

**MINUTES OF THE C WARD COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE CRAWFORD HOUSE
10 WARDELL ROAD, ALSTONVILLE,
ON 13/03/25 AT 5PM**

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 Simon Chate

Cr Therese Crollick

Cr Sharon Cadwallader (Mayor)

Eoin Johnston – Rous Mill Ratepayers Association

Jane Gardiner - Alstonville Plateau Historical Society and Heritage Advisory Ballina

Jeff Cush – Wardell and District Progress Association

Malcolm Johnson – Ballina Environment Society and Tuckombil Landcare

Roslyn Potter – Alstonville/Wollongbar Chamber of Commerce

Russell Priddle – Alstonville Football Club

Wayne Garrard - Alstonville and District Cricket Association

Council Staff

John Truman - Director Civil Services Division

Joanne Cordery - Executive Support Officer – Civil Services

Observers

Apologies

Cr Simon Kinny

Zac Convery – Alstonville Agricultural Society Inc

Joel Orchard – WardellCORE

3. Declarations of Interest

Nil

4. Presentations

Nil

5. Confirmation of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

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

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6. Business Arising from Minutes

6.1 Business Arising from Minutes of 14 November 2024 - WardellCORE - Terms of Reference

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

6.2 Business Arising from Minutes of 14 November 2024 - Rous Mill Ratepayers Association - Youngmans Creek - Capping of Quarry Rock

It was agreed to investigate whether Council placed the larger rock in the stream and should these be removed.

Action: Council staff to investigate.

6.3 Business Arising from Minutes of 14 November 2024 - Richmond River Update

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

7. General Business

7.1 Membership Update - C Ward Committee

The information contained in the agenda was noted with a change that a membership has been allocated to the Rous Mill Ratepayers Association, not the Rous Mill Memorial Hall.

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 - Alstonville Plateau Historical Society - DA's for Alstonville

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

8.2 Business With Notice - Alstonville Plateau Historical Society - Alstonville Community Centre and Library

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

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8.3 Business With Notice - Ballina Environment Society - Water Health

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

8.4 Business With Notice - Ballina Environment Society - Landcare at Teven

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

8.5 Business With Notice - Rous Mill Ratepayers Association - Absence of Guardrails at Devil's Elbow on Marom Creek Road

Eoin Johnston raised the problems still existing with the section of road at Devil's Elbow on Marom Creek Road, particularly regarding the absence of guardrails. The danger has been exacerbated during the vigorous growing season experienced over the recent 5 months.

John Truman advised that late last year, Council received funding approval to repair the landslip under the Natural Disaster Restoration and Relief arrangements. These grants only enable the assets to be restored to the pre-disaster condition. Council does not have a program to install guardrail, rather these works are undertaken when required as part of upgrade projects. Accordingly there is no planning currently to install guardrail as part of the restoration project.

8.6 Business With Notice - Rous Mill Ratepayers Association - Intersection of Dalwood Road and Ellis Road - Dangerous Sharp Left Turn

Eoin Johnston raised the dangerous intersection and sharp left turn, while heading towards Lismore, at the intersection of Dalwood Road and Ellis Road remains a problem. The question of improved signage has previously been raised but vehicles continue to miss the acute turn and the landholder is still repairing his fence on a regular basis. Users approaching the same intersection from Lismore are met with a graffitied and damaged cluster of signs which need rectification.

John Truman advised that consideration is being given to include a project to improve the intersection in next year's budget.

8.7 Business With Notice - Rous Mill Ratepayers Association - Rural Landfill Collection Trial Feedback

Eoin Johnston raised the recent Rural Landfill Collection Trial conducted at Rous Mill has not uncovered majority support for an organic waste collection service. The consensus appears to support the existing arrangement.

Staff Comment

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Information regarding this proposal has been reported to Council's Finance Committee on 12 March 2025. The agenda for this meeting is available on Council's website.

The proposal, if supported by Council, will be placed on public exhibition as part of the annual process to prepare the Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

Post Meeting Note: The proposal was endorsed by the Finance Committee to be placed on Public Exhibition.

8.8 Business With Notice - Rous Mill Ratepayers Association - Future Plans for Alstonville Tidy Towns Plaques

Eoin Johnston raised the future plans, if any, for the removed of the Tidy Towns Award plaques. They were important to the community and although the program appears to have lapsed, I submit that the efforts of all involved should not be erased from history.

Staff Comment:

This matter has previously been addressed at the 17 July 2024 C Ward Committee meeting (refer to copy of comment below). Council staff have confirmed that there is nothing additional to add to the comment.

Staff comment from 17 July 2024 C Ward Committee meeting:

The stone wall and plaques were removed as part of planned upgrade works to EA Brown Park. The works were carried out in accordance 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 EA Brown Park or Freeborn Park. Council has the plaques in storage and these can be made available to the Alstonville Plateau Historical Society if the society would like to retain the plaques as items in its heritage collection.

The information contained in the agenda was noted. John Truman advised if the Committee wanted to take further action on the plaques, the process to follow is a Councillor notice of motion.

9. Business Without Notice

9.1 Geoff Watt Oval - Dogs Off Leash

Wayne Garrard discussed the issue of dogs off leash on Geoff Watt Oval. Wayne noted with Crawford Park currently unavailable, more people walking dogs are using Geoff Watt Oval.

Action: Request for an enforcement campaign at Geoff Watt Oval.

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9.2 Crawford Park

Russell Priddle provided an update on Crawford Park and advised the club would not be playing on the ground this season.

9.3 Update from the Mayor

Cr Cadwallader provided the following updates.

- Pickle Ball now has 521 members. Cr Cadwallader requested Council to provide additional bins to the club.
- NBN services had been restored but some connections were still using secondary power supply.
- Kevin Hogan has announced an election commitment of \$80,000 for solar panels for the Alstonville Community centre.
- Ballina Hospital – An advocacy campaign for a new hospital has commenced.
- Essential Energy provided fantastic service during and after the cyclone.
- Cr Cadwallader reported she is campaigning for the Richmond River to be dredged as a flood mitigation measure.

9.4 Roundabout Wardell Road Alstonville

Wayne Garrard asked about the construction of the roundabout at Wardell Road Alstonville.

John Truman advised that a thermoplastic roundabout and associated signage was being installed. Tropical Cyclone Alfred has impacted the delivery as the line marking contractor was not able to attend the site as scheduled.

9.5 Health Warnings for Creek Swimming

Malcolm Johnson requested Council provide warnings at popular swimming locations such as creeks and waterholes, including an assessment of water quality.

John Truman advised that creeks and waterholes are not land areas managed by Council. Also Council is not resourced to implement water testing programs at these sites which are not endorsed as formal swimming locations. Any program delivery of this type requires consideration from a risk management perspective as Council would be assuming a responsibility for the accuracy and availability of the data to the public.

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 Thursday 8 May 2025 at 5pm.

MEETING CLOSURE

6.40pm