

1. **Attendance and Apologies**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Confirmation of Minutes 10 July 2014**

A copy of the minutes of the previous meeting held 10 July 2014 was distributed.

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 July 2014 be accepted as a true and correct record.

The Committee is advised that Bob Cooper, a representative of Far North Coast Legacy and Plateau Seniors Network passed away on 21 August 2014.

4. **Business arising from Minutes – 10 July 2014**

(a) **Tintenbar Oval**

At the last meeting Ms Aveling noted concerns about a risk of falling limbs from trees within the reserve, suggesting an inspection by Council's Arborist may be warranted. Also, the toilet block within the reserve is being subject to recurrent vandalism. It was suggested that Council review options to alleviate this problem.

Staff advise that the area and trees were inspected on 26 August 2014. Trees adjacent to the tennis club storage building are deciduous species currently growing new foliage. All branches over the building are live and therefore not at risk of failing in normal weather conditions. Further, Council policy stipulates that leaf material in gutters does not constitute tree pruning or removal. Building owners are encouraged to undertake regular maintenance which includes clearing gutters and roofs of vegetation debris. No action is therefore recommended.

In relation to the toilets, staff advise that these toilets are not serviced by Council apart from some minor graffiti removal. The toilets pans have been vandalised twice in approximately three years, the last time only about a month ago.

From a staff perspective this site is not considered problematic with respect to vandalism. If the community are concerned about ongoing issues, unfortunately the recommended response would be to remove the toilets from service by boarding them up.

5. Proposed Special Rate Variation for Upgrading of Ballina and Alstonville Swimming Pools

Council's Delivery Program, Operational Plan and Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) include a proposal for Council to apply for a special rate variation for an additional 2.5% rate income in 2015/16 and 2016/17 to finance approximately \$4m worth of expenditure on the Alstonville and Ballina swimming pools (\$4m per pool).

In order to obtain approval for the 2.5% additional rate income Council must conduct a formal consultation process with the local community prior to making a submission to IPART for the increase.

The community engagement strategy adopted by Council includes:

- a) Letters to all property owners
- b) Community Connect advertising
- c) Micromex community satisfaction survey (500 residents)
- d) On-line survey on the Council website
- e) Ward Committees
- f) Public Meetings at Ballina, Lennox Head and Alstonville
- g) Direct Consultation with key interest groups such as swimming clubs.

Public meetings are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday 7 October – 7.00 pm – Lennox Head Cultural and Community Centre

Wednesday 8 October – 7.00 pm – Alstonville Leisure and Entertainment Centre

Thursday 9 October – 7.00 pm – Ballina Shire Council Chambers

The next edition of Community Connect, which is scheduled to be delivered mid September, will contain information on this proposal. Also correspondence to all property owners will be forwarded to ratepayers during September.

A brief overview of the background information is as follows.

The Ballina and Alstonville Swimming pools were constructed in the early 1970s. As the existing infrastructure is ageing the operating costs for items such as electricity, water usage and on-going maintenance and repairs is rapidly increasing.

Council is now at the stage where we are required to renew a significant amount of the existing infrastructure. In undertaking this renewal we are considering whether we should expand the range of facilities available at the swimming pools. Options that are under consideration include:

- Additional lanes to meet competition standards
- Heating for the Ballina pool
- Children's wet play areas
- Expanding the existing small pools at both facilities to provide dedicated training pools

- Improved picnic and BBQ facilities
- Covered spectator seating
- Possible enclosure of elements of the pools to increase their availability
- Replacement of the fence at the Ballina Pool to provide improved views of the Richmond River

As a number of these items represent an upgrade to the existing facilities, Council is only in a position to fund these extra works, which are estimated at approximately \$8m if not more, from a special variation in the rate income we receive each year. If the extra income is approved Council is looking to undertake the Ballina Pool redevelopment in 2015/16 and the Alstonville redevelopment in 2016/17.

Typically Council rates increase annually, on average, by around 3%. Therefore for the 2015/16 and 2016/17 financial years, we are interested in seeing if the community would support an additional increase of 2.5% per annum (i.e. 5.5% for 2015/16 and 2016/17) to generate extra monies to finance these works.

The average residential rate bill in Ballina Shire for this current year (2014/15) is \$861. This means with the normal 3% increase the average residential rate bill would increase to \$887 in 2015/16 and \$913 in 2016/17. If Council receives approval for a 5.5% the average residential bill would increase to \$908 in 2015/16 and \$958 in 2016/17. This represents an extra \$22 in 2015/16 and \$23 in 2016/17. The extra monies raised would then finance the loan repayments for the loans that Council would take out to undertake these additional works.

For the information of the Committee.

6. Council Documents on Exhibition

The following is a list of recent documents that have been placed on exhibition in the period since the last meeting.

- Cumbalum Precinct B Urban Area proposal to adjust locality boundaries and create and name a new locality – closing date 22 August 2014

Earlier this year, Council resolved to investigate the renaming of the locality within which the Cumbalum Precinct B development is planned to occur.

The Geographical Names Board of NSW is the relevant State Government authority responsible for place naming. Prior to it considering an application for an adjustment to an existing locality, the Board must be satisfied that the local council has engaged appropriately with the community which may be directly impacted by the proposed change.

A package of information concerning the proposed name and boundary change was compiled and distributed to all landowners within and surrounding the Precinct B development area. The residents were asked to consider the information provided and invited to make submissions concerning the proposal. A report will be presented for the Council's further deliberation.

- Ballina Shire Rural Settlement Character Statements – closing date 6 October 2014

One of the actions in the Ballina Shire Growth Management Strategy (a copy of which is available on Council's website) is to establish character statements for rural settlements/hamlets within Ballina Shire. The idea was to have conversations with residents in these small communities to determine what they valued about their respective areas and to gain an understanding of issues that may concern them.

In capturing this information, the Council would be better placed to determine whether adjustments to longer term planning policy should be considered and also, whether issues arising should receive consideration in the shorter term through the Council's Delivery Program and annual Operational Plan.

In general terms, the community meetings which were organised in various locations were well attended, and there was an appreciation of Council's willingness to engage in this manner.

For those interested, a copy of the report relating to this project which Council considered at its meeting held on 28 August may be viewed on the Council website. Information concerning the project is being compiled for inclusion in an edition of Community Connect which will be issued within the next couple of months.

- Kerbside Waste Bin Entitlement Policy (New) – closing date 3 September
- Public Interest Disclosure Policy (Review) – closing date 3 September
- Investments Policy (Review) – closing date 3 September

The above draft policies have been reviewed as part of Council's normal program of reviewing policies. The Kerbside Waste Bin Entitlement Policy is a new policy.

7. Items raised by members of the Committee

8. General Business

9. Next Meeting

Thursday 13 November 2014