

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
40 CHERRY STREET, BALLINA,
ON 17/04/18 AT 4.00 PM**

Attendance

Crs David Wright (Mayor - in the chair), Phillip Meehan, Eoin Johnston, Stephen McCarthy, Nathan Willis, Keith Williams, Sharon Cadwallader and Ben Smith.

Paul Hickey (General Manager), John Truman (Group Manager Civil Services), Matthew Wood (Group Manager Development and Environmental Health), Linda Coulter (Manager Financial Services), Cheyne Willebrands (Manager Open Spaces and Resource Recovery), Christine Pitman (Strategic Waste Officer), Craig Brown (Manager Community Facilities) and Sandra Bailey (Secretary) were in attendance.

There were no people in the gallery at this time.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cr Sharon Parry and Cr Jeff Johnson.

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Sharon Cadwallader)

That such apologies be accepted and leave of absence granted.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Parry and Cr Jeff Johnson

2. Declarations of Interest

Nil

3. Deputations

Nil

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4. Committee Reports

4.1 Policy (Review) - Donations - Financial Assistance

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Phillip Meehan/Cr Ben Smith)

1. That Council adopts the amended Donations – Financial Assistance for Community Groups Policy, as attached to this report.
2. That Council places this policy on exhibition for public comment, with any submissions received to be resubmitted back to Council. If no submissions are received, then no further action is required.
3. That Council approves the request for a donation of \$780 to the Alstonville Plateau Historical Society to refund their payment for repairs to Crawford House Museum to provide a donation
4. That Council confirms its support for the General Manager to waive the Council developer contribution fees of \$13,616.61 paid by Biala Support Services Inc for development consent 2017/258.
5. Council endorses this application for the following reasons:
 - a) The applicant is a not for profit organisation providing an important community service for the Ballina Shire; and
 - b) The consent relates to a capital infrastructure project that will deliver community based services.
6. That Council authorizes the General Manager to make application to Rous County Council for the waiver of their developer contribution charges (\$4,033.92) for development consent 2017/258 with the waiver of those charges a matter for Rous to determine.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Parry and Cr Jeff Johnson

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4.2 Policy (Review) - Investment Policy

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Ben Smith)

1. That Council adopts the Investment Policy, as attached to this report, amending Credit Risk Parameters as per Table B of this report.
2. That in the event that the Ministerial Investment Order or the Investment Policy Guidelines be revised by the Office of Local Government, a further report be provided to Council within three months of that revision.
3. That Council place the policy on exhibition for public comment, with any submissions received to be resubmitted back to Council.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Parry and Cr Jeff Johnson

4.3 Waste Operations - Long Term Financial Plan

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Keith Williams)

That Council endorses the revision of the fees and charges as per Table Two of this report, along with the inclusion of the revised LRM and DWM long term financial plans in the draft 2018/19 Delivery Program and Operational Plan for public exhibition.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Parry and Cr Jeff Johnson

4.4 North East Weight of Loads Group (NEWLOG)

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Ben Smith)

1. That Council notes the contents of the NEWLOG Annual Report for 2016/17.
2. That Council endorses the draft NEWLOG budget for 2018/19.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Parry and Cr Jeff Johnson

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4.5 Social and Community Plans

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Nathan Willis/Cr Sharon Cadwallader)

1. That Council notes the contents of this report in respect to the preparation of Social and Community Plans.
2. That Council's website is updated to include additional links to demographic and research data to improve the social and community information available, as outlined in this report.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Parry and Cr Jeff Johnson

4.6 Plant Replacement Program

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Sharon Cadwallader)

That the draft 2018/19 Delivery and Operational Plan include a fleet procurement program as per the contents of this report.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Parry and Cr Jeff Johnson

4.7 Grant Opportunity - Regional Growth Fund

A **Motion** was moved by Cr Sharon Cadwallader

That Council proceed with the initial application under the Regional Growth Fund for the western arterial road as the priority.

The **Motion LAPSED**.

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Keith Williams)

1. That Council proceed with the initial application under the Regional Growth Fund for the Duplication of Entry Roads (North and West Ballina) Projects, including the Ballina Town Entry program.
2. That Council hold a Councillor briefing on the strategic traffic model and Section 94 Roads Contribution Plan.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Parry and Cr Jeff Johnson

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4.8 Fees and Charges - 2018/19

A **Motion** was moved by Cr Ben Smith and seconded by Cr Nathan Willis

That Council approves the exhibition of the draft schedule of fees and charges for 2018/19 as attached, including any amendments resulting from this meeting.

An **Amendment** was moved by Cr Sharon Cadwallader and seconded by Cr Stephen McCarthy

That Council approves the exhibition of the draft schedule of fees and charges for 2018/19 as attached, including:

- a ferry ticket book for heavy vehicles as a trial, at a discount of 20%.

The **Amendment** was **LOST**.

FOR VOTE - Cr Stephen McCarthy and Cr Sharon Cadwallader
AGAINST VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Phillip Meehan, Cr Eoin Johnston, Cr Nathan Willis, Cr Keith Williams and Cr Ben Smith
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Parry and Cr Jeff Johnson

An **Amendment** was moved by Cr Nathan Willis and seconded by Cr Keith Williams

That Council approves the exhibition of the draft schedule of fees and charges for 2018/19 as attached, including:

- a ferry season ticket for heavy vehicles for a 12 month trial, based on an average of one return trip per week
- the pensioner concession based on 50% (from 30%) for the ferry fees for a 12 month trial.

The **Amendment** was **LOST**.

FOR VOTE - Cr Nathan Willis and Cr Keith Williams
AGAINST VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Phillip Meehan, Cr Eoin Johnston, Cr Stephen McCarthy, Cr Sharon Cadwallader and Cr Ben Smith
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Parry and Cr Jeff Johnson

The **Motion** was **CARRIED**.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Parry and Cr Jeff Johnson

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RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Nathan Willis)

That Council approves the exhibition of the draft schedule of fees and charges for 2018/19 as attached, including any amendments resulting from this meeting.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Parry and Cr Jeff Johnson

Cr Eoin Johnston left the meeting at 05:40 pm.

4.9 Workforce Plan - 2018/19

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Ben Smith)

1. That Council approves the reallocation of the capital expenditure projects for stormwater, as outlined in this report, to fund a new permanent position of stormwater officer to achieve improved outcomes for Council's stormwater management program.
2. That Council approves the exhibition of the draft Workforce Plan as part of the exhibition of the draft 2018/19 Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Parry, Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Eoin Johnston

4.10 Long Term Financial Plan - General Fund

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Sharon Cadwallader)

That Council approves the exhibition of the draft Long Term Financial Plan (budget) document, as attached to this report, including any amendments arising from this meeting.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Parry, Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Eoin Johnston

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4.11 Delivery Program and Operational Plan - Exhibition

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Ben Smith)

That Council approves the exhibition of the draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan document, as attached to this report, inclusive of any changes arising from this meeting.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Parry, Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Eoin Johnston

4.12 Swimming Pools Redevelopment - Update

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Sharon Cadwallader)

1. That Council approves the revised 2017/18 budget for the swimming pools as per Tables One and Two of this report.
2. That Council approves the revised project redevelopment budgets for the swimming pools as per Tables Three and Four of this report.
3. That Council authorises the General Manager to obtain additional loan funding of up to a maximum of \$800,000 (if needed) to finance the extra costs for the redevelopment relating to the asbestos removal and power augmentation.
4. That Council approves the commencement of the 2018/19 swimming pool season based on an opening date of late July / 1 August, and a closing date of 31 May 2019. That Council notes that it is also planned to open to 7pm Monday to Friday to provide an improved level of service to the community.
5. That Council approves the inclusion of the swimming pool financial plan and draft fees and charges, as attached to this report, in the draft 2018/19 Delivery Program and Operational Plan for public exhibition.
6. That Council receive regular reports on the performance, both financial and otherwise, on the operation of the swimming pools during the 2018/19 to allow assessments to be made on the length of the season, the pricing and the operating hours.

FOR VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Phillip Meehan, Cr Stephen McCarthy, Cr Sharon Cadwallader and Cr Ben Smith

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Nathan Willis and Cr Keith Williams

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Parry, Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Eoin Johnston

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5. Confidential Session

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Sharon Cadwallader)

That Council moves into committee of the whole with the meeting closed to the public, to consider the following items in accordance with Section 10A (2) of the Local Government Act 1993.

5.1 Swimming Pools Redevelopment - Contract Dispute (Confidential)

Reason for Confidentiality

This report is **CONFIDENTIAL** in accordance with Section 10A(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1993. which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following:-

- c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business

and in accordance with 10D(2)(c), on balance, the discussion of the matter in an open meeting is not considered to be in the public interest as it contains information that if released, could prejudice the outcome of any possible litigation.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Parry, Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Eoin Johnston

(The Council moved into Confidential Session at 6.00 pm).

Open Council

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Nathan Willis/Cr Sharon Cadwallader)

That Council move into Open Council and out of Committee of the Whole.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Parry, Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Eoin Johnston

(The Council moved into Open Council at 6.07 pm).

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The General Manager reported to the Open Meeting the recommendations made while in Confidential Session:

5.1 Swimming Pools Redevelopment - Contract Dispute (Confidential)

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Phillip Meehan)

1. That Council notes the information regarding the contractual dispute with Woollams Constructions for the Swimming Pools Redevelopment Project and authorises the General Manager to deny the claim and confirm to Woollams, Council reserves all of its contractual rights in respect of this dispute.
2. That Council notes the legal advice in respect to the power augmentation associated with the Swimming Pools Redevelopment Project and authorises the General Manager to commence action as per that advice.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Parry, Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Eoin Johnston

Adoption of Recommendations from Confidential Session

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Nathan Willis)

That the recommendations made whilst in Confidential Session, be adopted.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Parry, Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Eoin Johnston

MEETING CLOSURE

6.08 pm