

**MINUTES OF THE C WARD COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD AT CRAWFORD HOUSE, 10 WARDELL ROAD ALSTONVILLE  
ON 14/05/26 AT 5.00PM**

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**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

Bill Coulter - Alstonville/Wollongbar Chamber of Commerce

Jane Gardiner - Alstonville Plateau Historical Society and Heritage Advisory Ballina

Josh Seage - Wollongbar Community Action Network (WCAN)

Malcolm Johnson - Ballina Environment Society and Tuckombil Landcare

Natalie Young – Wollongbar Community Preschool

Simon Winfield - Pearces Creek Hall

Wayne Garrard - Alstonville and District Cricket Association

*Council Staff*

Troy Anderson - Director Civil Services Division

Joanne Cordery - Executive Support Officer - Civil Services

Tania Daniels – Administration Officer – Civil Services

*Observers*

Christine Grant – St Vincent de Paul

Melissa Underwood - Wollongbar Community Preschool

Susan Fitzpatrick – Ballina Environment Society

*Apologies*

Cr Simon Kinny

Cr Sharon Cadwallader (Mayor)

Jeff Cush - Wardell and District Progress Association

Narelle Walker - Alstonville Community Preschool

**3. Declarations of Interest**

Nil

**4. Presentations**

The information contained in the agenda was noted. Members were asked to acquaint themselves with the Code of Conduct.

**5. Confirmation of Minutes**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee confirmed the Minutes of the C Ward Committee Meeting held on Thursday 12 March 2026.

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**6. Business Arising from Minutes**

Bill Coulter enquired about the traffic issues in Bugden Lane. Troy Anderson advised that works were ongoing, that additional work still needed to be carried out and a conversation has been held with the NSW Police.

**7. General Business**

**7.1 Vale to Marine Rescue Volunteers**

The Information contained in the agenda was noted and 1 minutes silence was observed.

**8. Business With Notice**

**8.1 Business With Notice - Update on Quilt previously Displayed at the Alstonville Cultural Centre**

A request was made for the Committee to receive updates on this matter.

Staff Comment

The Ballina and District Historical Society have agreed to accept the quilt.

Meeting Comment

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Jane Gardner advised that they were looking to display the quilt as part of the Quilt Show in July. It was also suggested that the quilt be displayed in the new Alstonville Cultural Centre when it was completed..

**8.2 Business With Notice - Ballina Environment Society - Invasive Weed Species**

Invasive Weed Species

Ballina Environment Society is increasingly concerned at the ever increasing proliferation of uncontrolled plant weed species in the area. Of particular note is Camphor Laurel, Privet, Lantana, Golden Rain tree, Singapore Daisy, Wandering Trad etc. These invasive plants are aggressive and have potential to dominate the landscape seriously threatening the survival of our unique native species and suppressing natural regeneration.

What is Council doing to control weed species plants, educate residents and encourage landholders to remove plant weed species?

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Staff Comment

Rous Council is responsible for weed biosecurity across the local government areas of its constituent councils, including private land. Information on Rous' role and programs can be found at [Weed biosecurity — Rous County Council](#). Rous' programs include community education initiatives.

Ballina Shire Council implements weed management programs on public land managed by Council based on available resources. This includes vegetation restoration works in accordance with vegetation management plans and adopted programs. A recent example of a specific program undertaken by Council is bitou bush control in the coastal reserve.

Meeting Comment

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Malcolm Johnson suggested that Council needs to manage weeds and education on private property. It was suggested that Council place an article in Community Connect.

Troy Anderson reiterated that Rous Council is responsible for weed biosecurity.

**Action:** Staff to consider an article on noxious weeds for a future edition of Community Connect.

**8.3 Business With Notice - Wollongbar Community Preschool - Request for Additional Seating Wollongbar Skatepark**

Request for additional seating at Wollongbar Skate Park, specifically adjacent to the playground area.

Currently, there is no seating available near the playground, which poses challenges for parents and carers supervising their children. Installing covered seating in this location would create a more inclusive and inviting space, and it would be greatly appreciated by families with young children who use the park regularly. Although there are three undercover seating areas at present, two of them are situated on the opposite side of the park and are rarely used due to their distance from the playground equipment. I will attach photos for your reference to illustrate the current setup.



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Staff Comment

Council is aware of the popularity of the Wollongbar parkland, including the playground.

The park has been constructed in accordance with an adopted master plan, with all seating elements completed. The benefits of shaded seating are recognised but at present there is no funding allocated for the installation of additional covered seating in the park, and these works are not listed in Council's draft works program for the next four years.

Meeting Comment

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Natalie Young asked if there was an option to move the less used seating closer to the skatepark.

Troy Anderson advised that it was a future possibility, however as there is no funding available it was unlikely to occur. Additionally, Troy advised that the cost of moving existing seating as opposed to installing new additional seating would likely be more expensive. It was suggested for the Preschool to lodge a submission to the DPOP currently on public exhibition for additional seating to be evaluated.

**8.4 Business With Notice - Wollongbar Community Preschool - Request for Grassed Area at Preschool to be formalised to Parking**

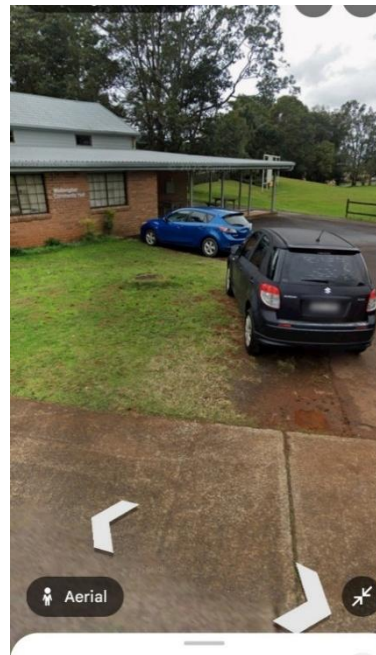
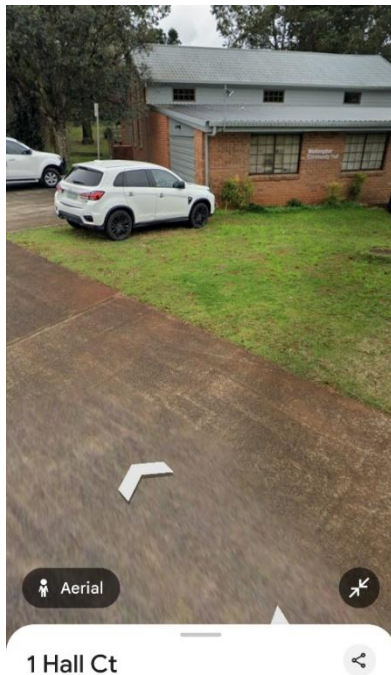
Request for grass area in front of community hall to be replaced with concrete or asphalt to provide parking for preschool staff.

I would like to address the ongoing parking concerns at Wollongbar Community Preschool. There is a persistent problem with parking for both parents and staff. Hall Court, which leads up to the preschool, is a small driveway shared by several houses and the community hall. Staff members do not have a dedicated parking area and currently rely on a small patch of grass in front of the community hall. Issues have arisen regarding the maintenance of this lawn, and at a previous Ward C meeting, it was directed that council should inform the preschool staff when mowing is scheduled so they can park elsewhere. This communication has not yet occurred, and the issue remains unresolved. The request is to find a solution that provides preschool staff with parking close to their workplace, avoiding the need to park on the grass. With the library temporarily using the community hall during the construction of the new cultural centre, parking challenges are likely to increase. During school drop off and pick up times are extremely busy times on Hall court, especially school pick up from Wollongbar Public School.

Attached photo's for reference.

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Staff Comment

As previously advised, there is currently no funding allocation for any increase in the hardstand area for car parking in the vicinity of the hall and preschool.

Meeting Comment

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Natalie Young enquired if there was any option to reassess this request now that the Alstonville Library had been relocated.

Cr Crollick advised that as no budget was allocated for this item, the preschool should consider lodging a submission to the DPOP currently on public exhibition.

**8.5 Business With Notice - Wollongbar Community Preschool - Request to Clean Footpath in Hall Court near Preschool**

Request to gurney and maintain Wollongbar Community Preschool foot path.

Over the past year, the preschool administration contacted council on four separate occasions via email to request maintenance regarding the condition of the footpath. Unfortunately, they have not received any response to these requests. Because of the overgrown vegetation above the footpath, it becomes very slippery and dangerous for the parents and children using the footpath that leads into preschool. Can council respond to their requests and is it possible to make a regular maintenance schedule for this area. Attached photos for reference.

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Staff Comment



Staff advise that the vegetation along the eastern side of Hall Court is scheduled to be removed on Wednesday 6 May, weather permitting. The cleaning of the footpath will be carried out following the vegetation removal on a date to be confirmed. Contact has been made directly with the Wollongbar Preschool by email on the vegetation removal works.

Meeting Comment

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Natalie Young advised that the tree works had been completed and asked when the leaf litter and stumps would be removed and the paths cleaned.

Troy Anderson advised that a Customer Request has been lodged for the cleaning of the path and a request will be forwarded to staff for advice on stump removal and leaf litter clearing.

**Action:** Staff to advise when leaf litter and Stumps will be removed near footpath at Wollongbar Preschool.

**8.6 Business With Notice - Ballina Environment Society - Climate Change**

Ballina Environment Society (BES) submitted the follow item and questions.

BES appreciates the attention given by Ballina Shire Council in developing a Climate Change Policy illustrating the enormity of applying numerous short term, medium term and long term strategies required to achieve Net Zero Emissions' targets by 2030 and 2050.

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1. Will Council maintain its Net Zero Emissions target (2015 Paris Agreement) and ignore the abandonment of Net Zero policies by the National, Liberal and One Nation political parties?

Staff Comment:

Yes. Ballina Shire Council has recently reconfirmed its commitment to achieving net zero emissions by 2030 for Council operations. The Climate Change Policy was recently placed on public exhibition for community comment and will be reported back to Council for consideration at its May 2026 Council meeting.

Council's emissions targets and associated implementation measures are determined through its own policy and governance processes and are reviewed periodically to ensure they remain achievable, evidence-based and aligned with Council's strategic objectives.

2. The post-periods of the six major Oil Shocks between 1956 to 2022 saw economies returning to a reliance on petrol, gas and diesel for transport. Since 2020 the enormous advances in renewable energy technology (especially PV Solar and batteries) and the lessons learned from the current Middle Eastern conflicts has given Ballina and the world an opportunity to divert from fossil fuel reliance for energy provision.

Questions arising from Ballina Shire Council Climate Policy strategies in relation to electrification are:

- a) Will conversion to an EV Fleet of vehicles reduce costs of operation and maintenance and have a positive effect on Council finances?

Staff Comment:

Council has an adopted Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) that outlines a clear, staged pathway to reach this target. The plan focuses on reducing emissions from Council operations through energy efficiency, renewable energy, fleet transition, and improved operational practices.

The CERP includes an action to develop an Electric Vehicle (EV) Transition Strategy. This work will assess whole-of-life costs, operational suitability, charging infrastructure requirements and financial costs.

Evidence from local government trials and industry data indicates that EVs generally offer lower running costs, reduced maintenance requirements due to fewer moving parts, greater cost certainty when paired with renewable electricity. However, Council acknowledges that not all fleet uses are currently commercially feasible or available. A staged transition will be pursued to ensure operational efficiency and financial viability.

- b) Is Council entering into any Power Purchasing Agreements?

Staff Comment:

Yes. As part of implementing its emissions reduction actions, Council has entered into a Power Purchase Agreement that supplies 100% renewable electricity for large Council sites and 50% renewable electricity for smaller sites.

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This arrangement significantly reduces emissions from Council's electricity use and provides long-term price stability.

c) Is Council considering Virtual Power Plant joint ventures?

Staff Comment:

Council is aware of the growing role of Virtual Power Plants (VPP) in supporting energy resilience, peak demand management and increased use of distributed renewable energy. While Council does not currently operate a VPP, this concept may be explored in the future as part of broader renewable energy, battery storage and electrification planning, subject to feasibility, regulatory settings and resource considerations.

In addition, Council is an active member of the Joint Organisation Net-Zero Accelerator (JONZA) program of Northern NSW Councils, which enables regional collaboration on renewable energy initiatives, emissions reduction strategies and emerging technologies, including opportunities that may not be viable for councils acting independently.

Meeting Comment

The information contained in the agenda was noted. Malcolm Johnson suggested a Community Connect article showing the community Council's achievements.

**9. Business Without Notice**

**9.1 Update Request for Wollongbar POD Village & Lyle Park Clubhouse**

Malcolm Johnson enquired about the future use of the Wollongbar POD Village site and the Lyle Park Clubhouse.

It was advised that the POD Village was located on State Government Land and a request would be forwarded to staff for an update on both items.

**Action:** Request for an update on the future use of the Wollongbar POD Village site and the Lyle Park Clubhouse.

**9.2 Elizabeth Ann Brown Park**

Natalie Young asked for an update on when the renovations would occur in Elizabeth Ann Brown Park and if lighting was included.

Troy Anderson advised that the works have been deferred to the next financial year, being 2026/2027 and he would review if lighting was included.

Jane Gardner enquired if there would be an opportunity to review the plans again

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Troy Anderson advised that the design has not yet been completed. Consultation will be undertaken when the design is complete. This will be the time for review.

**9.3 Request for an Update on Sneaths Road Landslip**

Cr Chate asked for an update on the Sneaths Road Landslip progress.

Troy Anderson advised that the design was complete and we were currently in negotiations with the Reconstruction Authority to determine how much funding would be provided.

**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 Thursday 9 July 2026 at 5.00pm.

**MEETING CLOSURE**

6.05pm