

Agenda

C Ward Committee Meeting **9 May 2024**

A C Ward Committee Meeting will be held in the Crawford House, 10 Wardell Road, Alstonville on **9 May 2024 commencing at 5:00 PM.**

1. Acknowledgment of Country
2. Attendance and Apologies (including updates/changes in membership)
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Presentations
5. Confirmation of Minutes – Thursday, 14 March 2024
6. Business Arising from Minutes - Thursday, 14 March 2024
7. Business With Notice
8. General Business
9. Business Without Notice
10. Council Documents on Exhibition
11. Next Meeting/Future Meeting Dates
12. Meeting Closure

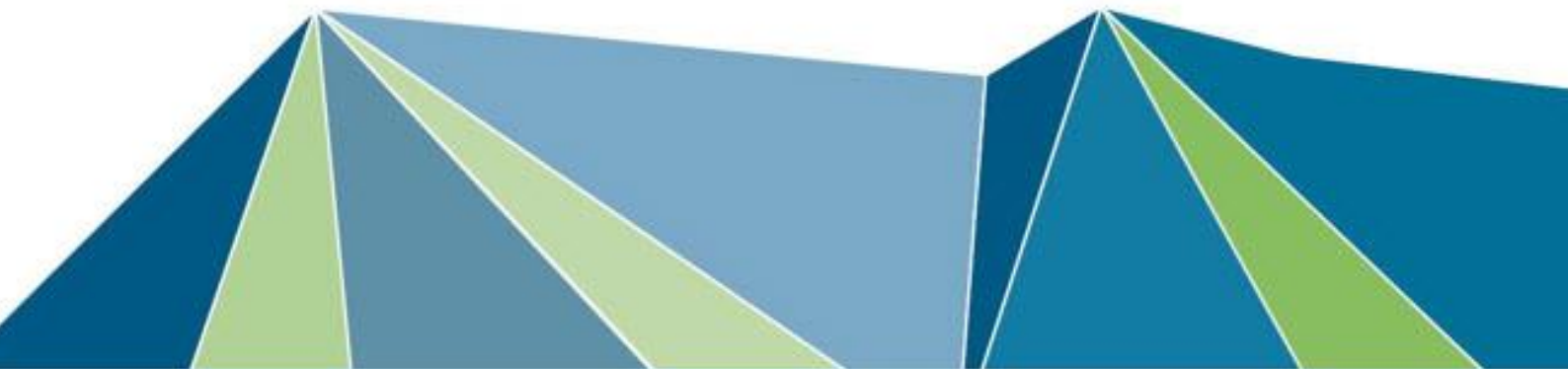


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1. Acknowledgment of Country
 2. Attendance and Apologies (including updates/changes in membership)
 3. Declarations of Interest
 4. Presentation
 5. Confirmation of Minutes
-

1. Acknowledgment of Country

In opening the meeting, the Chair will provide an Acknowledgement of Country.

We acknowledge the Nyangbul peoples of the Bundjalung nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today and pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.

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

3. Declarations of Interest

4. Presentations

Wollongbar Medium Density Housing Project.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

A copy of the Minutes of the C Ward Committee Meeting held on Thursday 14 March 2024 were distributed.

RECOMMENDATION

The Minutes of the C Ward Committee Meeting held on Thursday 14 March 2024 be confirmed.

6.1 Business Arising from Minutes of 14 March 2024 - Bulwinkel Landcare - Bulwinkel Landcare Projects

6. Business Arising from Minutes

6.1 Business Arising from Minutes of 14 March 2024 - Bulwinkel Landcare – Bulwinkel Landcare Projects

Item 8.1 Bulwinkel Landcare Projects Update

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

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.

Staff comment:

A response has been provided by Council to Malcolm Johnson, with a copy provided to the committee (see below).

6.1 Business Arising from Minutes of 14 March 2024 - Bulwinkel Landcare - Bulwinkel Landcare Projects

enquiries refer
James Brideson
in reply please quote
24/29935



3 May 2024

Malcolm Johnson
Via email: judymalc@yahoo.com.au

Dear Malcolm

Re: Bulwinkel Masterplan Implementation

The purpose of this letter to clarify the proposed works at Bulwinkel Park to ensure accuracy, noting continued representation from Bulwinkel Landcare Group through the C ward committee. A copy of the letter will also be provided to members of the C Ward Committee.

With reference to the minutes of the 25 March 2024 meeting, the proposal to have seating constructed through Alstonville School students is inconsistent with the adopted master plan and is not supported. Council welcomes volunteer opportunities with Alstonville School students to assist with organised tree planting events guided on-site by professional bush regenerators.

The new tibouchina garden and heritage garden is planned to be designed and constructed in the 2024-2025 financial year and with the assistance of Councils landscape architect. The existing tibouchina plants will be removed and mulched as a part of the mulching of weed trees in preparation for riparian plantings.

Community consultation has already been undertaken as a part of the master planning process and the implementation of project elements has commenced. No additional consultation is proposed, noting regular project updates through Council portals will continue.

If you have any enquiries regarding this matter please contact James Brideson, Natural Resource Officer on 1300 864 444.

Yours faithfully

Cheyne Willebrands
Manager Open Spaces
Planning and Environmental Health Division

40 cherry street, po box 450, ballina nsw 2478
t 1300 864 444 e council@ballina.nsw.gov.au w ballina.nsw.gov.au abn 539 29 887 369

Attachment(s)

Nil

6.2 Business Arising from Minutes of 14 March 2024 - Tuckombil Landcare - Update on Cancelled Joint Project - Maguires Creek Riparian Project at Teven

6.2 Business Arising from Minutes of 14 March 2024 - Tuckombil Landcare – Update on Cancelled Joint Project - Maguires Creek Riparian Project at Teven

Item 8.1 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.

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.

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.

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

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.

Staff comment:

Council staff are currently preparing an update report on the progress of the healthy waterways program. Staff will provide an overview of program activities and outcomes once this report is complete. It is anticipated this will be able to occur at the July meeting of the committee. Refer to Community Connect issue 54 for (pages 22 and 23) for a recent update on works program.

Attachment(s)

Nil

6.3 Business Arising from Minutes of 14 March 2024 - WardellCORE - Walshs Park Replacement Signage

6.3 Business Arising from Minutes of 14 March 2024 - WardellCORE – Walshs Park Replacement Signage

Item 8.4 Walshs Park Replacement Signage

WardellCORE requested an update on the replacement of PV Walshs Park sign.

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.

Staff comment:

Council considered PV Walsh Park at the Finance and Facilities meeting held 9 April 2024 where the Committee recommended to Council that no further action be taken in relation to PV Walsh Park at Wardell. The minutes and recommendations from that meeting were submitted to Council’s Ordinary meeting on 24 April 2024 where the matter of PV Walsh Park was again considered, with the following motion being lost.

That for PV Walsh Park, Wardell, the 2024/25 action in the draft document to undertake a master plan be amended to read “Investigate the feasibility of providing a community garden at PV Walsh Park, Wardell or any other suitable site”.

Council signage at this location will therefore remain consistent with other park regulatory signage.

Attachment(s)

Nil

6.4 Business Arising from Minutes of 14 March 2024 - Reinstating "Tidy Towns" Sign in Elizabeth Ann Brown Park

6.4 Business Arising from Minutes of 14 March 2024 - Reinstating "Tidy Towns" Sign in Elizabeth Ann Brown Park

Item 9.2 Reinstating "Tidy Town" 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.

Staff comment:

The former stone wall and plaques have been removed as part of recent planned upgrade works. The works are consistent with the adopted EA Brown Master Plan that was considered by Council in September 2018, noting the plan included the removal of stone wall and plaques. There are no plans to reinstate the plaques within the park, noting its importance as a war memorial park. However, Council has retained the plaques in storage.

Attachment(s)

Nil

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

7. General Business

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

This report provides information on Council's draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan for the four-year period from 2024/25 to 2027/28.

The Office of Local Government's (OLG's) Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) Framework require councils to regularly review the Delivery Program and prepare a new Operational Plan each financial year.

A summary of the major elements for each document is as follows.

Delivery Program

- A council must have a Delivery Program, that identifies major projects and services it will undertake to achieve the objectives established in the Community Strategic Plan, within the resources available under the Resourcing Strategy.
- A council must prepare a new Delivery Program after each ordinary election of councillors to cover the activities of the council for the four-year period commencing on 1 July following the election. The Delivery Plan is based on a four-year plan.
- The General Manager must ensure that progress reports are provided to the council, with respect to the activities detailed in the Delivery Program, at least every six months. Council receives quarterly updates.
- A council must review its Delivery Program each year when preparing the Operational Plan.

Operational Plan

- Council must have an annual Operational Plan, adopted before the beginning of each financial year, outlining the activities to be undertaken that year, as part of the Delivery Program. The Operational Plan focuses on actions and activities to be delivered during the current year.
- The draft Operational Plan must be publicly exhibited for at least 28 days and public submissions can be made to Council during the period.
- Council must consider any submissions made on the draft Operational Plan before adopting the Operational Plan.
- A copy of the adopted Operational Plan must be placed on the Council website, within 28 days after the Plan is adopted.

Council produces a combined document that encompasses the Delivery Program and the Operational Plan.

This combined document will be on exhibition from 6 May to 5 June 2024 for public comment. Other documents on exhibition, at the same, as part of the IPR Framework, include the Long-Term Financial Plan, Council's detailed budget, the Workforce Management Plan and the Strategic Asset Management Plan.

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

Items that are typically of interest to the community in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan, include the proposed changes in rates and charges for the next financial year, major capital works planned and any other key actions that Council will be undertaking.

In respect to rates and charges the average increase for a residential property for 2024/25, as compared to 2023/24 is as per the following table.

Rate or Charge	2023/24 Average	2024/25 Average	Increase (%)
Ordinary Rate (Land Rates)	1,215	1,271	4.6
Domestic Waste Collection Charge	437	438	2.5
Water Access Charge	236	250	6.0
Water Consumption (150 kilolitres)	399	423	6.0
Wastewater (Sewer) Charge	1,063	1,074	1.0
Stormwater Charge	25	25	0.0
Total	3,375	3,481	3.1

The 4.6% increase for the Ordinary Rate is the rate peg limit set by the State Government for Council for 2024/25.

The reason for the large increase in water charges, is that Council purchases the water we distribute from Rous County Council (as does Byron, Lismore and Richmond Valley), with Rous increasing their water charges to Council by approximately the same percentage for 2024/25.

This continues a number of high increases by Rous in recent years, and planned for future years, as part of their water demand strategy for the region. The purchase of bulk water from Rous, represents approximately 60% of the operating costs for Council's water operations.

Capital works planned in 2024/25 and beyond of note in the draft documents include:

- Alstonville Cultural Centre (ACC) – Council has resolved to support a refurbishment estimated to cost approximately \$16m.

The project is moving through the planning stage with the consent now issued. Grant funds remain an important funding source for this project, particularly with the library component, as there are likely to be more opportunities for library expansion grants. After grants and developer contributions, the balance of the funding will need to be sourced from Council internal reserves and loan funding.

Council is awaiting the outcome of a major Federal Government grant for approximately \$6m for this project.

- Evacuation Route Raising Ballina - Council has secured \$40m in grant funding through the State Government's Northern Rivers Recovery and Resilience (NRRR) Program.

The actual works component of this grant for Council is \$39.4m, with \$600,000 allocated to the State Government's audit and assurance of the project. The funding must be expended by 30 June 2026.

There are four main projects to be delivered with this funding:

- Fishery Creek Bridge Duplication (including approaches)
 - Canal Bridge Duplication and Tamarind Drive approaches (Kerr Street to Ballina Gardens Holiday Village)
 - North Creek Road Four Laning – Tamarind Drive to Southern Cross Drive
 - Evacuation Route Raising (improvements to primarily River Street to reduce flooding impacts).
- Wardell Town Centre – Council adopted the Wardell Village Centre Revitalization Master Plan in 2023, with this plan identifying three key focus areas:
 1. Connecting to the River – estimated cost \$1.1m
 2. The Street – estimated cost \$2.2m
 3. Community Green Space – estimated cost \$1.1m.

Council has approved funding for the Community Green Space, with the works scheduled for the end of 2024.

There are numerous other capital works proposed for roads, playgrounds, stormwater, sports fields etc.

Council is encouraging submissions to the draft documents, during the exhibition period, with all submissions presented to the June 2024 Ordinary Council meeting. This allows Councillors to consider the submissions, amend the documents if necessary, and adopt the documents at that meeting.

Once adopted, the role of the General Manager and senior staff is to implement the actions included in the adopted documents.

During the exhibition period, community members are also encouraged to submit questions via the YourSayBallina engagement platform. Answers to these questions will be published online.

Council will also host the following Community Information Session:

- 6pm to 7.30pm Wednesday 15 May Wardell War Memorial Hall

An online video presentation will also be available on [YourSayBallina.com.au](https://www.yoursayballina.com.au)

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.1 Business With Notice - C Ward Update

8. Business With Notice

8.1 Business With Notice - C Ward Update

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

The items below have been identified as items of interest to the C Ward committee:

- Main Street, Alstonville intersection upgrade – expected to be completed mid July 2024 (weather and site conditions permitting)
- Wardell wharf repairs are underway and completion expected soon
- Community donations program is now open from 1 May and close 31 May 2024
- Annual tree planting day is 10 May 2024 at Lennox Headland
- NSW Local Government Elections – Saturday, 14 September 2024.

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.2 Business With Notice - Alstonville & District Cricket Association - Wollongbar Sports Fields Update - Premier League Cricket Facilities

8.2 Business With Notice - Alstonville & District Cricket Association – Wollongbar Sports Fields Update - Premier League Cricket Facilities

Alstonville & District Cricket Club wishes to be provided with an update on the Wollongbar sporting field. The club members have heard that the pod village, which is situated on the proposed cricket field, has been extended for a further five years. This means it will be at least 10 years before a cricket field will be ready for use. Premier League cricket matches are currently played at Hill Park, Wollongbar.

Premier league cricket teams regularly complain that Hill Park has the worst facilities in the region (Tweed, Lismore and Byron Council areas). The Club has been attempting to get Council support for new facilities (toilets and change rooms) at Hill Park, but have been informed that in accordance with Council's Facilities Plan, that the sporting fields are the future site for the premier cricket facilities on the plateau.

The Club does not want to suffer another ten years of embarrassment regarding the Hill Park facilities. Can Council please give some indication of support should a future funding opportunity arise.

Staff Comment

Council considered the current occupation of Wollongbar Sporting Fields at the meeting held 25 May 2023, resolving to *extend the lease to the NSW Reconstruction Authority on part of the Wollongbar Sports Fields by one year (making the lease expiry date 13 April 2025) at the current rent.*

Councils adopted Sport and Recreation Facilities Plan identifies the embellishment and provision of improved cricket facilities at Wollongbar Sporting Fields.

Attachment(s)

Nil

9. Business Without Notice

Nil Items

10. Council Documents on Exhibition

10.1 Council Documents on Exhibition

The following is a list of documents currently on public exhibition.

Documents on Exhibition and Community Consultation

- Development Servicing Plans – Water Supply, Wastewater and Recycled Water Infrastructure – closing date 6 June 2024
- Proposed Lease of Community Land – Ballina Heights Sports Field – closing date 20 May 2024
- Proposed Lease of Community Land – Ballina CWA Hall – closing date 16 April 2024
- Community Donations – open now until 31 May 2024 [Community Donations | Ballina Shire Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)
- Delivery Plan and Operational Program – on exhibition 6 May to 5 June

Policies

- Private Structures Within Council Owned Waterways Policy – closing date 30 April 2024
- Management of Contaminated Land Policy – closing date 30 April 2024
- Street Light Shielding Policy – closing date 30 April 2024
- Building Over or Adjacent to Council Assets Policy – closing date 30 April 2024
- Naming and Addressing Policy – closing date 28 May 2024
- Cemetery Management and Natural Burials Policy - closing date 28 May 2024
- Weddings on Public Land Policy – closing date 28 May 2024
- **2024/25 Donations - Financial Assistance for Community Groups**
For guidelines on how financial assistance is provided: [Donations - Financial Assistance for Community Groups Policy](#)
Apply here: [Donations - 2025/25 Financial Assistance for Community Groups Application Form](#)
Applications close: Friday 31 May 2024
Enquiries: Nikki Glassop, Administration Officer - Corporate and Community, [Ph 1300 864 444](tel:1300864444) or email nikki.glassop@ballina.nsw.gov.au
- **2024/25 Donations - Capital Works Assistance for Community Sporting Groups**
For guidelines on how financial assistance is provided: [Donations - Community Sporting Groups Capital Works Assistance Policy](#)
Apply here: [2024/25 Donations - Capital Works Assistance for Community Sporting Groups Application Form](#)
Applications close: Friday 31 May 2024

Enquiries: Luke Marshall, Open Spaces Development Officer, [Ph 1300 864 444](tel:1300864444) or email luke.marshall@ballina.nsw.gov.au

Council Notices

The Council Notices can be found on our website at the following link:

[Link to Council's Notices](#)

Attachment(s)

Nil

11. Next Meeting / Future Meeting Dates

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 11 July 2024 at 4:00 PM.

12. Meeting Closure