

**MINUTES OF MORNINGTON SHIRE COUNCIL  
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CORNER DJINKIYA & LARDIL STREET GUNUNA  
ON WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 9:00 AM**

**1 OPENING OF MEETING**

Mayor Richard Sewter opened the meeting at 9:11am.

**2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today, the Lardil people of Mornington Island and pay our respects to Elders past and present. We would also like to acknowledge the Kaiadilt, Yangkaal, Waanyi, Gangalidda and Garrawa people who share our homelands.

**3 PRESENT**

Mayor Richard Sewter, Deputy Mayor, Robert “Bobby” Thompson, Cr Farrah Linden, Cr Renee Wilson and Cr Jane Ah Kit.

Gary Uhlmann (Chief Executive Officer), Skye Price (Director Corporate and Community) and Matthew Fox, Chief Information Officer.

**4 LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Councillor Farrah Linden advised that she would be departing part way through the meeting to catch a flight.

**5 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST - COUNCILLORS AND STAFF**

**6 CONDOLENCES AND MEMORIALS**

A minute’s silence was held for lost loved ones.

## 7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

### RESOLUTION 2026/15

Moved: Deputy Mayor Robert "Bobby" Thompson

Seconded Councillor Renee Wilson

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting - 28 January 2026 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

**CARRIED 5 / 0**

## 8 DEPUTATIONS

10:00am - Clare Newton, Executive Director, Remote Health Facilities, Wesley Shann (Acting Chief Operating Officer and Giovanna Castellani, Acting Senior Project Director

North-West Hospital and Health Service

Mornington Island healthcare and early childhood service mapping

## 9 ACTION SCHEDULE

January 2026 resolutions tabled.

## 10 MAYOR AND COUNCILLOR REPORTS

### RESOLUTION 2026/16

Moved: Deputy Mayor Robert "Bobby" Thompson

Seconded Councillor Renee Wilson

That Councillors receive and note the Mayor and Councillors' verbal reports for February 2025.

**CARRIED 5 / 0**

### Mayor Richard Sewter

- Attended North-West Region Organisation of Councils (NWROC) in Mount Isa  
Discussed a special economic zone for the region and Mornington Island could have an active role
- Communicated with Bobby Katter with regard to airport resealing  
No airfield maintenance has occurred since the runway was constructed  
Council is not eligible for disaster management funds because the runway has not been damaged in a weather event, it has deteriorated over time
- Liaised with the new A/Sergent about a drug and home brew taskforce

- Will be visiting Brisbane next week with a NWROC delegation to meeting with the Deputy Premier and Attorney General. Topics of discussion will include Native Title, youth suicide, Alcohol Management Plan, declining carriage limit sales and pre-ordering requirements

### **Cr Farrah Linden**

- Several services are flying in to offer support, following recent deaths
- Efforts are being undertaken to ensure death registrations are completed, ordering of death certificates occurs
- It is proposed that a workshop occurs for Elected Members related to award and administration of the Funeral Fund because some misappropriation of funds is occurring
- Community Safety Committee has proposed an Alcohol Management Plan working group. However, it is not getting traction
- We need more positive things happening in community
- Elders' morning teas are being well received

### **Cr Jane Ah Kit**

- Attended session to meet new teachers and setting up a support structure to ensure that new teachers have a positive experience
- Attended Community Safety Committee
- Men's group at the church was locally led and well received
- Young people serving Elders at morning tea events is a positive step
- Young people cleaning up yards and giving back to community is also positive
- 480 people in community receive Centrelink benefits
- Centrelink services need to be restored

### **Cr Renee Wilson**

- Grief and community losses has been challenging for everyone
- Assisting with women's football, Tuesdays and Thursdays. This also contributes to social and emotional wellbeing/ promotes healthy living initiatives
- An Arts Centre update relates to monthly kids' night of dancing and soul man, with traditional singing

### **Deputy Mayor Robert "Bobby" Thompson**

- Continues to monitor roads and tracks with the maintenance team
- Spoke with outdoor workers about the importance of attending work, upholding the code of conduct and doing a good day's work

### **RESOLUTION 2026/17**

Moved: Councillor Farrah Linden

Seconded Deputy Mayor Roberty "Bobby" Thompson

That Councillors endorse immediate payment of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) legal fees for a formal Gulf Region Aboriginal Corporate Memorandum of Understanding, enabling immediate cemetery expansion and authorisation to proceed with other specified essential activities.

**CARRIED 5 / 0**

**11 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT  
RESOLUTION 2026/18**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Robert "Bobby" Thompson

Seconded Councillor Farrah Linden

That Council receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's report for February 2026.

**CARRIED 5 / 0**

**12 FINANCE****RESOLUTION 2026/19**

Moved: Councillor Jane Ah Kit

Seconded Deputy Mayor Robert "Bobby" Thompson

That Council receive and note the Financial Report for January 2026.

**CARRIED 5 / 0**

**RESOLUTION 2026/20**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Robert "Bobby" Thompson

Seconded Councillor Farrah Linden

That Council receive and note the periodic Capital Projects Office Masterplan overview for January 2026.

**CARRIED 5 / 0**

**RESOLUTION 2026/21**

Moved: Councillor Farrah Linden

Seconded Deputy Mayor Robert "Bobby" Thompson

That Council confirms and nominates these five (5) addresses: 19 Lardil Street, 251 Lardil Street, 16 Lardil Street, 327 Mukakiya Street and 318B Wangi Close for construction of plug-in buildings, upholding Social Housing Accelerator Payment program requirements on the condition that all sites take proactive account of social impact considerations related to building sizes, allotment sizes and potentially large families in close proximity to each other.

**CARRIED 5 / 0**

**RESOLUTION 2026/22**

Moved: Councillor Renee Wilson  
Seconded Deputy Mayor Robert "Bobby" Thompson

That Council approve the relinquishment of the Remote Capital Program, Quickstarts Qld -Schedule 1 agreement for the provision of five stand alone houses to the Department of Housing.

**CARRIED 5 / 0**

**RESOLUTION 2026/23**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Robert "Bobby" Thompson  
Seconded Councillor Jane Ah Kit

That Council approve the write off of the cumulative figure of \$53,213.52, comprising twenty (20) individual debts, from the period spanning 8 September 2021, to 26 February 2022.

**CARRIED 5 / 0**

**RESOLUTION 2026/24**

Moved: Councillor Farrah Linden  
Seconded Councillor Jane Ah Kit

That Council notes the results of the Asset Revaluation for 2024/25 financial year.

**CARRIED 5 / 0**

**13 GOVERNANCE**

**RESOLUTION 2026/25**

Moved: Councillor Renee Wilson  
Seconded Deputy Mayor Robert "Bobby" Thompson

That Council:

1. Endorse the *Mornington Shire Council Residential Land Supply and Housing Needs Assessment 2021-2041* prepared by wildPLAN and dated 10 December 2025;
2. Endorse the Implementation Actions prepared by wildPLAN and dated 19 February 2026;

3. Propose to amend the Mornington Shire Planning Scheme in accordance with the Implementation Actions; and pursuant to Section 18 of the *Planning Act 2016*.

**CARRIED 5 / 0**

**RESOLUTION 2026/26**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Robert "Bobby" Thompson

Seconded Councillor Renee Wilson

That Council adopt the operational Animal Management Policy and review the policy in one year's time after an ongoing microchipping, desexing and vaccination program, as well as periodic veterinary services visits.

**CARRIED 5 / 0**

**14 HUMAN RESOURCES**

**RESOLUTION 2026/27**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Robert "Bobby" Thompson

Seconded Councillor Renee Wilson

That Council receive and note the Human Resources report for February 2026.

**CARRIED 5 / 0**

**15 HOUSING AND FACILITIES**

**15.1 Housing and Facilities Report – January 2026**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**RESOLUTION 2026/28**

Moved: Councillor Jane Ah Kit

Seconded Deputy Mayor Robert "Bobby" Thompson

That Council receive and note the Housing and Facilities report for January 2026.

**CARRIED 5 / 0**

**16 ENGINEERING****16.1 Engineering report - February 2026**

At 2:30pm, Councillor Farrah Linden left the meeting.

**RESOLUTION 2026/29**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Robert "Bobby" Thompson

Seconded Councillor Jane Ah Kit

That Council receive and note the Engineering division report for February 2026.

**CARRIED 4/0**

**17 PLANNING AND COMMUNITIES****RESOLUTION 2026/30**

Moved: Councillor Jane Ah Kit

Seconded Deputy Mayor Robert "Bobby" Thompson

That Council receive and note the report related to Queensland Government Department of Housing Tenancy Services for February 2026.

**CARRIED 4 / 0**

**RESOLUTION 2026/31**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Robert "Bobby" Thompson

Seconded Councillor Renee Wilson

That Council receive and note the Hospitality and Accommodation report for February 2025.

**CARRIED 4 / 0**

**18 GENERAL BUSINESS**

- The Mayor will have a leave of absence during the March Ordinary Council meeting, whilst participating as a part of a delegation to Canberra
- The Chief Executive Officer's Key Performance Indicators and performance review will be scheduled and undertaken shortly
- Local Fare Scheme need to be checked for administration and eligibility, particularly flight scheduling for medical reasons/ travel
- Pest control in community housing is the responsibility of the tenant. QBuild will not undertake the works
- When the Chief Executive Officer or Mayor are off island, Elected Members would like notification in their Outlook calendars, so that they have an awareness of what is happening
- Interest in another Careers Expo being facilitated by the Queensland Government

**19 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS**

- 2:55pm - Ordinary Council meeting was adjourned to convene the Trust Management meeting
- 3:00pm - Trust Management meeting was opened
- Discussion ensued with regard to Trustee Lease – Lot 36 on SP 270889 – 1 Lardil Street Mornington Island
- The report remains laying on the table owing to no quorum to consider the recommendation
- 3:20pm – Trust Management meeting closed
- 3:22pm – Ordinary Council meeting recommenced

**20 NEXT MEETING**

25 March 2026

**21 CLOSURE**

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 3:22pm.