

**MINUTES OF THE C WARD COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE CRAWFORD HOUSE, 10 WARDELL ROAD, ALSTONVILLE,
ON 14/03/24 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 Eoin Johnston (Chair)
Cr Simon Chate
Cr Sharon Cadwallader (Mayor)

Mary Birch - Wollongbar Progress Association
Steve Miller - Rous Mill Ratepayers Association
Jane Gardiner - Alstonville Plateau Historical Society
Wayne Garrard - Alstonville and District Cricket Association
Russell Priddle – Alstonville Football Club
Joel Orchard – WardellCORE
Malcolm Johnson – Ballina Environment Society and Tuckombil Landcare

Council Staff

Caroline Klose - Director Corporate and Community Division
Janelle Snellgrove - Executive Support Officer

Observers

Bec Heywood – WardellCORE
Alan Bruce – Ballina Environment Society and Tuckombil Landcare
Marilyn Perkins – Wollongbar Progress Association

Apologies

Pat Carney - Wardell Progress Association
Zac Convery – Alstonville Agricultural Society Inc

3. Declarations of Interest

Nil items.

4. Presentations

Nil items.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

The Minutes of the C Ward Committee Meeting held on Thursday 9 November 2023 were confirmed.

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6. Business Arising from Minutes

6.1 Business Arising from Minutes of 9 November 2023 - Alstonville Plateau Historical Society Inc - Planting in Daley Street, Alstonville

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

6.2 Business Arising from Minutes of 9 November 2023 - Alstonville Plateau Historical Society Inc - Progress update DA 2022/723 (Federal Hotel)

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Jane explained the difficulties with emailed DA submissions (.MSG format). Unable to be viewed or opened from Apple Mac unless an MSG Viewer app is downloaded. Jane and Marilyn raised concerns as they believe the app may not be free. Queried if Council can convert .MSG files to .docx or .pdf files to enable the document to be viewed.

Action: Council to investigate accessibility of submissions in .MSG format on DAs online.

Post meeting note:

Some documents on Das online are email messages stored by Council in native Microsoft Exchange (.MSG) format. This format may be unreadable on some computers such as Apple Macs. In order to view these documents, separate viewer software is required, and can be found online by searching for 'MSG Viewer'.

Council does not have the resources to convert all submissions that are MSG format.

The following information is provided on DAs online:

6.3 Business Arising from Minutes of 9 November 2023 - Tuckombil Landcare - Queries from Tuckombil Landcare

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

6.4 Business Arising from Minutes of 9 November 2023 - Wollongbar Progress Association - Proposed Key Worker Housing Update

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

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At the meeting Mary Birch expressed the length of time that has taken to progress this land development. The Mayor advised that the project is progressing.

The Mayor left the meeting at 5.25PM.

7. General Business

7.1 Raising Items Prior to Meetings and Reporting Safety Matters

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

7.2 Public Interest Disclosures Act

This report was provided for the information of the public officials who are members of the C Ward Committee. Caroline provided an overview of the PID Act and Policy followed by an information video from the NSW Ombudsman. Ballina Shire Council's Disclosure Coordinator is Caroline Klose, Director Corporate and Community.

The group further discussed the PID Act.

Joel Orchard enquired if defamatory remarks fall in the parameters of the new PID Act. Caroline suggested this may be a Code of Conduct matter and advised the next step would be to contact the General Manager. Caroline also advised the Code of Conduct was available on Council's website.

Post meeting note:

Link to Code of Conduct provided below.

<https://ballina.nsw.gov.au/page.asp?f=RES-STK-75-60-31>

7.3 Ward Committees - Meeting Dates - September 2024 Election

The Committee discussed options and confirmed that their preference would be to move the 12 September 2024 meeting to 29 August 2024.

Action: Council to reschedule the 12 September 2024 C Ward Committee meeting to 29 August 2024.

Post meeting note:

September C Ward Committee date has been rescheduled to 29 August 2024 due to the Local Government Elections.

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8. Business With Notice

8.1 Business With Notice - Bulwinkel Landcare - Bulwinkel Landcare Projects Update

Mal Johnson will provide an update to the committee on Bulwinkel Landcare current projects.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

At the meeting Mal Johnson advised that Alstonville School students are involved in tree planting at Bulwinkel Park including building seating (materials supplied by Bulwinkel Landcare). Designs / specifications required from Council. The tibouchina garden will be mulched. Requested a landscape gardener to assist with planning for the relocation of the tibouchina garden. Requested Council arrange a letterbox drop to neighbouring properties prior to the commencement of the project.

Caroline Klose advised that any work would need to be consistent with the Master Plan that had already been prepared and to make contact with Council's Open Spaces section for further clarity.

Action: Refer to Council's Open Spaces Section for review and to provide a written response.

8.2 Business With Notice - Tuckombil Landcare - Update on Cancelled Joint Project - Maguires Creek Riparian Project at Teven

Mal Johnson will provide an update on the joint project at Maguires Creek Riparian (Teven). This is a \$150,000 project. The landowners are no longer participating in the project therefore Land Services are also not participating. Tuckombil Landcare will discuss further with landowners.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

At the meeting Mal Johnson tabled Richmond River catchment plans (copy of plans provided as an attachment with the minutes) and the members discussed the Tuckean project and the estuary.

Caroline Klose explained that Council invests in a waterways program, via a Special Rate Variation in 2017/18. Caroline referred to the Council's website with information relating to Healthy Waterways.

Steve Miller enquired if Council do water quality testing or where testing can be done. Cr Johnston advised Southern Cross University offer water quality testing.

Action: Council to provide details of where you can take water for quality testing.

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Council do not offer water quality analysis for potable or environmental water supplies. There are numerous local laboratories available online that provide this service.

Bec Heywood enquired if we are networking with our schools as they have agricultural programs where students can be included. Mal Johnson advised that there is a LandCare coordinator that visits the schools but time doesn't always permit.

Caroline suggested inviting a Healthy Waterways Council staff member to attend a C Ward Committee meeting to discuss the project. It was agreed that this would be beneficial.

Action: Healthy Waterways Council staff member to attend a future meeting to discuss the project.

Alan Bruce added that works on the Tanamera Reserve appear to have been suspended. Cr Johnston confirmed that the works are progressing.

Action: Council to confirm if the works on Tanamera Reserve are scheduled to recommence.

Post meeting note:

Tanamera Reserve restoration works commenced in February as advertised and will continue until the end of financial year. Refer attached Tanamera Reserve information in Healthy Waterways attachment.

Joel Orchard enquired about the availability of Healthy Waterways reporting. Caroline advised a link would be included in the minutes.

Action: Council to include the Healthy Waterways report link in the minutes.

Post meeting note:

Healthy Waterways report attached to minutes and link provided below.

[Healthy Waterways | Ballina Shire Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.ballina.nsw.gov.au/healthy-waterways)

Cr Chate added that Councils' Biodiversity Strategy may be able to align with the work undertaken with the Healthy Waterways program.

8.3 Business With Notice - WardellCORE - Proposed Pressure Sewer Upgrade East Wardell

WardellCORE on behalf of Wardell residents raised concerns about the proposed sewer upgrade at East Wardell.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

8.4 Business With Notice - WardellCORE - Walshs Park Replacement Signage and Walshs Park Upgrades / Embellishments

WardellCORE requested an update on the replacement of PV Walshs Park sign and if there is any consideration around community engagement process for Walshs Park upgrades / embellishments.

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The information contained in the agenda was noted.

At the meeting Joel Orchard acknowledged there is additional signage at the park but explained a large timber sign engraved with "PV Walsh" is still missing. The community are prepared to build the sign themselves if Council are not able to replace the sign. Joel will provide a photo of the previous timber sign.

Action: Refer to Council's Open Spaces Section for review and to provide a written response in relation to replacing the "PV Walsh" timber engraved sign.

Post Meeting Note: Received information from Joel Orchard on 16 March 2024. This information has been forwarded to Open Spaces Section for review.

8.5 Business With Notice - C Ward Update

Information provided to the committee each meeting specifically on what is happening in the C Ward.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

At the meeting the members discussed the development at the Alstonville Showground. Crs Johnston and Chate briefed the committee on the status of the Alstonville Showgrounds Development Application.

9. Business Without Notice

9.1 Ballina Crime Meeting

The Mayor advised that there is a Ballina Crime meeting scheduled on Sunday, 17 March in the Richmond Room Ballina.

9.2 Reinstating "Tidy Towns" Sign in Elizabeth Ann Brown Park

Jane Gardiner raised that the tidy towns sign from the basalt wall in Elizabeth Ann Brown park was removed and not yet reinstated.

Action: Referred to Open Spaces to follow up when the Tidy Towns sign will be reinstated on the wall at Elizabeth Ann Brown Park.

9.3 Rous Mill Hall Update

Steve Miller advised that they recently had an event at the Rous Mill Hall on the new deck. The day was very successful and expressed gratitude to Council for supporting the event.

Action: Gratitude to be forwarded to relevant Council staff for their support.

Post meeting note:

Gratitude forwarded to relevant Council staff in Open Spaces Section.

9.4 Status of Capping of Quarry Rock - Rous Mill Causeway

Steve Miller enquired about the status of the capping of the quarry rock in the Rous Mill causeway.

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Action: Council to follow up on the status of the capping of the quarry rock on the causeway.

Post meeting note:

The Rous Mill causeway works are ongoing, planned works include concrete capping of the quarry rock.

10. Council Documents on Exhibition

10.1 Council Documents on Exhibition

The list of Council documents recently exhibited for public comment was noted.

11. Next Meeting/Future meeting Dates

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday 9 May 2024 at 5:00 PM.

MEETING CLOSURE

6.35 PM