

Agenda

C Ward Committee Meeting **12 March 2026**

A C Ward Committee Meeting will be held in the Ballina Shire Council Chambers, 40 Cherry Street, Ballina on **12 March 2026 commencing at 5.00pm.**

1. Acknowledgment of Country
2. Attendance and Apologies (including updates/changes in membership)
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Presentations
5. Confirmation of Minutes – Thursday, 13 November 2025
6. Business Arising from Minutes - Thursday, 13 November 2025
7. Business With Notice
8. General Business
9. Business Without Notice
10. Council Documents on Exhibition
11. Next Meeting/Future Meeting Dates
12. Meeting Closure

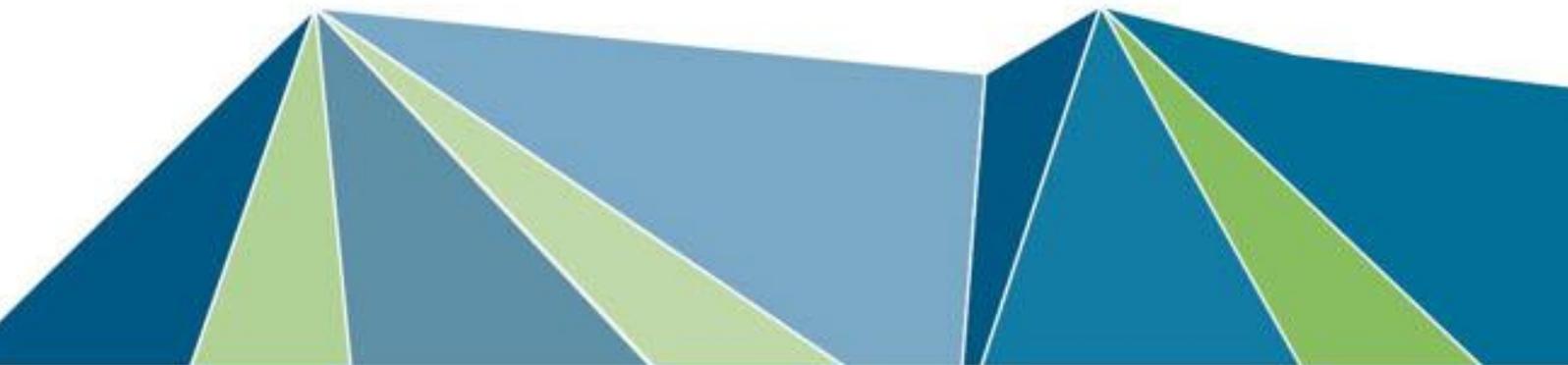


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1. Acknowledgment of Country
 2. Attendance and Apologies (including updates/changes in membership)
 3. Declarations of Interest
 4. Confirmation of Minutes
-

1. Acknowledgment of Country

In opening the meeting, the Chair will provide an Acknowledgement of Country.

We acknowledge the Nyangbul peoples of the Bundjalung nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today and pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.

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

3. Declarations of Interest

4. Presentations

5. Confirmation of Minutes

A copy of the Minutes of the C Ward Committee Meeting held on Thursday 13 November 2025 were distributed with the agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee confirms the Minutes of the C Ward Committee Meeting held on Thursday 13 November 2025.

6.1 Business Arising from Minutes of 13 November 2025 - Alstonville Plateau Historical Society - Crawford Park Gum Trees

6. Business Arising from Minutes

6.1 Business Arising from Minutes of 13 November 2025 - Alstonville Plateau Historical Society - Crawford Park Gum Trees

Jane Gardiner discussed the Large gum tree located in Crawford Park and advised that the falling leaves are causing issues on the buildings. It was suggested that Council consider installing gutter guards.

Action: Staff to consider installing gutter guards or other options on the buildings at Crawford House.

Staff Comment

Crawford House is scheduled to have a complete reroof in the financial year 2026/27. The scope of work for the reroof will be updated to include gutter guard or a similar product. The trades team will carry out bi-monthly inspections until the reroof works are completed.

Attachment(s)

Nil

6.2 Business Arising from Minutes of 13 November 2025 - Tuckombil Landcare - Council's Signage Policy

6.2 Business Arising from Minutes of 13 November 2025 - Tuckombil Landcare - Council's Signage Policy

Malcolm Johnson discussed an issue with signage that had been removed in Alstonville for their annual plant sale.

It was suggested that information regarding Council's policy and what is required from Community Groups relating to advertising and approvals be included in a future edition of Community Connect.

Staff Comment

Staff advise that the information will be included in an edition of the Community Connect in 2026, with reference to the Community Event Signage Policy.

Attachment(s)

Nil

7.1 Raising Items Prior to Meetings and Reporting Safety Matters

7. General Business

7.1 Raising Items Prior to Meetings and Reporting Safety Matters

When preparing meeting agendas staff invite committee members to identify items for inclusion at the upcoming meeting. Committee members are encouraged to identify any items in line with the timeline provided in the call out for agenda items. This enables Council staff to liaise with relevant Council Officers to support provision of a response at the meeting.

Committee members are encouraged to contact Council where matters relating to public safety are identified in the community rather than wait until the next Ward Committee meeting to raise these types of issues. For example, road or footpath conditions that raise safety concerns, the presence of hazards in public spaces or environmental damage should be reported to Council as soon as possible via phone or email. The emergency after hours number for Council is 02 6626 6954.

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.1 Business With Notice - Cr Therese Crollick & the Alstonville Plateau Historical Society Inc - Alstonville Tidy Towns Plaques

8. Business With Notice

8.1 Business With Notice - Cr Therese Crollick & the Alstonville Plateau Historical Society Inc - Alstonville Tidy Towns Plaques

Cr Therese Crollick and the Alstonville Plateau Historical Society Inc requested an update on the reinstatement of the Alstonville Tidy Towns Plaques.

Staff Comment

In accordance with Council's November 2025 resolution, reinstatement of the tidy towns plaques in Alstonville has been deferred pending investigation of further options having regard to project cost. The current cost estimate for professional installation in Freeborn Park is \$9,000.

Staff are examining alternatives but in doing so it is important to recognise that ongoing investigation of options by staff also has a cost to Council both from a monetary and work program perspective.

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.2 Business With Notice - Cr Threse Crollick - Request for Update on Gap Road Dog Park Extra Seating

8.2 Business With Notice - Cr Threse Crollick - Request for Update on Gap Road Dog Park Extra Seating

Cr Therese Crollick requested an update on the extra seating that has been approved for the enclosed area of the Gap Road Dog Park

Staff Comment

Post this update request, the seating has been installed and is available for park patrons.

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.3 Business With Notice - Alstonville Historical Society - Update on Quilt previously Displayed at the Alstonville Cultural Centre

8.3 Business With Notice - Alstonville Historical Society - Update on Quilt previously Displayed at the Alstonville Cultural Centre

On behalf of the Historical Society could we like to include the following item:

The Alstonville Quilt currently in the Alstonville Community Centre.

Staff Comment

Following recent communication between Roberta O'Brien, Coordinator Community Facilities, and representatives of the Plateau Quilters (Jane Gardiner and Jenny Davison), Council's Trades Services team has removed the quilt from the multipurpose room at the current Alstonville Cultural Centre.

The Alstonville Plateau Historical Society has advised that they are unable to accept the quilt into their collection. At this time, Council does not have the specialist knowledge or facilities required to clean, repair, or appropriately store the quilt. In addition, it is uncertain whether the refurbished Alstonville Cultural Centre will include a suitable location for its future display.

The long term future of the quilt will depend on whether it can be restored and whether another organisation is willing and able to accept its care.

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.4 Business With Notice - Ballina Environment Society - Richmond River

8.4 Business With Notice - Ballina Environment Society - Richmond River

Ballina Environment Society – Malcolm Johnson - BSC Motion 27/11/2025-- " That Council write to the relevant State Govt. Ministers seeking their urgent support to improve the Richmond River including by: i) Appointing RR Commissioner ii) Increasing funding iii) Land acquisition.

What progress made on this?

Staff Comment

Staff have been liaising with State Government agencies. Correspondence to the Ministers is currently being prepared.

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.5 Business With Notice - Ballina Environment Society - Gemlife Development

8.5 Business With Notice - Ballina Environment Society - Gemlife Development

Ballina Environment Society – Malcom Johnson - GEMLIFE Development at West Ballina.

BSC response to Commissioner findings (Feb. 2026)

Staff Comment

Staff are reviewing the details of the judgment and preparing for a hearing on final orders which is set down for 12 March 2026. The judgement requires Council and the Applicant to confer to finalise conditions of consent in accordance with the judgement.

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.6 Business With Notice - Ballina Environment Society - Costs of RFS Vehicle Maintenance & Other Emergency Service Vehicles borne by Ballina Shire Ratepayers

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Ballina Environment Society – Malcolm Johnson - Costs of RFS Vehicle Maintenance & other Emergency Service Vehicles borne by Ballina Shire Ratepayers.

What are the costs to ratepayers & does NSW Govt compensate council?

Staff Comment

Under the Rural Fires Act 1997, RFS “Red Fleet” vehicles are legally vested in councils; however, the NSW RFS is responsible for their maintenance and repair through a Service Level Agreement (SLA) which Ballina hold with the RFS.

Under this SLA, the NSW RFS provides an annual funding allocation that covers all maintenance costs. Thus, Ballina Shire ratepayers do not fund the operational maintenance of RFS fleet assets.

Although the NSW RFS funds the maintenance of Red Fleet vehicles, Councils are still required under the Rural Fires Act 1997 to carry these assets on their financial asset registers because they are legally vested in Councils. This creates ongoing administrative and accounting responsibilities, including asset reporting, depreciation, and audit requirements. These obligations do not result in additional operational maintenance costs to ratepayers, but they do require Council to manage the assets on paper despite not controlling or maintaining them.

The NSW Government Public Accounts Committee has recently conducted an inquiry looking at the funding, maintenance, accounting and operational management of NSW Rural Fire Service assets and premises. The report, recommendations and Government’s response can be accessed via the following website: [Assets, premises and funding of the NSW Rural Fire Service](#).

Attachment(s)

Nil

9. Business Without Notice

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Nil Items

10.1 Council Documents on Exhibition

10. Council Documents on Exhibition

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Documents on Exhibition

Documents on public exhibition and Council Notices can be found on our website, a summary is provided below with more information at the following link: [Your Say Ballina](#)

- Spoonbill Reserve – Draft Master Plan - submissions close 1 April

Policies

- Community Property Leasing and Licensing – submissions close 1 April
- Asset Management - submissions close 1 April
- Climate Change - submissions close 1 April

Attachment(s)

Nil

- 11 Next Meeting / Future Meeting Dates
 - 12 Meeting Closure
-

11. Next Meeting / Future Meeting Dates

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 14 May 2026 at 5.00pm.

9 July
10 September
12 November

12. Meeting Closure