

1. Attendance and Apologies

Cr Eoin Johnston (Chair part time from 5.20pm)
Cr Sharon Parry
Cr David Wright (Mayor) (Chair part time until 5.20pm)

Steve Miller – Rous Mill Ratepayers
Tyrone McGillick – Alstonville Asphalt Watch
Lois Wright - Plateau Seniors
Mary Birch – Wollongbar Progress Association
Richard Lutze – Alstonville/Wollongbar Chamber of Commerce
Jane Gardiner – Alstonville Plateau Historical Society
Malcolm Johnson - Ballina Environment Society
Elva Fitzell – Rotary e-Club of NextGen
Jim Hahn – Probus Club of Alstonville
Marilyn Nobbs-Hahn – Probus Club of Alstonville
Russell Priddle – Alstonville Football Club
Ron Birch – Wollongbar Progress Association (part time)

Others in Attendance

June Hoffman (observer)
Doug Lipscomb (observer)

Staff in Attendance

Matthew Wood, Group Manager, Development and Environmental Health Group

Apologies

Wayne Garrard – Alstonville Cricket Club
Pat Carney - Wardell Progress Association
Councillor Ben Smith
Les Wiles – Alstonville Lions Club

The apologies were accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

Nil

3. Deputations

Nil

4. Confirmation of Minutes 9 November 2017

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 November 2017 were confirmed as a true and correct record.

5. Business Arising from Minutes –9 November 2017

(a) Public Liability Insurance for Public Halls

The information provided was noted.

Mary Birch asked for clarification from Council as to whether public liability insurance is required by casual facility hirers.

Matthew Wood indicated that hall groups should contact Council's Community Property Section to discuss any particular circumstances as Council's casual hirer policy may apply in certain cases.

(b) Use of Steam as a Weed Control System

The information provided was noted.

Malcolm Johnson asked whether steam impacts weeds and other plants equally. Matthew Wood to follow up and advise the Committee.

(c) Skate Park at Wollongbar Sports Fields

The information provided was noted.

(d) Disaster Relief Funding – "Devil's Elbow"

The information provided was noted.

Steve Miller asked for confirmation of the timeline for geotechnical assessment. Matthew Wood to follow up and advise the Committee.

(e) Bulwinkle Park

The information provided was noted.

Malcolm Johnson raised several matters as follows:

- Requested that Council provide advice regarding the types of facilities that would be suitable for Bulwinkle Park.
- Requested that Council investigate its procedure associated with juvenile justice activities on Council land. In particular, how does Council engage with juvenile justice and what is the protocol for the provision of community contact details to offenders?
- Requested signage to acknowledge assistance provided by groups in relation to environmental works at Bulwinkle Park.

Matthew Wood to follow up and advise the Committee.

(f) Container Deposit Scheme

The information provided was noted.

Cr Wright gave a general overview of the waste management system and proposed legislative changes that might affect Council's management of waste.

Malcolm Johnson raised concern about the refund value vs the increased cost per item of the container deposit scheme.

Malcolm suggested having a collection point at Council's waste facility where large volumes of containers could be dropped for cash returns. Cr Wright indicated that Council is looking for alternative sites but a collection point at Council's waste facility is not seen as viable. Council is monitoring the operation of the scheme.

6. Council Documents on Exhibition

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

Malcolm Johnson asked for an update on the status of the Lake Ainsworth Eastern Road works. Matthew Wood advised that the review of environmental factors is under assessment (including submissions received). Matthew also outlined that there are two components to the decision making being the planning decision on the current review of environmental factors and works decision (in terms of funding and programming).

7. Items raised by members of the Committee

(a) Angels Beach

Elva Fitzell indicated that there is an area at Angels Beach that looks to be a place utilised regularly by homeless members of the community. Matthew Wood to follow up and advise the Committee.

(b) Entry Signs – Alstonville

Richard Lutze enquired about the entry signs into Alstonville in terms of maintenance and cleaning responsibility. Matthew Wood to follow up to determine Council's responsibilities in this regard and advise the Committee.

(c) Fundraising Activities – Woolworths Ballina

Elva Fitzell asked whether BBQs for fundraising can be undertaken in the street outside Woolworths in Ballina or the Woolworths carpark on a casual basis. Matthew Wood to follow up and advise the Committee.

(d) Chair of C Ward Committee

Tyrone McGillick enquired as to whether it is possible to change the meeting chair. Matthew Wood to confirm the process for electing the chair of the Committee and provide feedback.

(e) Swimming Pool Redevelopments

Tyrone McGillick asked if Council can prepare a lessons learnt paper on the redevelopment of the pools. Tyrone requested that such a report be publicly available and that its preparation should include discussion with Council and stakeholder representatives. Matthew Wood to follow up and advise the Committee.

(f) Alstonville Plateau Historical Society Exhibition

Jane Gardiner advised the Committee that the Historical Society is holding an exhibition on public pools in the shire in association with the opening of the new pools.

(g) Crawford Park

Russell Priddle indicated that the grounds at Crawford Park have improved since pool water no longer washes onto the grounds.

(h) Wollongbar Sports Fields – Entry Road

Doug Lipscomb asked what action Council is taking in relation to the erosion of the roadway entry to the Wollongbar Sports Fields. Doug also asked whether the gates to the fields are meant to be locked at night. Matthew Wood to follow up and advise the Committee.

(i) Wollongbar Skate Park

Doug Lipscomb enquired about the status of the skate park. Matthew Wood advised that the development application for the facility is under assessment. Expected timing for determination of the application is not yet known.

(j) Macadamia Spraying Activities

Malcolm Johnson asked whether building restrictions apply in relation to macadamia farms and spraying activities. In particular, Malcom asked whether buildings are required to be located 150m away from macadamia spray areas. Matthew Wood advised that Council's Development Control Plan includes separation distance requirements that are applicable to new dwellings. The 150m is identified as a minimum separation distance between new dwellings in rural areas and intensive plant agriculture (which includes horticulture), noting that this can be varied based on an assessment process.

(k) Tuckean Swamp Project

Malcolm Johnson raised the status of the Tuckean Swamp project involving Ozfish. Cr Johnston indicated there have been some challenges with the project and ongoing landholder engagement is underway.

(l) Toilets at Geoff Watt Oval

Russell Priddle noted that the toilets at Geoff Watt Oval are permanently locked due to vandalism but asked for this decision to be reviewed. Matthew Wood to follow up and advise the Committee.

(m) Footpath near Alstonville Telephone Exchange

Russell Priddle noted that the footpath near the telephone exchange has been dug up, probably for NBN works, but not properly repaired (approximately 50m east of the exchange and currently covered with hot mix). Matthew Wood to refer to Council's Civil Services Group for review.

9. General Business

Nil.

10. Next Meeting

Thursday 10 May 2018 at 5.00 pm

Meeting Closure

6.05 pm