

**Minutes of the 'A' Ward Committee Meeting
Held 14 March 2017
In the Committee Rooms, 40 Cherry Street, Ballina**

Time Commenced

The meeting commenced at 4.00pm.

1. Attendance and Apologies

Attendance

Cr Nathan Willis	Councillor (arrived at 4.35pm)
Cr David Wright	Mayor
Cr Phil Meehan	Councillor
Cr Stephen McCarthy	Councillor
Margaret Hains	Ballina Day View Club
Mary O'Brien	Lighthouse Day Club
David Felsch	Ballina Peninsula Residents Association
Michael Young	Ballina Chamber of Commerce & Ballina Retail Action Group
Stephen Wills	Ballina Bears Cricket Club
George Young	Ballina Lions Club
Lyn Davidson	Ballina CWA (arrived at 4.39pm)
Fiona Folan	Ballina Environment Society
Marilyn McIntosh	Ballina Evening View Club

Also in Attendance

Martin Burt	Ballina Peninsula Residents Association
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Council Staff in Attendance

John Truman	Group Manager Civil Services
Joanne Cordery	Secretary - Civil Services Group

Apologies

Ross Pickering	Ballina & District Citizens & Ratepayers Association
John Leon	Ballina Rugby Union Club
Narelle Besseling	Ballina Chamber of Commerce & Ballina Retail Action Group
Zoe Walsh	Ballina Peninsula Residents Association

2. Resignations/Changes to Memberships

The information in the staff report was noted and the new Ballina Environment Society representative, Fiona Folan was welcomed to the Committee.

3. Declarations of Interest

Fiona Folan declared an interest in item xviii – letter from St Andrews Ballina regarding traffic calming in Bentinck Street. Fiona is employed by St Andrews Ballina.

4. Deputations

Nil

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5. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 November, 2016 were accepted as a true and correct record.

Mary O'Brien/David Felsch

6. General Business

Martin Burt presented a proposal to the Committee for the relocation of the Pimlico Hall to Empire Vale. The community at Pimlico is experiencing difficulties maintaining their hall. This proposal seeks to retain the building for the community and increase its utilisation by the relocation to Empire Vale where it is proposed to be a shared facility with the local school.

Attached to the minutes are documents tabled at the meeting illustrating the considerations of the Committee for this proposal to date.

Council recently invited expressions of interest for the management or future use of the hall and Mr Burt advised the Committee the Association have submitted a response to this invitation. Council's Strategic and Community Facilities Group plan to report the outcomes of the EOI process to Council in the near future.

The Committee noted the information provided and deferred any further discussion, if required, until the abovementioned report from Council's officers is available.

7. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Lions Park - Path

The information in the staff report was noted.

Request from Mayor for Letter re Ballina High School Memorabilia

The information in the staff report was noted.

Issue on Coast Road near Angels Beach Drive Roundabout

The information in the staff report was noted.

Request to remove "No Through Road" Sign in Wester Lane

The information in the staff report was noted.

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Pedestrian Safety – West Ballina

Cr Meehan reported he had been liaising with John Truman regarding the options to improve pedestrian amenity and safety in West Ballina. A road safety audit has been retrieved from Council's records. John has arranged for staff to review the audit to see if there are any outstanding actions as an initial assessment indicates opportunities to improve the design of the pedestrian refuges previously installed by Council. Outstanding works will be considered for funding priority under Council's Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan which is currently being updated.

8. Council Documents on Exhibition

The list of previously advertised documents was noted by the Committee.

9. Business Without Notice

i) Lighthouse Day Club

Mary O'Brien advised the Committee that the Lighthouse Club is going well. Mary also extended an invitation to the Councillors to attend their meetings between 10.00am and 1.00pm in the Richmond Room.

ii) West End Hall

George Young read the Committee a document regarding the closure of the West End Hall (copy attached).

The document is to be referred to the Strategic and Community Facilities Group for response.

Note – Attached for the information of the Committee is Council's response prepared following the meeting.

iii) Floodgate Replacement

In response to a question from George Young, John Truman advised floodgates are installed on drainage systems when these assets are renewed. John also advised that Council now has a recurring program for floodgates and the first year of the program is a project at Burns Point Ferry Road.

iv) Update Fripp Oval Sports

Stephen Wills updated the Committee on the clubhouse improvements. He also discussed the proposal to Council for Public Reserve Management Funds for the fence for Fripp Oval.

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John Truman advised that a report had been prepared to the Finance Committee for Thursday 16 March with a recommendation to Council to support the grant application.

v) *Right of Way on Cycleways*

Marilyn McIntosh asked who had the right of way on footpaths and cycleways and asked if more signage could be installed.

John Truman advised that the paths are shared and therefore no-one has right of way. He also advised that some locations on the new cycleway had been identified for signage but generally it was not Council's preference to install too much signage.

vi) *Parking/Maintenance in Fox Street*

Marilyn McIntosh inquired as to the parking in Fox Street near the aged facility. Could No Parking signs be installed at the end of the cul-de-sac to allow ease of access for dropping of and picking up elderly residents.

Marilyn also asked could Council repair some of the damage to the road.

Council's Civil Services Group will inspect and provide a response.

vii) *Fishery Creek Bridge*

A question was asked regarding the duplication of Fishery Creek Bridge.

John Truman advised the duplication is a project proposed in Council's S94 Developer Contributions Plans for Roads.

viii) *Vegetation Sharpes Beach Carpark – Southern End*

Fiona Folan advised that someone had cut back the vegetation at the southern end of Sharpes Beach carpark.

John Truman advised that staff would investigate and provide a response.

ix) *A Frame Signage – River Street*

Lyn Davidson asked if the CWA could place an A Frame sign on the footpath in River Street outside of the CWA rooms.

This request will be referred to the Development and Environmental Health Group for response.

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x) Name Change South Ballina Community Association

David Felsch advised the Group that the Association had changed its name to "Ballina Peninsula Residents Association" as this better represents the area of the community interested in the Association's affairs.

xi) Commemoration Park Gazebo

David Felsch advised that the roof on the gazebo in Commemoration Park was rusty and needed inspection.

This request will be referred to the Civil Services Group for response.

xii) Ferry

David Felsch expressed his appreciation for the extra staff deployed during the holiday season to assist loading the Ferry. David expressed his concerns regarding the travel speed for the Ferry and indicated his opinion on the recent motor failure was due to engine glazing from the engine operating at low capacity. David also expressed a view that the maintenance of the ferry would be improved if it was undertaken by a diesel mechanic.

xiii) 848 River Drive - Road Pavement

David Felsch advised he is still dissatisfied that further repairs have not been undertaken to address road settlement at this location.

xiv) Boat Ramp Project

David Felsch acknowledged the consultation provided to date regarding the design for the new boat ramp at Empire Vale. David advised the meeting of his preference for the project to include a pontoon as a priority to carparking.

John Truman advised the tenders for the works will seek pricing on both the pontoon and the carpark. A decision regarding the final scope of works will be made once tender pricing is confirmed and assessed to the available budget.

xv) Prawn Festival Advertising / Chamber Business Breakfast

Michael Young reported funding for advertising for the Prawn festival from the State Government has been received. Michael also reported Council is making a presentation to the Chamber of Business Breakfast. The presentation will discuss the Marina Masterplan, Community Strategic Plan and the Economic Strategy.

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xvi) Comments from Cr Wright

Cr Wright reported positive observations of the Shire during the Christmas Holiday season with many visitors using new infrastructure and supporting local businesses.

xvii) Cr Nathan Willis – Constituent Support

Cr Willis noted he is available to meet with Committee members on site to review their needs.

xviii) Bulky Waste Collection Service

Cr Meehan advised the Committee a report, in respect to a Notice of Motion, regarding bulky waste collection services is included in the agenda for the Finance Committee meeting on Thursday 16 March 2017.

xix) Pedestrian Safety – Bentinck Street

Cr Meehan noted Committee member Pip Carter has written to Council regarding his concerns in relation to pedestrian safety in Bentinck Street. A copy of the letter is attached. Council's staff will provide a response to this letter.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held at 4.00pm on Tuesday 9 May 2017.

11. Meeting Close

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.55pm.

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A Ward Meeting Attendance Sheet – 14 March 2017		
Name	Business	Signature
Cr Nathan Willis	Ballina Shire Council	
Cr Phil Meehan	Ballina Shire Council	P Meehan
Cr Stephen McCarthy	Ballina Shire Council	
Cr David Wright	Ballina Shire Council	
Mrs Lyn Davidson	Ballina CWA	
Ms Elaine Ballard	Ballina CWA	
Mr George Young	Ballina Lions Club	
Mr Michael Young	Ballina Chamber of Commerce & Ballina Retail Action Group	
Ms Narelle Besseling	Ballina Chamber of Commerce & Ballina Retail Action Group	Apologies
Ms Margaret Hains	Ballina Day View Club	
Mr Andrew Playford	Ballina High School & East Ballina Lions Club	
Ms Marilyn McIntosh	Ballina Evening View Club	
Ms Mary O'Brien	Lighthouse Day Club	
Mr Pip Carter	St Andrews Ballina	
Mr David Felsch	South Ballina Community Association	
Mr Stephen Wills	Ballina Bears Cricket Club	
Mr John Leon	Ballina Rugby Union Club	Apology
Mr Ross Pickering	Ballina & District Citizens & Ratepayers Association	
Ms Fiona Folan	Ballina Environment Society	
Mr John Truman	Group Manager Civil Services	
Ms Joanne Cordery	Civil Services Group	
Martin Burt	South Ballina Community Assoc.	

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Phillip Carter
Chief Executive Officer
St Andrews Ballina
59 Bentinck Street
BALLINA NSW 2478



Ph: 0266 20 5811
Fax: 0266 86 8752
Email: ceo@standrew.com.au

St Andrews

BALLINA
our community-our home

The General Manager
Ballina Shire Council
Tamar Street
BALLINA NSW 2478

ATTENTION: Mr Paul Hickey and Mr John Truman

cc: Councillors
Access Reference Group
A Ward Committee
Local Traffic Committee

Dear Sirs,

TRAFFIC CALMING - BENTINCK STREET

As you are probably aware, St Andrews Nursing Home's main entry is on busy Bentinck Street. It has been raised at our Resident/Relative Meetings that it is dangerous for elderly people to cross here as the road is wide, the speed limit is 60kph and there are no warning signs for elderly crossing, no pedestrian crossings and no pedestrian refuge.

We have previously requested a pedestrian crossing for use by our residents and visitors and kindly request Council review safety on this stretch of road.

We believe **a pedestrian crossing is the best solution**. In addition, other traffic calming devices should be implemented:

- **Reduce speed limit** to 50kph between Cherry and Moon Streets
- **Install caution signs** for Elderly People crossing
- **Provide a pedestrian refuge** in the centre of Bentinck Street.

We know there are refuges at the roundabouts on Cherry and Moon street corners, but this is a long distance for residents and visitors to travel and roundabouts are not pedestrian friendly.

We ask you to bring this matter before the Access Reference Group and A Ward Committees before including their deliberations in a request for consideration to the Local Traffic Committee.

A positive outcome would benefit not only our residents, staff and visitors, but also school children, croquet club and bowling club patrons. Please find attached letters of support from Cherry Street Sports Club, Ballina Hospital and Ballina Croquet Inc. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours faithfully

ST ANDREWS BALLINA

Phillip Carter
CEO

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Map of Precinct:



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BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL "A" WARD COMMITTEE.

14.3.2017

CLOSURE OF WEST END HALL BY COUNCIL.

After over 60 years of volunteer management of the West End Hall , council has resolved to close the facility sighting the following reasons :-

1. Tripping point , caused by removal of a wet carpet. It's great to see council employees identifying trip points in Ballina , they are in for a big job in a town where there are many older people and thousands of tripping points. Their contribution to identifying and advertising them to us oldies will be much appreciated.
2. Flooding of the premises via storm water drains and the Richmond River . Council Staff advise the flooding will continue and get worse as the town develops , sighting new developments and raising of River Street , a Government funded project. Perhaps a report on the projected flooding should be released by Council to advise the ratepayer of the perceived danger.
3. Fibro sheeting on one wall , Ballina Lions Club replaced the other wall some years ago.
The hall is one of the thousands of buildings in Ballina that contains asbestos , where residents have resided for well in excess of 90 years and are still surviving . It will need a considerable Rate rise to remove all this asbestos in town if it poses a perceived threat. Residents live in these homes 24/7 , a far greater risk than the West End Hall's outside cladding.
4. **Estimated cost to repair the building was submitted at Council rates which may be far in excess of private enterprise on a competitive basis or volunteer contributions.**

In 1883 Ballina Municipal Council was proclaimed , that's 134 years ago , and one of their first tasks was to drain the swampy land on Ballina Island. Very deep open drains were dug draining the water into North Creek , The Canal and Richmond River.

Tweed Street was tidal from River Street to Tamar Street with mangroves growing. North Kerr Street was also tidal and untrafficable.

To access premises in town it was necessary to construct bridges across the drains. There were no formed footpaths and you had to walk on a gravel roads to get to town.

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So for over 134 years our stormwater has flowed into the Richmond River, and for the same period and longer the Richmond River has flowed into the Ballina CBD, without restriction. Contamination must surely reach the river with all the cleaning that is done in households today.

Council is now raising additional rates to Clean up the River, will this include filtering of its stormwater drains, before contaminated water enters the river?

Council will be very aware of the time when the waste water from the Fishery Creek Sewerage treatment Plant was discharged into the Canal. Policed by EPA who issued many warnings to council to clean up its act or be fined. The garbage tip was another pollutant and it was the EPA that closed it down and fined Council, for a considerable time Council trucked our garbage to Ipswich in Queensland at considerable expense to ratepayers.

With the increase of air traffic into Ballina will air pollution become the next target?

Will flood gates be constructed, to prevent the Richmond River from entering the CBD, flooding streets and causing traffic problems. Or will the roads be raised above flood level to enable access to the Tamar Street Bus Terminal adjacent to the Council Chambers recently built by Council?

At the meeting Council moved to close the hall, it was apparent that Councillors had not even inspected the site or the problem, only one councillor Cr Williams "B" riding said he could remember being there some years ago when he received a donation from the Lions Club for the sea bird rescue. It would have been at least 8 years ago.

An "A" ward Councillor elected first the first time a month before raved on about "Don't call me a new councillor". With all his experience you surely would have thought he'd have done his homework and at least inspected the building before passing judgement.

Without the support of Councillors it is difficult for small volunteer groups with limited resources, to provide services, not available from council at reasonable cost and for which Council makes a small contribution.

Before a final decision is made by Council, on the fate of the hall, might I suggest the matter be referred to ratepayers and residents, to allow them the opportunity to express their thoughts on the matter.

I might point out that the Lions Club Motto is "TO BUILD UP AND NOT DESTROY"

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It is hoped that this matter will not go on for years, like many others have and that a further decision will be soon reached to preserve this historic building that has given so much to the residents of Ballina over such a long time.

If Council is determined to demolish the West End Hall, and sell the property, I suggest that funds raised be allocated to replacing the West End Hall in the West End area at Porter Park adjacent to the children's education centre as the land can no longer be used as a cricket ground and residents who have contributed so much to the West End area will retain their hall for the benefit of their community.

George Young,

14.3.2017

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enquiries refer

Steve Barnier

in reply please quote

17/21615

17 March 2017

Mr George Young
54 Riverside Drive
BALLINA NSW 2478



Dear Mr Young

Re: West End Hall - Ballina

I have received a copy of your written submission dated 14 March 2017 which I understand you presented to a meeting of Council's A Ward Committee, held on that same day.

I note that your submission has not been presented on Lions Club of Ballina Inc. letterhead, so I have presumed it is a private submission, rather than one made by or on behalf of the Club itself.

Regrettably, the premise of your submission is incorrect. Council has not made a decision to close the West End Hall. The decision of the Council, made at its November 2016 Ordinary Meeting, was communicated to the President of the Club in our letter dated 19 January 2017.

In accordance with that advice, Council staff is arranging for a condition assessment of the building which, when finalised and assessed, will be presented to the elected Council for its further consideration. With this information, the Council may be in a position to determine its preference for the future use and/or management of this property.

I certainly hope that we will be able to report this matter back to the Council soon. In the meantime however, Council's Community Facilities staff have made arrangements with the Club to accommodate its meeting needs within alternative Council facilities. The Council has determined to waive its normal casual hire charges for these facilities during this interim period.

The Council and staff are very aware of the Club's strong preference to retain its use and management of the West End Hall. This was clearly articulated in the Club's letter to Council dated 17 January 2017. Council also acknowledges the Club's contribution to the maintenance of the property over the extensive period of its tenure. As stated above, the building condition assessment which we are yet to receive will be beneficial in assisting the Council to determine a preferred course in relation to this community infrastructure.

I note you have made reference in your submission to a number of other historical and more recent matters relating to Ballina and its environment. Whilst being of some interest, these matters do not appear to be germane to the future of the Hall. Consequently, I make no further comment regarding them.

Thank you for your submission, and we will continue to liaise with the Club when further information is to hand.

Yours faithfully

Steve Barnier
Group Manager

Strategic and Community Facilities Group

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