

1. **Attendance and Apologies**

Apologies

Elva Fitzell - Alstonville Rotary Club

2. **Declarations of Interest**

3. **Confirmation of Minutes 10 September 2015**

A copy of the minutes of the previous meeting held 10 September 2015 was distributed.

Russell Priddle advised that Item 6(b) as follows, was not raised by him at the meeting and requires correction.

- (b) **Russell Priddle** - enquired about the progress on the Wardell Road upgrade. He was advised that it was being prepared for sealing.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 September 2015 be accepted as a true and correct record, with an amendment to Item 6(b) to reflect the Committee member who raised the matter.

Ballina Shire "C" Ward Committee Minutes 10 September 2015 at 5:00 pm

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**1. Attendance and Apologies**

Cr David Wright (Mayor)

Cr Ben Smith (Chair)

Wayne Garrard – Alstonville Cricket Club

Mary Birch – Wollongbar Progress Association

Jane Gardiner – Alstonville Plateau Historical Society

Ina le Bas – Alstonville Plateau Historical Society

Russell Priddle – Alstonville Football Club

Lois Wright – Plateau Seniors

Andrew Leslie, Alstonville Wollongbar Chamber of Commerce

Geoff Limbert – Ratepayer

Staff in Attendance

Rod Willis – Group Manager Development and Environmental Health

Apologies

Pat Carney - Wardell Progress Association

Malcolm Johnson – Ballina Environment Society

Elva Fitzell - Alstonville Rotary Club

Cr Keith Johnson

Cr Paul Worth

Allan Hart – Rotary Club of Ballina on Richmond

The apologies were accepted.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Nil

**3. Confirmation of Minutes 9 July 2015**

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 July 2015 be accepted as a true and correct record.

**4. Business arising from Minutes – 9 July 2015**

**a) Tintenbar Sportsground Pavilion**

The advice provided in the agenda was noted.

**b) Plateau Drive Park**

Cr Smith outlined the direction of plan and it was noted that the public exhibition will be commencing. The local community was encouraged to look at the exhibition, and to make submissions. The proposed direct local community meeting/consultation program was also outlined.

Ballina Shire "C" Ward Committee Minutes 10 September 2015 at 5:00 pm

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c) **Entrance Signage to Alstonville - Lighting**

The advice provided in the agenda was noted and Council staff were thanked for the repairs.

d) **Alstonville Main Street Bins**

The information provided in the agenda was noted. The Committee asked that the matter continue to be monitored.

5. **Council Documents on Exhibition**

The list of Council documents which have recently been exhibited for public comment was noted. The documents highlighted in the agenda and their significance were discussed with the Committee by Crs Wright and Smith.

6. **Items raised by members of the Committee**

(a) **Wayne Garrard** – There are irregularities in the footpaths between Maranoa and Main Street, Alstonville, and in particular the lip on the gutter crossing of Daley Street at The Avenue in front of St Bartholomew's Church.

(b) **Russell Priddle** - enquired about the progress on the Wardell Road upgrade. He was advised that it was being prepared for sealing.

(c) **Mary Birch** – advised that right hand turns from Main Street, Alstonville into Bugden Lane continues to be an issue. The sign is still considered to be obscured.

(d) **Wayne Garrard** – raised that vehicles were overtaking on the incorrect side of the road at the Green Street crossing of Ballina Road in the right hand turning lane. The Committee accepted that this is essentially a Policing matter.

7. **General Business**

Nil

8. **Next Meeting**

Thursday 12 November 2015 at 5.00 pm

**MEETING CLOSURE**

5.30 pm

**4. Deputations**

Kerry Russell – wishes to speak on Playground Equipment at Apex Park in Alstonville. A copy of her letter to Council is attached.

Staff Comment:

For the information of the Committee, the following is a copy of a reply from staff sent to Ms Russell on 17 September 2015 in response to an email received by Council on 14 September 2015.

*Dear Ms Russell*

*I refer to your email below forwarded to me from Cr Wright. We agree that access to playground equipment is very important for the physical and social development of families living in our Shire and I have provided some information below in response to your email.*

*I confirm our current intention regarding Apex Park is set out in the Playground Upgrade Plan which you have referenced in your email. As noted in the report when this plan was presented to Council, it is important for us to maximise the efficiency of this program to ensure we achieve the best overall outcomes for the community. In this regard, it is important to balance a number of issues including expected usage, equity of access, capital costs and maintenance costs. One of the factors used to guide our planning and the allocation of our financial resources is to identify the size of a catchment, or population area, which typically generates the amount of demand in an area for playground equipment.*

*For Apex Park, as per the report, it is the case that we have identified Apex Park is within an area that is currently oversupplied (in terms of the criteria in our plan) and therefore we propose to remove the equipment when it reaches the end of its economic life. The plan notes the availability of the nearby equipment at EA Brown Park and Geoff Watt Oval. This means we will continue to maintain the equipment in Apex Park, ensuring it is safe and suitable for use into the future, however there will come a time where the availability of spare parts for the current equipment will be an issue and the maintenance costs will be unreasonable compared to maintaining a renewed asset. This is the point in time we would remove the equipment and this is not expected to occur at Apex Park for a number of years.*

*I understand your opinion in regards to the current usage of the park and how that might increase in the future. Plans such as this upgrade plan are reviewed every few years to ensure they continue to meet the Council's needs and the community's expectations. Therefore, the criteria behind the plan and our assessment of Apex Park will be assessed again when the plan is reviewed at that time.*

*The key point from Council's perspective is playgrounds are expensive to provide and maintain and to manage these playground assets effectively and safely, within the community's capacity to pay, we have to carefully plan and determine the required number and locations for these services.*

*Thank you for taking the time to contact us regarding your concerns and I regret that I cannot provide a more favourable response in relation to the future of the equipment in Apex Park. However I trust this information will assist you to understand our position and clarify for you the arrangements for the immediate future.*

*Regards*

*John Truman  
Group Manager  
Civil Service Group*

John and Kerry Russell  
32 Alston Avenue  
ALSTONVILLE NSW 2477  
21<sup>st</sup> September, 2015

General Manager  
Ballina Shire Council  
PO Box 450  
BALLINA NSW 2478



Dear Sir,

**Proposed Equipment Removal from Apex Park in Alstonville**

It has come to our attention that Ballina Shire Council intends to remove playground equipment from the Apex Park in Alstonville at the end of its "economic" life.

Concerned citizens, about 26 people, met with the Mayor, David Wright, at short notice, on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 at 4pm in the park. He explained the reasons for the proposal and encouraged us to write to Council with our concerns and suggestions as he felt we have a valid argument, particularly now the preschool has been built adjacent to the play equipment.

We are very disappointed at Council's decision to approve the Playground Upgrade Plan, which alerted us to the problem, and are concerned about the use to which this green space would be put when the playground equipment is removed.

We strongly believe that the play equipment is essential to the children of the Crawford Park Estate and to others in the town, for exercise, fresh air, and the development of fine and gross motor skills. It seems, in a time of juvenile obesity, to be an unfortunate decision to discourage children from healthy activity for the sake of moderate savings in park maintenance.

This park has plenty of space to "kick a ball" in safety, being well away from a road. This is not the case with Elizabeth Anne Brown Park, which you plan to retain, which is not popular with parents because it is on a very busy road junction and suffers from unsavory elements who seem more interested in renewing their interest in the nearby pub than in healthy exercise.

We believe that children of this estate will be disadvantaged by equipment removal, rather than replacement. Every child should have a "local" safe park to go to.

With the opening of the preschool within the park, it is only fair to assume that the playground will be used much more as parents drop off, collect and indeed hold "birthday parties" for their children in preschool care.

We have lived opposite this park for 35 years and can assure you that it does get used. Dog walkers, teenagers, children of soccer families on match days, primary school children from Alstonville and outlying schools who often picnic in the park when visiting the pool. We are now keeping records of numbers with photographic evidence of this activity whenever possible.

It also seems to be a curious decision based as it is on a 2007 audit, particularly as the current equipment was installed in 2014.

We feel strongly that the most appropriate action would be to remove Apex Park from the list of "Existing sites identified for playground removal (at the expiry of the current equipment's economic life)" and placed on the list of "Existing sites identified for upgrade". In regard to this, Apex Park would be greatly enhanced with the installation of a gas barbecue and some necessary garden maintenance, with possibly a set of fitness stations in due course.

In Part 2 of the Ballina Development Control Plan 2012, one of the objectives is to *Identify and protect the contributory elements (buildings, parks etc) that give character to the village centre*. It would seem that a park in the middle of the village, and in the middle of Crawford Park Estate, would be worthy of a better outcome especially considering the historic link to the Crawford name.

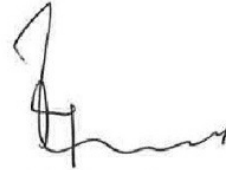
The Parks Audit of 2007 makes the following statement under the heading "Identification and Prioritising of Parks for Embellishment"; *The prioritizing of parks in the program is based on the existing play equipment that is available in an area, the demography of an area and requests from residents.*

We hope you will consider this request favourably.

Yours sincerely



Kerry Russell



John Russell

cc Tamara Smith  
Shop 1, 7 Moon Street, Ballina, 2478  
David Wright  
Ballina Shire Council  
PO Box 450  
BALLINA NSW 2478

**5. Business arising from Minutes –10 September 2015**

**(a) Irregularities in the footpaths between Maranoa and Main Street, Alstonville**

A customer request has been raised in our management system for staff to inspect and respond as appropriate. Council has risk based intervention levels within our footpath maintenance procedure which will determine the preferred response.

**(b) Right hand turns from Main Street, Alstonville into Bugden Lane**

Staff have previously reported to the committee that the sign on the right hand or northern side of the street is a duplication of the sign on the left hand side that a driver has already proceeded past to arrive at the Bugden Lane intersection. The second sign is partially obscured by the pedestrian crossing sign, however it comes into clear view as a driver comes closer to the intersection. Attached are photos showing this configuration.

The photos show some obstruction to the sign from a tree. A customer request has been generated in our maintenance system for this tree to be trimmed.

The sight has been inspected again in response to the Committee's request, however in light of the above, it is the opinion of staff that the arrangements are appropriate. We will however continue to monitor the performance of the intersection and respond further if required changes are identified.





**c) Vehicles overtaking on the incorrect side of the road at the Green Street crossing of Ballina Road in the right hand turning lane**

The committee's comments have been noted. Staff have been made aware of the feedback and will observe the intersection over time and take any appropriate actions.

**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.

- **Policy - Website – Direct Links and Commercial Advertising – closing date 4 November 2015**

The above draft policy has been reviewed as part of Council's normal program of reviewing policies.

- **DCP 2012 – Draft Amendment No. 6 – General Amendments – closing date 6 November 2015**

Draft Amendment No. 6 to the Ballina Shire Development Control Plan 2012 (BSDCP 2012) proposes changes to various controls including those relating to stormwater management, floodplain management, Lennox Head commercial area and car parking requirements.

Further information regarding Draft Amendment No. 6 may be obtained by downloading various documents with proposed amendments to development controls highlighted in yellow.

- **Plateau Drive, Wollongbar – Preliminary Concept Plan – closing date 9 November 2015**

A draft masterplan has been prepared to highlight a proposed level of embellishment on the corner of Plateau Drive and Rifle Range Road, Wollongbar. Consideration has been given to the provision of open space for informal recreation, supporting park infrastructure and an indication of a footprint highlighting a skate facility.

Community consultation sessions were held on 10 October 2015.

The community is invited to have their say on the concept plan by making a submission or completing an on-line survey.

- **Part V 22.2015.1 – Ballina to Lennox Head Coastal Recreational Path - Modified Route for the section of the cycleway in the vicinity of Flat Rock Caravan Park, Crown Reserves Lot 7032 DP 1063896 and Lot 7023 DP 1064275 and Lot 59 DP 827785 owned by Ballina Shire Council – Closing date 18 November 2015**

The proposal is to construct a modified path route to that originally approved along the eastern boundary of the Flat Rock Tent Park camping area. This modified path route would provide further separation to the Flat Rock Tent Park with this modified section extending from the northern carpark of Flat Rock to the existing track south of the Flat Rock Tent Park.

The proposed realigned path is approximately 500m long and would be surfaced with asphalt with a maximum width of 2.5m. Part of the realigned path would follow an existing bushland maintenance trail that is used by the local land care group. The remainder of the path crosses through vegetated areas. The area surrounding the path includes non-vegetated sections and dune and hind dune vegetation around the Flat Rock area. A vegetation clearance corridor of up to 3.5m would be required. An Addendum Review of Environmental Factors (REF) has been prepared by NSW Public Works presenting the investigations undertaken into the environmental impacts of the proposed modified route of the Coastal Recreational Pathway.

- **Part V 22.2015.2 – Ballina to Lennox Head Coastal Recreational Path - Extension of Coastal Recreational Pathway to include two interpretive signage nodes - Crown Reserves Lot 7034 DP 1063872 and Lot 7023 DP 1064275 and Lot 59 DP 827785 owned by Ballina Shire Council – Closing date 18 November 2015**

The proposal consists of extending the Coastal Recreational Pathway to include two interpretive signage nodes located outside the already approved alignment of the pathway. A number of interpretative signs on local Aboriginal culture and heritage have been prepared for the section of the Coastal Recreational Pathway between Angels Beach and Sharpes Beach including the Flat Rock area. It is proposed that as part of the interpretive experience some signs will be located together at two locations or “nodes” along this section of pathway. One of the nodes would occur in the carpark area near the viewing platform at Angels Beach. The other node is proposed on the pathway just south of the Flat Rock Tent Park camping area.

- **Policy - Urban Water Quality (Review) – closing date 2 December 2015**
- **Policy - Property Reserves (Review) – closing date 2 December 2015**

The above draft policies have been reviewed as part of Council’s normal program of reviewing policies.

- **Proposed 2016/17 Flat Rock Tent Park Fees – closing date 2 December 2015**

The NSW Local Government Act requires councils to formally advertise and adopt their fees and charges prior to implementation. The majority of Council’s fees are set each June as part of the annual Operational Plan.

With Flat Rock Tent Park it is important that our customers are informed well in advance as to the fees for their next holiday during the following year and also meet important industry media advertising publications.

The period the fees are applicable for is 1 February 2016 to 31 January 2017.

- **Annual Financial Statements – 2014/15 - closing date 18 November 2015**

Council must prepare financial statements for each financial year that are in accordance with:

- The Local Government Act 1993 (as amended) and Regulations.
- The Australian Accounting Standards and professional pronouncements.
- The Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.
- The Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.
- NSW Government Policy Statement *“Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government”*.
- Office of Local Government guidelines *“Pricing & Costing for Council Businesses: A Guide to Competitive Neutrality”*.
- The NSW Office of Water guidelines.

Once completed and audited Council must resolve to exhibit the statements for public comment. Council must then consider the statements again (typically at the November ordinary meeting of Council), together with submissions, and formally resolve to adopt the statements.

- **Pop Denison Park Master Plan – closing date 2 December 2015**

A draft master plan has been prepared to embellish Pop Denison Park at East Ballina, being land bounded by Compton Drive, Fenwick Drive, Lakeside Caravan Park and Shaws Bay.

The draft master plan includes provision for a senior and junior playground, pathway networks, new park amenities building and shelters, as well as upgraded car parking facilities.

7. **Items raised by members of the Committee**

8. **General Business**

9. **Next Meeting**

Thursday 10 March 2016 at 5.00 pm