

STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday 23 July 2024

6:30pm

Council Chambers

65 Homebush Road, Strathfield



Minutes of the Council Meeting of Strathfield Municipal Council held on 23 July 2024, in the Council Chambers, 65 Homebush Road, Strathfield.

COMMENCING: 6:30pm

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

STAFF: Michael Mamo, General Manager
Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community
Clare Harley, Director Planning and Environment
Cathy Edwards-Davis, Director Engineering and Operations
Dylan Porter, Manager, Planning and Place
Rodney Sanjivi, Chief Financial Officer
Cathy Jones, Chief Strategy Officer
David McQuade, Senior Governance Officer

1. **MOMENT OF REFLECTION:** The Prayer was read.
2. **RECOGNITION OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS:** The Recognition was read.
3. **APOLOGIES AND APPLICATION FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**
Nil.
4. **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST (NATURE OF INTEREST TO BE DISCLOSED)**

Councillor Blackmore declared a Non-Significant/Non-Pecuniary conflict of interest for item 10.3 *Report on Council Resolutions that are Considered in Development Application Recommendations in the Planning Process* and managed the conflict of interest by leaving the meeting during discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Blackmore declared that he has a Non-Significant/Non-Pecuniary relationship with a

proponent of one of the development applications listed under point 'd' and has a Pecuniary interest with a person having sold a property in one of the subject areas listed under point 'd'.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

5.1 Winter Warmer in the Square – Councillor Karen Pensabene

I'd like to congratulate our Communications and Open Space Teams for the wonderful work they did at the Winter Warmer Event last Saturday. It was an absolutely brilliant event. It was so crowded at Strathfield Square and the addition of the market stalls were really enjoyed by people. The teams worked very hard and showed their dedication from 7am in the morning until 9pm in the evening.

Councillor Blackmore arrived at the meeting, the time being 6:34pm.

5.2 Consul-General of Japan Departure - Councillor Karen Pensabene

I'd also like to make a special Acknowledgement to the Consul-General of Japan in Sydney who will be leaving his role in mid-August. Mr Tokuda Shuichi has been posted to Russia. We have totally enjoyed Tokuda's company when he has invited us to his residence and we wish him and his wife a very happy and fruitful future and he will always be very special and welcome anytime in Strathfield. Tokuda's replacement will be appointed in October and we look forward to working with the new Consul-General of Japan.

5.3 Chariots Festival – Councillor Raj Datta

I would like to acknowledge the Chariots Festival celebrated by BAPS Shamina Temple and Urdishanas in the last weekend. I appreciate there are thousands of people involved in the celebrations and they put in a lot of effort to organise these events. The celebrations promote these values and multiculturalism in Australian society.

5.4 Transport Oriented Development (TOD) Process for Homebush – Councillor Sharangan Maheswaran

I would like to acknowledge and draw attention to the Homebush Precinct Plan currently being undertaken and that there is a webinar tomorrow for the community – 24 July 2024 and in-community session on 27 July 2024. This is effectively a masterplan for the Homebush and North Strathfield areas north of the rail corridor. That area has been subject to extensive development over the last decade, most being from adhoc proposals to Council to rezone land.

The preliminary urban design that has been released shows how residents will access the new metro station at North Strathfield and shows the built form at pedestrian level. It provides for an additional 2,000 jobs in our area and the preservation of areas that support those residential uses. I believe there is work to be done on this plan. I do not believe that adequate plans for the north/south pedestrian movements that would naturally occur from Strathfield Station and the new metro station – North Strathfield. I believe that corridor will become a new hub for this entire city considering the number of people that will alight at both stations.

5.5 My Absence from Previous Council Meeting 25 June 2024 – Councillor Sharangan Maheswaran

At the last Council Meeting I requested a Leave of Absence for that meeting. It was my intention to attend and set out the campaign of harassment and threats that other Councillors here and I have faced and to name a number of individuals who I believe to be behind that campaign.

I take this opportunity to thank you all and express my upmost gratitude.

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

166/24

RESOLVED: (Reddy / Hall)

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 25 June 2024, 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.

Voting on this item was unanimous

7. MAYORAL MINUTE(S)

Nil.

8. ITEMS BY EXCEPTION

Items by Exception

167/24

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Cai)

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:

- 10.1 Management of foliage overhanging solar panels - Councillor Nella Hall
- 10.2 Review of the Return & Earn in the Strathfield Town Centre - Councillor Matthew Blackmore
- GMU1 Draft Plan of Management for Hudson Park
- GMU2 Amended Community Facilities Plan of Management
- GMU3 Delivery Program 6th Month Progress Report - January to June 2024
- CCS1 Investment Report - June 2024
- CCS2 Tenders Advertised and Awarded June 2024
- CCS4 2024 LG NSW Annual Conference
- CCS5 Community Safety Strategy
- CCS6 FY2023/2024 Capital Budget Carryovers (Revotes)
- CCS7 Councillor Workshop 9 July 2024
- CCS8 Destroy (Through Appropriate and Considered Regulation) the Pokies
- CCS9 DRAFT - Reconciliation Action Plan
- CCS10 Local Government Caretaker Period and Election Provisions
- PE1 Housing Policy for Seniors - Resolution
- PE2 Homebush, Homebush West and Strathfield South Centres - Proposed Review of Centres
- EO2 Capital Works Program - Progress Update
- 12.1 Report from Traffic Committee meeting on 16 July 2024

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

Against the Motion: Nil

10.1 Management of Foliage Overhanging Solar Panels – Councillor Nella Hall

168/24

RESOLVED ON THE NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEW BLACKMORE

Moved by: (Blackmore / Cai)

That Council be provided with a report:

1. Which outlines ways in which foliage overhanging solar panels can be managed by Council, residents and/or their neighbours.

2. Weighs the environmental benefits and energy savings provided by canopy trees with the benefits of solar panels.
3. Provides a summary, including the pros and cons of planning controls, guidelines and community education being used by other Councils to manage this issue.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

10.2 Review of the Return & Earn in the Strathfield Town Centre – Councillor Matthew Blackmore

169/24

RESOLVED ON THE NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEW BLACKMORE

Moved by: (Blackmore / Cai)

That Council report at the October Ordinary Meeting:

1. Revenue Council receives in relation to leasing or licensing parking spaces in the Strathfield Town Centre to the Return & Earn over the course of its existence.
2. Estimated costs incurred by Council for cleaning and maintenance of the vicinity surrounding the return & earn in Strathfield Town Centre.
3. Estimated return that the car spaces could generate from paid parking.
4. A copy of the licence or lease and any Council resolution approving this licence or lease.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

GMU1 Draft Plan of Management for Hudson Park

170/24

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Cai)

1. That the draft Plan of Management for Hudson Park be adopted.
2. That the Department of Planning and Environment – Crown Lands be notified of the outcome of the public exhibition and Council resolution.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

GMU2 Amended Community Facilities Plan of Management

171/24

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Cai)

That the amended Community Facilities Plan of Management be adopted.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

GMU3 Delivery Program 6th Month Progress Report - January to June 2024

172/24

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Cai)

That the Delivery Program Progress Report for 1 January to 30 June 2024 be received and adopted.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS1 Investment Report - June 2024

173/24

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Cai)

That the record of cash investments as at 30 June 2024 be received and noted.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS2 Tenders Advertised and Awarded June 2024

174/24

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Cai)

That Council tenders advertised and awarded in June 2024 be received and noted.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS4 2024 LG NSW Annual Conference

175/24

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Cai)

That Council endorse the attached motions to be submitted before 15 August 2024.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS5 Community Safety Strategy

176/24

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Cai)

1. To adopt the Community Safety Strategy 2024-2028
2. To exhibit Community Safety Strategy 2024-2028 for 28 days, and if no submissions received it be considered adopted at which time it will be progressed. Where submissions are received it will be returned to the new term of Council.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS6 FY2023/2024 Capital Budget Carryovers (Revotes)

177/24

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Cai)

1. That in accordance with Clauses 203 and 211 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005, the proposed revotes of expenditure and related funding sources noted in Table 1 of this report, are adopted by Council, and are hereby voted into the 2024/25 adopted budget.
2. That the approved grant funding amounting of \$750,000 and related expenditure for the preparation of the draft Strathfield Town Centre Masterplan be voted into the 2024/25 adopted budget.
3. That \$200,000 be reallocated from the road renewal budget to playground renewal works in the 2024/25 adopted budget.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS7 Councillor Workshop 9 July 2024

178/24

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Cai)

That the report be received and noted.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION**CCS8 Destroy (Through Appropriate and Considered Regulation) the Pokies**

179/24

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Cai)

That Council resolve to address problem gambling through the development of Council's Community Wellbeing Strategy.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION**CCS9 DRAFT - Reconciliation Action Plan**

180/24

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Cai)

That Council adopt the attached draft Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) per attachment 1.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION**CCS10 Local Government Caretaker Period and Election Provisions**

181/24

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Cai)

That the report be received and noted.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION**PE1 Housing Policy for Seniors - Resolution**

182/24

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Cai)

That Council note information provided in response to its July 2024 resolution in relation to Housing Policy for Seniors.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

PE2 Homebush, Homebush West and Strathfield South Centres - Proposed Review of Centres

183/24

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Cai)

That Council endorse the following resolutions:

1. That a review of the Homebush, Homebush West and South Strathfield Centres be undertaken as per the general methodology and consultation approach as outlined in this report.
2. That a project budget of \$5,000 be endorsed for inclusion in the Q1 Budget Review to support consultation activities for the project.
3. That a project update be provided via a Council Briefing by the end of December 2024.
4. A draft report and recommendations for the villages and centres improvement strategy be brought back to Council for endorsement prior to public exhibition in early 2025.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

EO2 Capital Works Program - Progress Update

184/24

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Cai)

That Council receive and note the report.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

12.1 Report from Traffic Committee meeting on 16 July 2024

185/24

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Cai)

That the Minutes of the Traffic Committee meeting held on 16 July 2024 be noted and the recommendations

be adopted.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

9. PUBLIC FORUM

Nil.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

10.3 Report on Council Resolutions that are Considered in Development Application Recommendations in the Planning Process – Councillor Matthew Blackmore

MOVED:

1. That at the December Council meeting a report on the Council resolutions that were considered during the formulation of Development Application Recommendations by staff since January 2022.
2. The Report is to include, but not limited to:
 - a) All Council resolutions concerning development since January 2022,
 - b) All development applications (title only) since January 2022, and
 - c) An outline of the consideration given to the Resolution/s of Council during assessment of each of these development applications.

MOTION: (Maheswaran / Blackmore)

1. That at the December Council meeting a report on the Council resolutions that were considered during the formulation of Development Application Recommendations by staff since January 2022.
2. The Report is to include, but not limited to:
 - a) All Council resolutions concerning development applications since January 2022,
 - b) All development applications (title only) since January 2022, and
 - c) An outline of the consideration given to the Resolution/s of Council during assessment of each of these development applications.

Adjournment of Meeting

186/24

RESOLVED: (Pensabene)

That the meeting be adjourned for five minutes for Council staff to seek clarity on the Code of Meeting Practice in regard to the Motion put before Council. The meeting was adjourned, the time being 6:54pm.

The meeting resumed, the time being 7:05pm.

187/24

RESOLVED:

MOTION OF DISSENT: (Maheswaran)

Councillor Maheswaran moved a Motion of Dissent on the grounds that the Amendment put to add a point 'd' to the Motion does not contravene the Code of Meeting Practice. The proposed Amendment put:

- d) Provide a chronology of the progression of the following significant residential high-rise development applications including:
 - i. 10-16 Loftus Crescent, 2 Subway Lane, 5 & 9 11 Knight Street and 88-92A, Parramatta Road, Homebush
 - ii. 125 Parramatta Road and 52-54 Powell Street, Homebush
 - iii. 1 Loftus Crescent, Homebush
 - iv. 17-20 Loftus Crescent, Homebush
 - v. 2 & 5 Strathfield Square, Strathfield Square 5 Churchill Avenue, 4-10 and 12-18 Albert Road, Strathfield
 - vi. 7-33 Water Street, Strathfield South

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

Against the Motion of Dissent: Councillor Blackmore

The Mayor put the Motion of Dissent and declared it Carried.

MOTION: (Maheswaran / Blackmore)

1. That at the December Council meeting a report on the Council resolutions that were considered during the formulation of Development Application Recommendations by staff since January 2022.
2. The Report is to include, but not limited to:
 - a) All Council resolutions concerning development applications since January 2022,
 - b) All development applications (title only) since January 2022, and
 - c) An outline of the consideration given to the Resolution/s of Council during assessment of each of these development applications.
 - d) Provide a chronology of the progression of the following significant residential high-rise development applications including:
 - i. 10-16 Loftus Crescent, 2 Subway Lane, 5 & 9 11 Knight Street and 88-92A, Parramatta Road, Homebush
 - ii. 125 Parramatta Road and 52-54 Powell Street, Homebush
 - iii. 1 Loftus Crescent, Homebush

- iv. 17-20 Loftus Crescent, Homebush
- v. 2 & 5 Strathfield Square, Strathfield Square 5 Churchill Avenue, 4-10 and 12-18 Albert Road, Strathfield
- vi. 7-33 Water Street, Strathfield South

Councillor Blackmore, as Secunder of the Motion, withdrew his support of the Motion.

Councillor Blackmore declared a Non-Significant/Non-Pecuniary conflict of interest for item 10.3 *Report on Council Resolutions that are Considered in Development Application Recommendations in the Planning Process* and managed the conflict of interest by leaving the meeting during discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Blackmore declared that he has a Non-Significant/Non-Pecuniary relationship with a proponent of one of the development applications listed under point 'd' and has a Pecuniary interest with a person having sold a property in one of the subject areas listed under point 'd'.

Councillor Blackmore left the meeting, the time being 7:21pm.

Councillor Datta Seconded the Motion following the withdrawal of Councillor Blackmore and the Motion was put.

188/24

RESOLVED: (Maheswaran / Datta)

1. That at the December Council meeting a report on the Council resolutions that were considered during the formulation of Development Application Recommendations by staff since January 2022.
2. The Report is to include, but not limited to:
 - a) All Council resolutions concerning development applications since January 2022,
 - b) All development applications (title only) since January 2022, and
 - c) An outline of the consideration given to the Resolution/s of Council during assessment of each of these development applications.
 - d) Provide a chronology of the progression of the following significant residential high-rise development applications including:
 - i. 10-16 Loftus Crescent, 2 Subway Lane, 5 & 9 11 Knight Street and 88-92A, Parramatta Road, Homebush
 - ii. 125 Parramatta Road and 52-54 Powell Street, Homebush
 - iii. 1 Loftus Crescent, Homebush
 - iv. 17-20 Loftus Crescent, Homebush
 - v. 2 & 5 Strathfield Square, Strathfield Square 5 Churchill Avenue, 4-10 and 12-18 Albert Road, Strathfield
 - vi. 7-33 Water Street, Strathfield South

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

Against the Motion: Nil

10.4 Report on the Feasibility of Establishing a Dog Park near Long Street – Councillor Benjamin Cai

189/24

RESOLVED: (Cai / Reddy)

That Council prepare a report on the feasibility of establishing a dog park in the Sydney Water owned reserve at the end of Long Street between Homebush Road and Richard Road, Strathfield.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

11. REPORTS TO COUNCIL

CCS3 Current Status of Council Resolutions

Councillor Cai left the meeting during discussion of this item, the time being 7:28pm.

190/24

RESOLVED: (Hall / Datta)

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

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

Against the Motion: Nil

Councillor Cai returned to the meeting, the time being 7:32pm.

EO1 Battle of Kapyong Memorial

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council approve the installation of a memorial, in the Hudson Park sensory garden, to acknowledge the Battle of Kapyong.
2. That Council endorse the wording for the memorial, as outlined in the report.
3. That Council endorse the vertical concept design for the memorial, as outlined in the report.

MOTION: (Maheswaran / Reddy)

1. That Council report on the installation of a memorial, in the Davey Square Reserve, to acknowledge the Battle of Kapyong.
2. That Council endorse the wording for the memorial, as outlined in the report.
3. Council endorses a design similar to the design elements of the 'vertical design' contained in the report but being no higher than the height of the existing memorial wall.

191/24**RESOLVED: (Maheswaran / Reddy)**

1. That Council report on the installation of a memorial, in the Davey Square Reserve, to acknowledge the Battle of Kapyong.
2. That Council endorse the wording for the memorial, as outlined in the report.
3. Council endorses a design similar to the design elements of the 'vertical design' contained in the report but being no higher than the height of the existing memorial wall.

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

Against the Motion: Pensabene

12. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Note: Item 12.1 Report from Traffic Committee Meeting on 16 July 2024 was dealt with by exception.

13. QUESTION WITH NOTICE

Nil.

14. MATTERS OF URGENCY

Nil.

15. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Nil.

16. CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7:38pm.

The foregoing Minutes were confirmed at the meeting of the Council of the Municipality of Strathfield on 13 August 2024.

Chairperson  General Manager 