
Minutes of the Council Meeting 30 April 2025

Present:**Councillors**

Ola Hamed (Mayor)	Councillor
Michael Zaiter (Deputy Mayor)	Councillor
Steve Christou	Councillor
Dr Diane Colman	Councillor
Glenn Elmore	Councillor
Paul Garrard	Councillor
Helen Hughes	Councillor
Nadima Kafrouni-Saba	Councillor
Ahmed Ouf	Councillor (arrived 6:19pm)
Joseph Rahme	Councillor (arrived 6:03pm)
Suman Saha	Councillor (via Audio-Visual)
Sujan Selventhiran	Councillor
Steve Yang	Councillor
Enver Yasar	Councillor

Officers

Peter Fitzgerald	General Manager
Melissa Attia	Director Corporate Performance (Deputy General Manager)
Daniel Cavallo	Director Environment & Planning
Nicole Byrn	Director Community & Culture
Charlie Ayoub	Director Governance & Risk
Warrick Hay	Acting Director City Services
Colin McFadzean	General Counsel
Carol Karaki	Manager Governance
Bianca Mourched	Coordinator Governance

The Mayor, Councillor Hamed declared the meeting open at 6:01pm.

Opening Prayer

The opening prayer was read by Reverend Danelle McLeay from Merrylands Baptist Church.

Councillor Rahme entered the Meeting at 6:03pm during the Opening Prayer.

Acknowledgement of Country

The Mayor, Councillor Hamed read the following Acknowledgement of Country:

"I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of this land – the Darug People, and pay my respects to their elders past, present and emerging."

National Anthem

At this point in the meeting the Mayor, Councillor Hamed asked all of those in attendance to stand for the playing of the Australian National Anthem.

Min.919 Apologies / Requests for Leave of Absence/ Requests for Attendance by Audio-Visual Link

Note: The Mayor, Councillor Hamed noted that Councillor Sarkis was not in attendance at this meeting, as he had leave of absence granted to him at the Council's Ordinary meeting held on 26 March 2025.

Motion (Zaiter/Kafrouni-Saba)

That in accordance with Clause 5.24 of the *Code of Meeting Practice*, Council approve the attendance of Councillor Saha at this meeting via Audio/Visual Link due to being unwell.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Christou, Colman, Elmore, Garrard, Hamed, Hughes, Kafrouni-Saba, Rahme, Saha, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Notice of Live Streaming of Council Meeting

The Mayor, Councillor Hamed advised that the Council meeting was being streamed live on Council's website and all in attendance must ensure their speech to the Council is respectful and use appropriate language.

Confirmation of Minutes**Min.920 C04/25-97 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council - 26 March 2025****Motion (Kafrouni-Saba/Elmore)**

That Council confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 26 March 2025.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Christou, Colman, Elmore, Garrard, Hamed, Hughes, Kafrouni-Saba, Rahme, Saha, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Declarations of Pecuniary & Non Pecuniary Conflicts of Interest

Note: Prior to Declarations of Interest, the General Manager advised that *Item C04/25-101 - 4-4A Terminal Place, Merrylands – Amended Planning Proposal* was withdrawn from the current agenda.

There were no declarations of interest.

Min.921 Mayoral Minute – Passing of His Holiness, Pope Francis**Motion (Hamed)**

That **Error! No document variable supplied.:**

1. Acknowledge with deep sadness the passing of the late His Holiness Pope Francis, and recognise his many profound contributions to the global community.
2. Open books of condolence at Council's Customer Service Centres, allowing residents to pay tribute and reflect on the life and legacy of the late Pope Francis.
3. Make a donation of \$2,000 to Caritas Australia Limited (ABN: 90 970 605 069) to honour the legacy of the late Pope Francis from the Emergency Relief Fund.
4. Observe a Minute of Silence in honour of his life.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED.**

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Christou, Colman, Elmore, Garrard, Hamed, Hughes, Kafrouni-Saba, Rahme, Saha, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Note: Council observed a minute of silence during the consideration of this item.

Min.922 Mayoral Minute – 2025 Mayoral Cricket Challenge - Cumberland City Council Vs City Of Parramatta Council**Motion (Hamed)**

That **Error! No document variable supplied.:**

1. Congratulate all participating Councillors and Staff from Cumberland City Council and City of Parramatta Council for their engagement in the 2025 Mayoral T20 Cricket Challenge;
2. Make a donation of \$4,000 to Parramatta Women's Shelter Inc. (ABN 71841699780) from the Emergency Relief Fund; and
3. Send a copy of this Mayoral Minute to the City of Parramatta Council Lord Mayor.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED.**

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Christou, Colman, Elmore, Garrard, Hamed, Hughes, Kafrouni-Saba, Ouf, Rahme, Saha, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Councillor Ouf entered the Meeting at 6:19pm during the consideration of this item.

Min.923 Mayoral Minute - Establishment of Annual Mayoral Sports Awards Program

Motion (Hamed)

That Council:

1. Endorse the establishment of the annual Cumberland City Council - Mayoral Sports Awards Program to recognise community excellence and local contributions to sport;
2. Requests the General Manager develop the program framework, including nomination processes, eligibility criteria, judging guidelines, event details and promotional strategies; and
3. Launch the program in 2025 funded through the community reserve, with the program to be included in the operational budget annually.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Christou, Colman, Elmore, Garrard, Hamed, Hughes, Kafrouni-Saba, Ouf, Rahme, Saha, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Min.924 Mayoral Minute - Establishment of the Annual Mayoral Civic Pride Awards Program

Motion (Hamed)

That Council:

1. Endorses the establishment of an annual Mayoral Civic Pride Awards Program to recognise outstanding residential presentation and community pride; and
2. Requests the General Manager develop the program framework, including nomination processes, eligibility criteria, judging guidelines, event details and promotional strategies.
3. Launch the program in 2025 funded through the community reserve, with the program to be included in the operational budget annually.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Christou, Colman, Elmore, Garrard, Hamed, Hughes, Kafrouni-Saba, Ouf, Rahme, Saha, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Min.925 Mayoral Minute - Toy Library Draft Fees and Service Expansion**Motion (Hamed)**

That **Error! No document variable supplied.:**

1. Note the Mayoral Minute.
2. Establish a toy library service at Granville and Lidcombe libraries, funded from the community reserve.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED.**

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Christou, Colman, Elmore, Garrard, Hamed, Hughes, Kafrouni-Saba, Ouf, Rahme, Saha, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Public Forum:**Speakers on Items on the Council Meeting Agenda**

Speaker	Item #	Suburb
Mr Roydon Ng	Item C04/25-100 - Endorsement of the updated IP&R documents for Public	Lidcombe

Min.926 Alteration of Order of Business**Motion (Colman/Zaiter)**

That in accordance with Clause 8.2 of the *Code of Meeting Practice*, Council alter the order of business to allow item C04/25-100 to be brought forward for consideration at this time of the Meeting.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED.**

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Christou, Colman, Elmore, Garrard, Hamed, Hughes, Kafrouni-Saba, Ouf, Rahme, Saha, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Min.927 C04/25-100 Endorsement of the updated IP&R documents for Public Exhibition**Motion (Zaiter/Kafrouni-Saba)**

That Council:

1. Endorse the Draft Integrated Planning and Reporting documents and Draft Fees and Charges for public exhibition for a period of 28 days, with a report to be returned to Council following public exhibition.
2. Receive the Performance and Progress Report July – December 2024

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Colman, Elmore, Garrard, Hamed, Hughes, Kafrouni-Saba, Ouf, Rahme, Saha, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Christou.

Councillor Kafrouni-Saba left the Meeting at 6:44pm and returned to the Meeting at 7:00pm during the consideration of this item.

Councillor Selventhiran left the Meeting at 6:48pm and returned to the Meeting at 6:50pm during the consideration of this item.

Councillor Garrard left the Meeting at 7:03pm and returned to the Meeting at 7:05pm during the consideration of this item.

Min.928 Items Resolved by Exception**Motion (Colman/Zaiter)**

That Council adopt items C04/25-98, C04/25-99, C04/25-107, C04/25-108, C04/25-109 and C04/25-111 on the Council Agenda as per the recommendations in the report.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Christou, Colman, Elmore, Garrard, Hamed, Hughes, Kafrouni-Saba, Ouf, Rahme, Saha, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

C04/25-98 Legal report***Resolved by Exception***

That the report be received.

C04/25-99 Investment Report - March 2025***Resolved by Exception***

That Council receive the March 2025 Investment Report.

C04/25-107 Tender Evaluation Report - Nemesia Street Park Netball Court Upgrade (RFx 1094)***Resolved by Exception***

That Council:

1. Accept the Tender Evaluation Panel's recommendation to award the contract to Convil Group Pty Ltd, ABN 18 613 491 875, in accordance with Section 178(1)(a) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, for \$1,578,009.79 (excluding GST).
2. Delegate to the General Manager the authority to execute the contract and any associated documents.

C04/25-108 Tender Evaluation Report - Granville Park Playspace (RFx1116)***Resolved by Exception***

That Council:

1. Accept the Tender Evaluation Panel's recommendation to award the contract to CA&I Pty Ltd ABN 40 158 442 436 in accordance with Clause 178(1)(a) of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*, for \$4,697,903.00 ex GST.
2. Delegate to the General Manager the authority to execute the contract and any associated documents.

**C04/25-109 Tender Evaluation Report - Guildford Pool
Modernisation Project (RFx1034)*****Resolved by Exception***

That Council:

1. Accept the Tender Evaluation Panel's recommendation to award the contract to Lipman Pty Ltd (ABN 84 001 548 830) in accordance with Clause 178(1)(a) of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*, for \$26,728,239.00 ex GST for a Contract term of One (1) year commencing in May 2025.
2. Delegate to the General Manager the authority to execute the contract and any associated documents.

**C04/25-111 Tender Evaluation Report - Lead Design Consultant,
Hyland Road Sports Complex (RFx1122)*****Resolved by Exception***

That Council:

1. Accept the Tender Evaluation Panel's recommendation to award the contract to CHROFI (The Trustee for Choi Ropiha Figuera Unit Trust – ABN 22 365 257 187) in accordance with Clause 178(1)(a) of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*, for \$3,676,401.70 (excluding GST) including all Provisional amounts for a Contract term commencing in May 2025.
2. Delegate to the General Manager the authority to execute the contract and any associated documents.

**C04/25-101 4-4A Terminal Place, Merrylands - Amended Planning
Proposal**

This item was withdrawn by the General Manager.

Min.929 C04/25-102 Urban Tree Canopy - Response to Notice of Motion**Motion (Yasar/Saha)**

That Council receive and adopt the recommendations within the report.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Christou, Colman, Elmore, Garrard, Hamed, Hughes, Kafrouni-Saba, Ouf, Rahme, Saha, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Min.930 Alteration of Order of Business**Motion (Hughes/Ouf)**

That in accordance with Clause 8.2 of the *Code of Meeting Practice*, Council alter the order of business to allow items C04/25-104, C04/25-105 and C04/25-106 to be brought forward for consideration at this time of the Meeting.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Christou, Colman, Elmore, Garrard, Hamed, Hughes, Kafrouni-Saba, Ouf, Rahme, Saha, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Min.931 C04/25-104 Notice of Motion - Accelerating the Adoption of Self-Driving Vehicles**Motion (Yasar/Selventhiran)**

That Council:

1. Commits to investigating the potential of self-driving vehicles to improve road safety, reduce congestion, and ease parking pressures for Cumberland residents, and to producing a report outlining findings and recommendations.
2. Calls on the NSW and Federal Governments to fast-track legislative reforms to enable the safe and regulated use of autonomous passenger vehicles in Australia.
3. Works with Transport for NSW, industry partners, and research institutions to position Cumberland as a priority location for autonomous vehicle trials and pilot programs.
4. Ensures that, when updating infrastructure plans, transport strategies, and urban planning policies, consideration is given to supporting the safe integration of emerging self-driving vehicle technology.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Colman, Elmore, Garrard, Hamed, Hughes, Ouf, Saha, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Christou, Kafrouni-Saba and Rahme.

Councillor Ouf left the Meeting at 7:39pm and returned to the Meeting at 7:44pm during the consideration of this item.

Min.932 C04/25-105 Notice of Motion - Partnering with DV Safe Phone**Motion (Zaiter/Rahme)**

That Council:

1. Partner with DV Safe Phone, a registered Australian charity that refurbishes decommissioned mobile phones and provides them free of charge to domestic violence (DV) victims.
2. Donate its decommissioned mobile phones to DV Safe Phone for refurbishment and distribution through its network of DV agencies, police stations, hospitals, and safe houses.
3. Investigate ways to raise community awareness about DV Safe Phone, to encourage the participation of our residents and businesses in this initiative.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Christou, Elmore, Garrard, Hamed, Hughes, Kafrouni-Saba, Ouf, Rahme, Saha, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Councillor Colman left the Meeting at 8:00pm during the consideration of this item.

Min.933 C04/25-106 Notice of Motion - Wombat Naming Competition**Motion (Garrard/Hughes)**

That Council in acknowledging the significance of 'Auburn Botanical Gardens' as a unique resource of flora and fauna, and the need to promote the gardens nature diversity and importance to the wider community, engage in a community wide competition to name the new Wombat which recently has been installed at the gardens.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Christou, Elmore, Garrard, Hamed, Hughes, Kafrouni-Saba, Ouf, Rahme, Saha, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Councillor Rahme left the Meeting at 8:08pm and returned to the Meeting at 8:12pm during the consideration of this item.

Min.934 Closed Session

At this stage of the meeting being 8:12pm, the Mayor advised that in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, it is proposed to move into Closed Session to consider the following items:

- C04/25-103 Property Committee - Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting held 16 April 2025
- C04/25-110 Tender Evaluation Report - Design Finalisation and Construct, Progress Park Sports Field Development (RFx1106)

as the items contained the following considerations under the Act:

- (2)(c) – *information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.*
- (2)(d)(i) – *commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.*
- (2)(d)(i)(i) – *commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council.*

Motion (Kafrouni-Saba/Yasar)

That in accordance with Section 10A(2)(c), (d)(i) and (ii) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council enter into Closed Session to determine Items C04/25-103 and C04/25-110.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Christou, Elmore, Garrard, Hamed, Hughes, Kafrouni-Saba, Ouf, Rahme, Saha, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

C04/25-103 Property Committee - Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting held 16 April 2025

Council did not make a resolution in relation to this item.

During the consideration of this item, Councillor Christou raised a point of order, citing an alleged breach of Clause 15.11(d) and (e) of the *Code of Meeting Practice* stating that Councillors keep interrupting during his speech. The Mayor, Councillor Hamed asked the Chamber to remain silent during his speech.

During the consideration of this item, the Mayor requested that comments made by Councillor Yang which were noted as being offensive towards the Muslim community be withdrawn, with an apology provided to the Chamber. The Mayor, Councillor Hamed requested that Councillor Yang's refusal to both withdraw and apologise be noted in the Minutes.

Councillor Colman returned to the Meeting at 8:16pm during the consideration of this item.

Councillor Rahme left the Meeting at 8:46pm and returned to the Meeting at 8:48pm during the consideration of this item.

Min.935 C04/25-110 Tender Evaluation Report - Design Finalisation and Construct, Progress Park Sports Field Development (RFx1106)**Motion (Yasar/Colman)**

That Council:

1. Accept the Tender Evaluation Panel's recommendation to award the contract to Polytan Asia Pacific Pty Ltd ABN 90 111 057 606 in accordance with Clause 178(1)(a) of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*, for \$8,235,755.11 ex GST including all provisional and optional amounts for a Contract term commencing in September 2025 and concluding in February 2026.
2. Delegate to the General Manager the authority to execute the contract and any associated documents.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Colman, Elmore, Garrard, Hamed, Kafrouni-Saba, Rahme, Saha, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Christou and Hughes.

Councillor Ouf left the Meeting at 8:55pm during the consideration of this item and did not return.

Councillor Rahme left the Meeting at 8:55pm and returned to the Meeting at 8:57pm during the consideration of this item.

Min.936 Open Session**Motion (Colman/Elmore)**

That Council resume the public meeting.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Colman, Christou, Elmore, Garrard, Hamed, Hughes, Kafrouni-Saba, Rahme, Saha, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

On resumption of the public meeting at 9:01pm, the Mayor, Councillor Hamed read out the resolutions made in Closed Session.

The Mayor, Councillor Hamed closed the meeting at 9:03pm.

Chairperson

