

**1. Attendance and Apologies**

Cr Ben Smith (Chair)  
Cr Eoin Johnston  
Cr David Wright (Mayor)

Geoff Limbert – Alstonville & District Citizens & Ratepayers Association Inc  
Barry Jeffress – Tuckombil Landcare  
Malcolm Johnson - Ballina Environment Society  
Ron Birch - Wollongbar Progress Association  
Jane Gardiner – Alstonville Plateau Historical Society  
Elva Fitzell - Alstonville Rotary Club  
Russell Priddle - Alstonville & District Football Club  
Pat Carney – Wardell Progress Association  
Richard Lutze – Combined Service Clubs  
Debbie Chapman- Alstonville/Wollongbar Chamber of Commerce  
Les Wiles- Alstonville Lions Club

Others in Attendance

John Noble - Individual  
Mary Birch - Individual  
Tyrone McGillock – Alstonville Asphalt Watch  
Gary Lane - Individual

Staff in Attendance

Rod Willis – Group Manager Development and Environmental Health

Apologies

Wayne Garrard – Alstonville & District Cricket Club  
Cr Sharon Parry  
Lois Wright- Plateau Seniors

The apologies were accepted.

**2. Election of Chair**

The Committee nominated and endorsed Cr Ben Smith as Chair for a twelve month period.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

Nil

**4. Confirmation of Minutes 14 July 2016**

Pat Carney and Malcolm Johnson moved the Minutes subject to a correction to Item 8(b) Bulwinkel Park. This item should read that it was not determined to demolish the shed but to consider whether or not the shed needed to be demolished.

The amended minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 July 2016 were confirmed.

**5. Deputations**

Nil

**6. Membership**

No changes were advised. Subsequently Mr Tyrone McGillick of the Alstonville Asphalt Watch sought membership for his group.

**7. Code of Conduct**

The Council's Code of Conduct was brought to everyone's attention and the need for members to abide by the Code of Conduct explained.

**8. Business Arising from Minutes –14 July 2016**

**(a) Alleged Tree Poisoning – Wollongbar Preschool**

Noted.

**(b) School Signage Freeborn Park**

Noted.

**(c) Bulwinkel Park**

Bulwinkel Landcare in conjunction with the Lions Club were looking at moving the playground within the park. Malcolm Johnson indicated that Ballina Environment Society and the Lions Club would continue to work with the Council and would like to meet with Council staff to discuss the preparation of a Masterplan for the park.

The Groups have a preliminary plan to be used as a discussion point.

The Committee asked that Council's Open Spaces staff contact the groups through Mr Johnson to arrange a suitable time to meet.

A sketch plan and notes were tendered at the meeting for referral to staff. A copy is attached.

**(d) Container Deposit Scheme**

Noted.

**(e) Replacement of Trees – South and Green Streets, Alstonville**

Noted.

**(f) Slippery Pavements in Freeborn Park – “C” Ward 12 May 2016**

Noted.

**(g) Speed limiting of gopher vehicles on footpaths**

Noted.

**(h) Swimming Pool Redevelopments**

Rod Willis advised the Committee that the consents for the Shire’s swimming pools redevelopment had been issued and that the Council would be considering the tenders for construction in the near future.

**9. Council Documents on Exhibition**

The list of Council documents which have recently been exhibited for public comment was noted.

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

Nil

**11. General Business**

**(a) Portable Goal Posts**

Malcolm Johnson submitted a concern that soccer clubs across the Shire need to be advised to securely fix and ground portable goal posts when in use.

At a recent day at the end of the season at Lennox Head a portable goal was blown over in the wind and it was good fortune that no one was injured.

**(b) Water Use – Wollongbar Sportsfields**

Malcolm Johnson enquired about water use and irrigation at the Wollongbar Sportsfields as a neighbour had experienced their well going dry.

The Committee was advised that there was no irrigation installed at the Wollongbar Sportsfields.

**(c) Wollongbar Sportsfields – Access**

Malcolm Johnson enquired whether walkers would be able to traverse the Wollongbar Sportsfields complex or if the locked gates would exclude them.

The Committee was advised that walkers would be able to traverse the site.

**(d) Russellton Tennis Courts**

Malcolm Johnson enquired about who had purchased the Russellton Tennis Courts. The Fire Service was interested to clarify the access and manoeuvring of vehicles.

The Committee was advised that the ownership would become public information in the reporting of the sale to the Council.

**(e) Emergency Services Levy**

Malcolm Johnson enquired about the transfer of the Emergency Services Levy to being charged through rate notices. Is the charge to be a percentage of the land values or rates or will it be a fixed charge?

A response will be provided at the next meeting.

**(f) Land Development – 1468 Eltham Road**

Tuckombil Landcare enquired about the Council's investigations into complaints about activities and land development at 1468 Eltham Road.

The Committee was advised that an update would be provided in the next week.

**(g) Council Property – Commercial Road, Alstonville**

Jane Gardiner noted that the Council house in Commercial Road was up for sale.

The Committee was advised that it was being sold to clear the site to allow for the reconfiguration of the carpark.

**(h) Crawford House – Leasing**

Ron Birch enquired about the Crawford House leasing term.

The Committee was advised that Council has reconfirmed that the leasing would be retained as originally proposed.

**(i) Review of Council's Floodplain Management Plan**

Pat Carney sought the support of "C" Ward Councillors for a review of the Council's Floodplain Management Plan to allow in rural circumstances houses to be built on piers to meet the flood protection levels and to delete the requirements for site filling.

Cr Eoin Johnston will follow up.

**(j) Police Officer for Alstonville**

Gary Lane – a visitor – asked for Council support to have a permanent Police Officer to be stationed in Alstonville.

The Committee was advised that the Council had just written to the NSW Government requesting this.

**12. Next Meeting**

Thursday 9 March 2017 at 5.00 pm

**MEETING CLOSURE**

6.00 pm

**BULWINKEL LANDCARE & ALSTONVILLE LIONS CLUB**

**PROPOSAL FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO  
BULWINKEL PARK, MAIN STREET, ALSTONVILLE**

Since the formation of Bulwinkel Landcare ([www.bulwinkellandcare.org](http://www.bulwinkellandcare.org)) in April 2015 it has become apparent that Bulwinkel Park requires work to arrest its degradation.

Bulwinkel Park is an important historical, cultural and natural asset. This reserve was purchased by Tintenbar Shire Council in 1961.

- *Historical Asset:*

The weir was built to provide water to the factory (now furniture and hardware store) on Lismore Road and later became Alstonville's bathing pool.  
The Ken Dunstan Memorial Garden, established in 1986 to honour the development of Tibouchina Alstonvillea (the widely used emblem for Alstonville) and other tibouchina varieties as well as the Little John Callistemon.
- *Cultural Asset*

Many local residents use this park frequently as a place of solitude and peacefulness. It is also used as a dog exercise park allowing dogs to swim and exercise in the weir and Maguires Creek.  
The three local schools use the park as a teaching and learning resource.  
In warm weather the park is often used to accommodate children's parties as well as a playground.  
Many residents use Main Street and the footpath/footbridge area as a walking and jogging exercise thoroughfare.
- *Natural Asset*

Maguires Creek flows through the park forming an aquatic environment for platypus, long necked freshwater turtles, eels, reptiles and fish, as well as aquatic plant varieties.  
Many varieties of birds frequent the park environment and it is home to many bush turkeys.  
There are several significant and important plant varieties (see Bulwinkel Park Vegetation Restoration Plan 2015 and Maguires Creek Catchment Management Plan 2004).  
The park riparian zone is dominated by camphor laurel trees which have been allowed to displace other varieties.

Bulwinkel Landcare Group and Alstonville Lions Club wish to propose improvements in conjunction with Ballina Shire Council and develop a plan for the park rather than ad hoc management.

