

**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 9 FEBRUARY 2017**

1. Attendance and Apologies

Members

Marcus Ferguson, Community Member
Troy Anderson, John Bappa Cook Foundation

Councillors in Attendance

Mayor, Councillor David Wright
Councillor Nathan Willis

Others in Attendance

Mikael Smith CEO, Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council (observer)
Kerri Watts, Manager Public and Environmental Health, BSC
Paul Busmanis, Engineering Works Manager, BSC
Ian Fox, Consultant
Steve Barnier, Group Manager Strategic and Community Facilities, BSC

Apologies

Sandra Bolt, Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council

2. Appointment of Chairperson for the Meeting

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

3. Declarations of Interest

Marcus Ferguson noted his role with Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council in relation to some of the items on the Agenda.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 23 June 2016, 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) Shaws Bay Coastal Zone Management Plan

Kerri Watts provided members with a brief overview of the Coastal Zone Management Plan for Shaws Bay which Council has recently adopted. The Plan contains a number of key Actions which, when implemented, will improve the social, recreational and environmental values of the bay.

A community information brochure was distributed which explained the sequence of work soon to be commenced as the initial phases of the Plan's implementation.

Ms Watts noted her availability to liaise further with Jali and any other interested stakeholders as a means of explaining or promoting the adopted Plan.

Mr Smith recorded Jali's potential interest in providing contracted services for some of the works proposed to be undertaken.

b) Plans of Management for Waterfalls

Steve Barnier informed the Committee of Council's recent decision to prepare plans of management relating to public land in the immediate vicinity of Killen and Tosha Falls.

These projects are intended to identify preferred options for the future management of these waterfalls having regard for their environmental, social and cultural values.

Community and government agency consultation is currently being undertaken. An important part of plan preparation will be to identify and record Aboriginal cultural heritage values associated with the waterfalls and the surrounding landscape.

Members acknowledged the opportunity to have input to the projects, noting that Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council has been formally asked to provide feedback.

Further reports to this Committee will be presented as the projects progress.

c) *Coastal Recreational Pathway Project*

Paul Busmanis and Ian Fox provided an update concerning construction works associated with this project.

The section of path between Sharpes Beach carpark and Angels Beach is complete. This is the southern 3km section of the Coastal Recreational Path (known as Section 1) and was completed with a contractor and with Council resources in time for the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

The path project includes the Aboriginal Cultural Ways interpretive signage project and the installation of the signs is now being finalised in preparation for the launch next week. The project has seen great collaboration between Jali LALC, the Aboriginal community and Council. The signs feature the ability to download story telling when at specific signs.

The overall Ballina to Lennox Head path project has seen the completion of the Shared Path West (along The Coast Road, Skennars Head Road and North Creek Road) and the Coastal Recreational Path Section 1. The remaining paths are the Shared Path East (along The Coast Road from Skennars Head Road to Pat Morton) and the Coastal Recreational Path Section 2.

The Cultural Heritage Assessment for Shared Path East was completed earlier this year and has now been finalised and submitted to OEH for information. The Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Coastal Recreational Path Section 1 remains for further consultation with the Registered Aboriginal Parties.

Troy Anderson asked about the consultation during the construction of the Coastal Recreational Path Section 1 and was advised that invitations were made to the Registered Aboriginal Parties as required for the sections of path which required monitoring. Marcus Ferguson advised two Parties were in attendance.

Troy indicated that sometimes agreement between Parties is difficult and Mikael Smith suggested that consultation may be better with separate meetings. This is to be considered for the future.

d) *Angels Beach Drive*

Paul Busmanis and Ian Fox provided an update regarding the project. The construction was completed last year, however following consultation with OEH a variation to the existing AHIP is needed to make the additional path alteration around the midden site near the Links Ave roundabout. Jali LALC

will be consulted further regarding the path and sign when ready with the variation.

One of the requirements of the existing AHIP was for Council to arrange for carbon dating of shell samples to be taken from the midden site (at Chickiba Creek.) Ian described the results with dates of two oyster shell samples being 2545 and 2590 BP and the date for the cockle shell being 6144 BP. (BP is Before Present and for dating is the year 1950). The report has previously been handed to Jali and will be formally reported as part of the AHIP.

e) *Cabbage Tree Island Bridge Repairs*

Paul Busmanis provided an update concerning this project. The bridge investigation and associated roadworks were completed last year. However when Council staff were completing small concrete repairs to the underside of the bridge some additional areas were noticed. The consultant engaged for the bridge investigation has been asked to return to site to investigate these additional areas. It is expected this further investigation will take place during the next month and Jali will be advised when dates are arranged.

It was also advised that an inquiry was made with Roads & Maritime Services (RMS) on behalf of Jali regarding their request about additional funds for internal roadworks. Feedback from RMS (Grafton) indicated there were possibly two grants which may be suitable. This feedback will be resent to Jali.

f) *Local Government Elections*

Members noted the outcomes of the Ballina Shire Local Government Election held in September 2016, and the Councillor representatives for this Committee.

g) *Aboriginal Community Recognition*

Mr Smith expressed his desire to enable Ballina Shire Councillors and Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council Board Members to meet on an informal basis to get to know each other and to discuss key community issues.

All in attendance agreed this was an excellent initiative, and Mr Smith is to discuss a proposal with his Board.

8. Business Without Notice

- a) *Welcome to Mr Smith* – The Mayor, Councillor Wright acknowledged Mr Smith's recent appointment as Jali CEO, and his attendance at this meeting.

Councillor Wright reiterated Council's keen desire to work with Jali in areas of common interest to our respective organisations.

Mr Smith acknowledged the Mayor's welcome and commended Council for offering this Committee as a forum for discussion. He also indicated that he would discuss with his Board, Jali's representation on the Committee.

- b) *Committee Membership* – Troy Anderson informed the meeting that Samantha Anderson is no longer able to maintain her membership of the Committee.

- c) *Wardell Cemetery* – Marcus Ferguson once again raised his concerns regarding the neglected state of the Wardell Cemetery.

Whilst noting that Council's recently adopted Wardell Strategic Plan provides for the preparation of a master plan for the cemetery as a medium term priority, it was felt that the current lack of supporting infrastructure within the cemetery reserve is unacceptable, and that the preparation of this plan should be brought forward.

Another significant concern is that there is inadequate definition of grave sites, and an effort should be made to rectify this.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to be held at 5.00pm on Thursday 13 April 2017.

Any items proposed by Committee members for inclusion in the next meeting agenda should be forwarded to Council by no later than Friday 31 March 2017.

10. Meeting close

There being no further matters for discussion, the meeting concluded at 6.40pm.