

**MINUTES OF THE A WARD COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
40 CHERRY STREET, BALLINA,
ON 12/03/24 AT 4:00 PM**

1. Acknowledgment of Country

In opening the meeting, the Chair provided an Acknowledgement of Country.

2. Attendance and Apologies (including updates/changes in membership)

Members

Cr Rodney Bruem (Chair)

Cr Stephen McCarthy

Cr Sharon Cadwallader (Mayor)

Claudia Caliari – Ballina Environment Society

Meg Pickup – Dementia Inclusive Ballina Alliance

Ros Felsch – The Ballina Peninsular Residents Association

Therese Crollick – Ballina Lighthouse and Lismore Surf Lifesaving Club

Andrew Playford – Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club

Maureen Fletcher – Ballina Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN)

Margery Fitzgerald – Ballina Naval and Maritime Museum

Kay Oxley – Cumbalum Residents Association

Michael Albany – St Vincent de Paul

Council Staff

Matthew Wood - Director Development and Environmental Health Division

Carly Frew – Open Spaces Administration and Customer Service Officer

Observers

Margaret and Catherine for Richard Hughes on behalf Ballina Croquet

Lyn Davidson – CWA Ballina

Apologies

Janet Chester – St Vincent de Paul

Julie Stephan – Ballina Evening View Club

Helen Lockton – St Vincent de Paul

Cr Phillip Meehan – Ballina Shire Council

3. Declarations of Interest

Nil items.

4. Presentations

Nil items.

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5. Confirmation of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

Minutes of the A Ward Committee Meeting held on Monday 27 November 2023 confirmed.

6. Business Arising from Minutes

6.1 Business Arising from Minutes of 12 September 2023 and 27 November 2023 - Ballina Lighthouse & Lismore Surf Lifesaving Club - Ballina Surf Club Building Maintenance

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Therese Crollick also raised the following:

- Showers in ladies change room in the main building not working. Maintenance team has been in contact with Council. Seems to be a water pressure issue which is isolated to women's bathroom.
- Sand build up in drains requires regular cleaning out between September and April due to high use.

Post meeting note:

Council staff are attending to the showers in ladies change room and currently sourcing replacement parts.

6.2 Business Arising from Minutes of 12 September 2023 and 27 November 2023 - Ballina Lighthouse & Lismore Surf Lifesaving Club - Off Leash Park Fencing - Shaws Bay

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Therese Crollick advised the signs have been erected regarding the off leash. Large gaps still yet to be filled under the fencing.

Matthew Wood advised that landscaping works are proposed rather than placement of timber to address the gaps.

6.3 Business Arising from Minutes of 27 November 2023 - Northlakes Ballina Group - Northlakes Footbridge Update

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

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7. General Business

7.1 Raising Items Prior to Meetings and Reporting Safety Matters

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Matthew Wood advised that urgent or time sensitive issues should not wait for the Ward meetings. If the matter is urgent or of a safety concern, Council seeks to resolve these matters as soon as possible. Please contact Council directly through our Customer Service team.

Andrew Playford advised he had a positive experience recently with an urgent tree works request and noted how efficiency the matter was dealt with.

7.2 Public Interest Disclosures Act

Matthew Wood introduced the PID Act for Caroline Klose to present to the group.

Caroline Klose discussed the Act and the extension to Ward committees. Presentation "Fundamentals of Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022" provided to the committee.

Andrew Playford asked why whistle blowers are taken to court.

Matthew Wood advised that the process is designed to protect those who make reports when there is adherence to the proper process and encouraged the committee to follow the set process if a disclosure is to be made.

Caroline Klose advised a PID policy has been adopted by Council and information available on the Ballina Shire Council webpage.

7.3 Ward Committees - Meeting Dates - September 2024 Election

The Committee confirmed its preference for the September 2024 meeting to proceed. Agreed that the meeting date is to be brought forward to 27 August 2024.

Action: Council to reschedule the September 2024 A Ward Committee meeting to 27 August 2024.

8. Business With Notice

8.1 Business With Notice - Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club -Vegetation Maintenance on pathway near Lighthouse Surf Club

Andrew Playford requested Council investigate pruning of overhanging foliage on pathways especially near Lighthouse Surf Club. There was an accident with the pandanus growing close to the path.

Staff Comment

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A customer request was logged for staff to investigate the area of pathway on the Lighthouse Surf Club corner (reference number 133532/2024). The pandanus tree near the pathway on the Lighthouse Surf Club corner has been pruned.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

8.2 Business With Notice - Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club - Tree Planting around Perimeter of Hampton Park

Andrew Playford enquired what the best process would be to have trees planted around the perimeter of Hampton Park.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Claudia Caliarì encouraged tree provision in urban areas to be reviewed and forward planned, considering of the age of existing trees and need for replacement over time. Council encouraged to provide better shade cover over paths through tree canopies.

Matthew Wood advised the group that the Urban Vegetation Policy encourages the retention of the tree canopy and favours retention of trees in the public domain. Council's street tree planting program incorporates planning and site selection on an annual basis at present.

Matthew Wood advised a high volume of submissions have been received regarding the Hampton Park Master Plan. There will be opportunity for the community to review the next stage. A number of suggested uses have arisen in the feedback to date including green space, pickleball, tennis, croquet and car parking. Feedback is currently being reviewed and will inform preparation of a draft plan.

Meg Pickup was surprised it was not an option in the online survey to leave the park as it exists. Matthew Wood acknowledged the feedback and noted this feedback could be given via a written submission in response to the invitation for feedback.

8.3 Business With Notice - Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club - Status of Embankment Repairs between Missingham Bridge and Meldrum Park

Andrew Playford requested a status on the repair of the embankment beside the bicycle path between Missingham Bridge and Meldrum Park.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

8.4 Business With Notice - Cumbalum Residents Association - Cumbalum Shopping Precinct

The Cumbalum Residents Association requested information on the Cumbalum shopping precinct.

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The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Matthew Wood clarified that there are two separate development applications under assessment, one being for smaller tenancies (stage 1) and other for the larger commercial tenancies on the site (stage 2). Stage 2 DA is currently on exhibition.

8.5 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Establishing a Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) in Ballina

Janet Chester enquired if Council would assist / support Police in any way to establish a PCYC in Ballina.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Michael Albany advised the Youth Community Network is prepared to submit a full business plan for a Youth Activity Space to be built and operated in Ballina. Michael suggested behind the Kentwell Centre would be a good space.

Michael noted that concerns exist within the community around crime and involvement of youth and how this is responded to. Michael indicated there is a need for better coordination across agencies and stakeholders in the area to ensure a well-managed solution.

Cr Bruem advised he would be attending a meeting to be held on Sunday 17 March 2024 in the Richmond Room to discuss local crime issues and concerns.

8.6 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Activities for Youths

Janet Chester enquired what support Council give to activities for youths in the Ballina Shire.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Matthew Wood acknowledged the youth space on Swift Street is available and utilised by local youth.

Michael Albany encouraged Council to gain better understanding of the needs of indigenous youth to create buy in and provide activities.

Matthew Wood encouraged continued conversation between stakeholder groups in relation to youth engagement.

Meg Pickup raised the possibility of midnight basketball at the BISC as a youth activity. Cr McCarthy advised this has been tried previously and coordination was difficult and ultimately the activity was discontinued.

Matthew Wood requested that Michael to send through appropriate contact(s) details for Council to continue discussion with stakeholders.

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Claudia Caliarì advised there is new organisation "Country and Teachers", based on cultural learning. Encouraged Council to investigate as it may provide opportunities for diversity in programs.

8.7 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Alternatives for Rangers Relocating Homeless People

Janet Chester enquired what alternatives there are for Rangers relocating homeless people.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

8.8 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Council Outsourcing Garbage Collection

Janet Chester enquired why Council is planning to outsource garbage collection and does this mean that garbage collectors get paid less by the contractor.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

8.9 Business With Notice - Cr Bruem - Street Tree Planting - Annual Budget

Cr Bruem asked for the members of the A Ward Committee to be advised of Council's commitment to double the annual budget for Council's street tree planting program.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Claudia Caliarì encouraged forecasting for future planting and existing canopy coverage. Matthew Wood advised Delivery Program and operational Plan includes preparation of a movement and place strategy and public realm strategy and urban tree cover is something for consideration in preparing these strategies.

Mayor Cadwallader reminded the committee of Council's nursery on Gap Road Alstonville which supplies plants for Council projects.

8.10 Business With Notice - Ballina Lighthouse & Lismore Surf Lifesaving Club - Ballina Indoor Sports Centre (BISC) Airconditioning Issues

Therese Crollick raised the air conditioning issues at the BISC. A coach who ran basketball / netball programs during the holidays at the BISC claims it is very hot on the courts there and that the fans / cooling system in place inadequate during summer, the girls were really hot and had to keep stopping so they could use cold towels etc. The coach was quite concerned about them as some of the girls were only 8 or 9 and there was a real risk of heat stress. Can Council investigate this issue and improve the current cooling system in this area of the BISC.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

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8.11 Business With Notice - Ballina Lighthouse & Lismore Surf Lifesaving Club - Surf club - Reserve Access / Parking Issues around Surf Club

Therese Crollick thanked Council staff for blocking off the access near the storage shed / gym, however people are now driving up the footpath from the carpark to park on the grass area outside the clubhouse (the emergency vehicle / Council vehicle access area). Patrol witnessed it on Australia Day, a couple (young) and their family who took up the whole of the front and side of the clubhouse with their BBQ, etc. and told us they "didn't want to carry all their gear from the carpark". Jo has also recently seen a car parked in this area during the day which was not a Surf Lifesaving / Council / emergency vehicle. Bollards or sandstone blocks to block off access from the car park may be necessary, although it will be difficult because due to the disabled access including the ramp from the disabled parking spots.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Therese Crollick added comment regarding concerns about safety of pedestrians and blocking of the emergency access point.

Matthew Wood advised enforcement of reserve access restrictions is also an option.

Action: Open Spaces Section to review reserve access options and management.

8.12 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Leases on Pod Locations

Janet Chester would like to know the position with Shire leases on Pod locations (refer problems in other shires).

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Mayor Cadwallader advised this is not a Council matter other than the lease on the Wollongbar site. This is a State Government project.

8.13 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Removing Cut Vegetation

Janet Chester raised how Ballina Council exhorts ratepayers to pick up mulch from lawn mowing to avoid pollution of waterways and blocking of drains (see advice in "Ballina Wave"), yet it mows without any collection, on open stormwater drains, tidal drains, hinterland road verges, parks. Is Council's mowing a big contributor to this pollution, drain blockage and flash flooding everywhere?

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Michael Albany encouraged Council to mow with catchers for a more environmentally friendly solution.

Matthew Wood provided supporting commentary to staff comments included in the agenda. Grass clippings would have to be taken to the waste centre and there are limitations with staff and machinery. With the scale Council operates

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on, a big shift would be required in resources and logistics to allow for the change of the service. Funding of a service level change based on the suggested approach would result in increased costs requiring either additional income or a reduction in costs elsewhere.

As the catching and disposal of grass cuttings (from public land) would require significant budgetary changes, any proposal for this should be raised via a submission to Council's Delivery program and Operational Plan and associated budget planning.

Therese Crollick advised Whipps and Alston Ave Alstonville have roadside drains obstructed by grass growth.

Matthew Wood responded that these are considered on a case by case for maintenance.

9. Business Without Notice

9.1 Hydrological Survey for River Drive and the impacts on the road

Ros Felsch recently met with Council staff within the Civil Services Division to discuss River Drive South Ballina and outstanding works following the 2022 floods. Ros providing the following comments:

- Sand bank in the middle of the river has moved 500m north and east.
- The channel runs close to the riverbank.
- Funding allocated last year with works not undertaken yet.
- No shoulder or reduced speed limit exists.
- Further funding required.
- Hydrological survey progress.
- Erosion exists under the road, concerns the road will eventually give way.
- Limited access at present, River Drive provides the only access to residents and businesses.
- Strategy required from state government to mitigate risks with solutions in the river explored.
- Ongoing planning required.
- "Band-aid" approach will not provide the solutions into the future.

Action: Engineering Works to provide an update to Ros on the progress of hydrological survey.

9.2 Lennox Markets Update

Meg Pickup advised the Lennox Markets will host their last market at Williams Reserve on 31 March 2024.

Matthew Wood noted Council provides opportunity for use of public land for the purposes of community markets. In the absence of the market, playing surface maintenance is planned on Williams Reserve following the winter sports season.

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10. Council Documents on Exhibition

10.1 Council Documents on Exhibition

The list of Council documents available for public comment was noted.

11. Next Meeting/Future meeting Dates

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 14 May 2024 at 4:00 PM.
There will be an apology.

MEETING CLOSURE

5.40pm