

URBAN PLANNING SPECIAL COMMITTEE

MINUTES

(Open to the public)

Monday 6 March 2017

Council Chamber, 8 Inglesby Road, Camberwell.

Commencement 6.32pm

Attendance Councillor Jim Parke (Chairperson)
Councillor Phillip Healey (Mayor)
Councillor Jane Addis
Councillor Lisa Hollingsworth
Councillor Steve Hurd
Councillor Coral Ross
Councillor Felicity Sinfield
Councillor Garry Thompson
Councillor Cynthia Watson
Councillor Jack Wegman

Apologies Nil

Officers

Phillip Storer	Chief Executive Officer
John Luppino	Director City Planning
Zoran Jovanovski	Manager Strategic Planning
David Thompson	Manager Governance
Shiranthi Widan	Team Leader Strategic Planning
Jo Liu	Senior Strategic Planner
Elizabeth Manou	Governance Projects Officer

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1. Adoption and confirmation of the minutes

MOTION

Moved Councillor Sinfield

Seconded Councillor Thompson

That the minutes of the Urban Planning Special Committee meeting held on 20 February 2017 be adopted and confirmed.

CARRIED

2. Declaration of conflict of interest of any councillor or council officer

In relation to Item UPC1, **Councillor Thompson** informed the committee in the interests of transparency and good governance, that he has a family friend who resides within the vicinity of 12 Prospect Hill Road, Camberwell. Councillor Thompson advised that he did not believe that he had a conflict of interest in relation to the matter but considered it appropriate to inform the committee of his circumstances.

3. Presentation of officer reports

UPC1 Consideration of Victorian Heritage Register Nomination - 12 Prospect Hill Rd, Camberwell (Camberwell Masonic Centre)

The Camberwell Masonic Centre at 12 Prospect Hill Road, Camberwell is currently affected by Heritage Overlay HO539 to the Boroondara Planning Scheme. The adopted (existing) heritage citation for the property is provided at Attachment 1.

The property was subject to a planning permit application to partially demolish and alter the existing building and develop the land for a retirement village. A planning permit has been issued in accordance with a recent VCAT Order.

On 8 December 2016, Heritage Victoria notified Council that a nomination had been received for the subject place for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) and an assessment of the nomination would be undertaken. The notification outlined the assessment process where Council will be invited to make a submission once a recommendation on the VHR nomination is made.

Subsequently, in preparation for the VHR assessment process, officers engaged heritage consultant Trethowan Architecture to undertake an assessment of the building. The Trethowan assessment (Attachment 2) found that the subject building is *'historically and culturally significant on a state level as a fine example of a masonic temple demonstrating, better than most in its class, the culture and history of Freemasonry in Victoria'*. The assessment also found a number of internal elements of significance that are currently not protected under the existing local Heritage Overlay HO539.

Although a planning permit has been issued under the VCAT Order, officers note that the permit requires the permit holder to prepare, submit and obtain approval of a number of plans prior to commencement of works (including the demolition). These plans are yet to be submitted for approval but could be submitted at any time. Once they are approved, the subject building will be under increased threat of demolition.

It is considered appropriate that Council give consideration to the Trethowan assessment, endorse and provide a copy of the Trethowan report in support of the VHR nomination.

In addition, it is considered appropriate that the building is preserved whilst its VHR status is being determined. Therefore, it is recommended that the UPSC also resolve to lodge a request to Heritage Victoria that an Interim Protection Order be made under the *Heritage Act 1995* for the subject property whilst the VHR nomination is being determined.

*Four speakers opposed to the officers' recommendation addressed the meeting.
One speaker in support of the officers' recommendation addressed the meeting.*

MOTION

Moved Councillor Wegman

Seconded Councillor Healey

That the Urban Planning Special Committee resolve to:

- 1. Endorse and provide a copy of the heritage assessment of the Camberwell Masonic Centre (Attachment 2) to Heritage Victoria in support of the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) nomination.**
- 2. Lodge a request to Heritage Victoria that an Interim Protection Order be made under the *Heritage Act 1995* for the subject property whilst the VHR nomination is being determined.**
- 3. Should a hearing be convened by the Heritage Council of Victoria, submit the heritage assessment of the Camberwell Masonic Centre (Attachment 2) and make representations in support of the VHR nomination.**

CARRIED

4. General business

Nil

5. Urgent business

Nil

6. Confidential business

Nil

The meeting concluded at 7.04pm

Confirmed

Chairperson

Date
