

1. **Attendance and Apologies**

Apologies

Dr Greg Unwin, Ballina Heights Residences Action Group  
Sheila Aveling, Tintenbar School of Arts Inc

2. **Declarations of Interest**

3. **Confirmation of Minutes**

A copy of the Minutes of the "B" Ward Committee held 21 July 2014 were distributed.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Minutes of the "B" Ward Committee held 21 July 2014 be taken as read and confirmed.

4. **Deputations**

5. **Outstanding Business**

**(a) Quality of Water entering Lake Ainsworth**

An action from the last meeting was that Council liaise with the NSW Crown Lands Office, in its capacity as owner of Lake Ainsworth, to ascertain that Office's views about forming a Committee, comprising public authority and community representatives, to oversee the implementation of the Lake Ainsworth Management Plan.

This request is inconsistent with a Council resolution not to support the formation of a Committee. Nevertheless when the opportunity arises a staff member will discuss the proposal with representatives from Crown Lands.

**(b) Status of Relic located within Coastal Reserve Behind Angels Beach**

Members of the Committee have previously sought information concerning an item of equipment which lays at the rear of the dunes at Angels Beach.

This matter has been the subject of investigations, the outcomes of which were presented in a report to the B Ward Committee in July 2012. Given that the matter was raised at the Committee's last meeting on 21 July 2014, the earlier report is once again reproduced below, for information. The circumstances relating to the item remain unchanged.

*At a previous B Ward Committee Meeting, community representatives brought to the attention of Council the potential historic significance of an alleged Samson-post located in the hind dunes at Angels Beach, East Ballina. Following an unsuccessful grant application to complete a significance assessment of the item, Council's Strategic and Community Services Group recently engaged a professional maritime archaeologist to undertake this assessment.*

*The importance of completing this assessment was to determine whether or not the item is a Samson-post from the WWII TSMV Limerick. On April 26 1943 the TSMV Limerick was sunk approximately 35km off Byron Bay by enemy action. It had been speculated that the item was from the Limerick, given it had sunk close-by its present location.*

*The assessment completed by Cosmos Archaeology, and reviewed by Senior Maritime Archaeology staff from the NSW Heritage Office, together concluded the following:*

- *The object once functioned as a post for a derrick;*
- *It was found at the entrance to the Richmond River in the early 1990s and was relocated to its present position around that time;*
- *The presence of cementing in the interior of the cylinder at the base suggests that it was laid to prevent water from leaking into a cavity under the base of the post, such as a ship's hold;*
- *The object is very likely to be originally a kingpost aboard a vessel;*
- *The kingpost could have been used at a later date as maritime infrastructure;*
- *The kingpost is partly composed of semi-cylindrical sections of steel which have been welded together, which dates the structure to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and more likely to the middle decades of that century;*
- *Some of the kingposts on the TSMV Limerick were riveted;*
- *If the kingpost was on the TSMV Limerick then it would have to have been added after 1932 as a repair or part of a deck re-configuration [this is not considered the case, as outlined below];*
- *Based on available photographs the 9.48 m kingpost does not match in length or configuration the kingposts on the TSMV Limerick;*
- *No wreckage associated with the TSMV Limerick was reported at Ballina after the sinking event;*
- *Wreckage from other vessels washed up at Ballina has been mostly of the buoyant variety – such as timber and floats;*
- *The presence of cementing at the base of the structure indicates that the cylinder was not intended to be watertight, hence if immersed it would begin to fill with water;*
- *It is considered not possible that this object can float for long distances;*

*The find spot of the kingpost, at the entrance to the Richmond River, introduces a number of possibilities for the identity of this object:*

- *The kingpost is very likely to be associated with a maritime related activity such as being part of wharf facilities or repair works on the breakwater [Cosmos Archaeology];*

- *The kingpost may also have originated from the wreck of a vessel near the mouth of the Richmond River and/or may have been carried as cargo or salvage [NSW Heritage Office]*
- *For the above reason[s] the kingpost is considered to be of local cultural heritage significance.*

*In light of the above the following legislation would apply to consideration of the future management of the item:*

- *The item may be considered a relic under the NSW Heritage Act 1977, if it did come from maritime infrastructure;*
- *The item may be considered an article under the shipwreck provisions of the NSW Heritage Act 1977, if it was part of a shipwreck;*
- *The item may be considered to come under the provisions of the Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976 (Commonwealth) if part of a shipwreck;*

*There are two key options regarding the future management of the item:*

1. *Leave the item in situ - In light of the above legislative considerations, retention of the item in its present location is considered the most desirable.*

*The item would be retained in situ as is and could be interpreted based on information known about the item to date. Any action (proposed by Council or any community group or individual) that would disturb or materially effect the site/item would require approval(s) from the relevant bodies administering the above legislation, including interpretation of the item.*

2. *Removal of the item from its present location – Any proposed action by Council or any community group or individual to remove the item from its present location would require approval under the provisions of the relevant legislation outlined above. This process would involve detailing a plan for management of the item away from the site.*

At the present time, and subject to any further direction from the elected Council, option one is the preferred approach.

**6. Business with Notice from Members**

**7. Resignation from B Ward Committee – Lennox Head Lions Club**

The attached letter of resignation from the Committee has been received from the Lennox Head Lions Club.

**Recommendation**

That a letter of thanks be forwarded to the Lennox Head Lions Club for their contribution to the B Ward Committee.



To Paul Hickey and Ballina Council,

On behalf of the Lennox Head Lions Club I am writing to inform you that we will no longer be a part of 'B' Ward meetings. The reason for this decision is that we do not feel it appropriate for our organisation as we wish to remain non-political.

Kind Regards,

Kate Somerville (Secretary).

**8. Possible Special Rate Variation - 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.

**9. 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
- 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
- Ballina Shire Rural Settlement Character Statements – closing date 6 October 2014

**10. Business Without Notice**

This item provides an opportunity for updates and / or questions to be tabled by the members.

**11. Next Meeting**

Monday 17 November 2014