

MINUTES



Meeting of Council including the Election of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Appointment of Committees

Held at the

Civic Centre

511 Burwood Highway

Wantirna South

On

Thursday 20 November 2025

PRESENT:

Cr Peter Lockwood
Cr Paige Kennett
Cr Chris Duncan
Cr Robert Williams
Cr Meagan Baker
Cr Parisa Considine
Cr Lisa Cooper
Cr Susan Pearce
Cr Glen Atwell

Baird Ward
Chandler Ward
Collier Ward
Dinsdale Ward
Dobson Ward
Friberg Ward
Scott Ward
Taylor Ward
Tirhatuan Ward

Bruce Dobson
Grant Thorne
Nicola Ward
Nicole Columbine
Matt Kelleher
Navec Lorkin
Andrew Dowling
Saskia Weerheim

Chief Executive Officer
Director – Infrastructure
Acting Director - City Liveability
Acting Director – Connected Communities
Interim Director - Customer and Performance
Chief Financial Officer
Manager, Governance and Risk
Head of Governance

THE MEETING OPENED WITH A STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND A STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people and Bunurong people of the Kulin Nation as Traditional Custodians of the land, and meets on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people. We pay our respects to elders both past and present.

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1 Commencement Of Proceedings

The meeting commenced at 7:05 pm with a welcome by the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Bruce Dobson.

2 Apologies

Nil.

3 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Councillor Baker foreshadowed making a statement of transparency in relation to Item 7.1 - Notice of Motion (Rescission) No.190 - Lease Agreement between Knox City Council and Scouts Victoria.

4 Election Of Mayor

In accordance with Section 26(3) of the Local Government Act 2020, Council will determine whether the Mayor is to be elected for a 1-year or a 2-year term.

The Chief Executive Officer will then conduct the election of the Mayor in accordance with Chapter 2, Part B of the Governance Rules of Knox City Council.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Atwell

SECONDED: Councillor Cooper

That Council resolve that the Mayor be elected for a one year term.

CARRIED

The Chief Executive Officer called for nominations for the position of Mayor for 2025/26.

Councillor Kennett nominated herself.

Councillor Duncan seconded the nomination.

Councillor Baker nominated herself.

Councillor Cooper seconded the nomination.

Councillor Williams nominated himself.

Councillor Pearce seconded the nomination.

Vote One

There being three nominations the Chief Executive Officer asked Councillors to vote for their preferred candidate and noted:

- 3 votes in favour of Councillor Kennett
- 4 votes in favour of Councillor Baker
- 2 votes in favour of Councillor Williams

The Chief Executive Officer noted no candidate had received an absolute majority of five votes.

Vote Two

The Chief Executive Officer asked Councillors to vote again for their preferred candidate and noted:

- 3 votes in favour of Councillor Kennett
- 4 votes in favour of Councillor Baker
- 2 votes in favour of Councillor Williams

The Chief Executive Officer noted no candidate had received an absolute majority of five votes.

The Chief Executive Officer declared Councillor Williams had received the least number of votes and was therefore required to be declared a defeated candidate in accordance with Council's Governance Rules.

Vote Three

The Chief Executive Officer asked Councillors to vote for their preferred remaining candidate and noted:

- 3 votes in favour of Councillor Kennett
- 4 votes in favour of Councillor Baker
- 2 Councillors who abstained

The Chief Executive Officer noted no candidate had received an absolute majority of five votes.

Vote Four

The Chief Executive Officer asked Councillors to vote again for their preferred candidate under Governance Rule 6.12 and noted:

- 3 votes in favour of Councillor Kennett
- 4 votes in favour of Councillor Baker
- 2 Councillors who abstained

The Chief Executive Officer noted no candidate had received an absolute majority of five votes.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

MOVED: Councillor Williams

SECONDED: Councillor Pearce

That Council adjourn the Meeting for 10 minutes.

CARRIED

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm and resumed at 7:32pm with all Councillors present.

Vote Five

The Chief Executive Officer asked Councillors to vote again for their preferred candidate under Governance Rule 6.12 and noted:

- 3 votes in favour of Councillor Kennett
- 4 votes in favour of Councillor Baker
- 2 Councillors who abstained

The Chief Executive Officer noted no candidate had received an absolute majority of five votes.

Vote Six

The Chief Executive Officer asked Councillors to vote again for their preferred candidate under Governance Rule 6.12 and noted:

- 3 votes in favour of Councillor Kennett
- 4 votes in favour of Councillor Baker
- 2 Councillors who abstained

The Chief Executive Officer noted no candidate had received an absolute majority of five votes.

Vote Seven

The Chief Executive Officer asked Councillors to vote again for their preferred candidate under Governance Rule 6.12 and noted:

- 3 votes in favour of Councillor Kennett
- 4 votes in favour of Councillor Baker
- 2 Councillors who abstained

The Chief Executive Officer noted no candidate had received an absolute majority of five votes.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

MOVED: Councillor Duncan

SECONDED: Councillor Atwell

That Council adjourn the Meeting until 7:50 pm.

CARRIED

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm and resumed at 7:54 pm with all Councillors present.

Vote Eight

The Chief Executive Officer asked Councillors to vote again for their preferred candidate under Governance Rule 6.12 and noted:

- 3 votes in favour of Councillor Kennett
- 4 votes in favour of Councillor Baker
- 2 Councillors who abstained

The Chief Executive Officer noted no candidate had received an absolute majority of five votes.

Vote Nine

The Chief Executive Officer asked Councillors to vote again for their preferred candidate under Governance Rule 6.12 and noted:

- 3 votes in favour of Councillor Kennett
- 4 votes in favour of Councillor Baker
- 2 Councillors who abstained

The Chief Executive Officer noted no candidate had received an absolute majority of five votes.

Vote Ten

The Chief Executive Officer asked Councillors to vote again for their preferred candidate under Governance Rule 6.12 and noted:

- 3 votes in favour of Councillor Kennett
- 4 votes in favour of Councillor Baker
- 2 Councillors who abstained

The Chief Executive Officer noted no candidate had received an absolute majority of five votes.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

MOVED: Councillor Duncan

SECONDED: Councillor Atwell

That Council adjourn the Meeting until 8.15 pm.

CARRIED

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm and resumed at 8:29pm with all Councillors present.

Vote Eleven

The Chief Executive Officer asked Councillors to vote again for their preferred candidate under Governance Rule 6.12 and noted:

- 5 votes in favour of Councillor Kennett
- 4 votes in favour of Councillor Baker

Having reached an absolute majority of five votes, the Chief Executive Officer declared Councillor Paige Kennett elected to the position of Mayor of Knox City Council for 2025/26.

The immediate past Mayor, Councillor Cooper, assisted by the Personal Assistant to the Mayor and Councillors, Eleonore Smith, placed the Mayoral Robes and Chain on Mayor Kennett.

Mayor Kennett assumed the Chair.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Lockwood

SECONDED: Councillor Atwell

That Council resolve, on behalf of Knox City Council and the residents of Knox, that a motion of appreciation be recorded to former Councillor, Lisa Cooper, for her service to the community as Mayor in 2024/25.

CARRIED

The Mayor, Councillor Kennett presented an engraved gravel, a plaque and the Mayor's medallion to Councillor Cooper in recognition of her service to Council and the Knox community.

The Mayor also noted a small gift would be presented to Councillor Cooper's mother, in recognition of her support for Councillor Cooper during her Mayoral term.

5 Election Of Deputy Mayor

In accordance with Sections 26(3) and 27 of the Local Government Act 2020, Council will determine whether the Deputy Mayor is to be elected for a 1-year or a 2-year term.

The Mayor will then conduct the election of the Deputy Mayor in accordance with Section 27 of the Local Government Act 2020 and Chapter 2, Part B of the Governance Rules of Knox City Council.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Cooper

SECONDED: Councillor Atwell

That Council resolve that the Deputy Mayor be elected for a one year term.

CARRIED

The Mayor called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor for 2025/26.

Councillor Duncan nominated himself for Deputy Mayor.
Councillor Cooper seconded the nomination.

There being no further nominations the Mayor declared Councillor Chris Duncan elected to the position of Deputy Mayor of Knox City Council for the 2025/26 period.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Baker

SECONDED: Councillor Cooper

That Council resolve, on behalf of Knox City Council and the residents of Knox, that a motion of appreciation be recorded to former Councillor, Glen Atwell, for his service to the community as Deputy Mayor in 2024/25.

CARRIED

6 Appointment Of Committees

6.1 Appointment of Committees 2025-26

RECOMMENDATION

That Councillors be appointed to the various committees as set out in Attachment 1 to the officers' report, effective from 20 November 2025 and until 19 November 2026 or Council resolves otherwise.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Lockwood

SECONDED: Councillor Baker

That Councillors be appointed to the various committees as set out below, effective from 20 November 2025 and until 30 November 2026 or Council resolves otherwise:

Specific Purpose Committees		
Committee	Councillor(s)	
Audit and Risk Committee	Mayor	Cr Cooper
Transformation Governance Committee	Cr Duncan	Cr Kennett
CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee	Cr Atwell Cr Baker Cr Cooper Cr Duncan	Cr Kennett Cr Lockwood Cr Pearce Cr Williams
Knox Community Awards Committee	Cr Atwell	Cr Williams
Council Advisory Committees		
Multicultural Advisory Committee	Cr Considine	Cr Lockwood
Active Ageing Advisory Committee	Cr Baker	Cr Pearce
Environment Advisory Committee	Cr Kennett	Cr Lockwood
Knox Recreation and Leisure Committee	Cr Duncan Cr Kennett	Cr Pearce
Community Safety, Health & Wellbeing Advisory Committee	Cr Cooper	
Youth Advisory Committee	Cr Duncan	Cr Williams
Early Years Advisory Committee	Cr Considine	Cr Kennett
Arts and Culture Committee	Cr Lockwood	
Knox Disability Advisory Committee	Cr Atwell	Cr Baker
Council Advisory Committees		
Eastern Affordable Housing Alliance	Cr Lockwood Sub -	
Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action	Cr Kennett Sub -	
Eastern Region Group of Councils	Cr Duncan	
Your Library	Cr Lockwood	Cr Atwell

Committee	Councillor(s)
Eastern Transport Coalition	Cr Lockwood Sub -
Knox Interfaith Network	Chair of KMAC
Municipal Association of Victoria	Cr Lockwood Sub: Cr Pearce
Knox Local Safety Committee	Mayor & Deputy Mayor (per previous resolution of Council)

CARRIED

7 Notices Of Motion

7.1 Notice of Motion (Rescission) No. 190 - Lease Agreement between Knox City Council and Scouts Victoria

The following Rescission Motion was lodged by Councillor Susan Pearce and Councillor Robert Williams in accordance with Section 45 of the Governance Rules.

We give notice that it is our intention to move the following motion at the next Council meeting:

That Council resolve:

- A. That the following resolutions of the Council Meeting on 10 November 2025 in relation to Item 6.1 Lease Agreement between Knox City Council and Scouts Victoria, be rescinded:

“That Council resolve to:

- 1. Note that the relevant provisions of Section 115 of the Local Government Act 2020 regarding Lease of Land have been met.*

- 2. Enter into Lease Agreement/s with Scouts Victoria for the eleven Scout Hall sites listed in this report which are on Council-owned land:*

a. For the purpose of providing Scout related activities; and

b. With an annual rent payable of \$239 per site per annum, increasing by 4% on the annual anniversary of the Agreement, plus outgoings.

- 3. Enter into Lease Agreements with Scouts Victoria for the two Scout Hall sites for which Council is the manager of the land on behalf of the Victorian State Government and Melbourne Water:*

a. For the purpose of providing Scout related activities;

b. Using terms agreeable to the land-owners (noting these leases will need to be approved by the landowners); and

c. With an annual rent payable of \$239 per site per annum, increasing by 4% on the annual anniversary of the agreement, plus outgoings.

- 4. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer (or such person as the Chief Executive Officer nominates) to negotiate and execute the lease agreement/s for each site, generally in accordance with:*

a. the above resolutions;

b. the officer recommendations in section 1 of the Officers’ report;

c. the draft lease as outlined in Confidential Attachment 1; and

d. where applicable, the requirements of the Victorian State Government and Melbourne Water as relevant land owners;

with such minor or administrative changes considered necessary and appropriate at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer or their nominee.

5. *Authorise the Chief Executive Officer (or such person as the Chief Executive Officer nominates), pursuant to Section 125 of the Local Government Act 2020, to communicate the content of the Confidential Attachments for the limited purpose of communicating the effect of this resolution to the extent necessary at their discretion, including for the purpose of informing staff and the community about the content and/or Council decision."*
- B. Having regard to the Officers' Report presented to the Council meeting on 10 November 2025 and titled "Item 6.1 Lease Agreement between Knox City Council and Scouts Victoria" (the 10 November Report):
1. To note that the relevant provisions of Section 115 of the Local Government Act 2020 regarding Lease of Land have been met.
 2. To authorise the Chief Executive Officer (or such person as the Chief Executive Officer nominates) to negotiate with Scouts Victoria to prepare proposed lease agreement/s for the eleven Scout Hall sites listed in the 10 November Report:
 - a. For the purpose of providing Scout related activities;
 - b. With an annual rent payable of \$239 per site per annum, increasing by 4% on the annual anniversary of the Agreement, plus outgoings.
 - c. Generally in accordance with these resolutions and;
 - i. the officer recommendations in section 1 of the 10 November Report;
 - ii. the draft lease as outlined in Confidential Attachment 1 of the 10 November Report; and
 - d. With such other changes considered necessary and appropriate having regard to negotiations at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer or their nominee.
 3. To Authorise the Chief Executive Officer (or such person as the Chief Executive Officer nominates) to negotiate with Scouts Victoria to prepare proposed lease agreement/s for the two Scout Hall sites listed in the 10 November Report for which Council is the manager of the land on behalf of the Victorian State Government and Melbourne Water:
 - a. For the purpose of providing Scout related activities;
 - b. With an annual rent payable of \$239 per site per annum, increasing by 4% on the annual anniversary of the Agreement, plus outgoings.
 - c. Generally in accordance with these resolutions and;
 - i. the officer recommendations in section 1 of the 10 November Report;
 - ii. the draft lease as outlined in Confidential Attachment 1 of the 10 November Report;
 - iii. where applicable, the requirements of the Victorian State Government and Melbourne Water as relevant land owners; and

- d. With such other changes considered necessary and appropriate having regard to negotiations, at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer or their nominee.
4. To present the proposed leases to a future Council meeting determined by the Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the Mayor for Council's consideration.
5. To authorise the Chief Executive Officer (or such person as the Chief Executive Officer nominates), pursuant to Section 125 of the Local Government Act 2020, to communicate the content of the Confidential Attachments for the limited purpose of communicating the effect of this resolution to the extent necessary at their discretion, for the purpose of implementing Council's decision.

Councillor Baker made a transparency statement noting that she has a friend who is a member of a local Scouts group. She advised that she does not believe this constitutes a conflict of interest.

MOTION

MOVED: Councillor Pearce

SECONDED: Councillor Williams

That Council resolve:

- A. That the following resolutions of the Council Meeting on 10 November 2025 in relation to Item 6.1 Lease Agreement between Knox City Council and Scouts Victoria, be rescinded:

"That Council resolve to:

1. *Note that the relevant provisions of Section 115 of the Local Government Act 2020 regarding Lease of Land have been met.*
2. *Enter into Lease Agreement/s with Scouts Victoria for the eleven Scout Hall sites listed in this report which are on Council-owned land:*
 - a. *For the purpose of providing Scout related activities; and*
 - b. *With an annual rent payable of \$239 per site per annum, increasing by 4% on the annual anniversary of the Agreement, plus outgoings.*
3. *Enter into Lease Agreements with Scouts Victoria for the two Scout Hall sites for which Council is the manager of the land on behalf of the Victorian State Government and Melbourne Water:*
 - a. *For the purpose of providing Scout related activities;*
 - b. *Using terms agreeable to the land-owners (noting these leases will need to be approved by the landowners); and*
 - c. *With an annual rent payable of \$239 per site per annum, increasing by 4% on the annual anniversary of the agreement, plus outgoings.*
4. *Authorise the Chief Executive Officer (or such person as the Chief Executive Officer nominates) to negotiate and execute the lease agreement/s for each site, generally in accordance with:*

- a. the above resolutions;*
 - b. the officer recommendations in section 1 of the Officers' report;*
 - c. the draft lease as outlined in Confidential Attachment 1; and*
 - d. where applicable, the requirements of the Victorian State Government and Melbourne Water as relevant land owners;*
 - with such minor or administrative changes considered necessary and appropriate at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer or their nominee.*
 5. *Authorise the Chief Executive Officer (or such person as the Chief Executive Officer nominates), pursuant to Section 125 of the Local Government Act 2020, to communicate the content of the Confidential Attachments for the limited purpose of communicating the effect of this resolution to the extent necessary at their discretion, including for the purpose of informing staff and the community about the content and/or Council decision."*
- B. Having regard to the Officers' Report presented to the Council meeting on 10 November 2025 and titled "Item 6.1 Lease Agreement between Knox City Council and Scouts Victoria" (the 10 November Report):
1. To note that the relevant provisions of Section 115 of the Local Government Act 2020 regarding Lease of Land have been met.
 2. To authorise the Chief Executive Officer (or such person as the Chief Executive Officer nominates) to negotiate with Scouts Victoria to prepare proposed lease agreement/s for the eleven Scout Hall sites listed in the 10 November Report:
 - a. For the purpose of providing Scout related activities;
 - b. With an annual rent payable of \$239 per site per annum, increasing by 4% on the annual anniversary of the Agreement, plus outgoings.
 - c. Generally in accordance with these resolutions and;
 - i. the officer recommendations in section 1 of the 10 November Report;
 - ii. the draft lease as outlined in Confidential Attachment 1 of the 10 November Report; and
 - d. With such other changes considered necessary and appropriate having regard to negotiations at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer or their nominee.
 3. To Authorise the Chief Executive Officer (or such person as the Chief Executive Officer nominates) to negotiate with Scouts Victoria to prepare proposed lease agreement/s for the two Scout Hall sites listed in the 10 November Report for which Council is the manager of the land on behalf of the Victorian State Government and Melbourne Water:
 - a. For the purpose of providing Scout related activities;
 - b. With an annual rent payable of \$239 per site per annum, increasing by 4% on the annual anniversary of the Agreement, plus outgoings.
 - c. Generally in accordance with these resolutions and;

- i. the officer recommendations in section 1 of the 10 November Report;
 - ii. the draft lease as outlined in Confidential Attachment 1 of the 10 November Report;
 - iii. where applicable, the requirements of the Victorian State Government and Melbourne Water as relevant land owners; and
 - d. With such other changes considered necessary and appropriate having regard to negotiations, at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer or their nominee.
- 4. To present the proposed leases to a future Council meeting determined by the Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the Mayor for Council's consideration.
 - 5. To authorise the Chief Executive Officer (or such person as the Chief Executive Officer nominates), pursuant to Section 125 of the Local Government Act 2020, to communicate the content of the Confidential Attachments for the limited purpose of communicating the effect of this resolution to the extent necessary at their discretion, for the purpose of implementing Council's decision.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

MOVED: Councillor Lockwood

SECONDED: Councillor Duncan

That this matter be adjourned until the Council meeting on 24 November 2025.

CARRIED

The Mayor, Councillor Kennett, noted the impact of the procedural motion was that debate on the substantive motion for item 7.1, Notice of Motion (Rescission) No. 190 - Lease Agreement between Knox City Council and Scouts Victoria, would be held over to the Council meeting on 24 November 2025.

MEETING CLOSED AT 8:59pm

Minutes of Meeting confirmed at the
Council Meeting
held on Monday, 15 December 2025

.....
Chairperson

The Agenda for this meeting is attached in full at the end of the Minutes