

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2024



**Chairperson:** Mayor Sue Hickey

**Hour:** 6.00 p.m.

**Present (in Chambers):** Alderman Sue Hickey (Mayor), Aldermen Shane Alderton, Josh Cockshutt, Steven King, Tim Marks, Peter Ridler, Stuart Slade, Justin Stringer, Russell Yaxley (Deputy Mayor) and Councillor Molly Kendall

**Present (by video link):** Mandy Henderson (Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer),

**Council staff in attendance (in Chambers):** Emilio Reale (Acting Chief Executive Officer), Tracey Ehrlich (Director Community and Corporate Services) Christine Lane (Manager Stakeholder and Executive), Emma Watkins (Coordinator Executive and Strategy), Michael Sokulski (Chief Financial Officer), Melanie Burk (Executive Assistant to the Mayor), Katya Brownjohn Moss (Senior Communications Officer). Tim Douglass (Events Officer)

**Members of the public in attendance (in Chambers):** James Bryan, Janiece Bryan, George Burrows, Eddy Steenbergen

**Leave of absence:**

The meeting was live streamed on Council's website, Facebook page and YouTube channel. The peak number of viewers watching the live stream was 16 viewers and 4 members of the public attended in person.

The Chair opened the meeting at 6:00pm.

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## 1. WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIR

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Welcome to the Annual General Meeting, or AGM, of the Glenorchy City Council. I'm Sue Hickey, Mayor of Glenorchy and Chairperson of tonight's AGM.

I will start tonight's proceeding with an acknowledgement of country.

*We acknowledge the muwinina people as the traditional owners of this land. We recognise the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the original owners and continuing custodians of the land, sky and country and waters of this island, lutruwita. We pay our respect to Aboriginal Elders, past and present. We commit to working in a way that welcomes and respects all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Islander*

This meeting is being recorded and live streamed to members of the public.

Welcome to members of the public joining us this evening. For those joining us in person, please ensure you have provided your name and address at the registration desk. This is so that the minutes of this meeting are accurately recorded, as required by the Local Government Act.

The primary purpose of the AGM is to present Council's 2023/24 Annual Report.

Questions about the annual report and any other Council matters will be answered where possible or may be taken on notice.

Answers to any questions taken on notice will be published in the 2025 AGM Agenda, however answers will also be provided to you via email as soon as practicable.

The AGM also provides an opportunity for any elector present to put forward a motion to be voted on by electors, which, if carried, will be considered by Council at the next ordinary Council meeting on 16 December.

Passing a motion at this meeting does not mean it is adopted by Council. It means that Council will consider the motion at its next meeting.

Any elector for the Glenorchy City Council area can move or second a motion, and any elector can vote on a motion.

An elector is anyone who is enrolled to vote in Glenorchy Local Government elections.

Before we move to our first order of business, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new elected member Alderman Tim Marks who joins us on Council following the sad passing of Alderman Jan Dunsby and subsequent recount of the 2022 General Election. Welcome Tim, we look forward to working with you.

I would also like to take this opportunity to again acknowledge the service of both Alderman Dunsby and Councillor Harry Quick to the City of Glenorchy and this Council.

In presenting the Annual Report this evening I would like to commend elected members and staff on a productive and successful 2023-24 year.

Some of our achievements during the reporting period included:

- Continuing efforts to ensure Glenorchy is safe, inclusive and welcoming for residents and visitors.
- Facilitating major investment in the redevelopment of Tolosa Park, transforming a decommissioned water storage facility into a regional recreational area.
- Ongoing improvements to playgrounds and recreational areas across Glenorchy to support families and young people.
- Introducing anti-graffiti wraps on public infrastructure, such as signal boxes, to combat vandalism.
- Collaborating with Tasmania Police to increase visible policing and target anti-social behaviour hotspots.
- Improving youth-focused infrastructure, including the Montrose Bay Skatepark and Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park.
- Providing ongoing mentoring and support to young people through a number of initiatives both within schools and through activities run on Council lawns.
- Providing practical assistance to businesses in managing safety and responding to anti-social behaviour.

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## 2. APOLOGIES

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Elected Members: None

Electors: Robert Holderness-Roddam

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## 3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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### **Resolution:**

ALDERTON/KENDALL

That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday, 4 December 2023 be confirmed.

The motion was put.

**FOR:** Aldermen Alderton, Cockshutt, Hickey, King, Marks, Slade, Stringer, Yaxley and Councillor Kendall

**AGAINST:**

**ABSTAINED:** Alderman Ridler

The motion was CARRIED.

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## **1. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

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### **Question without notice – Nicole Vout, Claremont**

**Q1: Can Council consider talks with Revive and St Giles to increase after-hours access to the hydrotherapy pool?**

**A:** [Mayor] The question was taken on notice.

Response:

The hydrotherapy pool is formally leased to Revive who has partnered with St Giles to operate the hydrotherapy service. Council does not have control over the opening hours.

It is noted that hydrotherapy pools are not provided for recreational use, rather for the purpose of providing warm water therapy services under the direction of a medical professional, such as a physiotherapist.

Health service referrals for aquatic therapy should be taken up directly with St Giles as the service provider.

**Q2: Can Council consider a shuttle bus to the Derwent Valley public pool?**

**A:** [Mayor] The question was taken on notice.

Response:

According to the Department of State Growth's transport services web page, there are existing regular bus services which operate between Glenorchy and New Norfolk seven days a week and on public holidays.

Eighteen services depart Glenorchy for New Norfolk every weekday between 7.20am and 9.25pm, and there are 17 services departing New Norfolk for Glenorchy every weekday between 6.30am and 8.26pm. There are a further 12 services departing Glenorchy for New Norfolk every Saturday between 8.41am and 8.41pm and 12 services departing New Norfolk for Glenorchy between 7.47am and 7.42pm. On Sundays and public holidays, there are nine services each way, departing Glenorchy between 9.30am and 6.20pm and departing New Norfolk between 8.32am and 5.13pm.

A ratepayer-funded shuttlebus would duplicate existing services and given there is already an operator servicing this route, there would likely be regulatory impediments to having another bus service.

**Q3: Can more detail be provided on why our lane ropes have been loaned out to New Norfolk Council?**

**A:** [Mayor] The question was taken on notice.

Response:

Derwent Valley Council (DVC) approached Glenorchy City Council (GCC) seeking to purchase the Glenorchy Pool lane ropes, as their existing lane ropes are in very bad condition and not serviceable for the current season.

This request was declined because the future of the GCC pool is currently under review.

However, given the Glenorchy pool is not re-opening this season, GCC agreed to loan the lane ropes to DVC to support the provision of public aquatic recreation opportunities in the region.

This loan has been made under a formal Council resource sharing agreement, with the ropes on loan until May next year only (31 May 2024). Conditions on the loan include that there are no costs to GCC rate payers, and the ropes must be returned in the same condition, i.e., DVC are responsible for any damage, repairs or replacements.

**Question without notice – Mala Crew, Glenorchy**

**Q1: Why has Council not highlighted the pool in its Future Directions survey for 2024-25?**

A: [Mayor] The question was taken on notice.

Response:

The Future Directions Survey is an annual survey that provides an opportunity for community members to share their thoughts about the Council's future direction and budget priorities for the following financial year.

The survey lists a range of service areas (including recreation facilities and public open space) for people to prioritise and provide free form comments on.

For those who do not wish to register to take the full survey, there is also the opportunity to complete a "quick poll" where they can state their one wish for the future of Glenorchy.

Both the survey and the "one wish" quick poll provide opportunity for people to reference the pool or any other asset/program/service they would like to highlight.

**Q2: Can Council include this in its Future Directions survey for 2024-25, or alternatively hold a referendum in this regard?**

A: [Mayor] The question was taken on notice.

Response:

The 2024-25 Future Directions survey (and associated quick poll) has been open for several months and closes on 15 December. Given the closing date is next week, it is not viable to add an additional question at this stage. As noted above, the survey does provide options for people to provide comment on the pool or any other asset/program/service they would like to see prioritised.

Council is in the process of commissioning a study of long-term options for the pool site, which includes consideration of a redeveloped pool facility. This project will include significant community and stakeholder consultation, using a range of different methods to gather the views and ideas of a wide range of people in the Glenorchy community.

Elector polls (the local government version of a referendum) are very expensive, and the outcome is not binding on Council. The community consultation to be undertaken as part of the abovementioned project is considered to be a more meaningful and effective way for the community to help inform Council decision making about the future of the pool site.

Therefore, at this time, Council does not have any intention of conducting an elector poll.

### **Question without notice – Leeanne Rose, Glenorchy**

**Q1: Will the Council undertake to use the advice from Shane Gould re: the true value of the swimming pool, as part of the process to investigate the future of the pool?**

A: [Mayor] The question was taken on notice.

Response:

The council is commissioning a study of long-term options for the pool site, which includes consideration of a redeveloped pool facility, and will include significant community consultation. The study will also provide cost-benefit analysis of options. This analysis will include the consideration of the community benefits of a public swimming pool such as outlined in “Shane’s suggestions” in the provided document.

As Council has previously outlined, Council would be more than happy to meet with Shane Gould if she would like to discuss this. We welcome participation by a wide range of stakeholders in the community consultation process.

### **Question without notice – Tracey Smith, Glenorchy**

**Q1: Will the Council consider having a public meeting with the community to discuss the pool?**

A: [Mayor] The question was taken on notice.

Response:

Council is in the process of engaging a consultant to look into future options for the pool site, including redeveloping the pool facility. The scope of this project is to include extensive community consultation to inform those decisions, and any interested party is encouraged to take up the opportunity to participate in that process. Accordingly, as a consultant will soon be appointed to conduct the investigation and associated consultation activities, Council does not believe it is productive to hold a further public meeting at this time.

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## 5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

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### Question without notice – James Bryan, Montrose

On page 73 of the Annual Report for 2023-2024, the Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ending 30 June 2024 has an item:

Net gain (loss) on disposal of property infrastructure, plant and equipment listed is a budget loss of \$2,338,000 and an actual loss of \$2,650,000.

**Q1: How is it possible that the Glenorchy City Council has made a loss, more than \$2.5million on the sale/disposal of GCC property?**

**What was the total income (CASH) received from the sale/disposal of property?**

**What was the total cost (CASH) of disposal of this property?**

**Was any property given away/gifted to any party, if so, what was its value?**

A1: [CFO] We will come back to you with an absolute, however in summary.....

[Acting CEO] This question was taken on notice and will include details about the land that was gifted to Karadi Aboriginal Corporation.

### Question without notice – Janiece Bryan

**Disposal of Public Land motion:**

**Q1: Is it common sense that one person should not determine the appropriate sale price or method of disposal of our public land and assets without being transparent and going through Council?**

A1: [Acting CEO] This question was taken on notice.

**Q2: Have Aldermen taken independent advice on this statutory obligation in relation to the disposal of public land and who did they obtain that advice from?**

A2: [Acting CEO] This question was taken on notice.

### Question without notice – George Burrows

**Rates Calculations, Payment System for Rates, and Citizens Jury motion:**

**Q1: Why can't Council take credit card payments for rates instalments?**

A1: [CFO] This question was taken on notice.

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## 6. PRESENTATION OF THE 2023/24 ANNUAL REPORT

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File Reference: Corporate Reporting

### **Recommendation:**

That the electors present at this Annual General Meeting:

1. NOTE the tabling of the Glenorchy City Council Annual Report 2023/24.

### **Resolution:**

RIDLER/SLADE

That the electors present at this Annual General Meeting:

1. NOTE the tabling of the Glenorchy City Council Annual Report 2023/24.

The motion was put.

**FOR:** Aldermen Alderton, Cockshutt, Hickey, King, Marks, Ridler, Slade, Stringer, Yaxley and Councillor Kendall

### **AGAINST:**

The motion was CARRIED.

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## **7. NOTICE OF MOTION - JANIECE BRYAN - DISPOSAL OF PUBLIC LAND AND RATES INCREASE**

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File Reference:

Annual General Meeting

JANIECE BRYAN/JAMES BRYAN

### **Motions:**

1. That councillors comply with their statutory delegation under Section 22 and act in accordance with Section 178, 5 of the Local Government Act 1993 to exercise their legal functions and powers related to the disposal of land. Councillors are not permitted to delegate any of their powers in this regard.
2. Proposals including market testing, valuations and sale price for the final delegated disposal of the land to be transparently provided and voted by absolute majority of councillors in an open council meeting as required. This is in accordance with a councillor's legally defined delegation and the legislative requirements.
3. That the method of calculating and applying rate increases used by the Brighton Council be adopted by Aldermen at the Glenorchy City Council. The annual additional amount of revenue required for the Council's budget increase is divided by the number of ratepayers and this will equitably increase everyone's rates by the same amount. This motion requests that the Aldermen adopt this fair, equitable, proven and predictable method of applying rate increases for the ratepayers of the City of Glenorchy.

The motion was put.

**FOR: 9**

**AGAINST: 2**

**ABSTAIN: 3**

The motion was PASSED.

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## 8. NOTICE OF MOTION - GEORGE BURROWS - RATES CALCULATIONS, PAYMENT SYSTEM FOR RATES, AND CITIZENS JURY

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File Reference:

Annual General Meeting

GEORGE BURROWS/JAMES BRYAN

### Motions:

1. That council implement a working group consisting of the majority being interested rate payers with professional help to workshop how the introduction of a rate charging system similar to that used by Brighton council could be introduced for 2025/26 and recommend a suitable phase in process and time to change from the old to the new system together with the setting up a consultation process with all ratepayers.
2. The council introduce automatic deductions for the payment of rates from credit cards starting at the beginning of the 2024/25 rating period.
3. That Glenorchy City Council implement citizens' jury procedures as part of the information gathering process to make recommendations for consideration by aldermen.

The motion was put.

**FOR: 12**

**AGAINST: 0**

**ABSTAIN: 2**

The motion was PASSED.

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## **9. MEETING CLOSE**

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The Chair closed the meeting at 6:52pm.

Confirmed,

**CHAIR**