
Minutes of the Council Meeting 24 September 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 (arrived 6:11pm)
Ahmed Ouf	Councillor
Joseph Rahme	Councillor
Suman Saha	Councillor
Eddy Sarkis	Councillor (arrived 6:55pm)
Sujan Selventhiran	Councillor (arrived 7:28pm)
Steve Yang	Councillor

Officers

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

The Mayor, Councillor Hamed declared the meeting open at 6:02pm.

Opening Prayer

The opening prayer was read by Mohammed Al-Zoubi from the Auburn Islamic Community Centre.

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.

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

Note: The Mayor, Councillor Hamed noted that Councillor Yasar is an apology for this meeting, as leave of absence was granted to him at the meeting held on 30 July 2025.

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.1018 C09/25-180 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council - 27 August 2025

Motion (Elmore/Ouf)

That Council confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 27 August 2025.

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

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

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Declarations of Pecuniary & Non Pecuniary Conflicts of Interest

The General Manager, Peter Fitzgerald declared a Non-Significant, Non-Pecuniary interest in relation to item C09/25-187 - 25 Hampden Road, South Wentworthville – Voluntary Planning Agreement, as he may have an interest to declare in a social capacity. The General Manager advised that out of an abundance of caution, he will be leaving the Chamber during the consideration of the item.

Min.1019 Mayoral Minute - Recognition of Mr Renga Rajan – Rotary District Governor (2025-26)**Motion (Hamed)**

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

1. Endorse the Mayoral Minute;
2. Formally acknowledge and congratulate Mr Renga Rajan on his appointment as Rotary District Governor for 2025-26;
3. Organise a civic function celebrating Mr Rajan as Distinct Governor budgeted through the current operational budget, with invitations extended to the Granville Rotary Club members and other associated representatives; and
4. Provide a framed copy of this Mayoral Minute to Mr Rajan.

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

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

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Yang.

Councillor Kafrouni-Saba entered the Meeting at 6:11pm during the consideration of this item.

Councillor Rahme left the Meeting at 6:16pm during the consideration of this item.

Min.1020 Mayoral Minute - Welcoming New Police Officers to the Cumberland City Council Area**Motion (Hamed)**

That Council:

1. Formally welcomes the 14 new probationary constables to the Cumberland City Council area, in addition to the 14 previously recruited in April 2025; and
2. Thank all NSW Police Officers serving Cumberland for their ongoing dedication.
3. Thank all retiring NSW Police Officers serving Cumberland.

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

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

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Councillor Rahme returned to the Meeting at 6:19pm during the consideration of this item.

Min.1021 Mayoral Minute - Oriole Park Clubhouse Fire

Motion (Hamed)

That Council:

1. Thank all Fire and Rescue NSW personnel and Council staff involved in response to this tragic incident; and
2. Explore any future opportunities to preserve and honour the heritage of Oriole Park.

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

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

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Min.1022 Mayoral Minute - International Day of Peace – 21 September 2025

Motion (Hamed)

That **Error! No document variable supplied.** endorse the Mayoral Minute, formally acknowledging September 21 as the International Day of Peace 2025.

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

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

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Public Forum:

Speakers on Items on the Council Meeting Agenda

Speaker	Item #	Suburb
Ms Lyn Connolly	C069/25-188 - Draft Submission - Proposal for a New Crown Cemetery at Carnarvon Golf Course	Lidcombe
Mr Mohammed Hassan	C069/25-188 - Draft Submission - Proposal for a New Crown Cemetery at Carnarvon Golf Course	Lidcombe
	C09/25-192 - Notice of Motion - Carnarvon Golf Course Proposal	

Miss Gaya Arasaratnam	C09/25-192 - Notice of Motion - Carnarvon Golf Course Proposal	Lidcombe
Mr William Ng	C09/25-192 - Notice of Motion - Carnarvon Golf Course Proposal	Berala
Mrs Karen Wright	C09/25-192 - Notice of Motion - Carnarvon Golf Course Proposal	Regents Park
Mrs Patty Hodgson	C069/25-188 - Draft Submission - Proposal for a New Crown Cemetery at Carnarvon Golf Course	Regents Park
Mr Rod Hodgson	C069/25-188 - Draft Submission - Proposal for a New Crown Cemetery at Carnarvon Golf Course	Regents Park

Councillor Sarkis entered the Meeting at 6:55pm during Public Forum.

Min.1023 Alteration of Order of Business

Motion (Sarkis/Colman)

That in accordance with Clause 8.2 of the *Code of Meeting Practice*, Council alter the order of business to allow items C09/25-188 and C09/25-192 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, Sarkis, Yang, Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Min.1024 C09/25-188 Draft Submission - Proposal for a New Crown Cemetery at Carnarvon Golf Course

Motion (Elmore/Saha)

That Council:

1. Endorse the draft submission to Metropolitan Memorial Parks on the proposal for a new Crown cemetery on the site of Carnarvon Golf Course at Attachment 1 and forward to Metropolitan Memorial Parks for consideration; and
2. Delegate authority to the General Manager to finalise the draft submission, including minor typographical changes and additional information based on speakers in the public forum.
3. Include the findings from a preliminary Flood Impact Report, Geo-Technical Report, Traffic Impact Report and Mental Health Impact Report in the submission and make the reports publicly available.

Councillor Ouf left the Meeting at 7:04pm and returned to the Meeting at 7:06pm during the consideration of this item.

Councillor Rahme left the Meeting at 7:18pm and returned to the Meeting at 7:24pm during the consideration of this item.

Councillor Selventhiran entered the Meeting at 7:28pm during the consideration of this item.

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

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

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Min.1025 C09/25-192 Notice of Motion - Carnarvon Golf Course Proposal

Motion (Hughes/Garrard)

That:

1. Council invite either the Premier or Minister Steve Kamper to attend a special meeting of Council to allow firsthand discussion and dissemination of matters relating to the Carnarvon Golf Course Proposal, so that the communities concerns can be formally recognised through process of Council's public forum.
2. Preference be given to the Council Meeting being held at the Carnarvon Golf Club.
3. Council promote by mail a document to every residence within the Auburn electoral area, which will urgently call for residents to submit a submission opposing the cemetery proposal on Carnarvon Golf Course and sign the State Government Petition.
4. Council coordinate a second public rally on Sunday, 12 October or another suitable date.
5. This be funded from Council's operational budget.

ADJOURNMENT

8:19pm The Mayor, Councillor Hamed adjourned the meeting.

8:36pm The Mayor, Councillor Hamed resumed the meeting.

Debate on the item subsequently resumed.

Amendment (Saha/Elmore)

Replace point 4 with the below:

Council provide appropriate infrastructure to hold a public rally on October 12, 2025 for Lidcombe, Auburn, Berala Resident Action Group.

The proposed Amendment was accepted by the Mover and Seconder of the Motion, and was incorporated to become the substantive Motion as follows:

Motion (Hughes/Garrard)

That:

1. Council invite either the Premier or Minister Steve Kamper to attend a special meeting of Council to allow firsthand discussion and dissemination of matters relating to the Carnarvon Golf Course Proposal, so that the communities concerns can be formally recognised through process of Council's public forum.
2. Preference be given to the Council Meeting being held at the Carnarvon Golf Club.
3. Council promote by letterbox drop a flyer to every residence within the Auburn electoral area, which will urgently call for residents to submit a submission opposing the cemetery proposal on Carnarvon Golf Course and sign the State Government Petition.
4. Council provide appropriate infrastructure to hold a public rally on October 12, 2025 for Lidcombe, Auburn, Berala Resident Action Group.
5. This be funded from Council's operational budget.

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

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

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

During the consideration of this item, Councillor Saha raised a point of order, citing an alleged breach of Clause 15.11(d) of the *Code of Meeting Practice* by Councillor Ouf, stating that he misrepresented him. The Mayor, Councillor Hamed allowed Councillor Saha to clarify his Point of Order raised.

During the consideration of this item, Councillor Christou raised a point of order, citing an alleged breach of Clause 15.11(d) of the *Code of Meeting Practice* by Councillor Saha, stating the use of the clause (15.11(d) is incorrect. The Mayor, Councillor Hamed asked Councillor Christou to resume his seat, and asked Councillor Ouf to continue with his speech.

Councillor Saha left the Meeting at 7:41pm and returned to the Meeting at 7:47pm during the consideration of this item.

Councillor Ouf left the Meeting at 7:45pm and returned to the Meeting at 7:47pm during the consideration of this item.

Councillor Colman left the Meeting at 8:10pm and returned to the Meeting at 8:12pm during the consideration of this item.

Min.1026 Items Resolved by Exception**Motion (Sarkis/Saha)**

That Council adopt items C09/25-181, C09/25-182, C09/25-184, C09/25-186 and C09/25-190 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, Kafrouni-Saba, Ouf, Rahme, Saha, Sarkis, Selventhiran, Yang, Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Councillor Hughes left the Meeting at 8:44pm during the consideration of this item.

C09/25-181 Legal report***Resolved by Exception***

That the report be received.

C09/25-182 Investment Report - August 2025***Resolved by Exception***

That Council receive the August 2025 Investment Report.

C09/25-184 Performance and Progress Report - January to June 2025***Resolved by Exception***

That the report be received.

C09/25-186 Draft Children and Families Strategy 2026 - 2030***Resolved by Exception***

That Council place the *Draft Children and Families Strategy 2026 – 2030* on public exhibition for a period of 28 days, with a report to be provided back to Council following the conclusion of the exhibition period.

C09/25-190 Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee - Minutes of Meeting held on 26 August 2025***Resolved by Exception***

That Council receive the Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee held on 26 August 2025.

Min.1027 C09/25-183 Proposed Christmas / New Year Operations 2025-2026**Motion (Saha/Elmore)**

That Council:

1. Endorse the implementation of the operational arrangements outlined in this report for the 2025/26 Christmas/New Year period and that these details be published to the community with the amendment of the Pool hours to be changed from 7pm to 8pm closure time.
2. In accordance with Section 377 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, delegate authority to the Mayor and General Manager or in their absence, to the persons acting in these roles, during the period of Council recess to jointly exercise the powers, authorities, duties and functions of Council which cannot reasonably be deferred to the first Ordinary Council meeting following the Council recess. This period:
 - a) Commencing from midnight immediately following the final Ordinary Council meeting held in 2025 before the recess period as approved by Council; and
 - b) Concluding at the time of commencement of the first Council meeting held immediately after the end of the recess period; noting that any such decisions are to be unanimous and circulated to Councillors for their information and will be reported to the first Ordinary Council Meeting following the recess period.

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

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

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Min.1028 C09/25-185 Adoption of Governance Policies & Draft Code of Meeting Practice

Motion (Zaiter/Saha)

That Council:

1. Adopt the following Policies as attached to this report:
 - *Procurement Policy;*
 - *Statement of Business Ethics;*
 - *Fraud & Corruption Control Policy;*
 - *Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy (interim); and*
 - *Code of Meeting Practice (interim)*
2. Progress with Option B with respect to Public Forum as detailed at Appendix 1 to the attached *Draft Code of Meeting Practice* subject to an amendment to point 1 prior to public exhibition as follows:
 - Replace '5.30pm to 6.00pm' with '6.00pm to 6:30pm'.
3. Place the *Draft Code of Meeting Practice* on public exhibition and submission for 42 days as required under S.361 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, with a report to be returned for Council's determination following consultation subject to an amendment to clause 3.1 as follows:
 - Replace '6.00pm' with '6.30pm'.

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

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

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Christou.

Councillor Hughes returned to the Meeting at 8:47pm during the consideration of this item.

Min.1029 C09/25-187 25 Hampden Road, South Wentworthville – Voluntary Planning Agreement

Note: The General Manager exited the Chamber at 8:56pm prior to the consideration of this item as he had declared a Non-Significant, Non-Pecuniary interest in relation to this item. He returned to the Meeting following the consideration of this item at 8:58pm.

Motion (Elmore/Zaiter)

That Council:

1. Endorse the draft Voluntary Planning Agreement prepared for 25 Hampden Road, South Wentworthville, and that the draft agreement be publicly exhibited for a period of 28 days in accordance with legislative and policy requirements; and
2. Delegate authority to the General Manager to finalise and execute the Voluntary Planning Agreement on behalf of Council for 25 Hampden Road, South Wentworthville, subject to no significant objections on the draft agreement arising from public exhibition.

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

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

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Min.1030 C09/25-189 Cumberland Local Traffic Committee - Meeting of 6 August 2025**Motion (Saha/Rahme)**

That Council:

1. Receive and note the minutes of the Cumberland Local Traffic Committee meeting held on 6 August 2025, as provided in Attachment 1.
2. Note the items considered under delegated authority by the Cumberland Local Traffic Committee at the 6 August 2025 meeting, as provided in Attachment 2.
3. Endorse the recommendations for items considered by the Cumberland Local Traffic Committee at the 6 August 2025 meeting, as provided in Attachment 3.

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

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

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

C09/25-191 Notice of Motion - The District Governor of Rotary District 9675

This Motion was withdrawn.

Min.1031 C09/25-193 Notice of Motion - Community Fun Run

Motion (Ouf/Rahme)

That Council:

1. Endorse in principle the establishment of an annual community fun run as a Cumberland-branded event to promote health, community connection, and local pride, while raising funds for local charities.
2. Approve investigation of a pilot event in FY 2025/26, to be held in or around Merrylands town centre and/or the Council Civic Administration precinct.
3. Seek partnerships and sponsorships from local businesses, community organisations, and health partners, and nominate a local registered charity as the beneficiary, with transparent reporting of funds raised.
4. Refer the matter to the Arts, Culture and Events Advisory Committee for further consideration and advice.

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

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

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Min.1032 C09/25-194 Notice of Motion - Support for the Nepalese Community

Motion (Ouf/Christou)

That Council:

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1. Acknowledge the significant contribution of the Nepalese community to the social, cultural, and economic life of Cumberland City, noting that Cumberland is home to one of the largest and fastest-growing Nepalese populations in Sydney.
 2. Express solidarity with our local Nepalese residents who have been affected by the recent events in Nepal, and extend Council's sympathy and support to those with family and friends impacted overseas.
 3. Investigate opportunities for practical support, including:
 - a) Working with local Nepalese community organisations to identify needs and provide assistance.
 - b) Exploring partnerships with local charities and service providers to offer counselling, settlement, and welfare support where required.

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

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Christou, Colman, Elmore, Garrard, Hamed, Hughes, Ouf, Saha, Sarkis and Selventhiran.

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

Councillor Rahme left the Meeting at 9:14pm and returned to the Meeting at 9:22pm during the consideration of this item.

The Mayor, Councillor Hamed closed the meeting at 9:25pm.



Chairperson_____