

**1. Attendance and Apologies**

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

Pat Carney – Wardell Progress Association  
Lois Wright - Plateau Seniors  
Mary Birch – Wollongbar Progress Association  
Ron Birch – Wollongbar Progress Association  
Jim Hahn – Probus Club of Alstonville  
Marilyn Hahn – Probus Club of Alstonville  
Geoff Gardiner – Alstonville Plateau Historical Society  
Malcolm Johnson - Ballina Environment Society  
Russell Priddle – Alstonville Football Club  
Christine Eggins – Alstonville Asphalt Watch  
Des Bourke – Alstonville Lions Club  
Steve Miler – Rous Mill Ratepayers  
Richard Lutze – Alstonville Wollongbar Chamber of Commerce

**Others in Attendance**

Doug Lipscombe – Wollongbar Progress Association

**Staff in Attendance**

Matthew Wood, Group Manager Development and Environmental Health Group  
Linda Coulter, Manager Financial Services

**Apologies**

Councillor Sharon Parry  
Elva Fitzell – Rotary e-Club of NextGen  
Wayne Garrard – Alstonville Cricket Club  
Jane Gardiner – Alstonville Plateau Historical Society  
Tyrone McGillick – Alstonville Asphalt Watch

The apologies were accepted.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Nil

**3. Deputations**

Nil

**4. Confirmation of Minutes 13 September 2018**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 September 2018 were confirmed as a true and correct record with one amendment as noted below (Jim Hahn and Mary Birch).

Councillor Eoin Johnston requested that the reference to the Rous Mill Ratepayers board in item 8(d) be changed to the Rous Mill Recreational Reserve Trust.

**5. Presentation by Council Staff**

Linda Coulter, Manager Financial Services, made a presentation to the Committee on Council's Financial Services Section and 2017/18 financial results.

Mary Birch asked for an overview of proportion of ratepayers that find it difficult to pay rates. Councillor Smith indicated 3.38% is the figure for outstanding rates. Linda advised this is relatively low compared to other LGAs.

Ms Birch also asked whether a system for progressive payment of rates is still in place. Linda Coulter advised that a system enabling payment via direct debit on various time cycles is available. Council staff will consider publicising this.

Councillor Johnston enquired about inequity in rates and in particular, concern about OSSM inspection fees. Concern was also raised by Pat Carney about the requirement to pay a Council inspection fee when individuals are also required to have and pay for a private inspection. To be referred to Council's Environmental and Public Health Section for further information.

**6. Business Arising from Minutes –13 September 2018**

**(a) Bulwinkel Park – Tree Limbs Overhanging Power Lines**

The information provided in the agenda was noted.

Malcolm Johnson provided an overview of the status of the project. Progress is pending a response from Essential Energy. Councillor Smith indicated he would follow up with Council's Open Space and Reserves Section.

Mr Johnson also requested that the current shelter in the park be demolished on the basis of anti-social behaviour in the shelter and that it is generally in an unclean state. To be referred to Council's Open Space and Reserves Section for consideration.

**(b) Rifle Range Road Speed Sign Request**

The information provided in the agenda was noted.

Mary Birch raised concern that the new signage is not easily seen due to overhanging vegetation. To be referred to Council's Engineering Works Section for review.

**(c) Plateau Skate Park – Site Options**

The information provided in the agenda was noted.

Richard Lutz raised the mention of the skate park in the Wollongbar Strategic Plan. Councillor Smith advised the strategic plan will not determine the skate park location. The location of the facility is a decision that will be made by the Council, with further site options analysis underway.

**(d) Condition of Alstonville Preschool Car Park Area**

The information provided in the agenda was noted.

**(e) Teven Road and Little Place Stormwater**

The information provided in the agenda was noted.

**7. Intersection Bruxner Highway and Ballina Road, Alstonville**

Mayor Wright provided an overview of the progress on the intersection improvement works including a change to the intersection configuration and a six month trial of no right turn onto Bruxner Highway from 3pm to 6pm.

**8. Council Documents on Exhibition**

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

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

**(a) Wardell On Site Sewer Management**

Pat Carney raised concern about a Council employee who required new Septic system for properties along the waterfront. Mr Carney raised concern that Council requires quarterly reporting by private contractors at a cost of \$90 per property per time and this is submitted to Council. Mr Carney enquired whether this is still required and if so requested confirmation as to why the reporting is required. To be referred to Council's Environmental and Public Health Section for review.

**(b) Rous Mill Recreation Reserve**

Steve Miller advised that the Rous Mill Recreation Reserve Trust is removing dangerous trees. Mr Miller advised that the Council land on the Cemetery Road road verge near the tennis courts contains a significant area of weeds. The Trust would like Council to assist in the removal of the weeds. To be referred to Council's Engineering Works Section for review.

**(c) Water Extraction Proposal**

Mary Birch raised the development application for water extraction on land at Ellis Road. Matthew Wood provided an overview of the application and the process for assessment.

Malcolm Johnson tabled a document making various points about groundwater on the Alstonville Plateau. Mr Wood advised the document would be included as a submission in relation to the development application.

Several members of the Committee asked whether staff could provide further details about the proposal to the Committee. Mr Wood advised staff would consider providing further information on the application to the C Ward Committee in future.

**(d) Green Street Footpath**

Lois Wright raised concern about the condition of the footpath at end of Green Street near Sullivan Nicolaides. In particular the gradient of the path is difficult for mobility scooters to navigate. To be referred to Council's Engineering Works Section for review.

**(e) Elizabeth Ann Brown Memorial Park**

Richard Lutz enquired about the refurbishment of Elizabeth Ann Brown Memorial Park. Mayor Wright advised some works are planned but a timeline is not yet set. Mr Lutz suggested public art for the site as part of the war memorial. Mr Lutze also suggested that a disabled car parking space would be beneficial along with 45 degree angle parking through extension of parking into the park. To be referred to Council's Open Space and Reserves Section for review.

**(f) Services Club Sign**

Jim Hahn advised that the services club sign near Frank Street can be removed as details are now available in Alstonville Plaza. To be referred to Council's Engineering Works Section for consideration.

**(g) NBN Works Green Street**

Russell Priddle advised that a section of footpath in Green Street near the stop sign remains disturbed from work undertaken in relation to the NBN. To be referred to Council's Engineering Works Section for review.

**(h) Boral Asphalt Plant**

Christine Eggins provided an overview of Asphalt Plant issues. In particular, Ms Eggins described a distinct strong odour and fine mist/particulates floating in the air observed on the evening of 31 October. Ms Eggins also raised concern about truck movements along Teven Road. Matthew Wood advised that the matter has been reported to the EPA and encouraged residents to report such observations direct to the EPA.

**(i) Street Lighting**

Richard Lutz enquired about the street lights in the main street being replaced, the concern being that the light fittings might be changed. Councillor Smith indicated that Council has been advised by Essential Energy the fittings will be retained (i.e. it is the light bulb being replaced). To be referred to Council's Engineering Works Section for confirmation.

**(j) Speed and Road Condition at Rous**

Councillor Johnston raised concern about traffic speed and road condition at Rous Mill. A response from Council's Civil Services Group was provided as follows:

*Staff recently reviewed and rejected a request for general warning signs of the type. The reason for this decision was staff did not identify any exceptional circumstances at this location.*

*The general principle is, to maintain their effectiveness, general warning signs should only be applied where motorists can expect higher levels of risk compared to the remainder of the network.*

*The pedestrian activity and driveway geometry at this location was assessed as being typical of the Shire's rural environment and therefore the signs were not appropriate and the adjustment of the 60km zone and approach warning for that was the preferred response.*

The Committee was advised that if there are details of exceptional circumstances and incident history staff are not aware of, members could provide details and staff can further review this matter.

**(k) Australia Day Award Nominations**

Councillor Smith invited nominations for the Australia Day Awards and distributed nomination forms.

**10. General Business**

Nil

**11. Reporting of Safety Related Matters**

The information provided in the agendas was noted.

**12. Next Meeting**

Thursday 14 March 2019 at 5.00 pm

**Meeting Closure**

6.30 pm