MORNINGTON SHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

Ordinary Council Meeting
Wednesday 30 September 2026

ORDER OF BUSINESS

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 (via Microsoft Teams), Deputy Mayor Robert 'Bobby' Thompson, Cr Farrah Linden, Cr Renee Wilson and Cr Jane Ah Kit (via Microsoft Teams)

Matthew Fox (Acting Chief Executive Officer), Jacinta Olds (Executive Officer - Minutes) and Emma Kruse (Executive Assistant - Minutes)

4 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Gary Uhlmann (CEO)

5 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST - COUNCILLORS AND STAFF

Nil.

6 CONDOLENCES AND MEMORIALS

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

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

7.1 Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting – 29 July 2026

Resolution 2026/154

Moved: Cr Farrah Linden

Seconded: Cr Renee Wilson

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting – 29 July 2026 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

CARRIED 5/0

7.2 Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting – 26 August 2026

Resolution 2026/155

Moved: Cr Farrah Linden

Seconded: Cr Bobby Thompson

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting – 26 August 2026 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

CARRIED 5/0

8 DEPUTATIONS

Nil.

9 ACTION SCHEDULE

9.1 Open Action Items

MORNINGTON SHIRE COUNCIL

ACTION SCHEDULE

DATE	DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE	ACTION	Outcome	STATUS
27/05/2026	CEO / DCC	Policy and Procedure for burials, funerals and sorry business to be done by Council. Follow up with DG for assistance.	Data Provided by Cr. Linden for input into consolidated Policy and procedure.	In Progress
26/08/2026	DCC	Organise meeting with Councillors on Tesday 01 September to discuss funeral & sorry business procedures and policy.	Meeting to be rescheduled.	In Progress

10 MAYOR AND COUNCILLOR REPORTS

10.1 Mayor and Councillor Verbal Reports

Mayor Richard Sewter

- Water Treatment Plant – There have been some issues during the planning stage that are being investigated.
- Land Use – Request meeting to discuss MoU on Land Use.

Deputy Mayor Bobby Thompson

- Cemetery – Look at working with the Wirri Wirri Men's Group to help at the cemetery.

Cr Farrah Linden

- Cemetery – Request for Council to update details of all names and lot numbers. Suggest a Community Event to get community to assist with identification of lots and request for Council to supply engraving and markers.
- Sorry Business – Working with Council's Funeral Coordinator on a hand over and assisting filling out forms.
- Review of cemetery plots and mapping required.

- Yarn UP Event – Proposed to be held on April 2027, suggest hosting a Careers Expo at the same time with all services in attendance.
- SES and Marine Rescue – Would like to see an increase in community participation.
- Calendar of Events 2026 - 2027 – Request for a list of proposed events for remainer 2026 and 2027 including any planned events for Memorial Day and Show Day.

Cr Jane Ah Kit

- TMR Local Fares – Advocate for TMR to advise individuals in writing when they are removed from the register.

New Action Item – DEI - Update Cemetery Map with names and lot numbers.

RESOLUTION 2026/156

Moved: Cr Bobby Thompson

Seconded: Cr Farrah Linden

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

CARRIED 5/0

11 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

11.1 Chief Executive Officer Report – August 2026

RESOLUTION 2026/157

Moved: Cr Bobby Thompson

Seconded: Cr Farrah Linden

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

CARRIED 5/0

Short Break 10:12am – 10:22am

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12 FINANCE

12.1 Financial Report – August 2026

RESOLUTION 2026/158

Moved: Cr Farrah Linden

Seconded: Cr Robert "Bobby" Thompson

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

CARRIED 5/0

12.2 Projects Office - Masterplan Monthly Update August 2026

Cr Renee Wilson left the meeting at 10:46am

RESOLUTION 2026/159

Moved: Cr Robert "Bobby" Thompson

Seconded: Cr Farrah Linden

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

CARRIED 4/0

12.3 Procurement Policy Update

RESOLUTION 2026/160

Moved: Cr Farrah Linden

Seconded: Cr Robert "Bobby" Thompson

That Council resolve to adopt the revised Procurement Policy as presented.

CARRIED 4/0

13 COMMUNITY

13.1 Community Report – August 2026

RESOLUTION 2026/161

Moved: Cr Robert "Bobby" Thompson

Seconded: Cr Farrah Linden

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

CARRIED 4/0

HUMAN RESOURCES & PAYROLL SERVICES

13.2 Human Resources & Payroll Services Report – August 2026

RESOLUTION 2026/162

Moved: Mayor Richard Sewter

Seconded: Cr Robert "Bobby" Thompson

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

CARRIED 4/0

13.3 Organisational Structure – August 2026

Cr Renee Wilson returned to meeting at 11:44am

RESOLUTION 2026/163

Moved: Cr Robert "Bobby" Thompson

Seconded: Mayor Richard Sewter

That Council adopt the Mornington Shire Council Functional and Organisation Charts as tabled.

CARRIED 5/0

Lunch Break 11:56am – 1:06 pm

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14 CORPORATE AND COMMUNICATIONS

14.1 Corporate & Communications Report – August 2026

RESOLUTION 2026/164

Moved: Cr Farrah Linden

Seconded: Cr Jane Ah Kit

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

CARRIED 5/0

14.2 Adoption of MSC Annual Report 2024/2025

Councillors discussed the report in particular Senior Management Structure and Remuneration Bands

RESOLUTION 2026/165

Moved: Cr Richard Sewter

Seconded: Cr Bobby Thompson

That Council adopt the Annual Report for financial year 2024/25 as tabled.

CARRIED 5/0

14.3 Adoption of Annual Operational Plan

Councillors discussed plan. Cr Jane Ah Kit asked for reporting against the plan. Quarterly reports will be presented to council.

RESOLUTION 2026/166

Moved: Cr Farrah Linden

Seconded: Cr Robert "Bobby" Thompson

That Council adopt the Mornington Shire Council Annual Operational Plan for financial year 2026/27 as tabled.

CARRIED 5/0

14.4 Adoption of Gifts and Benefits Policy

RESOLUTION 2026/167

Moved: Cr Renee Wilson

Seconded: Cr Jane Ah Kit

That Council resolves to adopt the Gifts and Benefits Policy as tabled.

CARRIED 5/0

14.5 Adoption of Acceptable Request Guidelines Policy

RESOLUTION 2026/168

Moved: Cr Jane Ah Kit

Seconded: Mayor Richard Sewter

That Council resolves pursuant to section 170A(7) of the *Local Government Act 2009*, to adopt the Acceptable Request Guidelines as tabled.

CARRIED 5/0

14.6 Adoption of Guidelines for the Provision of Councillor Administration Support

RESOLUTION 2026/169

Moved: Cr Renee Wilson

Seconded: Cr Jane Ah Kit

That Council resolves pursuant to section 170AA of the *Local Government Act 2009*, to adopt the Guidelines for the Provision of Councillor Administration Support Staff Policy as tabled.

CARRIED 5/0

15 HOUSING AND FACILITIES

15.1 Housing and Facilities Report – August 2026

RESOLUTION 2026/170

Moved: Cr Robert "Bobby" Thompson

Seconded: Cr Farrah Linden

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

CARRIED 5/0

16 ENGINEERING & INFRASTRUCTURE

16.1 Engineering and Infrastructure Report - August 2026

Cr Linden asked for gardens around Totem Poles to cleaned up at Airport. And around the memorial. Stops the views of planes. Rocks also cause a hazard.

Cr Ah Kit raised traffic management issues when moving heavy machinery through the township.

Cr Linden asked about plan for the Dam Road

Mayor asked if Conveyor Belt has been repaired at Batching Plant

Cr Linden suggests Council support JGK Men's Group with night patrols.

Cr Ah Kit suggested story in the Council Newsletter re dog attacks and encourage community to report incidents.

New Action Item – DEI – Request to clean up the gardens around the Totem Poles and Memorial at the Airport including rocks as they cause a hazard

New Action Item – DEI – Review of process of Heavy vehicle transport and traffic management on Island. and qualifications on Island. WHS and qualification checks to be conducted with Contractors working on the Island

RESOLUTION 2026/171

Moved: Cr Farrah Linden

Seconded: Cr Renee Wilson

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

CARRIED 5/0

Short Break 2:00pm – 2:04pm

17 Hospitality and Accommodation

17.1 Hospitality and Accommodation Report – August 2026

Cr Linden raised updating gazebo area at Motel area.

Cr Linden raised rooms had different utensils and cooking equipment.

Cr Linden asked what future events were planned at the Tavern. CM responded NRL Grand Final, Staff Awards and New Years event.

Cr Ah Kit asked when accommodation fees for booking with multiple occupants booking, guests are being charged per person. E.g. $250 one person and additional charge for extra person.

New Action Item – DHA – Review Fees and Charges for Motel bookings with multiple occupancy. Report to be presented to the October Meeting.

RESOLUTION 2026/172

Moved: Cr Bobby Thompson

Seconded: Cr Renee Wilson

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

CARRIED 5/0

18 CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

19 GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Jane Ah Kit

- Location/Town and Emergency Services – Location is not consistent across different systems e.g. TMR, electoral roll. Request for services to align to avoid confusion.

Mayor Richard Sewter

- Chief Executive Officer has taken unscheduled leave. Mayor has delegated ACEO responsibility for duration of the leave to allow for continuation of council operations.

RESOLUTION 2026/173

Moved: Mayor Richard Sewter

Seconded: Cr Bobby Thompson

That Matthew Fox be appointed Acting Chief Executive Officer, assuming all responsibilities and delegations of the CEO until the Chief Executive Officer returns from leave.

CARRIED 5/0

Cr Farrah Linden

- Adult Crime, Adult Time – Council should be supporting.
- Boat Ramp – Sand is being removed from the area, removal of sand will cause erosion.
- Mapping of Cemetery – want to move forward with assistance from Deputy Mayor and Engineering & Infrastructure. Need this information to establish how much land is available.

Matthew Fox

Recommend that the next Council Meeting scheduled for Thursday 29 October 2026 be moved to Wednesday 28 October 2026.

RESOLUTION 2026/174

Moved: Cr Bobby Thompson

Seconded: Cr Renee Wilson

CARRIED 5/0

20 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Nil.

21 NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled ordinary council meeting to be held on Wednesday 28 October 2026.

22 CLOSURE

Meeting closed at 2.32pm.