

Minutes of a public meeting held on Wednesday 27 March 2024 at 6.00pm at KGV, Glenorchy, in response to a petition submitted by Janiece Bryan.

The subject matter of the meeting, as petitioned by Janiece Bryan to the Glenorchy City Council

We the undersigned, hereby request that Council:

- Urgently repair and re-open the Glenorchy War Memorial Pool
- Hold a public meeting to address the pool related concerns.

The meeting was facilitated by Adrian Smith of CorComms.

## Attendees

**Community members:** 87

**Elected Members:** Aldermen Dunsby, Alderman King, Mayor Thomas, Deputy Mayor Hickey, Alderman Cockshutt, Alderman Alderton, Alderman Yaxley and Alderman Slade, Councillor Kendall

**Glenorchy City Council Staff:** Tony McMullen (General manager), Tracey Ehrlich (Director Corporate & Community Services), Luke Chiu (Manager Property, Environment & Waste), Michael Jacques (Acting Manager People & Governance), Emma Watkins (Coordinator Executive & Strategy), Kirilly Crawford (Community Engagement Advisor), Andrea Marquardt (Coordinator Communications & Engagement), Mandy Henderson (Executive Assistant to the General Manager), Mel Burk (Executive Assistant to the Mayor).

### 1. Welcome

The Facilitator welcomed attendees including Elected Members, the Mayor, and political representatives and thanked Janiece Bryan.

### 2. Acknowledgement of Country

The Facilitator gave an acknowledgement of country.

### 3. Housekeeping

The Facilitator advised:

- that participants were in attendance to discuss pool related concerns
- the meeting would run for a duration of around 2 hours
- 3-minute takers would be minuting the meeting
- the meeting was being recorded (audio only)
- minutes from the meeting, including answers to any questions taken on notice, will be available on the Council website 4 days prior to next Council meeting will be up on the website (evening of Wed 24 April 2024)
- all minutes from the meeting will be fed into the MI Global engagement program

The Facilitator advised that a number of questions were received in advance and have been answered by Council. Copies were printed and are included in handouts.

#### 4. Acknowledgement of Submissions.

Council received 9 submissions in advance of this meeting. Those submissions were summarised and included in handouts. Thank you to those who sent in their submissions.

The Facilitator advised that Janiece Bryan would start proceedings and Dr Shane Gould would then speak about her thesis and would be available during the Q&A session.

#### 5. Ground rules

The Facilitator set out ground rules:

- be respectful
- no abuse and shouting over speakers
- each person to have 3 minutes for a statement and question
- everyone to have a say
- be mindful that other people will want to speak

#### 6. Facilitator Introduction

The Facilitator introduced himself as Adrian Smith of CorComms. His two business partners were in the room to manage roving microphones.

The facilitator highlighted that CorComms do not work for Council. They do own several Newspapers including the Glenorchy Gazette. The facilitator stated that he was a Glenorchy City Council ratepayer and resident and is very connected to the area.

#### 7. Context Setting

The Facilitator provided an update on funding requests, MI Global engagement, bipartisan election commitments of \$5m. Council is working with Lacus to commence repairs. Currently there is a second petition being circulated seeking an elector poll.

#### 8. Public Statements and Questions

Submissions and Questions asked at the meeting have been summarised and may not include the participant's full preamble.

The following Submissions and Questions were provided. Any Questions taken on notice will be answered in the 29 April 2024 Council meeting agenda.

**Janiece Bryan – Petitioner**

Special thanks to Dr Shane Gould and wisdom about swimming pools. Caring about children and caring about the public. The petition started when people started to question the Council. Hopefully, they will now listen and care about their community, what we desperately need. Seeking transparency and accountability, need for pool to reopen as soon as possible. No money yet cost shifting. In Nov 2021 stated on a podcast that there are no noes on this council, yet there have been many for this community. We want our money spent on our very neglected youth. Council must commit to public funding of the pool and recognising its wide-ranging benefits to this community. We believe an elector poll is the only way that we can give people a say. It must not be handed to property developers. Why are we being discriminated against?

In 1963 people worked hard to build this pool for people they did not meet. \$840,000 spent on upgrades in the last 3 years to refurbish the water slide and water heat, reseal parking area, roof, kiosk, shade covers, etc.

Quote from Jaquie Lambie

“I’ll be damned if I vote to tell those rural and regional areas of Tasmania that they deserve to have their opportunities suffocated in a way they’d never even know. I’m not doing it, I’ll never do that.

“I don’t care what you offer. You can offer me a billion bucks for Tasmania, but I won’t sell out our kids.

“I refuse to be the vote that tells poor kids out there, those sitting on that fine line, that no matter how gifted, no matter how determined you are, you might as well dream a little cheaper. Because you can’t afford it”

A resident from Glenorchy wrote to the Mercury. School children playing reminds her of the Glenorchy Pool. So sad people are no longer able to enjoy the pool.

**Leeanne Rose**, administrator of ‘Save Glenorchy War Memorial Pool Facebook group’.

Shared of history of the pool. Thanks to Janiece Bryan.

Introduction of Dr Shane Gould, best known as an Australian Sporting Legend and Australian of the Year 1972, won 5 individual medals at the Munich Olympics. Please welcome her and thank her to support our community of Glenorchy and all those who use our pool.

**Dr Shane Gould**

The problem that Glenorchy has is worldwide. Pools are old and decayed and need to be funded. I have travelled the world with my husband Milton and seen how they have been revitalised. The facility here is a place, not just an asset or a service role. Potential to be revitalised as a special place in people's lives. 25 years ago a change to how local governments viewed community facilities (read from a research paper, Ian McShane in response to pools closing in Victoria). Cannot put a financial value



on a swimming pool. What is the function of a public swimming pool? As a Dr of Philosophy studying the culture of swimming in Australia. Values of a swimming facility.

List: Social meeting place, place for older people to watch and feel included from memories in a safe social space, physical activity, water safety, all the sports and swimming clubs including learn to swim and paddle boarding. Becomes a learning place. In Mildura there is a shared facility with a library. No school – no pool. Remote program in WA, to stop truancy. Pool, not school at the pool. Cultural and having a sense of inclusiveness and social cohesion.

UTAS sustainable living. Engage the local people with the knowledge, PhD, on how and what to do with the pool. Experiential and research.

Thank the people for airing their concerns and utilising their democratic right to be heard.

**6:44pm, 5-minute break, reconvene at 6:50pm.**

Reconvened at 7.00pm

## 8. Public Statements and Questions Continued

### Mala Crew

Tenders, in the past council invited tenders, contractors called to get a tender pack, informed that they were not entitled to a pack if they had not worked with council in the past.

- Q. Will you be opening these tenders to all Tasmanian contractors?
- A. (General Manager) Council runs an open procurement process, legal requirement to do so. Invited Mala to provide details and will investigate.
- Q. Our Mayor goes on leave from 3 April to run for a seat for the upper house. Assurances that everything we decide upon this evening will work properly.
- A. (Mayor) One of 10 people whilst she is on leave of absence, Alderman Sue Hickey will act as Mayor, full team of elected members to represent the community in the April Council meeting.
- Q. Proposed housing projects. Infrastructure for that, are we going to sacrifice parking in Glenorchy. We need parks, pools, open green spaces. Prior to handing out these contractors to developers, make sure that this infrastructure is in place.
- A. (General Manager) Yes, where we can we ensure that adequate infrastructure is in place, or that we are providing adequate infrastructure for the growth of the city. For example, there are 10 playgrounds being upgraded as we speak.

### Nicole Vout

Thanks to Jan. Communication on this has been poor, Lacus report, March 2023, counted down the seconds until she got into the pool. Ratepayers were not informed.

- Q. To the Mayor, realise that people are entitled to act on personal aspirations however should ride the wave, should be here to continue to work on funding.
- A. (Mayor) I am committed to representing the people in whatever capacity and be a strong advocate on this issue.
- Q. Re accessing a pool. I acted on a council directive to re access other pools. I have found that other pools are busy and not as easy to get to. **Question directed to Tony McMullen**, a conversation I have had with you and others, stated we thought we had 2 years. Clarification of what that means?
- A. (General Manager) We had a 45 minute phone conversation about 6 months ago so I don't recall the precise discussion about the 2 years you refer to. Council in its current Annual Plan included two specific actions relating to the investigation of the future of the pool. When we commissioned the Lacus report, we were not expecting the condition report outcome to be as it was. The pool is a 60-year asset at the end of useful life. The dilemma for Council was how do we go forward from there. Knowledge Asset Management Services, to whom Lacus was a sub-contractor, provided a range of options going forward. As GM I am responsible for WHS (Work Health and Safety) with the statutory responsibility of keeping our workers and community safe and the condition report showed a range of safety issues with the pool I made

the decision in July, to keep the pool closed for the foreseeable future for safety reasons. So the reference to 2 years may have referred to the fact we knew the pool was approaching end of life, and thought we had more time, to work out the solution going forward. MI Global process is trying to work through the business case to seek funding for long term replacement of the facility.

(Mayor) Over the last 2 years Council has been aware that a condition assessment was the first step towards a strategy to explore the future of aquatic centre. Hard to engage community. Room full of people now listening since the pool has closed. Ongoing significant funding commitment. We all need to be lobbying.

### **Renee Rime**

Q. Why did GCC decide to empty the pool?

A. (Manager Property, Environment and Waste), we understand the concerns. Advice sought from engineer around the issue. The issue is not the water holding the pool walls up, rather water building up under the pool. Without the weight of the water, the bottom can push up and cause cracking.

Solution is to drill core holes and install hydro static relief valves. This will be happening imminently with Council's own funds. As soon as holes in the floor are created, pressure can't build up. the pool shell is not compromised. The seals will be replaced as part of the \$5M refurbishment.

Regarding 35,000 litres a day. The pool was stagnant, water green and a safety risk. We cannot allow the water to escape into environment and creek.

### **John Pritchard**

Q. Re the 35,000 litres a day, communication has been nil to ratepayers. If water is escaping, why do we need the valves?

A. (Manager Property, Environment and Waste) The valves protect the structure and are an ongoing benefit for future pool emptying. In the Lacus report, the main area of concrete impacted is the pool concourse. area of concrete that shows the main impact (concourse at the top). That area may need to be dug up and replaced in order to repair pipework (obtain usual response).

### **Richard Rowlands**

Q. Regeneration of the Tattersalls Hobart Aquatic Pool and the new Southern Midlands pool and gym. Can we follow their successful outcomes and their course of action?

- A. (General Manager) I cannot comment on Tattersalls Aquatic Centre, but my recollection is the initial cost was \$8M for the Southern Midland's development (pool and sporting facility). There was Government funding for the Southern Midlands project.

**Lisa Rime**

Do not have a question, I don't have faith in council answers; they are inconsistent, condescending, patronising – we care about this place. We feel like we have had the wool pulled over our eyes. You think we are stupid. Please engage with sincerity. You are representatives we vote you in. Know there is a feeling of mistrust within the community.

**Alderman Stuart Slade**

- Q. Communications need to improve as of tonight. I seek a commitment around the valves that they are going in and a date on when they will be completed?
- A. (Manager Property, Environment and Waste) The technical specifications were only received late yesterday and we will publicise when these works occur as soon as we can.

**Richard Rowlands**

- Q. Where is the plan to have upgrades and refurbishments done? Was there anyone in the last 10 years who could foresee this?
- A. (Manager Property, Environment and Waste) The General Manager outlined the background of what occurred over the last 2 years earlier. In addition, 12 months prior to that a budget bid was put forward that asked for \$100,000 to undertake condition assessment and undertake community engagement on the longer term pool preferences, as we were aware the pool was 60 years old and hence near the end of its life. The condition report unfortunately indicated it was too unsafe to open the pool as it was too serious a health and safety risk.

**Nicole Vout**

Council had not maintained the pool therefore funding was rejected.

**Ella Haddad, Labor Member for Clark**

- Q. Question around the \$5M. Labor's commitment was not contingent on majority government, and the Liberal's was. I am worried that the money may not be delivered by the Liberals. Has GCC sought any assurance from the Liberal party that they will deliver the money?
- A. (Mayor) Assurance from the fact that all have committed to supporting the repair and reopening of the pool. GCC will contact them when it is known who has been voted in. Continuing to advocate on what has been committed.

**Unknown Participant 1**

- Q. If 4000 signatures already obtained, why do we need another 1000? Urged every person in the room to take the petition and seek signature of 14 neighbours, therefore providing 1400 signatures potentially.
- A. (General Manager) The legislation has two separate sections. The first required 1000 elector signatures to trigger a public meeting, and then a further 1000 elector signatures would be needed to require an elector poll.

**Deputy Mayor Sue Hickey**

Confirmed she will be acting Mayor for the four weeks from 3 April 2024.

Regarding the Tattersalls Pool, Doone Kennedy was a tenacious Mayor of HCC, they had \$1M to put towards swimming pool. Cost of pool, needs funding, is a massive expense. On behalf of the EMs this is a massive level of engagement. Warning arising from Save UTAS campaign – this elector poll will cost \$200,000 which could go into repair of the pool. It is non-binding (referencing UTAS moving). Reference the Xmas tree. In public battles, sometimes things are said that become fact.

Q. To the General Manager, where has this idea come from that Council wants to give the public land to big developers?

A. (General Manager) One of our strategic objectives at Council is to be “open for business” in Glenorchy> There would not be too many other councils that did not have a similar objective. We want to create jobs in Glenorchy. In terms of the questions of “selling off the farm”, that is not the case. We have a land disposal program where surplus land is disposed of. However, we take these proceeds and reinvest them in improvements. For example, GCC is investing significantly in our open space and invested significantly in the past 6 months in Giblin’s Reserve and Benjafield Park.

**James Bryan**

Sue is correct, the community is letting people know they are unhappy.

The Elector Poll will ensure Council knows the depth of community feeling about closure of the pool. Looking at the Greater Glenorchy Plan and what is suggested to happen over the next 10-20 years, parking spaces have development on them (Barry/Regina Street referred to as Mill Lane). GCC not being open and honest with the community. commentator compelled people to put their full address on the petition.

**Unknown Participant 2**

Please test things on a smaller scale, making any alterations to big pool, can it be put into a smaller pool? We want to keep the presence of the War Memorial, try it elsewhere before intervening with our pool. Talking about youth and enjoying the pool. Bring it forward, follow the heart of what people are saying.



**Angela Strk**

Q. Sue Hickey, are you on the Board of OneCare and did you vote to get rid of the hydrotherapy pool that was part funded with taxpayers' money?

A. (Alderman Sue Hickey) Yes, I am on the Board of OneCare. The pool was never a warm water therapy pool, it ran 3 degrees below what it should. It was built against a business plan. Aged Care, core business to protect the elderly. Explained that it was always under repair. We received no funding from political people, no funding from anywhere. It is not the responsibility of Aged Care Centre to provide a community facility. Lots of issues. Myths. Residents had to pay to use the facility.

**Unknown Participant 4**

Q. Friends of Glenorchy Pool and other action groups have been calling for a public meeting for months. Thanks to Jan for the petition, and the community and the people who signed the petition, an outstanding effort. Why has it taken so long for the GCC to listen or agree to have a public meeting, so many miscommunications. The Community Yarn was a disgrace.

A: (Mayor) It has been a long process. Council has been transparent – answering 112 questions from the community – with or without notice – through the Council meetings since July. They are all on the Pool page on the Council website. The Yarn was not a comfortable space for anyone. MI Global took steps to engage and listen to community at a recent KGV meeting.

**Simon Vout**

Add to the last question, Jan has done a fantastic job. My understanding is that any stage after the Yarn that any Elected Member could have proposed the Public Meeting.

Q. Why didn't any of the Alderman propose a public meeting? Why did we have to go through the process of getting all those signatures and putting this meeting at risk of never occurring?

A. (General Manager) Council does have the power under the Act to hold a public meeting of its own volition. We believed a public meeting would unnecessarily duplicate the very thorough community engagement process that MI Global is undertaking. This has included 3 community pop-ups, a public meeting, meeting with stakeholders, and a community survey. QoN 112 over last 9 months. Lot of listening to the community over this time. Nevertheless, we applaud Ms Bryan for the work she has done in bringing the public meeting forward.

**Deanne Gillie/Shaw**

Q. 35,000 litres of water. No visible damage, the water may even be watering the KGV oval. Maybe the water meter has been tampered with. Fresh concrete, what works were undertaken with the water meter?

A. (Manager Property, Environment and Waste) The water sub-meter we are referring to was specifically installed to work out how much was leaking. It goes to the plant room only. Referenced what 35,000L/day looks like, and that it is equivalent to a garden hose with reasonable water pressure running 24 hours a day (i.e. 25L/min x 60 minutes x 24 hours = 36,000L)

**Renee Rime**

Q. Why are we (public) not presented with some basic plans and drawings with what we are doing with the land and where the cost is going?

A. (Facilitator) MI Global will delivery this in July

**John Pritchard – question taken on notice**

Q. You haven't answered the question regarding the pool and 35,000 of water loss.

A. A water submeter was installed on the water line that only feeds the pool plant room that is used to top the pool up. The submeter was installed before the start of the season and once the pool was already full, and then read immediately after the season closed. This submeter reading showed 6,330KL was used over the season to keep the pool full. When divided by 183 days (i.e. 6 months season) that equates to an average of 34,600L/day of water loss.

Regarding the question on why the 35,000L hasn't caused a landslip or isn't visible in the creek - 35,000L is a large volume of water at once. However, over a 24 hour period that is only equivalent to 25L/minute which is the flow rate of a garden hose with reasonable water pressure (i.e. 25L/min x 60 minutes x 24 hours = 36,000L)

**Nicole Vout**

Q. What was the cost for the engineer, Lacus, to the ratepayer for the recent assessment and recommendation.

A. (Manager Property, Environment and Waste) \$5000-\$6000.

## 9. Motions

### **Motion 1**

**Moved:** Janiece Bryan

**Seconded:** Mala Crew

That Council:

1. Make the immediate repair of the pool site their major priority, and
2. Commit to immediately research and produce quality submissions for state and federal funding for an upgraded public aquatic facility at the current Anfield Street site, and
3. Immediately apply to the State government for the promised \$5 million funding to urgently commence repairs to the pool, and
4. Commit to providing regular monthly reports on this project at Council meetings.

**Motion Carried**

### **Motion 2**

**Moved:** Nicole Vout

**Seconded:** C/Kathy Williams

That Council:

1. Make all Council workshops open to the community and ratepayers for observation.

**Motion Carried**

### **Motion 3**

**Moved:** Leeanne Rose

**Seconded:** Deanne Gillie

That Council:

1. Immediately after MI Global submit their recommendation, lobby the State Government for funding for a state-of-the-art facility to be run and managed by a management team with wisdom to make the pool more viable.

**Motion Carried**

**Motion 4**

**Moved:** Leanne Rose, on behalf of Bradley McDougall

**Seconded:** Nicole Vout

That Council:

1. Require Elected Members intending to nominate for positions outside of their council position to not prepare on council time, and
2. Require Elected Members nominating for political positions outside of their council position to resign from their current position in its entirety before nominating.

**Motion Carried**

**Motion 5**

**Moved:** Sally Hill

**Seconded:** Tracey Smith

That Council:

1. Be upfront and honest about the minimum amount of works required to open the pool, including the costs for the minimum viable repairs and the timeframe for the works.

**Motion Carried**

**Motion 6**

**Moved:** Mala Crew

**Seconded:** Leeanne Rose

That Council:

1. Maintain our facilities responsibly using local Tasmanian contractors, and
2. Investigate sustainable options for the future of the pool.

**Motion Carried**

**Motion 7**

**Moved:** Lisa Rime

**Seconded:** Sally Hill

That Council:

1. Does not hold any meetings about the pool in secret or any closed meetings or where certain Councillors or Aldermen are not included regarding the pool, and



2. Does not hold any meetings about the pool where certain Councillors or Aldermen are not included.

**Motion Carried**

**Motion 8**

**Moved:** Nicole Vout

**Seconded:** Angela Strk

That the attendees at this public meeting::

1. Have no confidence in this Council.

**Motion Carried**

**Motion 9**

**Moved:** Janiece Bryan

**Seconded:** Leeanne Rose

That Council:

1. Complete concrete analysis as soon as possible to determine the life expectancy of the pool.

**Motion Carried**

**Meeting closed at 8:18pm**