

**MINUTES OF THE A WARD COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
40 CHERRY STREET, BALLINA,
ON 11/03/25 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 Damian Loone

Cr Erin Karsten

Cr Sharon Cadwallader (Mayor)

Claudia Caliri – Ballina Environment Society

Meg Pickup – Dementia Inclusive Ballina Alliance

Kevin Loughrey – The Ballina Peninsular Residents Association

Richard Hughes – Ballina Croquet Incorporated

Janet Chester – St Vincent de Paul

Karen Perris – Ballina Lighthouse and Lismore Surf Lifesaving Club

Andrew Playford – Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club and Ballina Coastcare

Julie Stephan – Ballina Evening View Club

Meriel Barlow – Ballina East Lions Club Incorporated

Maureen Fletcher – Ballina Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN)

Margery Fitzgerald – Ballina Naval and Maritime Museum

Marshall Chang – Cumbalum Residents Association

Rodney Cambridge – Screenworks

Murray McCall – U3A Ballina/Byron

Lu Cooney – Rainbow Region Dragon Boat Club

Doug Townsend – NSW Police Force/Ballina Police Station/Richmond Police District

Les Hume – West Ballina Residents Association Incorporated

Council Staff

Caroline Klose - Director Corporate and Community Division

Janelle Snellgrove - Executive Support Officer

Observers

Patricia Wilson – Ballina Heritage Advisory

Jill McCann – Ballina Heritage Advisory

Apologies

Cr Phillip Meehan

Kay Oxley – Cumbalum Residents Association

At the meeting the Chair reiterated the need to report safety and operational matters directly to Council via email council@ballina.nsw.gov.au or telephone 1300 864 444.

3. Declarations of Interest

Nil.

4. Presentations

Nil.

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5. Confirmation of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

That Minutes of the A Ward Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 12 November 2024 were confirmed.

6. Business Arising from Minutes

6.1 Business Arising from Minutes of 12 November 2024 - Ballina Dementia Inclusive Ballina Alliance - BISC Carpark Flooding Issue

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

6.2 Business Without Notice - 27 August and 12 November 2024 - Ballina Peninsula Residents Association - Short and Long Term Maintenance and Longevity of River Drive (Keith Hall and Empire Vale)

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Kevin Loughrey submitted photographs of River Drive on behalf of Ros Felsch after the meeting. Photographs have been registered in Council's electronic document system and forwarded to Civil Services Division (document reference: CM 25/16448).

6.3 Business Arising from Minutes of 12 November 2024 - Ballina Peninsula Ratepayers Association - Notification of Ferry Maintenance

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

At the meeting the Chair explained that the ferry should be operating by the end of this week. The ferry remains closed as conditions of the Richmond River continue to be impacted by upstream conditions, upstream at Bungawalbin and Coraki still under major flood conditions. Scheduled maintenance has been completed on the ferry during this forced closure.

7. General Business

7.1 Membership Update - A Ward Committee

For the information of the Committee.

At the meeting the members introduced themselves and provided a brief update on the group/s they represent.

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7.3 Update from Mayor

The Mayor provided an update on the following matters at the meeting:

- Commenced a “dredge the river campaign” with relevant ministers
- Continuing to try and secure a dividend from Council’s healthy wastewater fund
- Applauded Council field staff for clearing drains during and after the weather event
- Homelessness continues to be addressed.

The Mayor left the meeting at 4.37pm.

7.2 Business With Notice - Ward Committees Terms of Reference

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

8. Business With Notice

8.1 Business With Notice - Ballina Croquet Club Inc - Hampton Park Master Plan Queries

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

At the meeting Richard Hughes provided information in relation to the Hampton Park Master Plan and the lease agreements arrangements / negotiations and urged the A Ward members to review the Hampton Park Master Plan.

Caroline explained there are seven key objectives for the Hampton Park Master Plan and recommended the Ward committee members view information that is on Council’s website.

8.2 Business With Notice - Ballina Croquet Inc - Amalgamation of Ballina Tennis Club and Cherry Street Sports Club

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

8.3 Business With Notice - Ballina East Lions Club Inc - Dumping of Pushbikes

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

At the meeting Doug Townsend advised that dumped pushbikes fall into the categories below:

- Dumped as they’re in disrepair
- Cheap quick transport
- Valuable

90% of stolen bikes the owners haven’t secured.

8.4 Business With Notice - Dementia Inclusive Ballina Alliance - Process for Presenting Australia Day Awards 2025

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The information contained in the agenda was noted.

8.5 Business With Notice - Cumbalum Residents Association - Review of Bus Shelters in Ballina Heights

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

At the meeting Marshall Chang reiterated the need for a bus shelter on the corner of Farrelly Drive and Ballina Heights Drive for safety reasons.

8.6 Business With Notice - Cumbalum Residents Association - DA 2023/273 Temporary Earthworks Stockpile

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

At the meeting Marshall noted the poor state of the site and that residents have expressed disappointment with Council's decision to approve this DA.

8.7 Business With Notice - Dementia Inclusive Ballina Alliance - Cause of Fish Kill in the Borrow Pit near Southern Cross Drive

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Claudia queried why the water quality was low and if the water was contaminated from the Waste Management Centre nearby. It was clarified that the water temperature was the cause of the problem, reducing oxygen levels in the water.

8.8 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Future Uses for Wollongbar, Wardell and Ballina Pods

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

8.9 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Aboriginal Recruitment for Youth Development Officer

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

At the meeting Janet advised Youth Week is 9 to 17 April 2025 and encouraged support.

Janet asked if Council would consider contracting a group of talented youths to paint murals on walls. Caroline advised Janet to reach out to Councillors Cadwallader, Chate, Ramsey or Bailey to raise at a Public Art Advisory Panel meeting (PAAP) for consideration.

8.10 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan (DPOP) 2025/26

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Caroline explained that draft DPOP is being prepared to the April Finance Committee meeting. A good way for community groups to influence actions in DPOP is to write a submission when the draft DPOP is on exhibition. The DPOP for the upcoming financial year will be on public exhibition in May 2025.

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8.11 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Government Financial Support for Employing Indigenous Youth in Apprenticeships and Traineeships

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

8.12 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Council Hall / Room Hire Spaces

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

At the meeting Janet was enquiring if Council would consider waiving or donating the hire fee a Council facility.

Caroline explained that application period for the community donation program runs alongside the exhibition of the Delivery Program and Operational Plan. The donations program will open in May/June 2025.

8.13 Business With Notice - Ballina Lighthouse and Lismore Surf Life Saving Club - Maintenance to Ballina Surf Club Building

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

At the meeting Karen Perris explained that the internal maintenance on the Surf Club building isn't progressing.

Cr Loone suggested that Council could encourage the upstairs lessee perform maintenance as per lease agreement.

8.14 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Completion Date for MOU with Jali

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

9. Business Without Notice

9.1 Environmental Urban Planning - Ballina Environment Society

Claudia Caliarì requested a formal response from Council to the BES report attached to the November minutes. A copy of this report is attached below.

Action: Council to provide a formal response to the BES report.

Claudia sought clarification on the \$25,000 Council allocates annually for trees, with a commitment to inase this by \$5000/year, whether this is just for tree removal?

Caroline clarified that \$25,000 is allocated to tree planting alone (increasing \$5000/year). Council are unable to provide data on tree removal in urban spaces as there is a wide range of tree planting which makes it difficult to provide data.

Council's Public Realm Strategy, (that includes information on tree planting) will be on public exhibition in the near future. A submission can be made at this time.

Action: Open Spaces to provide a response outlining how funds have been used as per the request by BES.

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Ph: 0421-551-768



BES would like access to the number of trees removed from urban spaces by Council and the number of trees planted in the last Councillor's term by Council.

Earlier this year A, ward stakeholders were informed that all trees removed by Council from green spaces were replaced when possible. Below is a map of recent stumps in public land (pictures of the stumps at the end of this report).

BES would like Council to share knowledge in the planning for the future of our urban green spaces. These spaces connect us all. Even though some of the current open grass spaces are used by our community, shade, soil health (soil temperature and the health of the essential microorganisms), runoff, drought resilience, temperature, human well-being, wildlife habitat and foraging habitat, health ecosystems, Council staff hours harvesting grass, the emission of mowing grass and [the fact that mowing less grass will increase biodiversity](#) ([Bellingen Council has good tips for alternative strategies](#)) must be accountable when planning these spaces.



Planning successional urban trees is crucial for the development of resilient and sustainable urban ecosystems. Successional planting involves selecting and arranging tree species that reflect different stages of natural forest development, which promotes biodiversity and long-term ecological stability. By implementing a succession-based approach, urban forests can support a range of species and ecological functions over time, allowing them to adapt to changing environmental conditions. This strategy enhances the capacity of urban green spaces to provide essential ecosystem services, such as carbon sequestration, air purification, and temperature regulation, which are critical in mitigating the impacts of urbanization and climate change (Nowak et al., 2014).

Planting trees in clumps, particularly with a mix of species and growth habits, increases their resilience to extreme weather events like strong winds, heavy rainfall, and droughts. Clumped

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planting enhances the structural integrity of tree communities, allowing them to support one another and withstand physical stresses more effectively. Furthermore, trees planted in close proximity can form mycorrhizal fungal networks, through which older, established trees share nutrients and water with younger or stressed trees, promoting their growth and survival (Simard et al., 1997). These complex vegetation structures not only strengthen the individual trees but also act as "spongy islands" in urban environments, absorbing and slowing down rainwater, reducing runoff speed, and increasing the overall resilience of the urban forest to flooding and erosion (Bartens et al., 2008).

Beyond their ecological benefits, these well-planned urban forests offer significant social advantages by fostering community connectedness and enhancing the quality of life in urban areas. Access to healthy, green urban spaces is associated with numerous social and psychological benefits, including reduced stress, improved mental health, and increased opportunities for physical activity and social interaction (Hartig et al., 2014). Moreover, the presence of complex, resilient green spaces in cities can create stronger community ties, as residents gather in these areas for recreation, relaxation, and community events. The integration of successional tree planning and clumped planting strategies in urban forestry not only contributes to the environmental resilience of cities but also promotes social cohesion and well-being, making urban areas more liveable and sustainable (Kuo, 2003).

References:

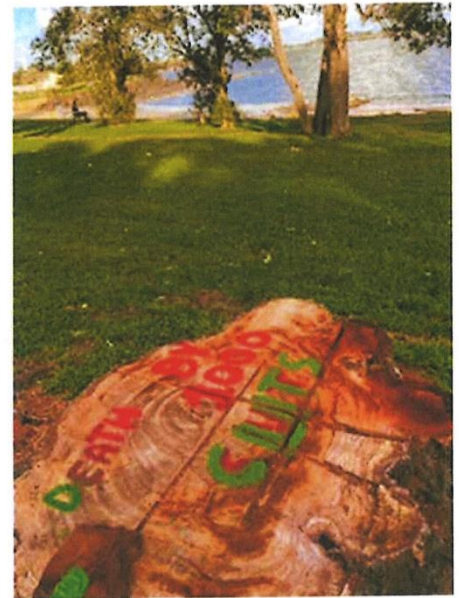
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1. Shaws Bay

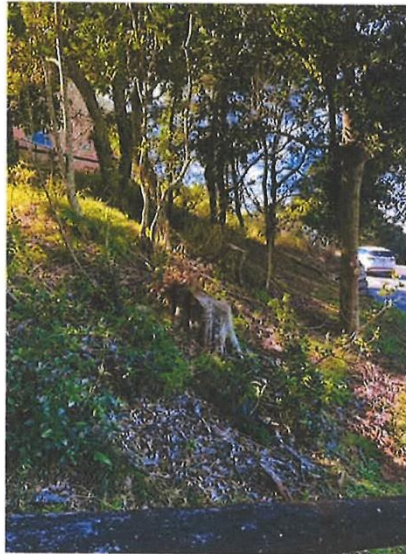


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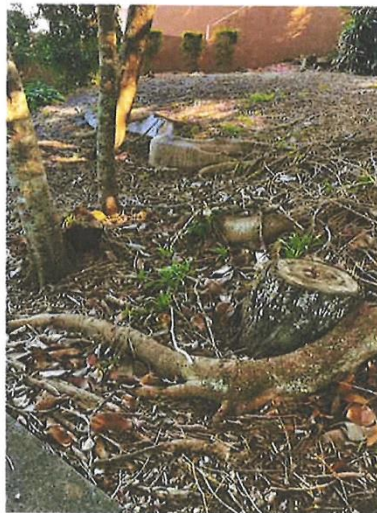
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2. 1 Pine Ave



3. Pine Avenue – Lions Park



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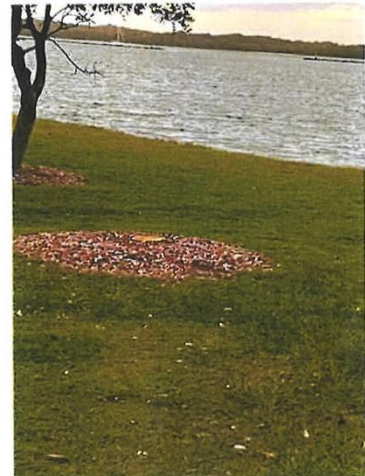
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4. Serpentine



5. Regatta Reserve



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6. Kingsford Drive

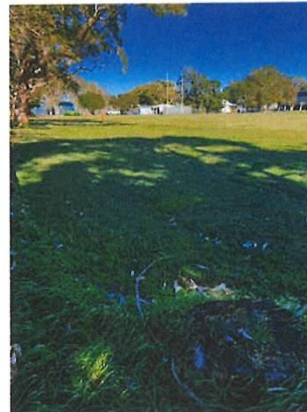


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7. Ballina High – Clement Park



8. Bentinck St



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9.2 Community Connections Expo Lennox Head

Meg commended B Ward Councillors for Community Connections Expo Lennox.

Meg raised concerns that a Councillor arrived in clothing representing a political party. Meg suggested that training is provided to Councillors on political clothing.

Cr Loone advised the Councillor was on their way to a party meeting.

9.3 Renaming Pop Denison Park

Karen Perris enquired if Council were considering renaming Pop Denison Park. Councillors and staff clarified that they weren't aware of any plans to rename Pop Denison Park.

9.4 Removal of Shelters at Commemoration Park

Andrew Playford asked why the shelters in Commemoration Park were removed.

Action: Council to confirm why the shelters were removed from Commemoration Park.

Post meeting note: The shelters were removed as part of the Kingsford Smith Master Plan (new shelters are also part of the Master Plan).

9.5 Removal of Obstructions to Tuckombil Canal

Kevin Loughrey discussed the CSIRO flood report and raised concerns about the obstructions placed at Tuckombil Canal. Mr Loughrey requested Council remove obstructions and open Tuckombil Canal to reduce future flooding.

Action: Referred to Civil Services Division for a response.

9.6 Funding - Prioritising Park Master Plans

Julie wanted to understand how does Council prioritise works in Master Plans for parks/playgrounds.

Caroline responded that the Delivery Program and Operational Plan outlines actions from master plans. If there is a priority park important to a particular community group, Caroline suggests speaking with local Councillors to advocate for funding.

Caroline outlined that master plans are important as they provide Council with an opportunity to apply for grant funding. However, Councillors will determine the priority of works.

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9.7 Disposing of Sandbags

Andrew Playford raised the issue of sandbags being disposed on beaches. Caroline advised that there is newsletter containing instructions on how to dispose of empty sandbags currently being published. The contents of the newsletter is provided below.

Disposing of sandbags

Residents are encouraged to reuse sandbags at home where possible. If no longer needed or damaged, full sandbags can be returned to Council's old depot at 16 Tamarind Drive (opposite Ballina Fair).

- **Empty sandbags** should be placed in the general waste bin. Do not put full sandbags in your general waste bin.
- **Full sandbags** should not be placed in general waste. These can be taken to Council's old depot location (map below) for proper disposal.
- **Do not empty sandbags or place sand on the beach.** Sand may carry debris or pollutants that could harm marine life and coastal ecosystems.

Council's old depot: Access is via the east-bound lane on Tamarind Drive. West-bound traffic should detour via the roundabout at intersection of North Creek Road and Tamarind Drive.



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9.8 Removal of Large Debris from Beaches

Karen Perris asked if there was a beach clean-up plan as there is large debris on the beaches which could be dangerous.

Action: Council to provide information in relation to large debris on the beach removal.

Post meeting note: Council is continuing to clean up and manage beach access as a result of cyclone Alfred and will monitor for debris as required in accordance with Council's adopted policy.

9.9 Removal of Pieces of Wreck from Beach

Andrew raised concerns that removal of wreck from beach is occurring. The Chair advised NSW Dept of Energy and Environment have advised that there are penalties associated with removing pieces of a wreck from the beach.

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 13 May 2025 at 4pm.

Tuesday, 8 July 2025

Tuesday, 9 September 2025

Tuesday, 11 November 2025

MEETING CLOSURE

5.50pm