

List of Council resolutions relating to the former Ruthven Primary School and the former Lakeside Secondary College (2012-2016)

<p>2 April 2012 – Minute No. 36</p> <p>THAT Darebin Council resolves to support the community call for proceeds from the land sale of the closed Lakeside College in Radford Road Reservoir to be given to William Ruthven College to deliver the promised level of buildings and infrastructure on the merged school site at Mahoneys Road Reservoir. Furthermore that Council write to the Minister of Education and the Premier and local MPs for Thomastown and Preston regarding Council's position on this matter.</p>
<p>4 February 2013 – Item 12.7</p> <p>THAT Council:</p> <p>(1) Hold a community forum in early March 2013 to consult with residents on the future use of the decommissioned William Ruthven Primary School site at a community venue in West Reservoir and invite local State Members of Parliament and representatives from the State Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) to attend.</p> <p>(2) Write to DEECD to request background information about the site, its proposed future land use, Council and community input processes and time to consider this information before the site is potentially presented for sale</p>
<p>18 February 2013 – Item 11.5</p> <p>THAT</p> <p>Council officers write to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development expressing an interest in acquiring the land at 74-76 Glasgow Avenue, Reservoir, (previously known as Ruthven Primary School, now discontinued in usage) for public purposes redevelopment. This action is made in accordance with Section 4.3 of the Policy and Instructions for the purchase, compulsory acquisition and sale of land of the Victorian Government Land Monitor.</p>
<p>2 April 2013 – Minute No. 70</p> <p>(1) THAT given the recent demolition of Darebin ratepayer funded assets on the southern half of the former Ruthven Primary School site in Reservoir that the Chief Executive Officer seek legal advice about Council's ability to pursue legal action to reimburse the City of Darebin.</p> <p>(2) THAT Officers report back to Council once the legal advice is obtained.</p>
<p>2 April 2013 – Minute No. 71</p> <p>(1) THAT given that the former Ruthven Primary School site has served as a joint use community open space for the Darebin community since 1997, and recognising that Darebin Council has invested heavily in this open space, that the Darebin Mayor immediately write on Council's behalf to the Minister of Education and the Victorian Premier seeking urgent negotiations on a sale price that reflects its current public use zoning and takes into account Darebin Council's past investment in this joint use site that is the equivalent of over \$1 million in today's dollars.</p> <p>(2) THAT in addition, to support community activism and participation on the issue, Council's communication department is to set up a web page on Council website titled „Ruthven Site Community Campaign“ for updates and generation of emailing list (building on email addresses obtained at first community meeting in March). The web page is to be set up as soon as possible</p>

2 April 2013 – Minute No. 72

THAT the Darebin Mayor write to the *Victorian Trades Hall Council's* (VTHC) *building industry group* of unions seeking support for the community campaign to maintain the site as public open space.

15 April 2013 – Minute No. 73

THAT Council erect one sign on the nature strip at each corner (four in total) at the former Ruthven Primary School site saying „Hands Off Our “Ruthven Park”.

(1) The sign to have Campaign contact detail e.g. Website and Council logo. Size is to be in compliance with the requirements of the planning scheme

(2) The signs are to be erected as soon as possible. Council continue with the Community campaign and the officers are to provide regular feedback to Council.

23 June 2014 – Minute No. 129

THAT the Mayor write to the Minister for Education requesting urgent action in relation to removing the build-up of dumped rubbish from the former Lakeside High School site and former Ruthven Primary School site on Radford Road, Reservoir. In addition, the Mayor is to request the Minister for Education to provide greater security by way of higher fencing.

4 August 2014 – Minute No. 137

THAT Council:

(1) Notes the following:

- a) The intention by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Education (DEECD) to sell off the land at the former Lakeside Secondary College and the proposed rezoning of the land prior to the sale.
- b) The estimate \$7,500 that the Darebin Council contributes at no cost to the DEECD to maintain the land near the Merri Creek shared path and creek corridor.
- c) The contribution made by volunteers and staff at the Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC) and Friends of Merri Creek (FoMC) in maintaining the biodiversity and rehabilitation of the Merri Creek adjacent to the former college.
- d) The continued use and high value placed by the community of the Merri Creek shared path, including the section adjacent to the former college.

(2) That the Darebin Council resolves to authorise the mayor and/or relevant officers to:

- a) Formally outline the contributions made by the Darebin Council, MCMC and FoMC to the DEECD and other relevant government authorities.
- b) Formally outline the high value of the Merri Creek shared path to the residents of Darebin and to people living in the northern parts of Melbourne, including the section along the former college.
- c) Endorse the positions of MCMC, FoMC and Bicycle Network and seek to have the land adjacent to the college site gifted to the Darebin Council and/or another entity to allow for continued access, maintenance and enjoyment by the community.
- d) Seek a meeting with representatives of MCMC, FoMC and Bicycle Network in relation to the proposed actions by the council contained in this motion.

(3) That a report on the above actions and other associated actions be presented to the council by October 2014.

15 September 2014 – Minute 452

(1) Endorse the Chief Executive Officer to write to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development accepting their offer of an easement over the Merri Creek Trail and to one metre either side at the rear of 21-29 Radford Road, Reservoir.

(2) Endorse the Mayor to write to the Minister for Environment:

- a) Requesting declaration of the 18,760m² of land at the rear of 21-29 Radford Road as a Crown Reserve for the purposes of park and conservation.
- b) Offering to act as Committee of Management for the land at the rear of 21-29 Radford Road, Reservoir and accepting all costs for maintenance.
- c) Noting that whilst the Environmental Significance Overlay would provide protection against removal of indigenous vegetation on the site, it does not prevent development or fencing off the land or provide for future maintenance of the land.

(3) Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate with the owner/s of the land to protect the conservation parkland at the rear of the site and to arrangements for the future maintenance of the site in the event that the State Government fails to declare the land a Crown Reserve and should the land be sold to private interests.

1 December 2014 – Minute No. 153

THAT the Mayor writes to the Minister of Education requesting immediate maintenance and upkeep of the former Ruthven Primary School site. Due to a long period of neglect, the site is not only unsightly but poses a safety risk to the community. With warmer weather approaching the overgrown nature strip around the site as well as the land within the fenced area, need urgent attention to mitigate the real possibility of fires, snakes and other environmental hazards.

2 February 2015 – Minute No. 158

THAT the Mayor write to the State Minister for Education requesting that the former Ruthven Primary School site be maintained in public hands and that the land be transferred to Council at no cost so that Council can restore the land so it can once again be made available to the community as open recreational space.

17 August 2015 – Minute No. 216

THAT as a matter of urgency the Mayor write to the relevant state government ministers to convey Council's position that the former Ruthven primary school site remain in community /public ownership by transferring the land to Darebin City Council. The letter is to request, on behalf of Latrobe ward councillors, an urgent meeting with the relevant state minister and the local member for Preston.

In the letter the following rationale is to be noted

- a) At a well-attended council public meeting on the issue in 2013, the residents overwhelming supported the site remain in public hands for the community to enjoy as open space.
- b) Note the community's financial contribution of approximately \$360,000 (through council rates) on developing grounds on the site plus maintenance throughout the life of the previous agreement.
- c) The area is deficient in open space compared to other areas within the city of Darebin
- d) iv. The general principle of justice being that the government does not have the unilateral right to sell off public land without consulting the residents affected by the sale.

5 October 2015 – Minute No. 483

That Council

(1) VicRoads be advised that Council has no strategic interest in acquiring surplus VicRoads land at 16-20 Dumbarton Street, Reservoir; Rear 16umbarton Street, Reservoir; 20 Lockton Avenue, Reservoir; and 122-124heddar Road, Reservoir and that land be transferred to Darebin Council no cost.

(2) VicRoads be advised that Council will require a 3m wide drainage easement to be provided along the southern boundary of 20 Lockton Street, Reservoir in order to protect an existing underground Council drainage asset.

(3) VicRoads be advised that Council has no strategic interest in acquiring surplus VicRoads land at 1-11 McMahan Road, Reservoir and that land be transferred to Darebin Council at no cost.

(4) The Chief Executive write to the Chief Executive of Vic Roads and that the Mayor write to the local members of parliament to request the land at the following locations be transferred over to Darebin

residents at no cost:

- a) Rear of 32-34 Clements Grove, Reservoir
- b) Rear of 22 Clements Grove, Reservoir
- c) Rear 30 Mia Close, Reservoir
- d) Rear 20 Lockton Avenue, Reservoir

(5) The Chief Executive write to the Chief Executive Officer of Melbourne Water and that the Mayor write to the local Members of Parliament to request review of the offer of surplus Melbourne Water land at 48 Rona Street, Reservoir (with a view to gifting the land to Darebin City Council) which is required by Council as open space to address a strategic deficiency in playspaces within the local area.

(6) The Chief Executive write to the Chief Executive Officer of VicTrack and that the Mayor write to the local Members of Parliament and the Minister for Planning and the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water to:

- a) Request the Victorian Government consider declaring surplus
- b) VicTrack land at 45 Merri Parade as a Crown Reserve
- c) Offer Council's services as Committee of Management for that land

(7) The Chief Executive be authorised to negotiate with the Department of Education in relation to surplus Department of Education Land at the former Ruthven Primary School and titled Council land within the former Preston Girls School with the intention of securing the entire 30,540m² of surplus land at the former Ruthven Primary School for municipal open space.

(8) The Department of Education be advised that Council would only be interested in 18,760m² of land along the western edge of the former Lakeside Secondary College at 21-29 Radford Road, Reservoir in a scenario where the land is valued as open space.

(9) Council receive a report on the progress of negotiations for the gifting of land or protection of land for open space at the following sites:

- a) 48 Rona Street, Reservoir
- b) 45 Merri Parade, Northcote
- c) Former Ruthven Primary School, Reservoir
- d) d. Rear 21-29 Radford Road, Reservoir (former Lakeside Secondary College).

21 March 2016 – Minute No. 271

That the Mayor write to the relevant State Minister and State Local Member, Mr Robin Scott as soon as possible, requesting that:

(1) Negotiations commence regarding of the land swap (council land at former Preston Girls" for state government land, the former Ruthven primary school site) and be concluded in time for council's 2016 /17 budget deliberations.

(2) An agreed time frame and process between the parties to finalise the proposed land swap by mid-2016

(3) The need for the state government to give planning advice and assistance to ensure title changes and rezoning is fast tracked to allow for both sites to become available for public use to ensure zero rate payers funds are used for land purchases.

(4) That Darebin Council seek a State Government open space contributions for repayment of the \$360,000 plus in ratepayers' infrastructure that was bulldozed by the previous liberal government.

A copy of the Mayor's letter is to be made available to all Councillors and any correspondence from the State Government in relation to this matter.

18 April 2016 – Minute No. 193

That:

- (1) Council resolve that the future of the former Ruthven primary school site should be resolved via a MOU with the State Government to preserve 66% as open space in council ownership and that 33% of the site should be secured for use in the State Government's women's housing blitz.
- (2) The Mayor write to the Ministers of planning, housing, finance and status of women seeking agreement in relation to securing a rezoning and transfer of the 33 blocks that make up the former Ruthven primary school site to create a council owned and managed park over 66% of the site and that the remainder of 33% of the site rezoned be transfer from the Education Department for the creation of new medium density housing to contribute to the women's housing blitz identified in the state domestic violence royal commission report.

16 May 2016 – Minute No. 226

That:

- (1) Council designate the future of both sites, and Council's preference for the retention of these sites, as public open space as the highest priority issue for discussion with State and Federal MP's at Council's upcoming government briefing on Friday 27 May 2016.
- (2) The Mayor calls a follow-up meeting after the briefing on 27 May 2016 with the Minister for Planning and Local Member Mr Robin Scott to reaffirm Council's position.
- (3) Council officers arrange a community meeting before 27 May 2016 at the new Reservoir Library and initiate a communication strategy to promote the community meeting. Officers are to invite the Minister for Planning and Local Member Mr Robin Scott.
- (4) Council authorise officers to negotiate an outcome with State Government to achieve 1.4 hectares which was previously available as public open space for the benefit of the community and in particular future residents of the former Ruthven Primary School site.
- (5) Council note the proposals by the Department of Education and Training to change the planning provisions for land at 76 Glasgow Avenue Reservoir and 31 Radford Road Reservoir under the Fast Track Government Land Service;
- (6) Council authorise officers to lodge and present a submission based on the following key points:
In relation to 74-76 Glasgow Avenue Reservoir:
 - Preference for Public Use Zone – Open Space as the most appropriate zone to apply to the site.*In relation to 31 Radford Road Reservoir:*
 - Maintaining the approximate 18,760sqm portion of land west of the top-most ridgeline on the site in public ownership as Crown Reserve to ensure protection of sensitive environments of high ecological value and the integrity of the metropolitan open space network, of which the Merri Creek corridor is a key part.
 - Preference for Public Use Zone – Open Space as the most appropriate zone to apply to the site.
 - Ensure legal access for maintenance by Council of the creek corridor and practical access is available for firefighting purposes.
- (7) Council write to the Minister for Planning requesting an immediate freeze on the activities of, and review of the conduct of the Fast Track Government Land service in relation to these sites.

6 June 2016 – Minute No. 233

That Council notes:

- (1) The community's urgent call to keep the whole of the former Ruthven Primary School site in public hands and for public use as a park and open space.
- (2) The two well attended public meetings held on May 25 and June 5, where residents have demonstrated unanimous opposition to the State Government's intention to rezone and sell the

former publicly owned Ruthven Primary School to private developers.

- (3) The numerous motions and public calls by Council to keep the site in public hands and to be used as open space and a park.

That Darebin Council resolves to offer to buy the former Ruthven Primary School and relevant parts of Lakeside (as identified by previous Council resolutions) sites using funds from Darebin Council's open space and recreation reserve, that is expected to be \$11.960 million as at 30 June 2017, to ensure adequate open space is maintained in the Merrilands estate area in Reservoir.

Furthermore, that the Darebin Mayor write to the Premier and relevant State Ministers an reaffirm the Council's desire to enter into a partnership with relevant authorities to purchase the former Ruthven Primary School site at Glasgow Avenue Reservoir and also inform the Premier and relevant State Ministers of Darebin Council's desire to buy the former school site using funds from Darebin's open space and recreation reserve, that is expected to be \$11.960 million as at 30 June 2017, to ensure a valuable neighbourhood park is maintained in this pocket of the Merrilands estate in North West Reservoir.

Write to the State Ministers to halt the fast tracking of the re-zoning and private sale of the former Ruthven Primary School site.

That Council keep the community informed of the negotiation and the outcome.

Council receives a report as soon as practicable on the various costing options, including their impacts on the council's operating cash flow and other financial indicators, and options to address any long term deficits or shortfalls as a result of drawing down on the open space reserves.

6 June 2016 - Minute No. 234

That the petition:

"We, the undersigned believe the former Ruthven site should stay in public hands for the present and future needs of the community. We urge Darebin Council to negotiate on behalf of residents to:

- 1. Not allow private development of the site.*
- 2. Negotiate with the state government to urge it to make a fair and just offer to council to maintain the site in public hands.*

be tabled and referred to the Chief Executive.

27 June 2016 – Minute No. 266 (budget)

That Council:

(2) Include an additional note to Budget: That council notes regarding the Open Space and Recreation Reserve reflect council approved land purchase commitments and does not reflect the Ruthven and Lakeside sites as the State Government has not accepted council's latest offer.

(4) Allocate \$50,000 for a masterplan for the former joint-use Ruthven Primary School site to allow for community consultation for the development of the park to immediately commence if the site is transferred from the state government within the 2016/2017 financial year and that this extra expense be met with adjustment to the surplus and/or the Open Space and Recreation Reserve.

1 August 2016 – Minute No. 309

That Council commits to securing an agreement to purchase the former Ruthven Primary School site and the relevant sections of Lakeside Secondary College before Council enters the caretaker period in September.