

**MINUTES OF THE A WARD COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
40 CHERRY STREET, BALLINA,
ON 12/11/24 AT 4:00 PM**

The Mayor chaired the meeting until The Chair was elected (item 7.1).

1. Acknowledgment of Country

In opening the meeting, The Mayor provided an Acknowledgement of Country.

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

Members

Cr Damian Loone
Cr Erin Karsten
Cr Phillip Meehan
Cr Sharon Cadwallader (Mayor)

Claudia Caliri – Ballina Environment Society
Meg Pickup – Dementia Inclusive Ballina Alliance
Ros Felsch – The Ballina Peninsular Residents Association
Richard Hughes – Ballina Croquet Incorporated
Janet Chester – St Vincent de Paul
Andrew Playford – Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club
Maureen Fletcher – Ballina Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN)
Margery Fitzgerald – Ballina Naval and Maritime Museum

Council Staff

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

Observers

Judy Byrne – Diabetes Education
Carolyn Reay-Young – Ballina Croquet Incorporated

Apologies

Karen Perris – Ballina Lighthouse and Lismore Surf Lifesaving Club
Julie Stephan – Ballina Evening View Club

3. Declarations of Interest

Nil items

4. Presentations

Nil items

5. Confirmation of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

The Minutes of the A Ward Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 27 August 2024 were confirmed.

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The order of business was changed to elect the A Ward Committee Chair (Item 7.1).

6. Business Arising from Minutes

6.1 Business Arising from Minutes of 9 July and 27 August 2024 - Ballina Evening View Club - Footpath / Laneway Pedestrian Safety

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

6.2 Business Arising from Minutes of 27 August 2024 - Ballina Lighthouse and Lismore Life Saving - Shaws Bay - Separate Access for Swimmers and Craft Users

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

6.3 Business Arising from Minutes of 27 August 2024 - Cumbalum Residents Association - Council's decision to defer Barlows Road link

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

6.4 Business Arising from Minutes of 27 August 2024 - Dementia Inclusive Ballina Alliance - Planting around Letterboxes

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

6.5 Business Arising from Minutes of 27 August 2024 - Dementia Inclusive Ballina Alliance - Local Area Health District - Supply from Norco Milk

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

7. General Business

7.1 Appointment of Chair

The Committee agreed that each of the Councillors would share chairing the meeting.

Cr Karsten was appointed as Chair for the period of November 2024 to September 2025.

The committee agreed that The Chair is shared on an annual basis. Cr Meehan suggested that The Chair should be reviewed annually to ensure it is suitable for the next Councillor to Chair the meeting.

Cr Karsten commenced as Chair of the A Ward Committee.

7.2 Committee Guidelines

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Caroline Klose provided a brief overview on the committee guidelines.

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7.3 Code of Conduct

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Caroline Klose provided a brief overview on the Code of Conduct.

7.4 Public Interest Disclosures Act

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Caroline Klose provided a brief overview on the Public Interest Disclosures Act.

7.5 Current Membership - A Ward Committee

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

At the meeting the members requested the following groups be extended an A Ward Committee membership invitation when reviewing A Ward membership:

- Ballina & District Historical Society Inc (Ballina District Museum)
- U3A Ballina/Byron
- Rainbow Region Dragon Boat Club
- Ballina Ladies Hospital Auxiliary
- Ballina Coastcare

Action: Council to extend a membership invitations to the following groups when reviewing A Ward membership:

- Ballina & District Historical Society Inc (Ballina District Museum)
- U3A Ballina/Byron
- Rainbow Region Dragon Boat Club
- Ballina Ladies Hospital Auxiliary
- Ballina Coastcare

Post meeting note:

List of A Ward membership invitations forwarded to relevant Council staff to include in membership renewal process.

Cr Karsten mentioned a West Ballina Residents Association is being formed.

8. Business With Notice

8.1 Business With Notice - Ballina Naval and Maritime Museum - Mother of Millions Noxious Weed

Margery Fitzgerald raised the issue of the spread of Mother of Millions weed that has been growing along North Creek Revetment Wall (near Namatjira Place, Ballina) for a number of years and requested Council consider a review of management of the weed.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

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Marjory explained the weed is a succulent and that she would make contact with Crown Lands about the removal of Mother of Millions in this location.

8.2 Business With Notice - Ballina Naval and Maritime Museum - Protecting P.V. Richmond Update

Margery Fitzgerald provided an update from the Museum's curator/manager on the progress of the enclosure of the P.V. Richmond at the Ballina Naval and Maritime Museum (and short history of the Richmond).

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

8.3 Business With Notice - Cumbalum Residents Association - Request for Dog Waste Bags - Power Drive Cumbalum

Numerous Cumbalum residents have requested that a dog station (dog poo bags) be installed along Power Drive near the Cumbalum Sports Fields.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

At the meeting Kay Oxley explained how having the bags available at the sports fields would encourage dog owners to use the bags and remove dog waste from the fields as this is an ongoing problem.

8.4 Business With Notice - Ballina Croquet Incorporated - Hampton Park Master Plan Update

Richard Hughes requested information re Hampton Park Master Plan.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

At the meeting Richard Hughes asked for a definitive date for the Hampton Park review process.

Cr Karsten reassured Richard that the public will be given the opportunity to make a submission.

Post meeting note:

Council staff have confirmed that Hampton Park Master Plan will be reported to the 28 November 2024 Ordinary Council meeting.

8.5 Business With Notice - Dementia Inclusive Ballina Alliance - Cawarra Park Masterplan Update - Rainbow Region Dragon Boat Club

Meg Pickup, as a member of the Rainbow Region Dragon Boat Club which is currently based at 26 Endeavour Close, Ballina, on a shared lease agreement with the TS Lismore Navy Cadets.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

At the meeting Meg Pickup explained the Rainbow Region Dragon Boat Club are looking security for a base for the club. They were the successful tender to share the facility with the Naval Cadets. The Dragon Boat Club have found it challenging to share the facility.

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The Group has subsequently met with Council and have been advised they may be able to apply for grant funding to move to Cawarra Park. Caroline advised the grant funding is now available.

8.6 Business With Notice - Dementia Inclusive Ballina Alliance - Traffic Lights in River Street, Ballina

Meg enquired if a second set of traffic lights in River Street, West Ballina between Quays Drive and Burns Point Ferry Road would be considered to make it safer for pedestrians to cross River Street.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

8.7 Business With Notice - Ballina Dementia Inclusive Alliance - BISC Carpark Flooding Issue

Meg raised the issue of BISC carpark flooding during persistent heavy rain periods. Has Council planned to ameliorate this problem?

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

At the meeting Meg confirmed the location of the flooding issue is in the BISC Carpark area at the northern end on the eastern side. During heavy rain period the water can be 6 inches deep therefore park spaces are lost and the water is slow to subside.

Action: Referred to Civil Services to investigate the flooding issue in the BISC Carpark at the northern end on the eastern side.

8.8 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Formation of Social Justice and Crime Prevention Committee

Janet Chester enquired if Council have considered forming a Social Justice and Crime Prevention Committee to explore positive ways to achieve these objectives.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Cr Loone discussed the recent pay rise for NSW Police to try and retain Police in the force and discussed the need for CCTV footage.

The Mayor advised that she will attending Community Safety Precinct Committee (CSPC) meeting on 13 December. An update will be provided to the committee after this meeting.

8.9 Business With Notice - Ballina Peninsula Residents Association - Short and Long Term Maintenance and Longevity of River Drive (Keith Hall and Empire Vale)

Ros Felsch requested A Ward Councillors consider a Notice of Motion to equip Council to coordinate, develop and implement a strategy with relevant stakeholders for both the short and long term for maintenance and longevity of River Drive, at Keith Hall and Empire Vale.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

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At the meeting Ros Felsch invited the new Councillors to consult with BPRA to understand some of issues they encounter.

Ros tabled images at the meeting outlining the erosion that threatens further loss of the road. This maintenance and longevity of River Drive, at Keith Hall and Empire Vale matter has been raised several times and urged the new Councillors to consider a Notice of Motion (NOM) so that this matter is addressed. The revetment work Council received funding for recently has subsided in a short period of time.

Ros raised concerns about future weather events and contingencies Council have in place.

Cr Meehan raised concerns about vehicle safety. Ros advised that Transport NSW reduced the speed limits and signage is in place. Ros suggested line fog lines marked to provide more vehicle safety.

The Mayor advised she will write to relevant Ministers for Transport, Roads and Regional Transport and Roads to seek assistance for funding.

Post meeting note: Cr Karsten will also advocate to the Member for Ballina, Tamara Smith.

Action: The Mayor to write to relevant Ministers to seek assistance for funding for short and long term maintenance of River Drive (Keith Hall and Empire Vale).

9. Business Without Notice

9.1 Notification to of Road Construction Works

Andrew Playford raised that he wasn't notified of the road being resurfaced around his property. Caroline apologised and confirmed that generally there are notification letters distributed prior to these works commencing.

9.2 Serpentine Park to Douglas Street – Request for Path Replacement

Andrew requested the path from Serpentine Park to Douglas Street be included in the Pedestrian Access and Mobile Plan (PAMP). This path has roots growing through it and has become a hazard.

Action: To be referred to Council's Road Safety Officer.

Post meeting note: This area of path is not a scheduled path in the current PAMP. This proposal has been added to the PAMP register which are community suggestions. When the PAMP is reviewed next, this proposal will be assessed and prioritised using the Transport for NSW weighted criteria to assign priority.

A submission can also be made when the Delivery Program and Operational Plan (DPOP) goes on public exhibition in April/May 2025. The submission should outline risks to pedestrians or cyclists and anything that has changed in the environment to cause risks.

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9.3 Request for Turf – Commemoration Park

Andrew commended the works at commemoration park but requested the large chunks of gravel be replaced by turf. The Mayor confirmed there will be turf laid in this area.

9.4 Repair to Beach Access due to Mullet Harvesting Operation Gawandii Beach

Andrew requested Council repair the Gawandii beach access due to damage caused by mullet harvesting operation vehicles (near the toilets). This area has also had regular illegal campers.

Action: Refer to Rangers to monitor the illegal camping at Gawandii Beach access.

Post meeting note: A Customer Request (CRM 142808/24) has been prepared for Rangers to monitor Gawandii Beach access for illegal campers.

In relation to Gawandii beach access and concerned damage from the mullet harvesting, Council staff advise that the commercial fishing operating approval for Gawandii Beach requires damage to the reserve to be reinstated to the satisfaction of Council. Council's Open Spaces staff can confirm that repair works were undertaken recently in line with approval conditions.

The 2024/28 Delivery Program and Operational Plan, includes an action to prepare a management plan for Serpentine/Pioneer Park/Shaws Bay during 2024/25 to 2025/26 period. This plan includes Gawandii Beach and will give consideration to access and improvements at this location.

9.5 Notification of Ferry Maintenance

Ros raised the issue of lack of notice when the Burns Point Ferry undergoes annual maintenance. When the maintenance was posted to Council's website this year, there was four days notice. Ros explained the ferry maintenance is irregular and more notice is required. Caroline apologised and explained that the ferry maintenance was advertised in the October Community Connect and the new maintenance program should be for a reduced period of time, as the works are on-site.

Action: Caroline to discuss lack of notice when ferry maintenance scheduled with Civil Services Division.

9.6 Draft Concept Plan – Cumbalum

Kay Oxley explained that Cumbalum residents have been discussing a residue lot which is zoned for residential development. The current owner has indicated they didn't plan on developing the land and the community were prepared to work with the land owner to manage the wetland.

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Councillors are invited to attend the next meeting on Tuesday, 19 November 2024 at 6pm to review the Draft Concept Plan and there will also be a community day early December.

9.7 Environmental Urban Planning

Claudia enquired about an item raised at the 27 August 2024 meeting and expressed concerns that the item wasn't fully addressed.

Post meeting note: The matter was discussed with Claudia after the meeting and it was agreed that the matter be referred to Council's Strategic Planner managing the Public Realm Strategy project.

The document relating to Environmental Urban Planning that was tabled at the 27 August 2024 minutes was omitted. This document (relating Item 8.9) has been separately attached to these minutes.

9.8 Trip Hazard - cnr Moon and Bentinck Streets Roundabout

Meg raised the trip hazard Moon/Bentinck Streets roundabout. Turning left into Bentinck Street. Directional arrows on road are peeling up.

Post meeting note: A Customer Request (CRM 142985/24) was prepared for Council staff to investigate the directional arrows on the road.

9.9 Development/Building on Flood Plains

Ros discussed the Empire Vale School rebuild and developing or building on flood plains. If Council plans on restricting development or building the community should be consulted. Ros urged the new Council to consider allowing development and building in flood prone areas such as pole housing.

The Mayor advised the new flood study didn't indicate much change to building and development in flood prone areas. Council will be guided by the CSIRO study due to be released mid-2025.

9.10 Domestic Violence Walk with Rotary

The Mayor advised members that on 29 November 2024 there will be a "Domestic Violence Walk" with Rotary. Link is provided below for further information.

[Ballina Domestic & Family Violence Walk 2024 Flyer.jpg](#)

10. Council Documents on Exhibition

10.1 Council Documents on Exhibition

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

Cr Karsten briefed the members on the current documents on exhibition.

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11. Next Meeting/Future meeting Dates

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 11 March 2025 at 4pm.

MEETING CLOSURE

5.46pm