



**MORNINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF MEETING

**Ordinary Council Meeting
Wednesday 26 August 2026**

1 OPENING OF MEETING

Meeting opened by Mayor Richard Sewter at 9:10am

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), Matthew Fox (Director Corporate & Communications) and Jacinta Olds (Executive Officer - Minutes).

4 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil.

5 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST - COUNCILLORS AND STAFF

Nil.

6 CONDOLENCES AND MEMORIALS

A minutes silence was held for lost loved ones.

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

7.1 Amendment of Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting – 29 July 2026

Resolution 2026/134

Moved: Cr Farrah Linden

Seconded: Cr Jane Ah Kit

- Cr Farrah Linden requested that Item 20 General Business be amended to include:
Cr Farrah Linden requested information on the status of the CEO contract and performance review. Requested further discussion at a later date.

CARRIED 5/0

8 DEPUTATIONS

Department of Housing and Public Works – Alexia Kelso - Customer Service Manager @ 11:00AM to discuss Tenancy for New Housing, Updates on Social Housing Program and Tenancy Agreements. (11:05am – 11:29am).

- Councillors' discussion:
 - Noise complaints from tenants.
 - Pest Control – Community have no access to obtain pest control for their houses.
 - Maintenance issues with houses and no response from housing even regarding urgent repairs i.e. gas and electric problems.
 - Vacant housing and allocations.

9 ACTION SCHEDULE

9.1 Open Action Items

- New Action Item – DCC – organise meeting with Councillors on Tuesday 01 September to discuss Funeral, Sorry Business procedures and policy.

10 MAYOR AND COUNCILLOR REPORTS

10.1 Mayor and Councillor Verbal Reports

Mayor Richard Sewter

- Disaster recovery funding – still an issue with Remote QLD communities.
- Attended Mt Isa Yarn Up- Indigenous licencing, SPER, liquor licencing, blue cards, public trust, births/deaths/marriages etc. All departments in 1 spot – organising to have similar event in Mornington next year around March/April 2027.
- Met with Natalie DG, Debbie Dixon-Searle – liquor licencing discussion. Looking at Bamaga model.

Deputy Mayor Bobby Thompson

- Roads – Work is going well and have given advisement as necessary.

Cemetery – unmarked graves – would like to see them marked with person name. Need to check with community and old archives on names of unmarked graves. New burial sites and lot numbers should be documented and noted so community have a record of burial sites and names.
- Dam Road – potholes are extreme and the

Cr Farrah Linden

- Sorry Business – Community have had 2 more losses. 5 funerals still be organised.
- Coffin lowering device was not working – this needs to be fixed ASAP.

- No marquee being set up at funerals.
- Births/Deaths/Marriages – When sorry business occurs, hospital should notify BDM.

Issue with forms for notification to government departments. Council would like to see a local community member to take on a support role for funeral direction/administration.

- Donation of water for funerals – requested Council provide water for funerals.

Cr Renee Wilson

- Mornington Island State School – students aren't allowed in main gate and are going through the side gate. No pedestrian crossing on the side gate. Lots of children going through the side – safety issue.

Cr Jane Ah Kit

- No verbal report provided.

RESOLUTION 2026/135

Moved: Cr Bobby Thompson

Seconded: Cr Renee Wilson

That Councillors receive and note the Mayor and Councillors' verbal reports for July 2026.

CARRIED 5/0

Acting Senior Sergeant Shane Smale joined meeting in Council Chambers.

10:01am – 10:17am

- Discussion regarding violence on island over the weekend.
- Noise complaints of loud music in community all through the night.
- Police need a complaint to be made to be able to shut down the music at houses.
- Please call 000 for complaints or emergency.
- Home brew is still a major issue in the community.
- Mornington Island Police hours:
 - Monday – Wednesday 8am – 12am
 - Thursday – Sunday 8am – 2am

Short Break 10:17am -10:35am

Mayor Richard Sewter left the meeting at 10:35am – 10:38am

Cr Renee Wilson left the meeting at 11:17am – 11:34am

Cr Jane Ah Kit left the meeting at 11:29am – 11:30am

11 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

11.1 Chief Executive Officer Report - July 2026

- Council discussion on the issues around the Alcohol Management Plan (AMP). AMP is outdated and does not work in communities.
- Major issue for local government is the reduction in funding which is not feasible for remote communities.

RESOLUTION 2026/136

Moved: Cr Farrah Linden

Seconded: Cr Renee Wilson

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

CARRIED 5/0

Mayor Richard Sewter left the meeting at 11:01am – 11:05am

Cr Jane Ah Kit left the meeting at 11:01am – 11:06am

12 FINANCE

12.1 Financial Report – July 2026

RESOLUTION 2026/137

Moved: Cr Bobby Thompson

Seconded: Cr Farrah Linden

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

CARRIED 5/0

12.2 Projects Office - Masterplan Monthly Update July 2026

RESOLUTION 2026/138

Moved: Cr Farrah Linden

Seconded: Cr Bobby Thompson

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

CARRIED 5/0

12.3 2026-2027 Fees & Charges Amendment

RESOLUTION 2026/139

Moved: Cr Bobby Thompson

Seconded: Cr Renee Wilson

That in accordance with Section 97 of the Local Government Act 2009, the council adopt the revised Fees and Charges for the 2026-27 financial year as tabled.

Lunch Break – 12:09pm – 1:02pm

Cr Jane Ah Kit joined meeting at 1:08pm

13 COMMUNITY

13.1 Community Report – July 2026

RESOLUTION 2026/140

Moved: Cr Farrah Linden

Seconded: Cr Renee Wilson

That Council receive and note the Community Report for 1-31 July 2026.

CARRIED 5/0

- Australia Day Councillor discussion;
 - It's about people coming together. Live band would be a good idea. Community event where people can relax. Family friendly environment.
 - Councillors will consult with community and see what ideas community have.

13.2 New Years Eve Fireworks Display

RESOLUTION 2026/141

Moved: Cr Bobby Thompson

Seconded: Cr Farrah Linden

That Council:

- (i) Approved the re-engagement of Bright Nite Fireworks for the 2026 New Year's Eve fireworks displays; and
- (ii) Support for the 2026 New Year's Eve fireworks display to the value of \$32,580.

CARRIED 5/0

14 CORPORATE AND COMMUNICATIONS

14.1 Corporate & Communications Report – July 2026

RESOLUTION 2026/142

Moved: Cr Farrah Linden

Seconded: Cr Bobby Thompson

That Council receive and note the Corporate and Communications report for July 2026.

CARRIED 5/0

14.2 Child Safe Code of Conduct

RESOLUTION 2026/143

Moved: Cr Farrah Linden

Seconded: Cr Renee Wilson

That Council resolves to adopt the Mornington Shire Council Child Safe Code of Conduct as presented.

CARRIED 5/0

14.3 Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy

RESOLUTION 2026/144

Moved: Cr Farrah Linden

Seconded: Mayor Richard Sewter

That Council resolves to adopt the Mornington Shire Council Child Safety and Well Being Policy as presented.

CARRIED 5/0

Cr Renee Wilson left the meeting at 1:39pm – 1:40pm

14.4 Procurement – Communications Consultant Formal Engagement

RESOLUTION 2026/145

Moved: Cr Farrah Linden

Seconded: Cr Jane Ah Kit

That Council approves formal engagement of Katherine Hollis (ABN:29 330 305 616) in accordance with Qld Local Government Regulation 235 (b) and authorises the CEO to enter into a 12-month fixed term contractual arrangement with 2 x 12-month optional extensions.

CARRIED 5/0

15 HUMAN RESOURCES

15.1 Human Resources & Payroll Services Report - July 2026

RESOLUTION 2026/146

Moved: Cr Farrah Linden

Seconded: Cr Bobby Thompson

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

CARRIED 4/0

Cr Renee Wilson was not present for resolution.

- Discussion with councillors regarding community members not applying for jobs advertised.
 - Cr Jane Ah Kit – community members are advising that they are not getting

interviews after applying for jobs.

- Youth opportunities, they require mentoring and training.
- Cr Renee Wilson – community members are advising that they have applied for jobs in Council but have been turned away.
(Council require names so they can look into who and what caused that outcome).

Cr Renee Wilson left the meeting at 2:16pm – 2:25pm

15.2 MSC-STAT-019 Employee Code of Conduct

RESOLUTION 2026/147

Moved: Mayor Richard Sewter

Seconded: Cr Farrah Linden

That Council adopts the revised Employee Code of Conduct dated August 2026.

CARRIED 4/0

Cr Renee Wilson was not present for resolution.

Short Break 2.23pm – 2:29pm

16 HOUSING AND FACILITIES

16.1 Housing and Facilities Report – July 2026

RESOLUTION 2026/148

Moved: Cr Farrah Linden

Seconded: Cr Bobby Thompson

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

CARRIED 4/0

Cr Renee Wilson was not present for resolution.

Cr Renee Wilson left the meeting at 2:54pm

17 ENGINEERING

17.1 Engineering and Infrastructure Report - July 2026

RESOLUTION 2026/149

Moved: Cr Farrah Linden

Seconded: Cr Bobby Thompson

That Council receive and note the Engineering and Infrastructure report for July 2026.

CARRIED 4/0

- Cr Jane Ah Kit – There are a lot of dogs & puppies on the streets. Some are in packs.
- Cr Farrah Linden – After dog attacks / bites, there seems to be no repercussions. Dogs are also always hanging around the store/cafe.
- Cemetery issue – it is essential and necessary that the cemetery be extended as there is no room for further burials.

18 Hospitality and Accommodation

18.1 Hospitality and Accommodation Report – July 2026

RESOLUTION 2026/150

Moved: Cr Farrah Linden

Seconded: Cr Bobby Thompson

That Council receive and note the Hospitality and Accommodation report for July 2026.

CARRIED 5/0

- Cr Jane Ah Kit – Can council organise accredited training for cleaners/housekeeping, hospitality etc. (Council can organise training for different areas of hospitality).
- Cr Farrah Linden – The older motel units need some maintenance/repairs/upgrades.

19 CORRESPONDENCE

- The Honourable Deb Frecklington AG and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity, – Response to Urgent Assistance Request for State Engagement and First Principles Review of Native Title and Infrastructure Delivery Arrangement on Mornington Island.
- Director-General Department of Transport and Main Roads – Update on the Continued Delivery of Regional Aviation Services.

20 GENERAL BUSINESS

Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers continuation training for elected members – Potential dates.

Cr Jane Ah Kit

- CEO performance review – meeting will be organised with council.

Cr Farrah Linden

- CEO Contract – please bring any updates to next meeting.

21 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

21.1 TENDER RECOMMENDATION – MORNINGTON ISLAND FORESHORE, BARGE LANDING AND SEAWALL PROJECT – DESIGN & TENDER SERVICE

RESOLUTION 2026/151

Moved: Cr Farrah Linden

Seconded: Cr Renee Wilson

That the meeting be closed in accordance with the Local Government Regulation Q/d Section 254J(g) negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government.

CARRIED 5/0

Ordinary Meeting Closed– 12:00pm

RESOLUTION 2026/152

Moved: Cr Farrah Linden

Seconded: Cr Bobby Thompson

The meeting be reopened.

CARRIED 5/0

Ordinary Meeting Opened – 12:08pm

RESOLUTION 2026/153

Moved: Cr Bobby Thompson

Seconded: Mayor Richard Sewter

That Council resolve to:

1. Approve the appointment of Stantec Australia Pty Ltd (ABN 17 007 820 322) under Local Buy Contract LB312 for the Mornington Island Foreshore, Barge Landing and Seawall Project; Design & Tender Services, for a lump sum of \$819,994.00 excluding GST (\$901,993.40 including GST); and
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to confirm and allocate committed funds, finalise and approve the use of consultancy contract AS 4122, with support from the evaluation team and the confirmed superintendent, as required.

CARRIED 5/0

22 NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled ordinary council meeting will be held on 30 September 2026.

23 CLOSURE

Meeting closed at 3.21pm