

**MINUTES OF THE B WARD COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
40 CHERRY STREET, BALLINA,
ON 17/03/25 AT 4:30PM**

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 Eva Ramsey
Cr Kiri Dicker
Cr Michelle Bailey
Cr Sharon Cadwallader (Mayor)

Colin Riches - Tuckombil Landcare
Darel Vidler - Lennox Head Combined Sports Association
Geoff Wegg - Lennox Head Residents Association
Jim Gilchrist - Lennox Head Chess Club Incorporated
Graham Bond - Lennox Community Gardens Incorporated
Sarah King - Ballina Environment Society (online)

Council Staff

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

Observers

Robyn Hargrave - Lennox Head Heritage Committee

Apologies

Sharon Clark - Marine Rescue Ballina
Shaun Eastment - Lennox Head Landcare

3. Declarations of Interest

Nil

4. Presentations

Nil

5. Confirmation of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee confirmed the Minutes of the B Ward Committee Meeting held on Monday 18 November 2024.

6. Business Arising from Minutes

6.1 Business Arising from Minutes of 18 November 2024 - Lennox Head Landcare - Lennox Head Foreshore Fencing

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

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6.2 Business Arising from Minutes of 18 November 2024 - Lennox Head Residents Association - Shared Zone Signage - Rayner Lane

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

7. General Business

7.1 Membership Update - B Ward Committee

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Jim Gilchrist advised that the Preserving Lake Ainsworth Association is withdrawing from the ward committee.

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 - Lennox Head Chess Club and Northern Rivers Chess Association - Report Introducing Lennox Head Chess Club (LHCC)

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

8.2 Business With Notice - Lennox Head Residents Association - Water Reservoir on Stoneyhurst Drive Lennox Head.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

8.3 Business With Notice - Lennox Head Residents Association - Increase in Dogs on the Beach - Boat Channel and Bream Hole Areas

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

The group discussed the prospect of a dog exercise area in Lennox Head. Matthew Wood noted that the Companion Animals Management Plan will be reviewed towards the end of the year and that the community will have the opportunity to provide feedback on dog exercise areas during that process.

8.4 Business With Notice - Lennox Head Residents Association - Concerns About Toilet Amenities Near Lake Ainsworth and Illegal Camping

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

The group discussed the use of amenities by people operating food stalls. Matthew noted that there is a licencing and inspection process for food stall operators. It was also noted that it is Council's policy not to have soap in the amenities for reasons including risk of slips/falls.

8.5 Business With Notice - Lennox Head Residents Association - Enquiry About Council's Herbicide Use Policy

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

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Cr Dicker raised the topic of alternatives to glyphosate. Matthew also noted that Council is currently considering approaches with regard to pesticide use:

- i) Council is planning to introduce new signage to provide information on spraying activities in public reserves.
- ii) Community members with sensitivities should contact Council to discuss their circumstances.
- iii) Council has considered alternatives to the use of glyphosate and has not found a suitable product to date that meets operational requirements.

Matthew reiterated that an important message is that Council is a relatively low user of glyphosate. For instance hand weeding is undertaken at times in certain locations.

Cr Dicker also enquired whether the refurbished toilets at Lake Ainsworth will be on electronic timed lock for opening hours and what the opening hours will be.

ACTION: Referred to Community Facilities Section for confirmation of locking and opening hours arrangements.

9. Business Without Notice

9.1 Proposed LHRA Sub-Committee – Lennox Head Residents Association

Geoff Wegg proposed formation of LHRA sub-committee - Friends of Ross and Lennox Parks to assist Council with weed control, rubbish removal and beautification.

ACTION: Referred to Open Spaces section for consideration and discussion with interested community members.

9.2 Pat Morton Lookout Upgrade

Geoff raised that the car parking access at Pat Morton Lookout is in need of an upgrade.

Matthew noted that there is an endorsed plan for the lookout and that Council will consider funding and prioritisation alongside other projects, as part of its upcoming delivery program and operation plan process for the 2025/26 year.

9.3 Acknowledgement of Council Response During Weather Event

Committee members acknowledged the work Council did during the recent weather events (tropical cyclone Alfred).

9.4 Biodiversity Strategy and Urban Trees - Ballina Environmental Society (BES)

Sarah King requested an update on implementation of Council's biodiversity strategy and enquired if there is any way local volunteer organisations can help.

Sarah also noted that BES enquired via the A Ward Committee about trees in urban spaces, including how many trees are being removed and replanted.

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Sarah also enquired what if any bioindicators are being used to measure health of our urban green spaces.

Matthew noted the current focus of the Biodiversity Strategy is implementation of koala habitat restoration plantings, and adjusting planning controls in Council's development control plan.

Urban trees are being considered as part of the preparation of a Public Realm Strategy, which focuses on what the community wants Ballina and other areas in the Shire to look and feel like in the future. In terms of urban vegetation Council can look at incorporating measurable indicators. It is anticipated that the Public Realm Strategy will be available for exhibition mid year.

9.5 Williams Reserve - Lennox Head Combined Sports Association

Darel Vidler enquired about the resurfacing of Williams Reserve and removal of the cricket pitch.

Matthew advised that the resurfacing is progressing as quickly as possible, noting the weather has delayed completion of the turfing of the site. The cricket pitch has been removed consistent with planning for Williams Reserve and noting the area available does not support a field of compliant dimensions for senior play.

9.6 Sign Blown Over in Wind – Liability – Lennox Head Combined Sports Association

Darel noted a sign fell over after the storm at Megan Crescent and enquired about potential liability.

Matthew noted that in situations like these the individual affected needs to report the incident directly to Council.

9.7 Parks near the Serpentine - Tuckombil Landcare

Colin Riches noted that Tuckombil Landcare has a focus on the Serpentine area and so has joined the B Ward committee. Colin drew attention to vegetation condition in and around Serpentine and Mercer Parks.

ACTION: Referred to Open Spaces section for inspection of the Serpentine Park and Mercer Park.

9.7 Recognition of B Ward Committee Exhibition – Lennox Head Chess Club Incorporated

Jim acknowledged the community expo event held at the Lennox Head Cultural Centre coordinated by B Ward Councillors.

10. Council Documents on Exhibition

10.1 Council Documents on Exhibition

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

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11. Next Meeting/Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Monday 19 May 2025 at 4:30pm.

MEETING CLOSURE: 5:20pm