



CITY OF
PORT PHILLIP

**ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**

MINUTES

**WEDNESDAY
20 MARCH 2002**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH 2002, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
ST. KILDA TOWN HALL**

1. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO WELCOME EVERYONE TO THE MEETING

The Chief Executive Officer, David Spokes, welcomed the newly elected Councillors and members of the gallery to the meeting, and advised that the first matter to be dealt with was the swearing in of Councillors.

2. SWEARING IN OF COUNCILLORS

The Chief Executive Officer invited each Councillor to undertake the Declaration of Office and the Affirmation of Allegiance in the following order;

- Albert Park Ward - Cr. Carolyn Hutchens;
- Alma Ward - Cr. Darren Ray;
- Blessington Ward - Cr. Dick Gross;
- Emerald Hill Ward - Cr. Peter Logan;
- Ormond Ward - Cr. Liz Johnstone;
- St Kilda Ward - Cr. David Brand;
- Sandridge Ward - Cr. Julian Hill.

3. ELECTION OF INTERIM CHAIRPERSON

The Chief Executive Officer called for nominations for the position of Interim Chairperson (to be in accordance with Part 2, Section 6(2) (a) and (b) of the Council Meetings Procedure Local Law No. 6).

MOVED Crs Hutchens/Brand

That Cr Hill be nominated to the position of Interim Chairperson for this meeting.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED.

Cr Hill was declared Interim Chairperson and took the Chair.

4. INTERIM CHAIRPERSON TO OPEN THE MEETING AND WELCOME EVERYONE

Cr Hill declared the meeting open.

The meeting opened at 7.10pm.

PRESENT

Cr Brand, Cr Gross, Cr Hill, Cr Hutchens, Cr Johnstone, Cr Logan, Cr Ray, David Spokes Chief Executive Officer, David Graham General Manager Corporate, Sally Calder Director Social and Cultural Development, Geoff Oulton Director City Development, Stephen O'Kane Director Organisation Development and Distinguished Guests.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MOVED Crs Gross/Hutchens

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Port Phillip City Council held on 30 March 2001 be confirmed.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED.

6. FIXING OF COUNCILLORS ALLOWANCES

The Interim Chairperson called for a motion regarding the level of Councillors' allowance in accordance with Section 74 of the Local Government Act 1989.

MOVED Crs Gross/Brand

That the Councillors' Annual Allowance for 2002/2003 be set at \$15,000 per annum.

The Interim Chairperson called for discussion.

Cr Gross made the following comments:

The Bracks Government have been pretty cowardly in the way they have failed to stand up for Local Government to provide sufficient remuneration for people who are not either retirees or soon to become retirees or people with their own private businesses.

It is undemocratic, it is unfair and they have capitulated to the popular whipping of Local Government in some segments of our society.

So they have condemned Local Council to be eternally under-remunerated, part-time and incapable without making significant financial sacrifice of doing the job properly and correctly.

So whilst I move this resolution, I do so with considerable reluctance.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED (unanimously).

7. FIXING OF MAYORAL ALLOWANCE

The Interim Chairperson called for a motion to fix the amount of Mayoral Allowance and the provision of a Mayoral vehicle for the Mayor in accordance with Section 74 of the Local Government Act 1989.

MOVED Crs Gross/Logan

To fix the amount of Allowance for the Mayor in accordance with Section 74 of the Local Government Act 1989 and the Order in Council dated 29 March 2001, to be set at the maximum statutory amount of \$46,500.00 p.a. with a provision of a Mayoral vehicle in accordance with the DoI Review of Councillor and Mayoral Allowances, if required by the Mayor.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED (unanimously).

8. ELECTION OF MAYOR

The Interim Chairperson called for nominations for the position of Mayor in accordance with Section 71 of the Local Government Act 1989 and Part 2, Section 6 (3) and (4) of the Council Meeting Procedure Local Law No. 6.

MOVED Crs Brand/Johnstone

That Cr Ray be nominated for the position of Mayor.

The Interim Chairperson put the motion.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED (unanimously).

The Interim Chairperson declared Cr Ray as Mayor for 2002/2003. He wished him well in his new role and invited the members of the gallery to acknowledge by acclamation, the newly elected Mayor.

9. ADDRESS BY THE NEWLY ELECTED MAYOR OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL

The Mayor, Cr Ray, assumed the Chair, and addressed the gallery as follows:

Firstly, many thanks to my fellow Councillors whose placement of trust humbles me on this important occasion. The City of Port Phillip is one of the most complex and dynamic communities in Australia. Our Community is one of the most passionate and politically savvy around, so being the Mayor is a big honour – if a somewhat daunting one.

Before I canvass briefly some of the major issues confronting our Port Phillip Community this year, I want to pay a special tribute and dedicate this honour, this personal honour to my matriarchy – not the amazing women who work in the Mayor's Office which Julian Hill over the last few years has made reference to – but a more familial one – the three women in my family who have been the major influences in my life.

My two grandmother's Edna Cohen and Kit Ray and my mother Yvonne Cohen instilled in me from a very young age an innate commitment to social justice and to helping others. In fact, they probably all contributed to my maverick approach to breaking down the many barriers that we all face in achieving our own life goals.

I am sorry to say, that like my mother and my Jewish grandmother Edna Cohen that the passing away of Kit Ray early yesterday meant that she was not able to share this time with me but I know that she wanted me to achieve this goal.

Likewise, I thank my housemates Lex and Ken, my hardworking volunteer Richard James and the many friends who have sustained me until now in public life. Just hang in there gang – things will get busier and I will rely on your love and support even more!

Like my predecessors, I will do my best to be a Mayor for the times. More than at any time over the last 6 years, teamwork is of crucial importance for the next twelve months.

It is perhaps unparalleled in Local Government history – certainly within inner-metropolitan Melbourne – that a Council team could remain largely intact for 6 years. This speaks volumes about both the confidence that this community has in the Council and the teamwork which has been the hallmark of both the Councillors and the Councillors and staff. In this sense, my mayoralty will be distinguished by one principle of leadership. That is, to lead by following.

Like any good Councillor connected to their community, I will seek and listen to the Counsel of those who have shaped my priorities such as my Alma Ward residents and key community activists who I have worked with on many issues – through predominantly on human services.

Furthermore, and on a city-wide basis, I will ensure that the policies and the commitments of the Community Alliance of Port Phillip guide this Council's priorities by properly finding their way into our Corporate Plan.

CAPP policies will continue to strengthen this Council's ongoing obligation to the principles of social justice and diversity.

The election result demonstrates that the Port Phillip community generally endorses the broad policy and governance directions of the existing Council and the previous Council.

Of course we are not perfect and have not got everything right, but the community has accepted that we can build on the work done to date, as a team, and improve the City and people's lives. This is why an evolutionary rather than a revolutionary approach is both justified and accepted.

I would, however, mention the need to more effectively grapple with one of the bigger challenges we face in Port Phillip compared to six years ago.

That is, rapid demographic change and the need to increasingly respond to the effects of this change such as social isolation, the decreasing supply of affordable housing and homelessness, drug abuse, income inequality and the aspirations and values of more recent residents.

Some might say that the Council has no significant role to play in these areas.

It is lucky however that this Council has welcomed the role of facilitator and provider of community services and that we are comfortable with this role, because we increasingly experience cost and responsibility-shifting from other levels of Government.

This is particularly evident in the aged care sector and, in this term of Council, we will be especially committed to the development of a long-term aged care plan for Port Phillip identifying future housing, social and economic needs of the City's aged and ageing population and strategies to meet their accommodation, recreational, primary health, transport and social needs. The baby boomers in Port Phillip are approaching retirement age and this population bulge will place considerable and unprecedented demands on our services.

The sense of disengagement from community life and personal isolation that many older residents in Port Phillip perceive or experience will be addressed with comprehensive, practical and imaginative measures.

That is not to say that cornerstone commitments in the City of Port Phillip, ie community housing, the environment, street sex work, our partnership with Suai in East Timor, the arts and culture and many other areas of Council's work are less important.

It would just take too long here tonight to mention these all in great detail.

There are 3 broad topics that Council will be considering in the next 12 months that I will work to help progress during my Mayoral term.

Governing for All Port Phillip Residents – the next twelve months will see the completion of Council's Governance Review.

This review and its implementation into Council policy and future Council policy must engage the community at a neighbourhood level and encourage a two-way dialogue – not a 'top down' mentality. This way we can enhance and value the voluntary contributions, community organisations, and the rich and diverse cultural life of Port Phillip.

I have always felt that community development should be based on respect for the diversity of the Port Phillip community and a sense of the common good. Our efforts over the next twelve months and beyond must also acknowledge that we have a long way to go to inform our own residents on the role and importance of Local Government.

Residential Amenity in Planning – *with the gains made in the last Council (particularly controlling height on the foreshore and the C5 Neighbourhood Amendment to the Planning Scheme) many may believe that our work in this area is done.*

However, many of our residents expect that the State Government's new rules embodied in Rescode will provide greater protection for the amenity of neighbours.

The challenge for this Council will be to ensure that this expectation is met whilst also ensuring that development can proceed in locations where medium or high density development is acceptable and warranted.

This was the view of the previous Council and this will not change. Indeed, the co-operative approach to reaching fair outcomes will continue in this Council.

Sustainable Value Service Reviews – *with the death of Compulsory Competitive Tendering, contestability obsessions have also disappeared. However, our residents and ratepayers still expect that we will keep costs down whilst maintaining quality services.*

The State Government's Best Value System was used later in the term of the previous Council. Service by service, independent experts and chairs joined with a Councillor and Council staff to review the performance of the service. The new model retains the good bits about CCT – the mental and workplace discipline in writing down what you do, how you do it and how you could do it better – but most importantly throws out the predetermined end result that it will be tendered out.

We aim to make sure in each review that the Community's vision for the service is realised, and that economic factors alone do not dominate a consideration of their performance, The community could expect that our opposition to tendering out the provision of human services will continue, however with a more rational and transparent basis that we can quantify.

These Service Reviews have been very time consuming but they are valuable ways to put our services under the microscope without a slash and burn approach.

Enough of the detail and corporate messages.

I'll close with a personal pledge, that is whilst leading by following the Council, I will hold dear the commitment to inclusiveness, access and diversity that the Port Phillip Community, and I, hold so dear.

I mean diversity in all different forms – that people from all multicultural groups, neighbourhoods, religions and sexualities, income groups and political persuasions have a stake in this community and shall be heard and looked after equally.

Thank you once again to my colleagues for their trust tonight, and I look forward to serving the team and the community of Port Phillip for the next twelve months and representing the Council and the Port Phillip community”.

The Mayor asked for any other motions.

Cr Hill called for a Motion to consider the position of Deputy Mayor.

MOVED Cr Hill/Cr Gross

That Council agree to consider the position of Deputy Mayor at this Meeting.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED (unanimously).

Cr Hill called for a Motion to consider the position of Deputy Mayor.

MOVED Crs Hill/Gross

That Council having considered the position of Deputy Mayor further to the previous Annual Meeting, resolves to create the position of Deputy Mayor to be filled at this Meeting.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED (unanimously).

The Mayor, Cr Ray called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor.

MOVED Crs Hutchens/Gross

That Cr Johnstone be nominated for the position of Deputy Mayor.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED (unanimously).

Cr Ray commented that given the previous Motion does somewhat divert from normal Local Government practice, the Mayor called on Cr Johnstone to make a few comments:

The newly elected Deputy Mayor, Cr Johnstone made the following comments:

“Obviously I should start by saying how pleased I am to be back for three years. On Saturday night when my feet were really, really sore I said I would never do it again and by Sunday morning I was thinking well three years isn’t really that long.

So there’s something about Local Government when you feel that your efforts are being productive, that you are working in an environment that is collaborative and inclusive and that is enjoyable.

I can also start to see, out there in the world that I live in, some of my efforts. So I’d like to thank those people who supported me and allowed me the privilege of coming back.

But I’d also like to thank my colleagues, particularly those who advocated for, I suppose, for me in the last few days and which has led to the creation of the position Deputy Mayor and I think it shows the camaraderie that has developed and trust.

It’s a huge job and with seven of us, if we don’t trust each other we can’t get through the work.

It’s almost that simple, that we have to allow each other develop some expertise in certain areas, set up processes so that those people feel supported and have got someone to bounce ideas off and enable them to run and hope they represent the City’s interests fairly.

I have also in the last few days read quite closely the policy platform of the Community Alliance which, well some of you may know, is an umbrella group of groups and individuals in the community that provide a resource and some support to Councillors and I think is a mechanism to engage with the community.

It was reassuring to me to see those principles were practiced by my colleagues. I thought they were fairly reflected in our Corporate Plan and fairly reflected the values of the community I think quite broadly.

I also thought that they were practiced in the way in which we work with each other and I think that’s the hallmark of this Council.

If we had to identify our greatest strength, not counting staff, it would be the way we work and our community which is our greatest resource. It sounds simple but its precious and its fragile and its something we have to protect and cherish. So I think that point also needs to be made.

And I would also like to thank the people who don’t vote for me because they keep me on my toes. I’m very mindful that I represent them as well.

I’m hoping in a way that they chose not to vote for me but for the Greens but I doubt that’s true. I would also like to assure them that I respect their choice and I would be available to represent them equally over the next three years”.

10. NEWLY ELECTED COUNCILLOR COMMENTS

The Mayor invited Councillors to make a contribution.

Cr Hutchens made the following comments:

"I would like to say how pleased I am as a returning Councillor to see that the electors of Port Phillip have demonstrated such strong confidence in the performance of their Councillors. All those who stood for election have been returned, many with an increased majority.

This has not occurred in other Councils, particularly in metropolitan Melbourne. As Councillors we can take pride in the fact that there is a direct relationship in the way that we, as Councillors work together as a team, which has been referred to by Councillor Johnstone, together with the staff of Port Phillip, so many of whom are here tonight taking an interest in these proceedings.

Its really great to feel that you are so much part of the team and our achievements tonight. We all work for the betterment of those who live and reside in our community. The citizens of this City know this and want us to continue working with you.

Persons who sought, through opportunism and negativism, carping criticism with unsubstantiated facts, and who attempted personal denigration of other candidates have been rejected as having no serious contribution to make to our City.

To my family, Gary, Kate, Anna and Jess, to my friends who have worked so hard and given me so much help, to the Community Alliance of Port Phillip for their advice and support, and to the people of Albert Park Ward – I thank you.

In the ensuing 3 years the platform of change will continue – in a considered, thoughtful and reasoned manner.

It's great to be back.

Thank you".

Cr Gross made the following comments:

“Well its only been a couple of weeks since I had the opportunity to berate you with some views about why I have been on Council, and what my emotions were upon the ending of the second Council, so I don't want to go over those issues.

Only just to say that at that time I talked about the ontological significance that being a Councillor has for me and the meaning that I derive from it and the pleasure.

I just want to stress this because people have come up to me as I have saddled up for a third bout as a municipal hack, and made quite, not quite critical noises but noises which are dubious in the way that they have looked at me and said, well third time.

But once again I go back to what I said a few weeks ago of the importance to me personally of being in this role, of the joy I get from it and also of the growing in the job that one does. Really after six years I feel there is a lot of challenge still left in the job.

I think that the gravity and solemnity of this occasion once again reiterates for us all the fact that this is a moment where we are being given a great honour and a responsibility and I grasp that with both hands and look forward to providing some service.

Now many of you in this room have been tormenting me, that I was a lesser being because I had not walked the streets, because I had not made the personal interface with the community that elections thrust upon you.

So the thing that I know is that in the end, it is all about incredibly hard work and in that work I have been assisted by members of the Australian Labor Party and members of the Community Alliance of Port Phillip. I feel incredibly grateful to them.

I want to reiterate two pieces of gratitude that I said two weeks ago and add another one. I want to reiterate my gratitude to my family and I want to reiterate the gratitude to the Officers of this Council and I want to also say thank you to the members of the Australian Labor Party and the Community Alliance of Port Phillip who assisted me.

In particular I want to single out Janet, Geoffrey and Suzanna who worked particularly hard for me. I don't understand this – I don't know why people work for other people's election, but these people and their partners Karen, Peter and Peter, I am grateful to them and I want to publicly acknowledge them.

Thank you very much”.

Cr Logan made the following comments:

"Thank you Mr Mayor. I'm just totally overwhelmed. That's about the only thing I can say. I left the speech at work so I haven't got anything prepared. Perhaps that's a good thing because I can fill in a few gaps in the other speeches. I mean I sit here and it's the greatest City in the world because I live here.

We've got a great Council, its cohesive, it works well together and that was one of my promises that is to come in here and work to get results. I know I am an independent and I have brought some strong views from the community with me.

I think I have to disagree with our Cr Gross here but I actually enjoyed getting out there – it wasn't hard work. The hard work was done by all the helpers that I had working on the team across the whole community and I certainly know they did all the hard work. I went out and met people and it was one of the great experiences of your life.

I have to acknowledge why am I here. I think I had parents and that might be a start but my Dad spent six years in World War II and it was all about democracy. He was a pacifist and he went away on a mission about democracy. I was brought up with that in my life.

We're not political animals, we're not head kickers in my family, we're not haters, you know, we love people. I think that was what got me into public life and its not into the political side but into all the community things.

So at this point in my life I am just so fortunate to have everything fall into place to be here today. I think the really important thing is that getting out and talking to people.

I've come here with a really simple message. A lot of people really want the message brought to Council, and I am certainly going to bring it. It's a commonsense message but basically whether they have been neglected or have not been neglected, its about including them, including them totally in the City.

They want to get on with their lives and they want to be part of the City.

They want their needs and their expectations met. Now I know expectations is a big word but its about Emerald Hill. It's a village, we have a happy little village, we've got a market, we've got a library. We've got all the things that we need. We just want it better.

That's not a problem. I know Council can do better. I'm just bringing that message.

It was from looking at the vote, the person who came second had a very similar set of policies to mine. She's here tonight, Karen Wilmot. I think it is a very clear message. I won't be electioneering now.

I will be taking it to Council and bring all these things up. They want to get on with their lives, they don't want major events. They just want, 52 weeks of the year, everything.

And one thing we haven't mentioned is children, children's sport and all those opportunities that they should have because they live here. And I think that in the inner suburbs we get squeezed on a lot of issues. I just wanted to pop that in as one that hasn't been brought up tonight.

I know we've got all the others that our Mayor brought up and I thank him for that because that was a nice speech that I left at work. I thank you once again".

Cr Hill made the following comments:

"I've discovered that I do not have ex-Mayoral syndrome and I am showing no signs of developing it. However I have a new disease and I have called it post-Mayoral syndrome. Its involved lying on the couch for the last two days. I caught up with Gerry Springer yesterday and I have actually developed an eye-brow ring which is part of my rebellion.

I am very much looking forward to this term and being able to concentrate on Port Melbourne, not that I didn't last term, as the Officers would tell you. But I am very much looking forward to the refreshed role as a Councillor.

Some thank you's.

Thank you to the Port Melbourne ALP branch in particular.

Thank you to the Community Alliance of Port Phillip and thank you to the Port Melbourne Business Association. Three key organisations that supported me. Thank you to a whole bunch of ordinary residents across the political spectrum and I thank my campaign team who had members and support of every major political party.

Thank you to family and friends who put up with me and the nonsensical nature of a campaign in any household – which anyone who has been through it would understand. You go to get bread out of a cupboard and you get posters. You go to get Elly's work for school from where you thought you left it and you find letter head. And the story goes on.

She did end up taking how to votes to school in her bag one day and that was a mistake. It wasn't for the other children because they can't vote.

I won't wax lyrical now I'll just place on my record, the recognition of the fact that there are two sides to this ongoing, and endless and interminable debate about independence or people who are members of groups. For my part, I come down on the side of people who are members of groups.

I think that demonstrates a broader community support than just an independent. I'm not meaning that in any debating way except I absolutely had a gutful of this nonsense that you get every election, that independents are somehow automatically better than people who have shown a commitment.

Lessons from the Campaign – it was very hard fought. Some who had been around Port Melbourne for forty or fifty years, they said they had never seen a harder one.

My favourite anecdote was the guy who was a member of Staff at Council and who shall remain nameless. He wandered up to the polling booth and he said "I'm voting for the first time in 25 years, I'm an anarchist and this is a matter of principle, the way they have behaved". So I thank you for what I presume was your vote.

Port Melbourne as a neighbourhood, now that I am not the Mayor, I can make Port Melbourne-centric comments without abandon, and leave the City-wide stuff to our collective wisdom.

Port Melbourne is everything. It is an impossible Ward as I learnt from door-knocking all of Garden City. I door knocked all of Fishermans Bend. I door knocked all of Beacons Cove and half of the rest of Port Melbourne and they are different worlds out there.

The expectations are many and varied amongst those communities and I'll do my best in these few years to meet them. The lessons from the campaign are, in no particular order.

Firstly, labels don't matter. You can see that across the City. Political labels do not matter, whether they are independent or from a group. Hard work does and that is being rewarded for the Councillors. Like Dick I was a virgin when it came to elections. I got elected unopposed last time and I will be a much better Councillor for having treaded 3 and a half thousand doors and knocked on an interminable number of apartments.

Secondly, all things being equal, Cr Gross notwithstanding, positive will beat negative everyday. There were five candidates opposing me all of whom ran a variety of different negative campaigns, somewhat personal and the positive message won out. It's a wonderful message for any community activist in any community around Victoria. Stay positive, stick to your message and the people will pick it.

Finally, and down my way, amalgamation has healed. For those people, as Carolyn mentioned, who go and create division for their own political purposes, they will not succeed. The voters and the residents of this City are too intelligent, and as Peter said, just ready really to get on with their lives and see how Council can do better. They are mindful of the past. They are respectful of the past as we should be, but we are not obsessed with the past, we are looking into the future.

And in relation to some of those more controversial issues, be it East Timor or Reconciliation or all the other things this Council does and I hope will continue to get involved in from time to time.

The basic contract still remains between the Council and the community that if we get the basics right, we keep the Rates under control, if we don't issue the residents with too many parking fines and if we keep the streets clean and the drains done, they not only allow us but encourage us to get out there and behave like a proper Local Government and get into all of those other issues.

So provided we do the basics, we should be doing that extra stuff, its not an option for us.

I am just going to list, in closing, reverting to parochial Ward Councillor, those commitments, I want them on the public record.

- Basic infrastructure in Garden City is my key priority for this term. Having seen the world from their eyes, on their doorsteps, over and over again. I know it will cost money, but I will take you down there as Councillors, and have a look at what they see every day and then have a look at what they compare elsewhere.*
- Development guidelines to better control the apartment growth around Rouse Street which is the biggest growth precinct in the entire City and is something which should concern all Councillors, will be a priority.*
- A tough but fair resolution on Beacon Cove Stage 2, Princess Pier which is the single biggest development proposal the City has ever confronted and probably ever will, will be a priority.*
- Traffic and transport are huge problems across the City but are probably only paralleled in South Melbourne and Port Melbourne, with the growth precincts around there.*

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- *Environmental things are vote winners in resident minds and they want us to do them, things like a comprehensive water policy and a better green waste collection service are some things that I will bring to Council to consider.*
- *Better management of building sites, we have over 200 building sites in Port Melbourne at the moment and the figure is going to grow, that must improve.*
- *Building and rebuilding community there given the rate of change of the community, is essential. Things like lowering the community venue hiring charges, renting BBQs to residents to stimulate neighbourhood engagement and more neighbourhood forums.*
- *An extension of the community bus to Port Melbourne, that was for the Councillors, its not a policy option.*
- *From talking to residents on the doorstep, I think we need to institute a comprehensive review of parking fines and the equity with which appeals are considered. I am not convinced having talked to people that they are considered fairly. I would love to be convinced in that way. I am particularly concerned that low-income earners and non-English speakers have no option but to pay up or get sent to court. They can never argue their case in the system we have. It must be looked at.*
- *Port Melbourne Primary School project.*
- *And finally on a City-wide nature, a better scheme, and this is the legacy of Cr Lewisohn, one idea he has put firmly in my mind, is a better scheme across the City in the next three years to coordinate the efforts and volunteers wherever they may arise, be they in our services or in community organisations.*

There's the policy agenda. I hope the staff write that down and I would love to see that in the Draft Corporate Plan".

Cr Brand made the following comments:

"I also am thrilled to be back. My victory in St Kilda Ward was similar to the victory that most of us have won in this election which was resounding, and gratifying and energising.

My particular circumstances, I think I can attribute an enormous amount of it to my campaign team, particularly my Campaign Manager, Brenda Forbath who was really the most amazing Campaign Manager you could hope to have, her partner John Spearings, who swore not to have anything to do with this campaign and immediately went into action, and between the two of them it was amazing, which proved to me that behind every strong woman there is a good man and she is a strong Campaign Manager.

A feature of the election in my Ward was that it was carried out in very good spirit. There are a couple of candidates it is worth mentioning.

Jenny Stone who ran a very sincere and credible race and certainly held herself out as a voice for people in the Ward.

And Jason Evans who ran a terrific race himself with a great deal of St Kilda spirit which we love.

The Community Alliance of Port Phillip of course I think deserves special mention as it has had in The Age, although its been called the Port Phillip Community Alliance, as a case in point of how local groupings have made a real impact in the Council elections across the whole State.

And it gives hope for local politics as being very, very different and real compared with I suppose problems and problems of credibility that State and Federal politics have.

The Community Alliance have stood out as a real achievement in social policy and social agendas on a local level.

I think also the other great thing that has come out in this election is that the City of Port Phillip is the only Council that had elections across the entire State, that's actually had all of its incumbent Councillors that stood re-elected, which I just think is an incredible achievement for us.

It's not an achievement for us, its just an incredible phenomenon that we have here of unity and purpose and credibility and enormous effort, and a wonderful relationship with the community which is a very, very politically active and interested community.

So it says something about the health of what happened in the previous election, and the previous one before that and that health continues.

I do want to congratulate Cr Ray on his accession to the Mayoralty, and Cr Johnstone to the new Deputy role. It was a very serious decision that we have made and its taken some time to make, I can tell you.

I want to explain a couple of reasons why its Cr Ray and not me. Quite a few people have approached me and said why aren't you standing and I feel flattered by that but I haven't been putting myself forward for this.

One reason is that there's a large set of crucial planning issues, that I want to see through myself this year in a detailed hands on way that is available to a KRA Councillor, a regular Councillor, but is not available to 'a juggle all the balls at once' role that the Mayor has. So I, and others have never really considered these options. Cr Ray and Cr Johnstone are clearly capable of doing that and are keen to do it.

Another reason is that I truly believe that in our new Mayor and Deputy, we have chose the very best available talent and ability for the job. As well as Darren who certainly deserves it, I particularly welcome the inclusion in a leadership role of Cr Johnstone.

This for me is testament that we have been committed to making this leadership decision based clearly on merit and ability and not some imagined overriding political qualification. I want to assure everyone that, that principle is going to continue in the future.

In the future, in next year and the years to come, we will continue to be committed to that principle of teamwork, merit, the best person for the job. There are a lot of myths and misconceptions to be laid to rest and I am very keen to do that.

We are all energised on this election and I feel like I should say a few things, I want to lay down a manifesto for St Kilda. I think that my speech is too long for that at the moment.

My campaign slogan was 'Keeping St Kilda Different'. It was one of the many slogans I had and I had to keep explaining it to everyone, it didn't work terribly well, but it had a meaning and the word difference is something that is very special about St Kilda.

I would like to go into all of the reasons St Kilda is very different and how it has to be treated differently and very specially and why I would be doing that, I won't do that now.

But of course, every neighbourhood in the City of Port Phillip is very different and it deserves very special and different treatment in each case. The City of Port Phillip in a sense offers the overall governance and leadership of that project at the neighbourhood level.

But the City of Port Phillip offers equity in governance without homogeneity. And I think that's the way that we want to approach the whole thing and that's what the neighbourhood principle is.

I certainly feel like I have a mandate to pursue a very strong and distinctive view of the many, many communities that make up St Kilda and I think the same goes for the whole of the City of Port Phillip.

Another campaign slogan that I did dream up but rejected at the last minute was 'Working for the St Kilda that we love'. And in a way I think that was probably the best slogan that we could have used. I will certainly be doing that.

When you look at this Council collectively, that we will all be working for the Port Phillip that we love.

Thank you very much".

11. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

In accordance with Part 2 Section 8 (1) (a) of the Council Meetings Procedure Local Law No. 6, the Mayor advised that the next meeting of the Port Phillip City Council will be held on Tuesday, 2 April 2002, in the Council Chamber, St Kilda Town Hall, commencing at 6.00pm.

12. INVITATION TO SUPPER

The Mayor, Cr Ray invited his fellow Councillors and members of the gallery to partake in supper in the Reception area.

MINUTES - ANNUAL MEETING - 20 MARCH 2002

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Confirmed: 22 April 2002

Chairperson: _____