

1. Attendance and Apologies

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

Pat Carney – Wardell Progress Association
Mary Birch – Wollongbar Progress Association
Jim Hahn – Probus Club of Alstonville
Steve Miller – Rous Mill Ratepayers
Russell Priddle – Alstonville FC
Des Burke – Alstonville Lions
Malcolm Johnson – Ballina Environment Society
Ria Keenan – Alstonville Community Preschool

Others in Attendance

Marilyn Hahn – Probus Club of Alstonville
Marilyn Perkins – Wollongbar Progress Association
Ron Birch – Wollongbar Progress Association
Jeffrey Gibbs – Wollongbar Progress Association

Staff in Attendance

Matthew Wood – Director Planning and Environmental Health

Apologies

Wayne Garrard – Alstonville Cricket Club
Bill Johnson – Alstonville Wollongbar Chamber of Commerce
Barry Jeffress – Tuckombil Landcare
Councillor Sharon Parry

2. Declarations of Interest

Nil.

3. Deputations

Nil.

4. Confirmation of Minutes 12 September 2019

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 September 2019 were confirmed as a true and correct record (Jim Hahn/Pat Carney).

5. Business Arising from Minutes – 12 September 2019

(a) Mowing of Park at Rifle Range Road (Old Drive in Site)

The information provided in the agenda was noted.

(b) Open Space and Community Facilities Contributions Plan

The information provided in the agenda was noted.

Marilyn Perkins enquired about the likely timing of community engagement and the process to be applied in relation to infrastructure planning for Wollongbar. Matthew Wood advised that the timing and process is being considered but is not yet confirmed. Local community interest groups will be invited to provide feedback.

(c) Safety Alstonville Main Street Pedestrian Crossing

The information provided in the agenda was noted.

(d) Duplication of Entry Roads into Ballina - Bikeways

The information provided in the agenda was noted.

(e) Support Provided by Council to Crawford House

The information provided in the agenda was noted.

(f) Bulwinkle Park Improvement Works – Offer of financial support for shelter and seating

The information provided in the agenda was noted.

Malcolm Johnson asked for a staff member to make contact with the group to discuss the proposed works. To be referred to Council's Open Spaces Section.

(g) Wardell Shade Shelters

The information provided in the agenda was noted.

6. Presentation by Council Staff

Matthew Wood made a presentation to the Committee on Building Services functions.

Malcolm Johnson enquired about the status of Alstonville/Wollongbar RFS premises improvements (turn around area). To be referred to Operations Support Section for feedback.

7. Review of Ward Committee Membership

The information provided in the agenda was noted.

8. Council Documents on Exhibition

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

9. Reporting of Safety Related Matters

The information provided in the agenda was noted.

10. Items raised by members of the Committee

(a) Rous Mill Recreation Area

Steve Miller queried the zoning of the Rous Mill Recreation Reserve, considering various uses which may not be compatible with the zone. Matthew Wood indicated the first step is to confirm the nature of uses that are preferred for further consideration in relation to the zone.

(b) Devil's Elbow Road Works

Steve Miller enquired about the status of the Devil's Elbow geotechnical survey and road rehabilitation works. Steve is seeking advice on the timing of the rehabilitation works. To be referred to Council's Engineering Works Section.

(c) Water Availability and Fire Management

Steve Miller commented on the value of having a fire plan for properties on the Plateau noting that water tanks are running dry and creek systems are drying.

Concern expressed about long term planning for water supply and water for fire fighting by Rous Water.

Councillor Smith indicated Rous Water has a future water supply strategy in development.

Mr Miller queried opportunities for the LEP to limit land uses that require water such as bottled water extraction. Matthew Wood and Councillor Johnston advised that further reporting on the LEP and limitations on bottled water extraction will be presented to Council in the coming months. Mr Miller also suggested there may be benefit in looking at limitations on agricultural land uses that require substantial water.

(d) North Coast Recycling Facility DA 2017/600

Ron Birch asked about the status of DA 2017/600. Matthew Wood advised the application is being reported to the Northern Regional Planning Panel on 20 November 2019 for determination.

Jeffrey Gibbs provided comments on the historic operation of the North Coast Recycling facility. Mr Gibbs tabled emails relating to Council use of the facility in 2016. Matthew Wood advised that Council ceased using the facility in June 2016

following investigation of the matters raised in the emails. Use was recommenced following issue of an occupation certificate for the facility.

Ron Birch asked whether pollutants from the operation of the proposed facility will be policed.

Mr Gibbs also made comment about Council using the facility and whether this was legal.

Matthew Wood advised that compliance action is being undertaken having regard for the land owner having a current development application under assessment. Operation of the proposed facility in future is subject to the decision of the Northern Regional Planning Panel.

(e) Return and Earn Deposit Station

Malcolm Johnson raised concern about the availability of a drop point in Ballina Shire. Councillor Wright advised the East Ballina Lions is offering collection of collectable items.

Jim Hahn also advised there is a collection facility at Goonellabah.

(f) Various Updates Alstonville

Councillor Johnston noted that Australia vs New Zealand school water polo test matches are to be played at the Alstonville Pool.

Councillor Johnson also noted:

- potential for a soccer club to be established at Wollongbar.
- new fish and chop shop in town operating.
- Christmas carols in the park on 13 December 2019.
- Commonwealth Bank closure not likely to be reversed despite request for reconsideration by Council.

(g) Various Updates Wardell

Pat Carney mentioned the Wardell Christmas Hall light up (7 December 2019) and that the Pacific Highway is likely to have bypassed Wardell by the time of the next C Ward meeting.

(h) Lids for Kids

Marilyn Perkins advised that lids can be dropped to the Alstonville community preschool, Wollongbar chemist or Wollongbar hall.

11. **General Business**

Nil

12. **Next Meeting** - Thursday 12 March 2020 at 5.00 pm

13. **Meeting Closure** - The meeting was closed at 6.10pm