

**MINUTES OF THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL
ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM IN COUNCIL'S
CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE
AT 5.00PM ON THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER 2015**

1. Attendance and Apologies

Members

Lois Cook, Elder
Sandra Bolt, Jali LALC
Marcus Ferguson, Community Member

Councillors in Attendance

Mayor, Councillor David Wright

Others in Attendance

Paul Busmanis, Engineering Works Manager, BSC
Ian Fox, Council Heritage Consultant
Joe Sabine, Council Ranger, BSC
Robyn Mostyn, Northern Rivers Animal Services
Steve Barnier, Group Manager Strategic and Community Facilities, BSC
Desmond Anderson (arrived at 6.20pm)

Apologies

Councillor Susan Meehan

2. Appointment of Chairperson for the Meeting

The Committee has previously agreed to operate with a rotating Chairperson. On this occasion, Lois Cook was nominated to chair the meeting and she duly accepted the role.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 8 October 2015, being the most recent meeting of the Committee, were accepted by consensus as a correct record of that meeting.

5. Matters Arising from Last Meeting

There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

6. Deputations

There were no deputations to the meeting.

7. General Business

a) *Exhibition of Wardell Planning and Environmental Study and Draft Strategic Plan*

The Committee noted the exhibition of the draft document.

It was requested that Council consider the inclusion of an additional action in the plan, for the Council to prepare a masterplan or similar for improvements to the Wardell Cemetery. That the improvement plan be based on community consultation, and that Council arrange funding for its implementation at the earliest opportunity.

b) *Bundjalung Community Companion Animal Project*

Council's Ranger, Joe Sabine and Robyn Mostyn from Northern Rivers Animal Services provided a comprehensive report concerning the veterinary and animal welfare program recently undertaken on Cabbage Tree Island.

The program has delivered very successful outcomes and has been greatly appreciated by the community. The cooperative approach provided by Jali, and the financial support provided by Bayer was particularly acknowledged.

c) *Aboriginal Land Clean Up and Prevention Program*

Members discussed, and indicated their support for the program, noting the positive outcomes which had been achieved on past occasions.

The former tip site, located in bushland on the northern side of Old Bagotville Road, just west of the Cook residence, was noted as an area of particular concern in terms of accumulated discarded waste.

It was noted that Council is now equipped to undertake electronic surveillance of problem areas, and members indicated their support for such action within southern areas of the shire, where dumping appears to be more prevalent.

d) *Cabbage Tree Island Bridge*

Mr Busmanis was able to provide the Committee with an update concerning this matter.

NSW Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) has provided Council with funding to coordinate investigations on behalf of RMS, to assess the structural integrity of the bridge, noting the bridge is not in Council's ownership.

It is expected that these investigations will be undertaken early in 2016, and they will enable a report to be prepared which will document the extent of remedial work which will be required.

Information will be brought back to the Committee as it becomes available. Efforts will be made during the investigations to minimise inconvenience to Cabbage Tree Island residents, with work arrangements made in consultation with Jali.

e) *Angels Beach Drive*

Mr Busmanis presented the Committee with an overview concerning the scope of maintenance and upgrading work proposed to be undertaken on Angels Beach Drive, East Ballina, north of the Prospect Bridge.

The project involves raising the levels of the existing road curves at Prospect Bridge and at the sewage pumping station adjacent Chickiba Lake, applying a new asphalt overlay on the road and constructing a new roundabout at the Angels Beach Drive and Links Avenue intersection.

A draft Cultural Heritage Assessment (CHA) has been completed, with Jali having responded to the project and being the project's Registered Aboriginal Party.

It was noted the new roundabout would require an AHIP due to its location near the known midden site. It was discussed that a short boardwalk and improved signage may enhance education, and this could form a Jali reply to the CHA.

The other roadworks (excluding a roundabout) are being undertaken on top of the existing road and there are no impediments to construction. Early response from Jali will be sought to enable other roadworks to commence in the new year.

f) *Coastal Recreation Pathway (CRP)*

Mr Busmanis and Mr Fox provided an update in relation to this project.

It was noted that the community consultation concerning the application to deviate from the approved path alignment near Flat Rock Tent Park has recently concluded and will soon be reported to the Council. It was also noted that one of the Registered Aboriginal Parties in relation to this project has lodged a submission of objection to that proposal.

Tender has closed for construction of part of the CRP Section 1, Angels Beach to Sharpes Beach (excluding Flat Rock section), and this will be reported to the December 2015 Council Meeting. Boardwalk and path sections will commence in the new year, subject to contractor program.

(NB. Mr Anderson arrived at this point in the meeting)

8. Business Without Notice

- a) *Lois Cook* – enquired about access to a bus service for young people between the centres of Ballina, Lismore and Byron Bay. She understood this was a service organised by the Council. Staff present indicated this is not the case.

(Note – following the meeting, Mr Busmanis contacted Transport for NSW in Lismore. The representative of that Department was able to advise there is a regional community bus service which also caters for members of our Aboriginal community. The organisation providing the service is Tweed, Byron and Ballina Community Transport Inc. and the local contact is Mr David Kapeen).

- b) *Marcus Ferguson* – advised of his concern regarding speeding quarry trucks along Old Bagotville Road. Mr Busmanis responded by advising this is a matter for NSW Police, and that they will be contacted.

Mr Ferguson also expressed concern that sight distance for motorists leaving the Cook residence on Old Bagotville Road is restricted and might benefit from undergrowth removal within the adjacent road reserve. Mr Busmanis will enquire into the matter.

- c) *Speed Review, Wardell Road*

At the last Committee meeting a question was asked about the possibility of relocating the 100 kph speed sign at the eastern end of Wardell Road to a position west of the Lumleys Lane intersection.

This matter was reviewed by Council's traffic engineer, who advises that such relocation would not be warranted due to the following:

- there is no recent traffic accident history in the immediate vicinity of the intersection;
- traffic volumes on Wardell Road are relatively low and quite within the design capacity of the Road, and
- sight distance at the Wardell Road/Lumleys Lane intersection is very good.

- d) *Committee Member Resignation*

The members were informed that Council is in receipt of a letter from Ms Carmel Kapeen to advise of her resignation from the Committee.

9. Additional Item

Proposed Ballina Major Regional Centre Strategy

Mr Barnier advised the Committee of Council's preparation of this document which identifies a series of strategic actions to support the Ballina urban area as it merges into a major regional centre over the next ten to twenty years.

The Committee was invited to consider endorsing the Three Brothers Story for inclusion in the draft strategy as an important element in recognising and valuing Aboriginal cultural heritage in our area.

Following discussion, Aboriginal community members at the meeting agreed the copy of the story, as distributed to members, is appropriate for inclusion in the strategy.

10. Council Documents on Exhibition

The Council documents which have recently been on public exhibition for community feedback were noted.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to be held at 5.00pm on Thursday 11 February 2016.

Agendas will be distributed to Committee members prior to that meeting. Any matters which members wish to have considered for inclusion in the next Agenda should be emailed or notified to Council by Friday 29 January 2016.

12. Meeting close

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.40pm.