

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
40 CHERRY STREET BALLINA  
ON 28/05/26 AT 9:30 AM**

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**Attendance**

Crs Sharon Cadwallader (Mayor - in the chair), Michelle Bailey, Simon Kinny, Damian Loone, Therese Crollick, Simon Chate, Eva Ramsey, Erin Karsten, Kiri Dicker and Phil Meehan.

Paul Hickey (General Manager), Troy Anderson (Director - Civil Services Division), Matthew Wood (Director - Planning and Environmental Health Division), Caroline Klose (Director - Corporate and Community Division) and Nikki Glassop (Executive Assistant - General Manager and Mayor) were in attendance.

There was no one in the gallery at this time.

The Mayor paused the meeting for a minute's silence to acknowledge William "Bill" Ewen and Frank Petsch of Marine Rescue NSW and yachtsman Matthew Clayton who lost their lives in the Ballina Bar tragedy of 4 May 2026, and to recognise the other volunteers injured, along with the many services and people involved in the rescue effort.

**1. Australian National Anthem**

The National Anthem was played.

**2. Acknowledgement of Country**

In opening the meeting the Mayor provided an Acknowledgement of Country.

**3. Apologies and Leave of Absence Requests**

There were no apologies.

**280526/1 RESOLVED**

(Cr Damian Loone/Cr Simon Kinny)

That Cr Therese Crollick is granted leave of absence from Monday 24 August to Monday 28 September 2026.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

**280526/2 RESOLVED**

(Cr Eva Ramsey/Cr Erin Karsten)

That Cr Simon Chate is granted leave of absence from Thursday 25 June to Thursday 23 July 2026.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

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**4. Confirmation of Minutes**

**280526/3        RESOLVED**

(Cr Simon Chate/Cr Erin Karsten)

That Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Ballina Shire Council held on Thursday 23 April 2026.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

**5. Declarations of Interest and Reportable Political Donations**

Nil.

**Motion of Urgency**

**280526/4        RESOLVED**

(Cr Kiri Dicker/Cr Erin Karsten)

That due to the existing Model Code of Meeting Practice being disallowed by the NSW Legislative Council, which means that the Code is no longer prescribed, that Council considers a motion to rescind the Code.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

**280526/5        RESOLVED**

(Cr Damian Loone/Cr Simon Kinny)

That Council rescinds the current Code of Meeting Practice and adopts the previous Council Code of Meeting Practice (as adopted at the 28 August 2025 Ordinary meeting).

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

**Committee of the Whole**

**280526/6        RESOLVED**

(Cr Kiri Dicker/Cr Erin Karsten)

That Council moves into Committee of the Whole to discuss the Code of Meeting Practice.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

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**280526/7        RESOLVED**

(Cr Damian Loone/Cr Simon Chate)

That Council moves out of Committee of the Whole.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

**6.        Mayoral Minutes**

**6.1        Mayoral Minute - Invest in Us campaign**

**280526/8        RESOLVED**

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader)

That Council:

1. Notes the Country Mayors Association of NSW “Invest in Us” campaign advocating for increased Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants to Local Governments. The campaign seeks to restore at least 1% of total Commonwealth taxation revenue for local Councils across Australia.
2. Recognises the critical role Local Government plays in delivering essential services and infrastructure that underpin community wellbeing, economic vitality, and national resilience.
3. Supports the campaign’s core message: ‘Invest in us so we can invest in them’.
4. Commits to participating in the campaign by:
  - a. Sharing campaign materials through Council communication channels
  - b. Engaging with local media and community stakeholders to raise awareness
  - c. Lobbying Federal representatives to support the funding increase.
5. Requests the Mayor to write to the relevant Prime Minister, Treasurer, Federal Minister for Local Government, the Shadow Minister for Local Government, our local Member of Parliament and Senator expressing Council’s support for the campaign and urging their commitment to the proposed funding increase.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

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**7. Planning and Environmental Health Division Reports**

**7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition**

A **Motion** was moved by Cr Kiri Dicker and seconded by Cr Michelle Bailey

That Council adopts the revised Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan as per Attachment 3 to this report.

An **Amendment** was moved by Cr Phil Meehan and seconded by Cr Eva Ramsey

That Council receive a report, prior to adopting the Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan, on the process and financial feasibility of developing the area, to the west of the proposed Youth Activity Area and Pathway, as per Attachment 3, for residential housing.

The **Amendment** was **LOST**

FOR VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Damian Loone, Cr Eva Ramsey and Cr Phil Meehan

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Michelle Bailey, Cr Simon Kinny, Cr Therese Crollick, Cr Simon Chate, Cr Erin Karsten and Cr Kiri Dicker

**280526/9        RESOLVED**

(Cr Kiri Dicker/Cr Michelle Bailey)

That Council adopts the revised Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan as per Attachment 3 to this report.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

**Adjournment for Morning Tea**

The Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 10.41am.

The meeting resumed at 11.00am.

**7.2 Land Classification - Lot 8 DP 1313438 - North Creek Ballina**

**280526/10        RESOLVED**

(Cr Simon Kinny/Cr Michelle Bailey)

That Council approves the classification of Lot 8 DP1313438 as operational land under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 and that the classification takes effect immediately.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

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**7.3 Policy (Review) - Climate Change**

**280526/11      RESOLVED**

(Cr Erin Karsten/Cr Eva Ramsey)

That Council adopts the amended Climate Change Policy, as exhibited, as per Attachment 1 to this report.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

**8. Corporate and Community Division Reports**

**8.1 Use of Council Seal**

**280526/12      RESOLVED**

(Cr Michelle Bailey/Cr Damian Loone)

That Council affix the Common Seal to the following documents.

| US2026/11  | Assignment of Sublease/licence from Rahnoma Pty Ltd to Prospira Investments Pty Ltd for Part Lot 1 DP 1153927 known as the Ballina Gallery Café subject to the written consent of the Minister (the Crown) being granted for such assignment.  |   |        |        |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|--------|--------|--|---|---|
| US2026/12  | <p>1. That Council, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, enters the following Variation of Lease of <i>community land</i>:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 35%;">Property</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Tenant</th> <th style="width: 35%;">Tenure</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>The land and building known as 'Ballina Fox Street Preschool' located at 84 Fox Street, Ballina being Lot 1 DP781710</td> <td>Ballina Fox Street Preschool Incorporated</td> <td>Variation of existing lease to record exercise of the ten (10) year option term by Council, at an annual rent equal to the statutory minimum rent charged by Crown Lands (currently \$625 per annum plus GST)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>2. That Council authorises the General Manager to affix the seal to the Variation of Lease documents in point one and any other documents required to vary the lease in accordance with point one.</p> | Property  | Tenant | Tenure | The land and building known as 'Ballina Fox Street Preschool' located at 84 Fox Street, Ballina being Lot 1 DP781710 | Ballina Fox Street Preschool Incorporated | Variation of existing lease to record exercise of the ten (10) year option term by Council, at an annual rent equal to the statutory minimum rent charged by Crown Lands (currently \$625 per annum plus GST) |
| Property   | Tenant   | Tenure  |        |        |  |   |   |
| The land and building known as 'Ballina Fox Street Preschool' located at 84 Fox Street, Ballina being Lot 1 DP781710 | Ballina Fox Street Preschool Incorporated  | Variation of existing lease to record exercise of the ten (10) year option term by Council, at an annual rent equal to the statutory minimum rent charged by Crown Lands (currently \$625 per annum plus GST) |        |        |  |   |   |
| US2026/13  | 1. That Council, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 and the Crown Land Management Act 2016, enters the following licence of <i>community land</i> :   |   |        |        |  |   |   |

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|   | <b>Property</b>  | <b>Tenant</b>                               | <b>Tenure</b>  |
|---|--|---|--|
|   | The clubhouse at Kingsford Smith Reserve being the whole of Lot 153 DP1098090 (Council is Crown Land Manager of Reserve 82164) | Ballina Seagulls Football Club Incorporated | 12-month licence at a rent equal to the statutory minimum rent charged by Crown Lands (currently \$625 per annum plus GST) |
| <p>2. Council authorises the General Manager to affix the seal to the lease documents in point one and any other documents required to allow tenure to be granted in accordance with point one.</p> <p>3. That prior to points one and two being actioned, statutory public notification relating to the proposed lease of community land be undertaken, with a report to be presented to Council if an objection of a substantive nature is received to the grant of the proposed lease.</p> |  |   |  |

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

**8.2 Investment Summary - April 2026**

**280526/13 RESOLVED**

(Cr Simon Chate/Cr Michelle Bailey)

That Council notes the record of banking and investments for April 2026.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

**8.3 Ward Committee - Membership**

**280526/14 RESOLVED**

(Cr Michelle Bailey/Cr Eva Ramsey)

1. That Council approves the Newrybar Community Hall as a member of Council's B Ward Committee.
2. That Council approves Our Lady of Rosary Conference, St Vincent de Paul Society as a member of Council's C Ward Committee.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

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**8.4 Legal Matters - Update**

**280526/15      RESOLVED**

(Cr Michelle Bailey/Cr Simon Kinny)

That Council notes the contents of this Legal Matters – Update report.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

**8.5 Tender - Stormwater Recovery - Riverside Drive, Ballina**

**280526/16      RESOLVED**

(Cr Erin Karsten/Cr Simon Chate)

1. That Council in accordance with the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 Section 178(1)(a)*, accepts the tender and awards the contract to Somerville Excavator Hire for the Tender - Stormwater Recovery - Riverside Drive, Ballina for the total amount of \$335,636 (excluding GST).
2. That Council authorises the General Manager to sign the contract documents.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

**8.6 Tender - Surf Lifesaving Services 2026-2030**

**280526/17      RESOLVED**

(Cr Eva Ramsey/Cr Simon Chate)

1. That Council in accordance with the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 Section 178(1)(a)*, accepts the tender and awards the contract to Surf Life Saving Services Pty Ltd t/a Australian Lifeguard Service for the Tender - Surf Lifesaving Services 2026-2030 for the total amount of \$2,193,002.89 (excluding GST).
2. That Council authorises the General Manager to sign the contract documents.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

**8.7 Tender - Alstonville Creek Restoration**

**280526/18      RESOLVED**

(Cr Simon Chate/Cr Michelle Bailey)

1. That Council in accordance with the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 Section 178(1)(a)*, accepts the tender and awards the

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contract to Land & Civil Pty Ltd for the Tender - Alstonville Creek Restoration for the total amount of \$1,312,706 (excluding GST).

2. That Council authorises the General Manager to sign the contract documents.
3. That Council approves the reallocation of \$280,000 from the Open Spaces capital works program, in 2026/27, to address the funding shortfall between the Urban Rivers and Catchments Program grant funding and the accepted tender amount.
4. That Council notes the revised four-year program of works for the Open Spaces Playground Renewal Program will be reported to the 25 June 2026 Ordinary meeting as part of the report on the adoption of the 2026/27 to 2029/30 Delivery Program.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

**8.8 Policy (Review) - Councillor Training and Development**

**280526/19      RESOLVED**

(Cr Eva Ramsey/Cr Simon Chate)

1. That Council adopts the Councillor Training and Development Policy, as per Attachment 1 to this report.
2. That Council place this Policy on exhibition for public comment, with any submissions received to be resubmitted back to Council. If no submissions are received, then no further action is required.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

**8.9 Financial Year 2025/26 - 31 March 2026 Review**

**280526/20      RESOLVED**

(Cr Erin Karsten/Cr Simon Chate)

1. That Council notes the contents of this report for the 31 March 2026 Quarterly Financial Review and approves the budget changes identified within the report.
2. That Council approves the contents of the templates under the Quarterly Budget Review Statement Guidelines (QBRS Guidelines) issued by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, as per Attachment 1 to this report and approves the budget changes identified within.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

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**9. Civil Services Division Reports**

Nil Items

**10. Notices of Motion**

**10.1 Notice of Motion - Ballina Bar Safety, Break Wall and Access Road**

**280526/21 RESOLVED**

(Cr Erin Karsten/Cr Simon Chate)

That Council:

1. Acknowledges the tragic loss of life on 4 May 2026 of William "Bill" Ewen and Frank Petsch of Marine Rescue NSW and Matthew Clayton and extends its deepest condolences to the families, friends and colleagues of those who lost their lives. That we recognise and thank the members of the local Ballina Marine Rescue team who responded on the evening of 4 May 2026 and acknowledge their bravery, professionalism and commitment to the safety of our community and beyond, along with the SES, NSW Police and all first responders who supported both on the night and into the morning of the 5 May 2026.
2. Writes to the State Government, including the Hon. Penny Sharpe MLC, Minister for Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Heritage; the Hon. John Graham MLC, Minister for Roads and Transport; the Hon. Yasmin Catley, MP, Minister for Police and Counter Terrorism; the Hon. Tara Moriarty MLC, Minister for Regional NSW, as well as relevant agencies including Transport for NSW and Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water requesting a coordinated inter-agency response to address the safety and infrastructure issues of South Ballina.

That this correspondence include:

- The structural condition and effectiveness of the South Ballina break wall
- The deteriorating condition of the emergency access road to the South Ballina break wall and surrounding coastal infrastructure
- The implications of the condition of the Ballina Richmond River bar and the impact to public safety, vessel navigation, and emergency service access.

That consideration be given to State Government support and funding addressing:

- Immediate safety and access improvements
- Medium to long-term infrastructure works, including the bar, break wall remediation, and road stabilisation.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

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**10.2 Notice of Motion - Big Scrub Rainforest - Protection and Enhancement**

A **Motion** was moved by Cr Simon Chate and seconded by Cr Erin Karsten

That Council actively seeks opportunities to:

1. Promote the protection, enhancement and expansion of Big Scrub rainforest remnants within our shire.
2. Raise dedicated funds through grant applications to relevant State, Federal and corporate bodies for increased levels of rainforest restoration and expansion within our shire.
3. Communicate with, incentivise and work with amenable private landholders with the goal of locating additional land on which to extend some of these local Big Scrub rainforest pockets.

An **Amendment** was moved by Cr Phil Meehan and seconded by Cr Eva Ramsey

That Council notes the contents of the Notice of Motion as it is broadly encompassed within existing programs.

The **Amendment** was **CARRIED** on the casting vote of the Mayor

FOR VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Michelle Bailey, Cr Damian Loone, Cr Eva Ramsey and Cr Phil Meehan

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Simon Kinny, Cr Therese Crollick, Cr Simon Chate, Cr Erin Karsten and Cr Kiri Dicker

A **Motion** was moved by Cr Damian Loone

That the Motion be put to the vote.

The **Motion** was **CARRIED**

FOR VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Michelle Bailey, Cr Simon Kinny, Cr Damian Loone, Cr Therese Crollick, Cr Eva Ramsey and Cr Phil Meehan

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Simon Chate, Cr Erin Karsten and Cr Kiri Dicker

The **Amendment** then became the **Motion** and was **CARRIED**

FOR VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Michelle Bailey, Cr Simon Kinny, Cr Damian Loone, Cr Therese Crollick, Cr Eva Ramsey and Cr Phil Meehan

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Simon Chate, Cr Erin Karsten and Cr Kiri Dicker

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**280526/22      RESOLVED**

(Cr Phil Meehan/Cr Eva Ramsey)

That Council notes the content of the Notice of Motion as it is broadly encompassed within existing programs.

FOR VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Michelle Bailey, Cr Simon Kinny, Cr Damian Loone, Cr Therese Crollick, Cr Eva Ramsey and Cr Phil Meehan  
AGAINST VOTE - Cr Simon Chate, Cr Erin Karsten and Cr Kiri Dicker

**11.    Advisory Committee Minutes**

Nil Items

**12.    Reports from Councillors on Attendance on Council's behalf**

**12.1   Mayoral Meetings**

**280526/23      RESOLVED**

(Cr Michelle Bailey/Cr Damian Loone)

That Council notes the contents of the report on Mayoral meetings.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

**13.    Confidential Session**

Nil items.

**MEETING CLOSURE**

12.34pm

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 28/05/26 were submitted for confirmation by council on 25 June 2026 and amendments (if any) are contained in the confirming resolution. Such Minutes were signed by the Mayor at the meeting on 25 June 2026.