMIN CAI

Moved by: (Blackmore / Reddy)

That a report be provided to Council outlining options for activating public spaces in the Homebush West retail village in support of economic activity.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

9. PUBLIC FORUM

Mrs Teresa Le Strange addressed the meeting to discuss record management and various traffic/parking matters.

10. REPORTS TO COUNCIL

Councillor Hall declared a Non-Pecuniary/Significant conflict of interest for item *CCS9 Small Grant Report – Rotary Club of Strathfield* and left the meeting, the time being 6:58pm.

CCS9 Small Grant Report - Rotary Club of Strathfield

158/23

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Reddy)

That Council approves the small grant application from Rotary Club of Strathfield to the amount of \$2,500 to support their Vocational Excellence and Youth Awards.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

Councillor Hall returned to the meeting, the time being 6:59pm.

Councillor Datta declared a Non-Pecuniary/Significant conflict of interest for item *EO2 Proposed Closure of Exeter Road, Homebush West* and left the meeting, the time being 6:59pm.

EO2 Proposed Closure of Exeter Road, Homebush West

159/23

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Reddy)

That Council adopt the recommendation as outlined in the Confidential Attachment.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

Recommittal - EO2 Proposed Closure of Exeter Road, Homebush West

160/23

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Reddy)

That item EO2 Proposed Closure of Exeter Road, Homebush West be recommitted as the item will need to be discussed in Closed Session.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

Closed Session

161/23

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Reddy)

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

EO2 Proposed Closure of Exeter Road, Homebush West

In accordance with Section 10A (2) (c) of the *Local Government Act 1993* this matter will be considered in Closed Session as it relates to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

The meeting moved into Closed Session, the time being 7:02pm.

Open Session

162/23

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Cai)

That Council move into Open Session.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

The meeting moved into Open Session, the time being 7:05pm.

Open Council Resumed

EO2 Proposed Closure of Exeter Road, Homebush West

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt the recommendation as outlined in the Confidential Attachment.

MOTION: (Pensabene / Reddy)

That Council not proceed with the Deed of Lease.

163/23

RESOLVED: (Pensabene / Reddy)

That Council not proceed with the Deed of Lease.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

11. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Councillor Datta returned to the meeting, the time being 7:06pm.

11.2 Report from Traffic Committee Meeting on 16 May 2023

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Traffic Committee Meeting held on 16 May 2023 be noted and the recommendations be adopted.

MOTION: (Hall / Reddy)

That the Minutes of the Traffic Committee Meeting held on 16 May 2023 be noted and the recommendations be adopted excluding recommendations for Item *6.2 Homebush Road, Strathfield – Extended 'No Stopping' Hours (East Side) North of Liverpool Road* and that no change be made at this location (P.329 – 333).

164/23

RESOLVED: (Hall / Reddy)

That the Minutes of the Traffic Committee Meeting held on 16 May 2023 be noted and the recommendations be adopted excluding recommendations for Item *6.2 Homebush Road, Strathfield – Extended 'No Stopping' Hours (East Side) North of Liverpool Road* and that no change be made at this location (P.329 – 333).

For the Motion: Councillors Cai, Datta, Hall and Reddy

Against the Motion: Councillors Blackmore and Pensabene

12. MOTIONS PURSUANT TO NOTICE

12.2 Councillors Expenses and Facilities Policy – Councillor Raj Datta

165/23

RESOLVED: (Datta / Reddy)

That the General Manager provide a report outlining the following:

The adjustment of clause 2.2.47, Home office expenses, so that each Councillor may be reimbursed for costs associated with the maintenance of a home office, up to \$1,500 per year (as it is currently), with an adjustment to the definition of home office to include, printers, book shelf and home office chair, or similar items that are genuinely required for setting up and maintaining a home office for Council and Councillor related work.

For the Motion: Councillors Cai, Datta, Hall and Reddy

Against the Motion: Councillors Blackmore and Pensabene

13. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil.

14. MATTERS OF URGENCY

Nil.

15. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Nil.

16. CONCLUSION OF MEETING

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7:27pm.

The foregoing Minutes were confirmed at the meeting of the Council of the Municipality of Strathfield on 4 July 2023.

Chairperson



General Manager

