

**1. Attendance and Apologies**

*Members:*

Cr Ben Smith (Chair, via Zoom)  
Cr David Wright (Mayor, via Zoom)  
Cr Eoin Johnston (via Zoom)  
Cr Sharon Parry (via Zoom)

Mary Birch - Wollongbar Progress Association (via Zoom)  
Pat Carney - Wardell Progress Association (via Zoom)  
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)  
Wayne Garrard - Alstonville and District Cricket Association (via Zoom)  
Malcolm Johnson – Ballina Environment Society (via Zoom)

*Council Staff:*

Matt Wood - Director Planning and Environmental Health Division (via Zoom)  
Janelle Snellgrove - Executive Support Officer (via Zoom)

*Others in Attendance:*

*Apologies:*

Russell Priddle – Alstonville FC

**Recommendation:**

That the apologies be accepted (Wayne Garrard/Cr Sharon Parry).

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Nil.

**3. Confirmation of Minutes 8 July 2021**

**Recommendation:**

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 July 2021 be accepted as a true and correct record (Des Bourke/Steve Miller).

#### **4. General Business**

##### **a) 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 letter submitted by Council and the response is included in Attachment 2.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

##### **b) C Ward Key Projects Update**

An update to be provided to the Committee on current key projects in the C Ward area.

Matt Wood provided a brief overview on various current key projects in the Alstonville/Wollongbar area:

##### Wollongbar District Park

Construction has commenced but has been delayed due to Queensland contractors not being able to attend the site due to covid restrictions/lockdown. The Mayor advised concrete was being poured today (9/9/21).

##### Wollongbar Council Subdivision

Subdivision of Council land near the district park is progressing but timing for land release not yet confirmed.

##### Tuckombil Quarry

Council has commissioned a consultant to investigate and report on future land use options and development potential for the Tuckombil Quarry site, including the use of the land for film production related activities by Byron Studios.

##### Duck Creek Mountain Bike Facility

The mountain bike club is seeking to expand the facility. Council intends to undertake an investigation of the old quarry site adjacent (Stokers Quarry) for expansion of mountain activity. Initial review undertaken with more detailed analysis to be commenced this financial year.

##### Bullwinkle Park

Council's landscape architect is currently drawing up plans. Council intends to engage with key stakeholders on the proposed design plan in the near future. A development application is required as it is a heritage area.

Masterplan for the Alstonville Cemetery

Council will be preparing a masterplan for the Alstonville Cemetery layout for the long term. This is expected to commence late this financial year.

Fitzroy Park

Fitzroy Park project will commence after the completion of Bullwinkle Park design work. Council would like to engage Wardell area school students to obtain ideas on the composition of the facilities (depending on covid limitations).

Environmental Protection Zones

Council staff are working to integrate various deferred matter areas into the BLEP 2012. As part of this current work, the existing urban buffer zone under BLEP 1987 around Alstonville and Wollongbar will be retained (no change).

Alstonville Village Centre Project

Council has been investigating increased urban density in the Alstonville village centre (being an action in the Alstonville Strategic Plan). This has included consideration of heritage values. Work is ongoing. Any proposed changes will be subject to public exhibition.

Killarney Park

The matter of the Killarney Park dog off leash area, proposed as part of the review of the Companion animals Management Plan, is being reported back to Council in September.

Environmental Restoration Works

Environmental restoration works around the indigenous protected area at Wardell are planned. Plans to support this currently being prepared.

Work on vegetation management plans for rainforest at Alstonville and Wollongbar planned for later this financial year.

**c) Update - C Ward Committee Meetings and Election Information**

Advice was received on Monday 26 July advising that Council elections have been postponed until 4 December 2021. The decision to postpone all council elections has been made in response to the escalating outbreak of the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus in Greater Sydney and the potential for further outbreaks in regional areas.

Current Councillors and popularly elected mayors will continue to hold their civic offices until council elections are held.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

**5. Outstanding Business – 13 May 2021**

Nil.

**6. Business with Notice from Members**

**a) Future Plans for Alstonville Quarry**

Tyrone McGillick requested an update on any future plans for the Alstonville Quarry.

**Staff Comment**

Council has engaged a consultant to review alternative use options for Tuckombil Quarry. One of these options includes a potential lease of part of the site to Byron Studios. This matter was reported to the July 2021 Ordinary Council meeting.

A copy of the report to the Council can be found at <https://ballina.nsw.gov.au/files/ordinary-minutes-22-july-2021-2.pdf>. The matter is item 9.8 in the agenda.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

**b) Bullwinkle Park Update**

Mal Johnson requested an update on intended works for Bullwinkle Park.

**Staff Comment**

The planned stakeholder consultation has been delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions. Council expects to be commencing the stakeholder engagement program shortly to inform design work and preparation of a development application.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

**c) Parking issues with High Density Developments**

Jane Gardiner would like to discuss the potential parking issues with high density developments in our shire.

**Staff Comment**

In this circumstance, the development is complying development under State Government policy and has been certified by a private certifier (i.e. Council is not the planning authority in this case).

Information provided by the private certifier in response to an enquiry from Jane is provided in Attachment 3.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Jane further raised high density developments close to the village and potential parking issues. Jane suggested factors such as those arising in relation to the complying development should be considered when looking at higher density outcomes. Jane noted that a heritage conservation area under the LEP is a potential way of limiting complying development.

Matt Wood indicated car parking and amenity are considerations in looking at higher density outcomes in the village centre. However, Council's controls can be overridden by complying development set by the State Government noting a heritage conservation area is a potential one way to limit this.

d) **Alstonville Wollongbar Fire Brigade Update**

Mal Johnson requested Council provide a progress update on the work plans to complete the fire station forecourt and fire truck turnaround at Alstonville Wollongbar Fire Brigade as the fire season commences at the beginning of September.

Staff Comment

A proposed design for the turn-bay at the Alstonville Wollongbar RFS Shed has been prepared. The design has been shown and is supported by the local and regional Rural Fire Service (RFS) representatives.

Since meeting the RFS representatives on site, quotes have been sourced and discussions had with the planning department on development requirements.

There is currently no budget allocation for these works. The Corporate and Community Division of Council will prepare a report to Councillors in February 2022 to consider the allocation of budget for these works as part of the 2022/2023 capital works program.

This status update has previously been provided to the local RFS representative, Tony Mannering, and the regional RFS superintendent, David Cook.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Matt Wood further advised the estimated cost for a concrete apron are more than anticipated and are not currently budgeted for. Grant funding may be an option to obtain the required funding.

Mal Johnson requested this is addressed quickly as the RFS are restricted and there are concerns if there is a call out and a vehicle is on the driveway and the fire truck is forced to drive on the lawn it may get bogged.

The brigade's understanding is that Council had previously agreed to undertake the driveway works.

Cr Smith advised there can be further consideration of funding options for the driveway.

In relation to this item, Malcolm advised that Roy Cormick had passed away.

*Vale Roy Cormick - passed at the age of 64. (see attachment 1).*

e) **Fitzroy Park, Wardell Upgrade Update**

Pat Carney enquired about the status for the planning of the upgrade of Fitzroy Park, Wardell. An amount of \$252,000 of government grants are being spent on a playground at Pop Dennison Park. Pat enquired if some of this money could be dispersed throughout the shire rather than on one project.

Staff Comment

Preliminary project planning for the playground upgrade at Fitzroy Park has commenced, with initial stakeholder consultation currently expected to start in October.

The grant for the Pop Denison Park Masterplan Implementation (Regional Playground) was awarded under the Stronger Country Community Fund and remains committed for this project.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

f) **Off Leash Dog Park - Wollongbar**

Cr Eoin Johnston raised the proposed off leash dog park at Wollongbar as he has received a number of complaints about the proposal.

Staff Comment

Council has received several submissions regarding the off leash dog exercise area at Killarney Park, Wollongbar. Staff are reviewing these submissions and a report will be presented to the Ordinary Council Meeting in September 2021 to seek Council direction.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Matt Wood advised that submissions have closed and Council staff are now conducting the assessment.

7. Business without Notice

a) **Wollongbar Hall Vandalism**

Mary Birch raised the issue of children vandalising the Wollongbar Hall and intimidating people. Police have been informed and have undertaken surveillance. Police have suggested cameras and Ron Birch has discussed with Craig Brown. The camera that is recommended is around \$1000. Mary requested Councillors support the costs of the camera and installation.

Cr Smith suggested the Progress Association submit a formal request to Council.

**Action:** Refer to Manager Community Facilities for consideration.

b) **Wardell Toilets Signage**

Pat Carney requested direction signage in the Wardell village centre for the new toilets located in Fitzroy Park at Wardell.

**Action:** Refer to Promotional and Interpretive Signage Taskforce for consideration.

c) **Re-opening of Council's Facilities**

Mary Birch enquired if the pools and other Council facilities will be open now we're coming out of lockdown.

The Mayor advised the pools will be open from Saturday at 7am (11/9). Matt advised the other facilities will re-open based on the provisions of the public health orders.

d) **Council Building Maintenance - Gratitude**

Jane Gardiner expressed gratitude to Council for repainting Tintenbar Council Building and for cleaning the gutters and drainpipes at Crawford House.

**Action:** Refer to Manager Community Facilities

**8. Update on COVID-19**

Discussed as part of business without notice.

**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 5.55 pm**

*Attachment 1*



**VALE ROY GERARD CORMICK, 1956-2021**

Ballina Shire and North Coast Region has lost an extremely valuable and highly respected human asset with the sudden death of Roy Cormick. Roy recently retired from his work with RMS as a Geotechnical Laboratory Manager who also devoted much of his time volunteering.

Roy joined the Alstonville-Wollongbar Rural Fire Brigade in 1999, serving the community with distinction. As Brigade Captain for 8 years and President for 5 years, Roy steered the Brigade with his high standard of professionalism. His most important priority was to develop a highly trained Brigade which would ensure the safety of all its fire fighters.

Roy was instrumental in bringing Alstonville-Wollongbar Rural Fire Brigade to a Village 2 Status to further assist the local community with Structural Fires and Motor Vehicle Accidents. Assisting when and where you can was everything to Roy, evidenced by countless hours spent at MVA's, Structural Fires, Flood Events and Bushfires. His leadership skills were called upon during State and National Emergencies.

Roy's great sense of community involved the Brigade in fostering close relationships with local community groups such as Alstonville Quota Club, Alstonville Agricultural Society, Alstonville RSL Sub-branch, Nurserymen's Trade Days, Rous Public School Annual Bonfire and other groups.

Roy's children Adam, Grace, Andrew and Jacob were also outstanding Brigade members, backed with strong support from their mother, Julie.

Alstonville-Wollongbar Rural Fire Brigade owes much of its strength to Roy's leadership and Ballina Shire is indebted to his many years of willingly dedicated service to the community.

Vale Roy Cormick