

MINUTES

Meeting of Council



Held at the
Civic Centre
511 Burwood Highway
Wantirna South
On
Monday 25 November 2024

The Agenda for the Meeting of Council, Monday 25 November 2024, forms part of these Minutes and is attached in full at the end of the Minutes.

These Minutes are considered draft until adopted and confirmed at the next Meeting of Council.

The meeting commenced at 7:02pm.

PRESENT:

<i>Cr P Lockwood</i>	<i>Baird Ward</i>
<i>Cr P Kennett</i>	<i>Chandler Ward</i>
<i>Cr C Duncan</i>	<i>Collier Ward</i>
<i>Cr R Williams</i>	<i>Dinsdale Ward</i>
<i>Cr M Baker</i>	<i>Dobson Ward</i>
<i>Cr P Considine</i>	<i>Friberg Ward</i>
<i>Cr L Cooper (Mayor)</i>	<i>Scott Ward</i>
<i>Cr S Pearce</i>	<i>Taylor Ward</i>
<i>Cr G Atwell (Deputy Mayor)</i>	<i>Tirhatuan Ward</i>
<i>Mr B Dobson</i>	<i>Chief Executive Officer</i>
<i>Mr G Curcio</i>	<i>Director - Customer and Performance</i>
<i>Mr G Thorne</i>	<i>Director – Infrastructure</i>
<i>Mr M Kelleher</i>	<i>Director - City Livability</i>
<i>Ms J Chalkley</i>	<i>Director – Connected Communities</i>
<i>Mr A Dowling</i>	<i>Manager, Governance and Risk</i>

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. Today we meet on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, and pay our respects to elders both past and present.”

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1 Apologies And Requests For Leaves Of Absence

Nil.

2 Declarations Of Conflict Of Interest

Councillor Pearce foreshadowed declaring a conflict of interest in Item 8.1, Minor Grants Program Monthly Report.

Councillor Baker foreshadowed, while not declaring a conflict of interest, making a disclosure for transparency regarding Item 6.1, Reporting of Planning Applications Decided Under Delegation 1 September 2024 to 30 September 2024.

Councillor Williams foreshadowed declaring a conflict of interest in Item 8.1, Minor Grants Program Monthly Report.

Councillor Cooper foreshadowed declaring a conflict of interest in Item 8.1, Minor Grants Program Monthly Report.

Councillor Pearce foreshadowed, while not declaring a conflict of interest, making a disclosure for transparency regarding Item 8.2, Quarterly Performance Report for the Quarter Ended 30 September 2024.

3 Confirmation Of Minutes

The Chairperson, Councillor Lisa Cooper invited Councillors to raise any opposition to the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on Monday 14 October 2024. There being none, the Chairperson declared the Minutes be confirmed.

4 Presentations, Petitions And Memorials

Nil.

5 Reports By Councillors

5.1.1 Councillor Atwell

Councillor Atwell:

- Has had many conversations with residents since the Council Election and noted enquiries regarding potholes and unsafe median strips on arterial roads which will form part of an upcoming Notice of Motion.
- Acknowledged there is clarity sought from residents regarding Council's position on Australia Day.

5.1.2 Councillor Pearce

Councillor Pearce reported attending the following meetings:

- Rowville-Lysterfield News Annual General Meeting where she conducted the election for the new Committee of Management.
- Knox Art Show event where she spoke with members of Rotary and was impressed with the quality of artwork
- Rowville-Lysterfield Quarry Community Reference Meeting

5.1.3 Councillor Baker

Councillor Baker reported attending the following meetings:

- Ferntree Gully Tennis Club 60th Anniversary Celebrations, noting that they are an inclusive club that provides great opportunities with newly renovated facilities.
- VEC Declaration of the Poll
- Mandatory Councillor Induction Sessions

5.1.4 Councillor Williams

Councillor Williams reported attending the following meetings:

- Mandatory Councillor Induction Sessions
- Bayswater CFA Annual Dinner where the Firefighter of the Year Award was announced, thanking Captain Jamie MacFarlane for the invitation
- Met with Knox Infolink for a tour and breakfast which gave an insight into their work and noted they are struggling to raise funds for the Christmas Drive and need community support
- Lewis Park Parkrun
- Community consultation regarding the proposed sale of a Council property on Station Street, Ferntree Gully
- Christmas Market at Tabulam and Templar Homes in Bayswater which was well attended.

5.1.5 Councillor Duncan

Councillor Duncan reported attending the following meetings:

- Mandatory Councillor Induction Sessions

- 'Taste of the World' Function at the Templeton Cricket Club

Councillor Duncan also:

- Noted enquiries from residents regarding footpaths, parking, mowing and development.

5.1.6 Councillor Kennett

Councillor Kennett reported attending the following meetings:

- Visited the First The Basin Scouts Club to present the Kings Scout Award to Andrew Berezy which requires the recipient to show leadership, community involvement and personal growth
- Visited Knox Infolink who deliver emergency relief items, provide referral services and a breakfast program to foster connection and comfort for those in need on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday each week
- Mandatory Councillor Induction Sessions which were engaging and informative

Councillor Kennett also:

- Received enquiries regarding a solar energy facility proposal in The Basin, noting that Council is preparing a submission to the Minister of Planning as part of the draft planning scheme.

5.1.7 Councillor Lockwood

Councillor Lockwood reported attending the following meetings:

- Knox Infolink Breakfast

Councillor Lockwood also:

- Raised a local drainage issue and thanked Council staff for their assistance.
- Noted community feedback about waste collection and Australia Day, with many people wanting to know how Council will be acknowledging the day.
- Acknowledged issues and enquiries regarding affordable housing and Knox Central, the pensioner rebate program, open space parks and the Boronia Revitalisation Program.
- Recognised a number of pop-up community organisations such as Ben's Place in The Basin

5.1.8 Councillor Cooper

Councillor Cooper reported attending the following meetings:

- Had a tour of Knox Infolink who she described as a phenomenal organisation.
- The All Nations Cup Grand Final between South Sudan and Turkey where there was an amazing atmosphere. South Sudan won with a final score of 5/4.

Councillor Cooper also:

- Noted many people are wanting to bring back the Australia Day Awards.

- Received feedback regarding lighting, safety, crime, greater seating, shade and barbeques in parks, waste collection frequency, emergency food relief and the pensioner rebate criteria.
- Acknowledged the Mandatory Councillor Induction program and the work of staff in running the program.

6 Planning Matters

6.1 Report of Planning Applications Decided Under Delegation 1 September 2024 to 30 September 2024

SUMMARY

Details of planning applications considered under delegation are referred for information. It is recommended that the items be noted.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the planning applications decided under delegation between 1 September 2024 and 30 September 2024 as set out in the officers' report.

Councillor Baker disclosed in the interests of transparency, she knows one of the planning applicants but did not have a conflict of interest as the report is for noting and the planning decision in question was made under delegation.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Baker

SECONDED: Councillor Duncan

That Council note the planning applications decided under delegation between 1 September 2024 and 30 September 2024 as set out in the officers' report.

CARRIED

6.2 Report of Planning Applications Decided Under Delegation 1 October 2024 to 31 October 2024

SUMMARY

Details of planning applications considered under delegation are referred for information. It is recommended that the items be noted.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the planning applications decided under delegation between 1 October 2024 and 31 October 2024 as set out in the officers' report.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Baker

SECONDED: Councillor Lockwood

That Council note the planning applications decided under delegation between 1 October 2024 and 31 October 2024 as set out in the officers' report.

CARRIED

7 Public Question Time

Question Time commenced at 7:27pm.

The following questions were raised with Council:

7.1.1 Question One - Barney Zwartz

In relation to the felling pine trees at Koolunga Native Reserve, would the council please consider abandoning this massive act of vandalism, which would waste not only the cost of removal but the high cost of community consultation, and instead follow the decades of accepted expert advice, and replace only individual trees as it becomes necessary.

Given contractors have scoped the removal of all the pines, what is the projected total cost of removing all the pine trees at Koolunga Native Reserve?

The Director Infrastructure, Grant Thorne responded:

In relation to the first question:

- At the Council meeting held on 24 July 2023 when considering the adoption of the Koolunga Native Reserve Future Directions Plan , Council resolved to:
 - Replace the current Action 3.7 with – “Acknowledging current faunal species usage of the mature pines that are nearing the end of life, plan for a staged removal of *Pinus radiata* throughout the reserve, including revegetation with appropriate indigenous species in consultation with Council’s Biodiversity Team.”
- Council is currently evaluating options for the removal of the pine trees in accordance with the above resolution. Contractors have visited the site to assess the trees and provide Council with updated cost estimates and removal requirements for various staged options under consideration. As of now, no decision has been finalised regarding the preferred staged removal approach. Once a decision is made, comprehensive communications will be provided to the community, detailing the planned works before any removal activities occur, which is planned for the early part of next year with a weather window required.

In relation to the second question:

- As noted in the answer to the first question, the preferred staged removal approach has not been finalised, therefore I cannot provide at this stage what the projected total cost of removing all the pine trees is.

7.1.2 Question Two - Robert Mason

Currently passive users of recreation reserves and public open spaces or circuit walkers within Taylor Ward have no access to publicly available amenities provided by Knox City Council.

Can Council provide a progress report on the delivery of the Public Toilet Implementation Plan 2017- 2022 and provide a commitment to a delivery timeframe of the unactioned priorities identified within the plan?

The Director Infrastructure, Grant Thorne responded:

- There are toilets around Taylor Ward which are associated with various pavilions and are open when the pavilions are open.
- The Public Toilet Implementation Plan has 10 actions. The main action within the plan identified 7 new public toilets to be installed. 5 (Stud Park, Wick Reserve, Liberty Avenue, Brennock Park, Lewis Park) of these have been completed with 1 (Railway carpark UFTG) to be delivered this financial year. The last public toilet (Rowville Lakes Shopping Centre) will not be installed as the location identified in the strategy is not on Council land, but on private land. In addition to the public toilets identified in the Public Toilet Implementation Plan, Council has installed 5 additional toilets (Templeton Reserve, Tormore Reserve, Scoresby Reserve, Talaskia Reserve and Quarry Reserve).
- Of the remaining 9 actions in the Public Toilet Implementation Plan, which includes actions like reviewing management agreements, signage, automated locking of doors, maintenance scheduling, auditing and inclusion of public toilets as part of consideration of master plans which have been completed or are ongoing.

Councillor Pearce responded:

- She had similarly observed issues with lack of toilets in Taylor Ward.
- The issue was one she intended to follow up.

7.1.3 Question Three - Robert Mason

The 2023-2024 Annual report identifies continent asset and developer contributions totalling \$27,400 million.

Question, What projects have been identified in the 2024-2025 budget and beyond to allocate the open space contributions, towards improving the level and quality of Knox Council's public opens spaces?

The Director Infrastructure, Grant Thorne responded:

- The \$27.4 million are assets which developers are contributing to Council through elements such as park and road developments and is not within the open space contributions total.
- In regards to open space contributions, within the 2024/25 Capital Program there are 25 projects which are either funded or partly funded by Open Space Contributions. These projects include various playgrounds, passive open space improvements, masterplan/landscape plan implementation for Kings Park, Wantirna Reserve, Major Crescent and Schultz Reserve to name a few of the projects. As part of the future annual budget development the funding source for capital projects is considered including whether they are funded from the Open Space Contributions when deciding upon future projects in the annual budget process.

7.1.4 Question Four - Darren Wallace

What actions does Council take when notified of the presence of local laws listed weeds on private property, when in immediate proximity to Knox City Council sites of Biological Significance?

The Director Infrastructure, Grant Thorne responded:

- When this situation is identified where there are weeds in a property next to a site of biological significance, Council assists private property owners through education in identifying these weed species, their impact on the environment and control options available to them.
- Locations may also be eligible for grant opportunities through the Peri Urban Weed Management Partnership Program. This grant program targets land in the Dandenong Ranges area with partnership organisations. For Knox, this is specifically targeted to The Basin area.
- If there is a Gardens for Wildlife property abutting a Site of Biological Significance that registers to join the Program, education is provided on the importance of removing environmental weeds to protect the biodiversity from the threat of environmental weeds.
- In certain situations, enforcement may be considered through Council's Local Law - Part 3: Private Land and the Environment – Environmental Weeds Clause 3.1 and 3.2.

7.1.5 Question Five - Darren Wallace

What is Council doing about resourcing the control of advocacy of control and proactive control of local laws listed weeds on private property, and council lands other than Sites of Biological Significance?

The Director Infrastructure, Grant Thorne responded:

Following a resolution of Council in August 2024, the former Mayor Jude Dwight wrote a letter on behalf of Council, calling for immediate action in developing a Joint Threat Abatement Plan for escaped garden weeds and aquatic plants. This letter asked for a plan that would;

1. Regulate the sale of known invasive species
2. Educate the public about the dangers of certain garden plants
3. Support research into effective control methods
4. Allocate resources for eradication and containment efforts
5. Protect vulnerable native species and ecosystems

This letter was sent to;

- The Hon. Ros Spence MP – Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Community Sport, Minister for Carers and Volunteers.
- The Hon. Steve Dimopoulos MP – Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events, Minister for Outdoor Recreation.
- The Hon. Julie Collins MP – Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Minister for Small Business.
- The Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP – Minister for the Environment and Water.

None of the above have responded as yet.

In addition to writing the above letter the resolution requested that officers prepare a Budget Submission for an Environmental Weed Officer (0.6EFT) position which is identified in the

Biodiversity Resilience Plan 2024. This will be considered along with all other budget priorities during consideration of the 2025/26 annual budget.

7.1.6 Question Six - Kim Worth

Can Knox City Council confirm whether it has an immunisation policy, procedures, and practice guidelines, including protocols for responding to instances of vaccine harm or injury?

If such guidelines do exist, can you provide documentation of their contents and implementation?

The Director City Liveability, Matt Kelleher responded:

- In relation to the first question, Knox City Council's Immunisation Program is primarily focused upon vaccinating infants and children as part of the National Immunisation Program (NIP). The service offers a range of vaccines for children and adults, including meningococcal, whooping cough, chickenpox and flu. Council does not vaccinate for COVID nor Travel vaccines or a range of other vaccines. All vaccines used by Council are approved by the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). Council has a Procedure titled "Emergency procedures at Immunisation session in the event of an Adverse Event Following Immunisation (AEFI)". This procedure follows the Guidelines provided by the Australian Government's "Australian Immunisation Handbook". In response to any AEFI following immunisation, regardless of whether the symptoms were related to the vaccine or not, the event is reported to SAFEVIC – Surveillance of Adverse Events Following Vaccination in the Community. SAFEVIC is the central reporting service in Victoria for any significant AEFI, which then notifies the TGA. Reporting AEFI's enables rapid investigation of any potential vaccine or system problems by state and national health authorities.
- In relation to the second question, as mentioned, Council's procedure follows the Australian Immunisation Handbook – which is available publicly from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care at www.immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au
- Council's procedure was updated in August 2024. The Procedures are an internal document which assists the immunisation service identify the symptoms and type of AEFI and the steps required for various roles in caring for the patient through the AEFI and its reporting to SAFEVIC. The procedure is able to be provided as it is based on publicly available information.

7.1.7 Question Seven - Barbara Walters

When were Knox Council's immunisation policies, procedures, and guidelines last reviewed or updated, and what triggered these updates?

Why are these policies not readily accessible on the Council's official website, and what steps have been taken to ensure public transparency on this matter?

The Director City Liveability, Matt Kelleher responded:

- Council has a number of procedures for Immunisation. All procedures are either reviewed annually, or more frequently in response to changes to Commonwealth and State Immunisation Guidelines. As mentioned in response to an earlier question – Council's service and procedures are strongly guided by Commonwealth and State immunisation requirements.

- In response to the second question, Council's Immunisation Program follows the Guidelines provided as part of the Commonwealth Government's "Australian Immunisation Handbook" and the Victorian Government's "Guidelines for Immunisation practice in local governments". Both guidelines are available online and can be reviewed for transparency.
- Council's Immunisation web page provides all information and web links necessary for the community and clients to be fully informed about the vaccines Council provides and have all the information they need before deciding to be immunised, including access to the NIP and SAFEVIC.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Lockwood

SECONDED: Councillor Duncan

That Council extend Public Question Time by 10 minutes.

CARRIED

Public Question Time was extended by 10 minutes at 7:57pm.

7.1.8 Question Eight - Nicole Seymour

What steps is the Council taking to ensure that Australia Day 2025 celebrations serve as a platform to educate, inspire, and unite the community around the significance of being Australian?

The Director Customer and Performance, Greg Curcio responded:

- It's currently planned that Australia Day 2025 be commemorated with three citizenship ceremonies throughout the day, held here in our Civic Centre. These ceremonies are the final step in the journey that many people take in becoming an Australian citizen and play an important role to inspire our newest citizens around the significance of being an Australian and part of our community.

7.1.9 Question Nine - Nicole Seymour

How much funding and staff resourcing has Knox Council allocated specifically for Australia Day 2025 celebrations, and how does this compare to the funding and staff resourcing allocated to other significant cultural days such as National Sorry Day, NAIDOC Week, and World Day for Cultural Diversity in both 2025 and previous years?

The Director Customer and Performance, Greg Curcio responded:

- Australia Day 2025 celebrations are the citizenship ceremonies which are resourced by Council's Festivals and Events team, with support from the Civic Centre Operations staff.
- NAIDOC, Sorry Day and World Day for Cultural Diversity are resourced by Community Wellbeing, with support from the Events team.
- The Australia Day citizenship ceremonies and the other events mentioned are estimated to cost approximately \$10,000 each.

7.2.1 Question Ten - Paul Ruddell

When did Knox Council last obtain independent legal advice or conduct a corporate risk assessment concerning its legal exposure to potential claims of vaccine injury?

Can Knox Council provide evidence of such risk assessments, including findings and actions taken to mitigate liability or address potential risks?

The Director City Liveability, Matt Kelleher responded:

- In relation to the first question, in 2021 and 2022, Council requested audits be undertaken of the Council-run immunisation sessions to assess and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of internal controls embedded in the provisioning of immunisation services, and to identify potential risks and opportunities to improve related practices. As advised in answers to previous questions, Council provides immunisation services in line with the “Australian Immunisation Handbook” and the Victorian Government’s “Local Government immunisation best practice guideline”.
- In relation to the second question, all recommendations from the audits and risk assessments have been implemented to ensure our Immunisation Program meets best practice. The Audits were provided by a third-party auditor to Council for internal purposes only, and we do not have the permission of the auditor to release these reports publicly.

Question Time Concluded at 8:10pm.

8 Officer Reports

8.1 Minor Grants Program Monthly Report

SUMMARY

This report summarises the grant applications recommended for approval in October/November 2024 for the 2024-2025 Minor Grants Program. All applications have been assessed against the criteria set out in the Minor Grants Program Procedure.

Applications under the Minor Grants Procedure are limited to a maximum of \$3,000.00 within the current financial year.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolve to:

1. Approve 20 applications for a total of \$41,391.16 (excluding GST) as detailed below:

Applicant Name	Project Title	Amount Requested (inc. GST)	Amount Recommended (excl. GST)
Cass Care Limited	Be Hooked On Crochet	\$2,028.60	\$1,844.18
Knox Wind Symphony Incorporated	Ensemble Development	\$1,412.25	\$1,412.25
Rowville Neighbourhood Learning Centre Inc T/as Community Learning Centre (referred to as CLC)	Stay Fresh	\$897.00	\$815.45
Wantirna Jetbacks Basketball Club	Junior Jets Basketball Program	\$3,000.00	\$2,727.27
Knox Dog Obedience Club	Replacement of chest freezer with upright freezer	\$2,500.00	\$1,899.00
Ferntree Gully Knitting for Charity Group (Auspiced by Your Library)	Purchase knitting yarn	\$500.00	\$454.55
Knox Sporting Club Inc (Phoenix Basketball)	Wellbeing & Mental Health Sessions (SALT)	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Mountain District Learning Centre	Chicken Coop Upgrade	\$3,000.00	\$2,727.27
Chinese Association of Victoria Inc.	Camera	\$1,888.90	\$1,718.18
Knox Environment Society	Nursery Trolley Purchase	\$1,650.00	\$1,650.00
ADRA Community Care (Ferntree Gully)	Standup Fridge for ADRA Community Care Centre – Ferntree Gully	\$3,000.00	\$2,727.27
Knox City Cricket Club	Launching Knox City Cricket Club's first	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00

Applicant Name	Project Title	Amount Requested (inc. GST)	Amount Recommended (excl. GST)
	women's team and developing Junior teams.		
Templeton Cricket Club	Purchase replacement defibrillator	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Knox and District Over 50's Inc.	Purchase two laptop computers	\$954.00	\$954.00
Levande Wantirna Village	Garden Bed Upgrade	\$3,000.00	\$2,727.27
Society of St Vincent de Paul	Christmas Hampers	\$3,000.00	\$2,727.27
Spring of Life Christian Ministry Inc.	Senior Praise Dance Health and Wellbeing Project	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Wattleview Playgroup Inc	Everyone Gets to Play Equipment	\$2,008.20	\$2,008.20
All Stars Choir	Upgrade main PA speakers	\$2,895.30	\$2,000.00
Boronia Soccer Club	Uniform Upgrade	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Totals		\$44,734.25	\$41,391.16

2. Defer one application requesting a total of \$2,880.00 (including GST), as detailed below, as we await further information:

Applicant Name	Project Title	Amount Requested
Australia Multicultural Arts Association Inc.	2025 Dragon Boat Festival Celebration in Knox	\$2,880.00
Total		\$2,880.00

3. Refuse one application requesting a total of \$3,000.00 as detailed below:

Applicant Name	Project Title	Amount Requested	Reason for ineligibility
The Basin Country Fire Authority	The Basin CFA - Thermal Imaging Camera	\$3,000.00	Ineligible under Minor Grant Procedure item: 6.16 - Applications will not be eligible to receive a Minor Grant if they are from organisations who have not satisfied previous Council grant funding agreement conditions including grant acquittals from any other Council grant program.
Total		\$3,000.00	

4. Note that should the recommended grants be approved by Council, the remaining Minor Grants Program budget for 2024-2025 will be \$49,443.21 after GST adjustments.

Pursuant to Section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) and Chapter 5 of the Governance Rules of Knox City Council, Councillor Cooper declared a general of interest in this item on the grounds that she works as a Network Manager for two Community Houses who are noted as applicants in this report.

Councillor Cooper left the meeting at 8:11pm before the discussion and vote on item 8.1

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Atwell assumed the role as Acting Chairperson of the Meeting.

Pursuant to Section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) and Chapter 5 of the Governance Rules of Knox City Council, Councillor Pearce declared a material conflict of interest in this item on the grounds that she is an auditor of the Wantirna Jetbacks Basketball Club who are noted as applicants in this report.

Councillor Pearce left the meeting at 8:12pm before the discussion and vote on item 8.1.

Pursuant to Section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) and Chapter 5 of the Governance Rules of Knox City Council, Councillor Williams declared a general conflict of interest in this item on the grounds that he is the First Lieutenant of The Basin Fire Brigade who are noted as applicants in this report.

Councillor Williams left the meeting at 8:12pm before the discussion and vote on item 8.1.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Baker

SECONDED: Councillor Lockwood

That Council resolve to:

- Approve 20 applications for a total of \$41,391.16 (excluding GST) as detailed below:**

Applicant Name	Project Title	Amount Requested (inc. GST)	Amount Recommended (excl. GST)
Cass Care Limited	Be Hooked On Crochet	\$2,028.60	\$1,844.18
Knox Wind Symphony Incorporated	Ensemble Development	\$1,412.25	\$1,412.25
Rowville Neighbourhood Learning Centre Inc T/as Community Learning Centre (referred to as CLC)	Stay Fresh	\$897.00	\$815.45
Wantirna Jetbacks Basketball Club	Junior Jets Basketball Program	\$3,000.00	\$2,727.27
Knox Dog Obedience Club	Replacement of chest freezer with upright freezer	\$2,500.00	\$1,899.00

Applicant Name	Project Title	Amount Requested (inc. GST)	Amount Recommended (excl. GST)
Ferntree Gully Knitting for Charity Group (Auspiced by Your Library)	Purchase knitting yarn	\$500.00	\$454.55
Knox Sporting Club Inc (Phoenix Basketball)	Wellbeing & Mental Health Sessions (SALT)	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Mountain District Learning Centre	Chicken Coop Upgrade	\$3,000.00	\$2,727.27
Chinese Association of Victoria Inc.	Camera	\$1,888.90	\$1,718.18
Knox Environment Society	Nursery Trolley Purchase	\$1,650.00	\$1,650.00
ADRA Community Care (Ferntree Gully)	Standup Fridge for ADRA Community Care Centre – Ferntree Gully	\$3,000.00	\$2,727.27
Knox City Cricket Club	Launching Knox City Cricket Club's first women's team and developing Junior teams.	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Templeton Cricket Club	Purchase replacement defibrillator	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Knox and District Over 50's Inc.	Purchase two laptop computers	\$954.00	\$954.00
Levande Wantirna Village	Garden Bed Upgrade	\$3,000.00	\$2,727.27
Society of St Vincent de Paul	Christmas Hampers	\$3,000.00	\$2,727.27
Spring of Life Christian Ministry Inc.	Senior Praise Dance Health and Wellbeing Project	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Wattleview Playgroup Inc	Everyone Gets to Play Equipment	\$2,008.20	\$2,008.20
All Stars Choir	Upgrade main PA speakers	\$2,895.30	\$2,000.00
Boronia Soccer Club	Uniform Upgrade	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Totals		\$44,734.25	\$41,391.16

2. Defer one application requesting a total of \$2,880.00 (including GST), as detailed below, as we await further information:

Applicant Name	Project Title	Amount Requested
Australia Multicultural Arts Association Inc.	2025 Dragon Boat Festival Celebration in Knox	\$2,880.00
Total		\$2,880.00

3. Refuse one application requesting a total of \$3,000.00 as detailed below:

Applicant Name	Project Title	Amount Requested	Reason for ineligibility
The Basin Country Fire Authority	The Basin CFA - Thermal Imaging Camera	\$3,000.00	Ineligible under Minor Grant Procedure item: 6.16 - Applications will not be eligible to receive a Minor Grant if they are from organisations who have not satisfied previous Council grant funding agreement conditions including grant acquittals from any other Council grant program.
Total		\$3,000.00	

4. Note that should the recommended grants be approved by Council, the remaining Minor Grants Program budget for 2024-2025 will be \$49,443.21 after GST adjustments.

CARRIED

Councillor Cooper returned to the meeting at 8:16pm following the vote on item 8.1.

Councillor Cooper returned to the role as Chairperson of the Council Meeting.

Councillor Pearce and Councillor Williams also returned to the meeting at 8:16pm following the vote on item 8.1.

8.2 Quarterly Performance Report for the Quarter Ended 30 September 2024

SUMMARY

The Quarterly Council Plan Progress Report for the period ended 30 September 2024 is presented for consideration and noting.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolve to:

1. Note the Financial Performance Report for the period ended 30 September 2024 (Attachment 1).
2. Note the Quarterly Performance Report for the period ended 30 September 2024 (Attachment 2).
3. Approve the closure of action CP 4.4.18 - Develop and implement a Resilience Plan to support the community to cope with stresses, emergencies and disasters.

Councillor Pearce noted this item referred to expenses claimed by her husband, former Councillor Darren Pearce, in the previous term of Council and as the resolution was to note the report it was not considered a conflict of interest, but appropriate to disclose in the interests of transparency.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Lockwood

SECONDED: Councillor Atwell

That Council resolve to:

1. **Note the Financial Performance Report for the period ended 30 September 2024 (Attachment 1).**
2. **Note the Quarterly Performance Report for the period ended 30 September 2024 (Attachment 2).**
3. **Approve the closure of action CP 4.4.18 - Develop and implement a Resilience Plan to support the community to cope with stresses, emergencies and disasters.**

CARRIED

8.3 Your Library Annual Report 2023-2024

SUMMARY

This report seeks to present the Your Library Annual Report 2023-2024 (refer Attachment 1) for noting.

Your Library is a co-operative venture of three outer eastern metropolitan councils – Knox, Maroondah and Yarra Ranges – servicing approximately 435,000 residents. The Your Library Board consists of two councillors from each of the member councils, who are appointed as directors of the company.

Libraries, as we know, are more than books. They contribute to social cohesion and connections within our communities. Your Library provides valuable services to the wide range of community members, at all ages and stages of their life. From Story Time for babies and their caregivers to homework clubs for teenagers, job search services for adults, and delivery services to people in aged care, Your Library caters to everyone in our community.

The six Knox libraries have had 570,626 physical check outs, 579,719 library visits and an outstanding 14,081 new members in the last financial year alone. These statistics place Knox Libraries, as a collective, as the most highly utilised of the Your Library network.

There are many achievements worth noting from 2023-24 in relation to the six Knox libraries, including the opening of the new Knox Library- Ngarrgoo at Knox Westfield in March. This library has exceeded all expectations from community and Council alike, with the community embracing the diverse offerings from the secret garden, Youth Hive Space, reading nooks, spacious children's area and community meeting rooms. This opening has contributed significantly to the above utilisation rates.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the Your Library Annual Report 2023-2024 (refer to Attachment 1).

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Lockwood

SECONDED: Councillor Baker

That Council notes the Your Library Annual Report 2023-2024 (refer to Attachment 1).

CARRIED

9 Supplementary Items

Nil.

10 Notices Of Motion

10.1 Notice of Motion No. 161 - Maintenance of Arterial Road Medians within the City of Knox

The following notice of motion was lodged by Councillor Williams in accordance with Council's Governance Rules:

I hereby give notice that it is my intention to move the following motion at the Council Meeting on 25 November 2024:

That Council:

1. Acknowledges the increasing concerns of residents regarding the inadequate maintenance of the medians along arterial roads within the City of Knox, which fall under the responsibility of VicRoads.
2. Notes that the lack of regular maintenance on these medians has led to significant amenity and safety concerns, including:
 - a. Reduced sight lines at intersections and other critical points, potentially posing a hazard to drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians.
 - b. An increased potential fire hazard due to the accumulation of dry vegetation which could endanger surrounding properties and public spaces.
 - c. Detrimental impacts on the overall visual appeal and amenity of the area.
3. Writes to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety, the Hon. Melissa Horne, and local state Members of Parliament, Jackson Taylor MP, Daniela Di Martino MP and The Hon. Kim Wells MP representing Knox, outlining Council's concerns regarding:
 - a. The current state of medians along arterial roads managed by VicRoads within the Knox area.
 - b. The immediate need for a regular and sufficient maintenance schedule to address safety risks, fire hazards, and amenity impacts.
 - c. Call on the Department of Transport and Planning to allocate the necessary resources to ensure these areas are adequately maintained.
4. Requests a response from the Minister regarding the maintenance regime in place to address these maintenance concerns, and for this information to be shared with the Council and community at the earliest opportunity.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Williams

SECONDED: Councillor Pearce

That Council:

- 1. Acknowledges the increasing concerns of residents regarding the inadequate maintenance of the medians along arterial roads within the City of Knox, which fall under the responsibility of VicRoads.**
- 2. Notes that the lack of regular maintenance on these medians has led to significant amenity and safety concerns, including:**
 - a. Reduced sight lines at intersections and other critical points, potentially posing a hazard to drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians.**
 - b. An increased potential fire hazard due to the accumulation of dry vegetation which could endanger surrounding properties and public spaces.**
 - c. Detrimental impacts on the overall visual appeal and amenity of the area.**
- 3. Writes to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety, the Hon. Melissa Horne, and local state Members of Parliament, Jackson Taylor MP, Daniela Di Martino MP and The Hon. Kim Wells MP representing Knox, outlining Council's concerns regarding:**
 - a. The current state of medians along arterial roads managed by VicRoads within the Knox area.**
 - b. The immediate need for a regular and sufficient maintenance schedule to address safety risks, fire hazards, and amenity impacts.**
 - c. Call on the Department of Transport and Planning to allocate the necessary resources to ensure these areas are adequately maintained.**
- 4. Requests a response from the Minister regarding the maintenance regime in place to address these maintenance concerns, and for this information to be shared with the Council and community at the earliest opportunity.**

CARRIED

10.2 Notice of Motion No. 162 - Maintenance of Arterial Roads within the City of Knox

The following notice of motion was lodged by Councillor Atwell in accordance with Council's Governance Rules:

I hereby give notice that it is my intention to move the following motion at the Council Meeting on 25 November 2024:

That Council:

1. Acknowledges the increasing frustration of residents regarding the poor and unacceptable condition of road surfaces and the proliferation of potholes on the arterial roads within the City of Knox, which are under the jurisdiction of VicRoads.
2. Highlights that the neglect of these major roads has resulted in several critical issues for road users in Knox, including:
 - a. Potential for vehicle damage, including tyre punctures, misalignment, and suspension damage due to potholes and uneven surfaces.
 - b. Heightened risk of accidents as potholes can create sudden obstacles, which can lead to accidents as drivers swerve to avoid them or lose control after impact. This is particularly dangerous on high-speed arterial roads where quick reactions and sudden maneuvers can result in collisions with other vehicles
 - c. Negative impact on the visual appeal and overall quality of life in the community.
3. Writes to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety, the Hon. Melissa Horne, and local state Members of Parliament, Jackson Taylor MP, Daniela Di Martino MP and The Hon. Kim Wells MP representing Knox, outlining Council's concerns regarding:
 - a. The poor and unacceptable state of road surfaces and the widespread issue of potholes on roads managed by VicRoads within the Knox area.
 - b. The urgent need for thorough and regular maintenance in accordance with the Department of Transport Road Management Plan to address safety hazards and improve road conditions.
 - c. Calls on the Department of Transport and Planning to reinstate the necessary resources to ensure these roads are properly maintained
4. Requests a response from the Minister regarding the maintenance regime to address these concerns and for this information to be shared with the Council and community at the earliest opportunity.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Atwell

SECONDED: Councillor Lockwood

That Council:

1. Acknowledges the increasing frustration of residents regarding the poor and unacceptable condition of road surfaces and the proliferation of potholes on the arterial roads within the City of Knox, which are under the jurisdiction of VicRoads.
2. Highlights that the neglect of these major roads has resulted in several critical issues for road users in Knox, including:
 - a. Potential for vehicle damage, including tyre punctures, misalignment, and suspension damage due to potholes and uneven surfaces.
 - b. Heightened risk of accidents as potholes can create sudden obstacles, which can lead to accidents as drivers swerve to avoid them or lose control after impact. This is particularly dangerous on high-speed arterial roads where quick reactions and sudden manoeuvres can result in collisions with other vehicles
 - c. Negative impact on the visual appeal and overall quality of life in the community.
3. Writes to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety, the Hon. Melissa Horne, and local state Members of Parliament, Jackson Taylor MP, Daniela Di Martino MP and The Hon. Kim Wells MP representing Knox, outlining Council's concerns regarding:
 - a. The poor and unacceptable state of road surfaces and the widespread issue of potholes on roads managed by VicRoads within the Knox area.
 - b. The urgent need for thorough and regular maintenance in accordance with the Department of Transport Road Management Plan to address safety hazards and improve road conditions.
 - c. Calls on the Department of Transport and Planning to reinstate the necessary resources to ensure these roads are properly maintained
4. Requests a response from the Minister regarding the maintenance regime to address these concerns and for this information to be shared with the Council and community at the earliest opportunity.

CARRIED

A Division was called by Councillor Atwell

For the motion: Councillor Cr Atwell, Cr Pearce, Cr Considine, Cr Baker, Cr Cooper, Cr Williams, Cr Duncan, Cr Kennett, Cr Lockwood

Against the motion: Nil

Abstention: Nil

CARRIED

11 Urgent Business

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Cooper

SECONDED: Councillor Williams

That Council resolve to admit Councillor Oaths and Affirmations of Office as an item of Urgent Business pursuant to Governance Rule 21.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Baker

SECONDED: Councillor Atwell

That Council receive and note copies of the Oaths and Affirmations of Office of Councillor Cooper, Councillor Lockwood, Councillor Baker, and Councillor Pearce as attached to the Minutes.

CARRIED

12 Questions Through the Chair

Nil.

13 Confidential Items

Nil.

MEETING CLOSED AT 8:43pm

Minutes of Meeting confirmed at the
Meeting of Council
held on Monday, 16 December 2024

.....
Chairperson

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