

1. Attendance and Apologies

Members:

Cr Ben Smith (Chair)
Cr David Wright (Mayor)

Mary Birch – Wollongbar Progress Association (via Zoom)
Pat Carney - Wardell Progress Association
Steve Miller - Rous Mill Ratepayers Association (via Zoom)
Des Burke - Alstonville Lions (via Zoom)
Jane Gardiner – Ballina Plateau Historical Society (via Zoom)
Jim Hahn - Probus Club of Alstonville (via Zoom)

Council Staff:

Matt Wood - Director Planning and Environmental Health Division
Janelle Snellgrove - Executive Support Officer

Others in Attendance:

Simon Chate (via Zoom)
Marilyn Perkins - Wollongbar Progress Association (via Zoom)
Marilyn Hahn (via Zoom)

Apologies

Wayne Garrard - Alstonville & District Cricket Association

Recommendation:

That the apologies be accepted (Pat Carney / Steve Miller).

2. Declarations of Interest

Nil.

3. Confirmation of Minutes 13 May 2021

Recommendation:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 May 2021 be accepted as a true and correct record with the following amendment:

7. (b) Steve expressed concerns about future water supplies and that bores ~~should~~ **were** only be used when there hasn't been much rain.

(Pat Carney / Steve Miller).

4. General Business

a) Next C Ward Committee Meeting and Election Information

Due to the scheduling of the Local Government election on Saturday 4 September 2021, the next meeting of the C Ward Committee is planned for Thursday 11 November 2021 at 5.00 pm.

The next Ward Committee meeting has been deferred as the new Council will need to confirm the committee structures (including Ward Committees) for the next three years.

Following the September Ordinary Council meeting, the process will be that all existing members will be written to, to advise of the outcomes of the September Ordinary meeting and to confirm, where appropriate, if the current representatives from the various organisations with the relevant Wards wish to remain on the committee, along with calling for expressions of interest for any new members.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

The members were further advised that at the September Ordinary meeting Council will reaffirm the Ward committees. The current process is that the existing committee members will be confirmed and new committee members will be invited.

b) Response – Notice of Motion – Policing in Alstonville

At the April Ordinary meeting resolved to Council make representation to NSW Police Minister and the Local Area Commander to review the allocation of Police numbers in the Ballina Shire with specific emphasis on the actual rostered shifts on the Alstonville Plateau.

A copy of the response is included in Attachment 2.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Matt Wood noted that Council is still awaiting other responses.

5. Outstanding Business – 13 May 2021

a) Future “C” Ward Meetings Venue

Cr Eoin Johnston requested that meetings return to Crawford House.

Staff Comment

Council is considering the option of meeting at the Wollongbar Hall for future meetings.

However, returning to the plateau is difficult due to Covid restrictions at the moment and Council will be guided by the Department of Health regulations.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

b) Pedestrian Access Signage at Alstonville Roundabout

Pedestrians have been observed accessing the Plaza via the roundabout adjacent to the centre. It was requested that signage advising pedestrians not cross at the roundabout be erected.

Staff Comment

Pedestrian fencing or other infrastructure option has been registered to the database for the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP), and will be considered when the PAMP is next reviewed.

The matter of wayfinding signage to assist visitors to find a safe pedestrian path from Main Street to the shopping centre in Alstonville (crossing Daley Street) has been referred to the Promotional and Interpretive Signage Taskforce.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

c) Delivery Program and Operational Plan 2021/2022 – 2024/2025

Marilyn Perkins enquired if Council could address Wollongbar Progress Association to discuss Wollongbar works proposed in the DPOP. Kate Kempshall also requested this on behalf of Alstonville Wollongbar Chamber of Commerce.

Staff Comment

The DPOP presentation provided by staff to the community on Tuesday 4 May 2021 at 6pm is available via the following link:

<https://vimeo.com/545275630/52de17b0b6>.

Staff will provide a short presentation on key items relating to C Ward at the meeting to enable the provision of information to all groups that are part of the ward committee.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Matt Wood provided updates on key projects including the Wollongbar District Park, Wollongbar residential development and proposed off leash dog area at Killarney Park.

Des Burke raised the letter-box drop from Council relating to the feasibility of Killarney Park being an off-leash dog area and was concerned for neighbouring properties.

Matt Wood advised that Killarney Park has been identified as a potential off leash area for dogs having considered current and likely future demand for such a facility. This was done in the context of a review of the Companion Animals Management. Recognising that people live nearby, Council is

currently undertaking a community consultation process (including a letter-box drop) and will consider feedback from the community.

Des Burke commented it would be a shame to see the shelter shed go. Matt Wood indicated retention of the shelter can be considered in relation to the feedback received.

Marilyn Perkins enquired if passive recreation areas at the Wollongbar sports fields can be considered for an off leash dog area as this is currently where most people take their dogs. Matt Wood advised that this has not been the preferred location but it can be considered further in light of feedback received.

Pat Carney expressed disappointment that the Cedar Street footpath works was not brought forward in Council's works program to be built this financial year. Matt Wood advised that the works were considered by Council in relation to the works program and the decision on the program had regard for the submission made on this matter.

Action: Marilyn Perkins requested Council provide a presentation on key projects in future.

6. Business with Notice from Members

a) Draft Plan of Management for Community Land

Jane Gardiner received a response from Council that the Ocean View Reserve "warrants further investigation into categorisation as a Natural Area - bushland". Council staff are aware it is mostly vegetated and have advised this will happen when the next Plan of Management is reviewed (as there was no time to review it for this Plan of Management). Jane would like to know when the next review will occur? At present it is categorised as General Community use, Jane would also like to know what this means in terms of its management.

Staff Comment

The Plan of Management for Community Land is not scheduled for review in the short term. However, the public land management framework is monitored by staff and changes are at times proposed where a number of matters requiring review and address are identified. The timing for the next review of the POM is dependent upon resources and the urgency of potential changes identified.

Community land is managed in accordance with the core objectives as outlined in the Local Government Act 1993 (refer to Chapter 2 and Table 4 of the draft Plan of Management for Community Land 2021). However, Council has resolved to prepare a new vegetation management plan for this reserve which will provide contemporary direction for the management of vegetation on the land.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Jane Gardiner sought confirmation of the Council contact for the preparation of the vegetation management plan. Matt Wood advised the contact will be James Brideson (Open Spaces Section).

Matt Wood noted that the reason for the POM update was that Council was required to integrate Crown Land into a plan of management under Crown Land reforms. This was the priority for the review undertaken.

b) Height Reductions for Building Pads in Flood Zones

Pat Carney enquired if Ballina Council is hoping to have zero carbon emissions by 2030, does that also mean that they will reduce the height for building pads in flood zones?

Staff Comment

Council's Climate Action Policy targets relate to the management of emissions generated through Council's operations. These targets do not relate directly to Council's floodplain management policy. It is not expected that the emissions reduction targets will alter required fill levels for development within the shire.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

7. Business without Notice

a) Boral Asphalt Plant

Tyrone McGillick (by written request) enquired about what took place at the Asphalt plant in the past week that required numerous emergency response vehicles and the closure of Gap Road. Tyrone also requested to discuss the possibility of relocating the large explosives deposit on-site to a more suitable location.

Staff Comment

Boral advised that there was an LPG related incident at the Alstonville Asphalt Plant on 28 June 2021. Emergency services were called and attended site and the issue was addressed. There were no injuries or property damage during the event.

Ron Southon Pty Ltd has a lease over Lot 3 DP 1130300 which adjoins the Tuckombil Quarry. The lease does not expire until 31 December 2024.

b) Election Venues

Mary Birch enquired if venues have been selected for the election. The Wollongbar Hall is hired Saturdays so needs to know so that bookings can be managed.

Post Meeting Note:

The Electoral Commission has advised the voting centres have been booked for the upcoming Local Government Election. The Wollongbar Hall has not been selected by the commission as a voting venue. The voting centres will be listed on the Electoral Commission's website this week.

c) Wollongbar Sports Fields Public Toilets

Mary Birch raised that the Wollongbar Sports Fields toilets are not open on the weekends.

Post Meeting Note:

Toilets accessible to the public are available at the Wollongbar sporting fields at times when sport is being played. However, at present, public toilets are not available outside the times when the fields and facilities are used for organised sport.

Having regard for the feedback this will be reviewed by Council. The review will include consideration of usage patterns.

d) Over-allocated Water

Steve Miller raised the concern about over-allocated water supplies in dry periods.

The main concern is sustainability due to agricultural pursuits and the impact on creeks. Two areas of particular concern being cease to pump and DA approvals for agricultural activities. Steve suggested DA approvals should include a management plan for dry periods and there should be more regulations.

Matt Wood advised the issues around water access are addressed in the development application process for development where consent is required (many types of agriculture do not require development consent). Council issues Integrated Development referrals to relevant State Government Agencies. NRAR regulates water extraction in NSW and Council is guided by feedback from this agency in the development assessment process.

Steve suggested restriction for ground water use similar to town water usage.

e) Byron Studios – Tuckombil Quarry

Jane Gardiner enquired if Byron Studios are considering relocating to Tuckombil Quarry and will this affect how long they stay at the Alstonville Cultural Centre?

Cr Smith indicated that there was a Notice of Motion at the June Ordinary meeting. There appears to be a range of potential benefits such as a larger site, potential employment for the area. The lease still applies at the Alstonville Cultural Centre and is not due to expire until the end of 2022. Council has not yet made a decision on the future of the use of the facility post the existing lease.

Matt Wood advised there are zoning issues relating to the Tuckombil Quarry that will need to be resolved and that other community options may also apply for the site.

Marilyn Hahn enquired who owns Byron Studios. The members were directed to the Byron Studios website for further information.

Jane Gardiner enquired about the relocation of heritage items from Lumley Park to the showground and whether Byron Studios' occupation of the cultural centre impacts this.

Matt Wood advised the showground has an approval for the relocation and Council's arrangements with Byron Studios does not limit the relocation as approved.

8. Update on COVID-19

No changes reported.

9. Council Documents on Exhibition

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

10. Next Meeting - Thursday 11 November 2021 at 5.00 pm

11. Meeting Closure - The meeting closed at 6.10 pm