

**MINUTES OF THE A WARD COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
40 CHERRY STREET, BALLINA,
ON 13/05/25 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 Erin Karsten (Chair)
Cr Damian Loone
Cr Sharon Cadwallader (Mayor)

Meg Pickup – Dementia Inclusive Ballina Alliance
Kevin Loughrey – The Ballina Peninsular Residents Association
Carolyn Reay-Young – Ballina Croquet Incorporated
Janet Chester – St Vincent de Paul
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
Kay Oxley – 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
Paul Crozier – Manager Engineering Works

Observers

Apologies

Cr Phillip Meehan
Claudia Caliarì – Ballina Environment Society
Richard Hughes – Ballina Croquet Incorporated
Geoff Jacobs – Ballina Bears Cricket Club
Gai Mason – Ballina CWA
Karen Perris – Ballina Lighthouse and Lismore Surf Lifesaving Club
Patricia Wilson (Jill McCann) - Ballina Heritage Advisory

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3. Declarations of Interest

Nil.

4. Presentations

Nil.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

The Minutes of the A Ward Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 11 March 2025 were confirmed.

Cr Karsten explained that the code of conduct during Councillors induction would have covered wearing clothing representing a political party.

6. Business Arising from Minutes

6.1 Business Arising from Minutes of 11 March 2025 - BES Environmental Urban Planning Report

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

6.2 Business Arising from Minutes of 11 March 2025 - The Ballina Peninsular Residents Association - Removal of Obstructions to Tuckombil Canal

Kevin Loughrey discussed the CSIRO flood report and raised concerns about the obstructions and open Tuckombil Canal to reduce future flooding.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

At the meeting Kevin Loughrey requested Council request an information from Richmond Valley Council as they won't release a document pertaining to the long term management plan for the site. Kevin commented that Ballina Shire is affected by this obstruction.

Action: Mayor to make contact with Richmond Valley Council and request documents on behalf of Kevin Loughrey relating to long term management plan for the site.

7. General Business

Nil Items

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8. Business With Notice

8.1 Business With Notice - Ballina Police Station - Community Awareness Program (Property Crimes)

Doug Townsend shared information with the committee relating to the Community Awareness Program for crime prevention.

Doug tabled flyers at the meeting relating to Community Awareness Program which weren't attached to the agenda and reiterated the need for people to make it habit to lock up. Flyers will be distributed with the minutes.

Cr Loone has been in contact with Justine Elliot's office and advised that CCTV camera funding has been granted for Ballina.

Action: Council to consider sharing the flyers relating to crime prevention on social media and / or in community connect.

8.2 Business With Notice - Ballina Environment Society - List of Community Groups for Volunteers on Council's Website

Claudia Caliarì enquired if Council could improve volunteering opportunities on the Council website by featuring a list of community organisations, each with a summary, to help community members easily find places to volunteer.

Karen Perris (Ballina Lighthouse & Lismore Surf Lifesaving Club) and Meriel Barlow (Ballina East Lions Club Inc) also expressed support for a list of community organisations for volunteers. A central contact person to advise changes each year was also suggested.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Cr Karsten advised of a Community Connection Expo for A Ward with a proposed date of 30 August. The expo is the subject of a Notice of Motion at the May Ordinary Council meeting.

At the meeting the members discussed the difficulties in keeping volunteer information updated as it regularly changes.

8.3 Business With Notice - Ballina Evening View Club - Vegetation Maintenance - Kerry Saxby Walkway

Julie Stephan requested Council regularly maintain Kerry Saxby Walkway.

At the meeting Cr Karsten reiterated the need to contact Council directly where the item relates to safety issues.

Julie requested Council consider a more effective path be constructed. Cr Karsten this area has been noted and will continue to be investigated to improve.

The Mayor commented Council have staff shortages issues and commended the field staff for their efforts.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

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8.4 Business With Notice - Dementia Inclusive Ballina Alliance - Living With Dementia

Meg Pickup raised that it takes a village to support a person living with dementia. How does Ballina Shire deliver a dementia friendly environment?

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

At the meeting Cr Karstens explained the areas where Council considers the needs of all the community.

Meg explained that considerations such as signage, placing seating, encouraging people to assist if anyone appears confused or lost assist those living with dementia.

Action: Council to consider an article in the Community Connect making the community aware of how to deliver a dementia friendly environment.

8.5 Business With Notice - Dementia Inclusive Ballina Alliance - BISC Carpark Issues

Meg Pickup raised issues in the BISC carpark.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

8.6 Business With Notice - Dementia Inclusive Ballina Alliance - White Line Marking the Edge of River Street, Ballina

At the July 2024 A Ward Committee meeting, Meg asked a question about the white line marking the edge of River Street between Kerr and Grant Streets that gave the appearance of it creating a bicycle lane on the northern side of the road. Meg recently opened her car door into the path of an e-bike at the Grant Street end of the street.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

8.7 Business With Notice - Dementia Inclusive Ballina Alliance - Poor Signposting and Lighting at the Tamarind Drive/Tintenbar Road Intersection

Meg raised that at the August 2024 A Ward Committee meeting Meg asked a question about poor signposting and lighting at the Tamarind Drive/Tintenbar Road intersection.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

At the meeting Manager Engineering Works presented plans and explained that the signage plan included two large signs in advance of the intersection and confirmed that these two signs were missed during the construction. The signs are currently being manufactured and will be installed shortly.

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8.8 Business With Notice - Cumbalum Residents Association - Hilltop Park Update

The Cumbalum Residents Association (CRA) requested an update on the park scheduled for Ballina Heights Drive, opposite Fallow Drive (called Hilltop Park).

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

8.9 Business With Notice - Cumbalum Residents Association - Traffic Management for Construction of Double Bridges

When construction on the two bridges commences, the traffic congestion coming from the North and South in the mornings and going the other way in the afternoons will undoubtedly increase.

At the meeting Manager Engineering Works explained the status and process of the construction of the Bridge Duplication.

Kay Oxley commented that the Cumbalum community are concerned about traffic congestion. Manager Engineering Works explained Barlows Road reported to the May Ordinary meeting. Caroline added that there are two reports, one in May and the other towards the end of the year, once the traffic modelling has been updated.

Les Hume asked about the River Street and if it will be raised during the project. Manager Engineering Works explained that they would need to model this option and at this stage this isn't part of the initial delivery of the project. This would be reported to Council. Les raised stormwater concerns if River Street is raised. Manager Engineering Works explained nothing has been determined in relation to raising River Street or Barlows Road. Council are undertaking lengthy flood modelling and mitigation measures. Les commented that infrastructure needs to be upgraded before future developments.

The Mayor explained that Council are trying to get a dividend from the wastewater fund to assist with stormwater infrastructure, however the NSW Government has not approved Council's application.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

8.10 Business With Notice - Cumbalum Residents Association - Banyan Hill Community Centre Update

Cumbalum Residents Association request an update on the planned Banyan Hill Community Centre in relation to the linked lot release.

At the meeting Kay Oxley raised the long timeframe and suggestions were made to approach the developer directly.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

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8.11 Business With Notice - West Ballina Residents Association - Post Cyclone Alfred

On behalf of West Ballina Residents Association, Les Hume raised the following matters post Cyclone Alfred:

- (a) Many of the stormwater drains had not been cleaned or pumped out.

At the meeting Manager Engineering Works explained that there is now a dedicated stormwater engineer with a works program, but this is limited.

- (b) The information provided about sea surge was not made clear enough for those on the river or canals (higher than 2022).

At the meeting Manager Engineering Works explained that Council have gauges on the breakwall and Burns Point Ferry Road. This information is provided to SES, who are the responsible authority in emergencies.

- (c) Council sand bagging and pick up worked a lot better than 2022. Credit to the staff who endured the weather.

- (d) Information on relief services very fragmented.

At the meeting Caroline commented on the communication improvement during Cyclone Alfred since 2022 floods.

Les commented there were not contacts for the community from Council when Council are the first call most people would make. Caroline explained that once Council receive the information from State Government, Council then shares this information.

Cr Loone commented that he heard Cyclone information from ABC radio who are the emergency broadcaster, in the first instance and people also need to use their initiative.

Cr Karsten advised that it has been budgeted in 2025/26 to improve communications with the community during an emergency, in relation to flooding.

Manager Engineering Works commented this is part of the flood plain risk management plan including key educational documents to be updated and additional rain and river gauges.

- (e) Fish kill and water pollution in Richmond River, a disgrace. (Fish travelled up the stormwater pipes and blocked them)

At the meeting Manager Engineering Works explained a group has been formed with key NSW Government stakeholders and community groups to try and come up with some deliverables in relation to fish kills. Cr Loone commented that they have asked for more frequent meetings.

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The Mayor commented the fish kill and the bottom of the river clean ups are two separate issues.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

8.12 Business With Notice - West Ballina Residents Association - Stormwater Infrastructure, West Ballina

On behalf of West Ballina Residents Association, Les Hume raised issues relating to stormwater infrastructure in West Ballina.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

8.13 Business With Notice - West Ballina Residents Association - Development Approvals on Wetland and Floodplain Areas, West Ballina

On behalf of West Ballina Residents Association, Les Hume raised the need to cease development approvals on Wetland and Floodplain areas of West Ballina.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

8.14 Business With Notice - West Ballina Residents Association - Traffic Speeding in West Ballina

On behalf of West Ballina Residents Association, Les Hume raised the ongoing increase in traffic movements, there are regular incidents of accidents happening on a regular basis.

At the meeting Manager Engineering Works reiterated that speed limits are matters for Transport for NSW. Transport for NSW review the speed and advise Council if any changes.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

8.15 Business With Notice - Ballina Croquet Incorporated - Urgent Request for Support

Carolyn Reay-Young submitted the letter requesting support for Ballina Croquet from A Ward members.

At the meeting Cr Karsten advised that there will be a Notice of Motion (NOM) submitted to the May Ordinary Council meeting to propose an update to the Sports and Facilities Recreation Plan.

Carolyn explained why Ballina Croquet want to stay in A Ward and advised the Ballina Croquet has been established for 90 years.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

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9. Business Without Notice

9.1 Code of Conduct

Cr Karsten reminded members about the Code of Conduct and that members email addresses should only be used for the purpose of A Ward Committee meetings.

9.2 Gratitude for Commemoration Park Works

Andrew Playford commended Council for works at Commemoration Park.

9.3 Support for Road Naming

Andrew Playford supports naming Lightwing Lane for the late Howard Hughes, located in proximity to Ballina Byron Gateway Airport.

9.4 Homelessness

Janet raised St Vincent de Pauls support housing for homeless in caravan parks and allowing sleeping in cars where safe.

9.5 Gratitude

Meg Pickup commended Council staff for pothole maintenance in Tintenbar.

9.6 Youth Forum

Cr Karsten was involved in conducting a youth forum on 13 May 2025. Around 70 students attended and were very engaged and discussed a variety of issues that they are impacted by such as homelessness, cost of living, lack of public transport.

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, 8 July 2025 at 4pm.

MEETING CLOSURE

6.04pm