

**MINUTES OF THE AN A WARD COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
40 CHERRY STREET, BALLINA,
ON 14/05/24 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

Members

Cr Stephen McCarthy
Cr Rodney Bruem (Chair)
Cr Sharon Cadwallader (Mayor)
Cr Phillip Meehan

Andrew Playford – Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club
Catherine Barker – Ballina Croquet Incorporated
Claudia Caliarì – Ballina Environment Society
Debbie Pawsey – Ballina Rotary of Ballina-on-Richmond
Geoff Jacobs - Ballina Bears Cricket Club – Online (part time)
Helen Lockton – St Vincent de Paul
Julie Stephan – Ballina Evening View Club
Kay Oxley – Cumbalum Residents Association
Margery Fitzgerald – Ballina Naval and Maritime Museum
Maureen Fletcher – Ballina Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN)
Mick Albany – St Vincent de Paul
Ros Felsch – The Ballina Peninsular Residents Association

Council Staff

Matthew Wood - Director Development and Environmental Health Division
Christina Casey - Executive Support Officer
Janelle Snellgrove - Executive Support Officer

Observers

Margaret Mitchell – Ballina Croquet Incorporated
Sharon Daley – Ballina Croquet Incorporated

Apologies

Janet Chester – St Vincent de Paul
Meg Pickup – Dementia Inclusive Ballina Alliance
Richard Hughes – Ballina Croquet Incorporated
Therese Crollick – Ballina Lighthouse and Lismore Surf Lifesaving Club
Gai Mason – Ballina CWA - Apology
Kelli Potts - Ballina Chamber of Commerce

3. Declarations of Interest

Nil

4. Presentations

Nil

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5. Confirmation of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

Minutes of the A Ward Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 12 March 2024 confirmed.

6. Business Arising from Minutes

6.1 Business Arising from Minutes of 12 March 2024 - Reschedule September Ward Committee Meeting Date

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

6.2 Business Arising from Minutes of 12 March 2024 - Ballina Lighthouse Surf Lifesaving Club - Reserve Access / Parking Issues around Surf Club

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

6.3 Business Arising from Minutes of 12 March 2024 - The Ballina Peninsular Residents Association - Hydrological Survey for River Drive and the impacts on the road

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Matthew Wood provided the following update at the meeting:

The following hydrographic surveys of the Richmond River bathymetry (ground heights below the water surface) have been undertaken or in progress:

- Bathymetric survey was captured from Broadwater to Pimlico as part of the NSW OEH (now DCCEEW) estuary program around 2004. This data was used in Council's flood modelling undertaken to date.
- Following the February 2022 event, NSW DPE (now DCCEEW) engaged Astute Surveying to collect bathymetric survey of discrete areas of the lower Richmond River. Sections were collected at the Broadwater and Wardell constrictions and the river mouth at Ballina. It is understood this survey was collected at the start of June 2022. This data was collected for the Post-event Flood Behaviour Analysis report for the Richmond River February 2022 Event by BMT, commissioned by DCCEEW. This report confirmed "there had been significant scour (when compared to the previously collected bathymetry in 2004 by the then NSW Department of Natural Resources (now DPE) (BMT, 2024)". This report can be viewed on the SES Data portal.
- Ballina Flood Study Update – BSC has engaged a consultant to undertake bathymetric survey for the Ballina flood study update which is currently in progress. Field survey data has been collected and is in the post-process stage. Council is due to receive the final data by the end of May 2024

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- CSIRO have commissioned bathymetric survey of the Richmond River as part of the Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative (NRRRI). Council has not yet received this data. That latest advice from CSIRO is that Council will be able to receive a copy of the data June 2024.

Ros Felsch raised community concern about the depth of the water immediately adjacent to the road and associated risk if cars leave the road. Ros suggested there should be more warning signage and education to alert people to the hazard (e.g. indicating that there is deep water and no shoulder).

Matthew noted the bathymetric survey may provide insight into what signage is required and its location.

Action: Council to investigate provision of signage and education in relation to deep water hazards adjacent to River Drive.

7. General Business

7.1 Delivery Program and Operational Plan 2024/25 to 2027/28

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Key projects were discussed during the meeting, including upcoming information sessions.

8. Business With Notice

8.1 Business With Notice - Ballina Croquet Club Incorporated - Hampton Park Reserve Master Plan and Plan of Management Update

Ballina Croquet Club requested an update as they are as a stakeholder with a vested interest in the review of the 2005 Hampton Park Plan of Management and Master Plan. Ballina Croquet would like clarification about the plans progress and when the drafts will be available to the public for comment.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Matthew Wood advised the master plan is progressing (submissions review underway) with a Councillor briefing planned around August. The next planned step after a briefing is reporting on options to Council.

8.2 Business With Notice - Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond - Advice of District Conference

Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond advise that the District Conference is being held in Ballina commencing on Friday 17 May 2024 through to Saturday 18 May 2024 followed by a dinner and presentations.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

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8.3 Business With Notice - Cumbalum Residents Association Inc - DA2022/173 - Maintenance and Infrastructure Concerns

The Cumbalum Residents Association Inc (CRA) notes that a development application for subdivision (DA2022/173 PAN-210153) will add an additional 93 lots to the estate and would like to know what budgeting and infrastructure measures has Council put in place to ensure that this significant addition of lots is adequately resourced.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

At the meeting Kay Oxley raised that facilities are not keeping up with development in Cumbalum and expressed concern about safety around school children accessing school buses on corner of Power Drive, and the need for a bus shelter.

Kay discussed the need for increased parks and age appropriate play equipment in Cumbalum.

Matthew Wood noted that additional open space is planned for Banyan Hill, including local parks, a district park and sporting fields. These facilities are to be provided progressively in line with conditions of the consent for the subdivision.

Action: Council to review bus stop facilities on the corner of Power Drive and Ballina Heights Drive.

8.4 Business With Notice - Cumbalum Residents Association Inc - Request for Update Following Meeting with State Government re: Cumbalum Interchange

The CRA requests an update on the recent consultation that the Council has had with the State Government (Roads) regarding the Cumbalum interchange.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

8.5 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - First Nations Employees at Council

St Vincent de Paul congratulates Council on employing a First Nations Cultural and Heritage Officer and enquires about the number or percentage of First Nations employees at Council.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Action: Council to provide Helen Lockton with contact details for Council's Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Partnerships Officer.

Post meeting note: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Partnerships Officer contact details provided to Helen Lockton.

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8.6 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Update Request - Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)

St Vincent de Paul requested an update on the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Matthew Wood noted that the Partnership Agreement Council is working on with Aboriginal Stakeholders may include a RAP.

8.7 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Homelessness and Mental Health Training

St Vincent de Paul enquired about Council Rangers' training regarding the link between homelessness and mental health issues and where can rangers refer people sleeping rough with mental health issues.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

8.8 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Report Progress on Council Support for Youth Activities and PCYC Venue

St Vincent de Paul requests a progress update on Council support for youth activities and PCYC venue.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

8.9 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Suggestion for Aboriginal Community Involvement in Rehabilitating the Land on River Street and Burns Point Ferry Road

St Vincent de Paul enquires if Council has any plans to rehabilitate the land on River Street and Burns Point Ferry Road and suggests Aboriginal community involvement in rehabilitating the land.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Members discussed signage/aboriginal naming and Matthew Wood advised this is part of the Partnership Agreement process with a challenge being there are different views about language and words.

Matt provided an overview of the status of the site including that there is a current development proposal for the northern part of the land that is before the Land and Environment Court.

8.10 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Short Term Trial of a Night Patrol by Elders if the Community

St Vincent de Paul provided newspaper articles (see below) and submitted the following enquires:

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- Council would consider allocating funds for short term trial of a Night Patrol by Elders of the Community (if the Community wants it).
- further funding could be sourced elsewhere.
- the initiative could be built into Council's RAP.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Members discussed various ideas such as night buses, training, employment, and stakeholder engagement.

8.11 Business With Notice - Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club - Plastic Fence/Tape Removal/Replacement Request - Waters Edge between Meldrum Park and Missingham

Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club requests removal of plastic fence (ASAP) on the water's edge between Meldrum Park and Missingham.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Note: The plastic fencing was replaced in response before the meeting.

8.12 Business With Notice - Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club - Accessing Missingham Bridge from the Bike Path (request for steps)

Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club raised that people are accessing Missingham Bridge from the bike path on the western side which has caused erosion, and request that Council consider steps.

Customer request logged (CRM 135857/2024) - Council staff to inspect and investigate.

Action: Outcomes of site inspection and review to be reported to A Ward Committee

8.13 Business With Notice - Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club - Bridge Duplication - Request for Clarification of Timeline

Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club has heard from people that both canal bridges will be duplicated at the same time and request that Council clarify the timeline.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

8.14 Business With Notice - Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club - Ballina Coastcare to Remove Lantana Patches along the Sand Dunes near the Dog Beach

Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club has advised that a few lantana patches have developed along the sand dunes near the dog beach and some members of Ballina Coastcare will be removing them soon.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

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8.15 Business With Notice - Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club - Request Progress Update re: Land for New Citizens to Plant Native Trees

Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club requested a progress update on some land being set aside for new citizens to plant their trees.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Matthew Wood noted vegetation plantings will be a consideration in the future preparation of a public realm strategy. This may include things like urban tree cover and microforests.

9. Business Without Notice

9.1 Shaws Bay - tracks left by fishermen

Margery Fitzgerald raised concern about foreshore damage caused by fishermen accessing Gawandi Beach for the mullet run. Margery queried who is responsible for repairing the damage done (e.g the tracks left and worn grass).

Action: Council to review to determine extent of damage and responsibility.

9.2 Vegetation Replacement near Revetment Wall

Margery Fitzgerald enquired if Council was planning on replacing the garden vegetation that is removed during the revetment wall works along North Creek. Margery noted local residents are OK with it not being replaced and residents do not wish to maintain the area.

Matthew Wood advised that typically Council would not replace this type of garden area as it was not Council established.

Action: Provide feedback to revetment wall repair project management staff.

9.3 Climate Change Response

Claudia Caliarì expressed concerns related to the urgency shown by Council in relation to climate change action.

Claudia raised the urgency of climate disruption (cited a recent scientists survey) and the climate emergency declaration Council signed in 2019, stating that more resources should be allocated to mitigation. Claudia also suggested that Council support the Duty of Care Bill going to Commonwealth Parliament.

Cr Bruem referenced Council's plan for net zero by 2030, noting it might involve a financial cost to ratepayers.

Matthew Wood advised Council is working on reducing emissions in line with Council's adopted policy. This includes various projects that seek efficiencies and emissions reductions.

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Matthew clarified that Council has a an emissions reduction target of zero emissions by 2030 for Council (not the community).

The current focus for Council is electricity use and its source. Other areas include transitioning away from gas use to renewable electricity and fleet sustainability.

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 9 July 2024 at 4:00 PM.

MEETING CLOSURE

5:25pm

It was noted that Cr Meehan will be an apology for the July meeting.