

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
OF BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BALLINA, ON  
07/04/11 AT 4.00 PM**

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**Attendance**

Cr P W Silver (Mayor - in the chair), S L Cadwallader, B C Smith, K H Johnson, R A Hordern, D E Wright, J L Johnson, A J Brown and S M Meehan.

Paul Hickey (General Manager), John Truman (Civil Services Group Manager), Rod Willis (Regulatory Services Group Manager), Steve Barnier (Strategic Services Group Manager), Peter Morgan (Manager Finance & Governance) and Sandra Bailey (Secretary) were in attendance.

There were 16 people in the gallery at this time.

**1. Apologies**

Nil

**2. Declarations of Interest**

**Cr Silver** – declared an interest in Item 4.8 – Swimming Pools – Strategic Plan. (Nature of Interest – non pecuniary - he is a Patron of the Alstonville Swimming Club and has family involvement in water polo). He will be remaining in the meeting while the matter is discussed.

**Cr Silver** – declared an interest in Item 4.1 – Commercial Use of Footpath Fes – 2011/12. (Nature of Interest: non-pecuniary – he is the owner of a commercial property which could be impacted at some stage in the future). He will be remaining in the meeting while the matter is discussed.

**3. Deputations**

- **Anne Marchment** – spoke in favour of Item 4.8 – Swimming Pools – Strategic Plan.
- **Clem MacMahon, Ballina Naval & Maritime Museum** – spoke in relation to Item 4.5 – Budget and Fees and Charges – Updates and in particularly in relation to wooden vessels located at the Museum.
- **Ian Duncan** – spoke in relation to Item 4.7 – Newrybar Community Hall – Public Toilet and On-site Sewage System.

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**4. Committee Reports**

**4.8 Swimming Pools - Strategic Plan**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Susan Meehan/Cr Robyn Hordern)

That Council seek community feedback in response to the attached Ballina Shire Council Aquatic Facilities Strategic Financial Plan Discussion Paper through a public consultation process.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.  
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Moore

**4.5 Budget and Fees and Charges - Updates**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader /Cr Jeff Johnson)

1. That Council approves amendments to the draft budget, as outlined within this report and as per the following table.

Description	Budget as per March Report \$000's	Increase / (Decrease) \$000's	Working Capital Deficit \$000's
<b>Deficit as per March report</b>			<b>198</b>
Regional Library	1,155	11	
Richmond River County Council	210	10	
Tourism Salaries	398	(78)	
Street Cleaning	156	38	
Various Civil Services Budgets	N/A	(19)	
Tree Planting Program	0	15	
Various Operational Budgets	N/A	(15)	
<b>Revised Deficit as per April report</b>			<b>160</b>

2. That the draft fees and charges be amended to include the revised bus shelter advertising fees as follows.

<i>Item</i>	<i>2010/11</i>	<i>2011/12</i>
J Poles (per pole) - Six Months	260	350
J Poles (per pole) - Annual	520	630
Shelters (per shelter) - Six Months	620	840
Shelters (per shelter) - Annual	1,240	1,500

3. That the draft fees and charges be amended to include the new fees for maps as follows.

Non standard aerial photo map  
A0 \$86  
A1 \$68

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A2 \$56

A3 \$35

A4 \$26

4. That Council receive a report regarding the ongoing need for preservation and expansion of the Ballina Naval Museum and associated timber vessels.
5. That Council make a submission to the Richmond River County Council Management Plan requesting clarification as to what the 30% increase is funding and whether it can be spread over two financial years.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Moore

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader /Cr Jeff Johnson)

That Council receive a report on conducting a free ferry day.

FOR VOTE - Cr Silver, Cr Cadwallader, Cr K Johnson, Cr Smith, Cr Wright,  
Cr J Johnson, Cr Brown, Cr Meehan

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Hordern

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Moore

**4.7 Newrybar Community Hall - Public Toilet and On-site Sewage System**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr David Wright/Cr Keith Johnson)

1. That Council approves an adjustment to the 2010/11 budget of \$20,000 for the installation of a new on-site sewage management system at the Newrybar Hall, with this work to be funded through the remaining community halls donations budget (\$8,259) and the balance to be funded by increasing the current deficit.
2. That Council commence the process to amalgamate the two lots of Community Land that are referenced within this report.
3. That Council authorises the use of existing budgets of approximately \$1,500 per annum to be provided to the Newrybar Hall Committee to assist in cleaning public toilet.
4. That Council defer the allocation of any funding for the installation of new public toilet facilities to allow a further assessment to be made of the locality after the relocation of the Rural Fire Service Shed.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Moore

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**4.1 Commercial Use of Footpath Fees - 2011/12**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr David Wright/Cr Robyn Hordern)

That Council notes the contents of this report in respect to the pricing methodology for the commercial use of Council owned footpaths.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Moore

**4.2 Waste Charges - Recycling - 2011/12**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader /Cr Jeff Johnson)

That Council charge \$74/tonne for self hauled recyclables to the waste management centre.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Moore

**4.3 Environmental Action Plan - Priority Actions**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

(Cr David Wright/Cr Sharon Cadwallader )

1. That Council notes the contents of this report regarding the review of the Environmental Action Plan.
2. That Council allocate the estimated income generated by the solar PV systems in the first year to improvements in the lighting efficiency at the Council's Works Depot; as follows
  - a) Refitting external security lighting with energy efficient automatically controlled lighting.
  - b) Installing purpose specific energy efficient lighting and automatic control in the depot work sheds and amenity buildings.
3. That Council receive a report listing actions which Council can take to reduce water, energy and other costs with a payback period of five years or less.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Moore

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**4.4 Policy (Review) - Land Development Reserve - Management**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr David Wright/Cr Sharon Cadwallader )

That Council place the draft Property Activities Reserve Policy, as per the second attachment to this report, on exhibition public comment with any submissions received to be resubmitted back to Council. If no submissions are received then the Policy is considered to be adopted and no further action is required.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.  
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Moore

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Keith Johnson/Cr David Wright)

That the Commercial Services Committee receive a report on a review of the financial performance measures used for Council's commercial/entrepreneurial activities.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.  
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Moore

**4.6 Wardell Community Centre**

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

That Council consult with the existing users of the Centre in regard to the discontinuation of the operation of the Wardell Community Centre effective from the end of July 2011, due to its on-going low level of use and net cost to the community and report back to Council.

The **Motion LAPSED.**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Keith Johnson/Cr David Wright)

1. That Council approves in-principle, the discontinuation of the operation of the Wardell Community Centre unless patronage/costs can be increased/decreased enough to warrant continuing operation.
2. That the Wardell community over the next 12 months be requested to provide a small working party to examine patronage, and cause it to increase, and also find ways to reduce operating costs.
3. That Council assist the Trustees of the Wardell Memorial Hall in preparing an action plan for how to optimise its use.

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FOR VOTE - Cr K Johnson, Cr Smith, Cr Wright, Cr J Johnson, Cr Brown  
AGAINST VOTE - Cr Silver, Cr Cadwallader, Cr Hordern, Cr Meehan  
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Moore

Cr Wright left the meeting at 7.07 pm

**4.9 Fleet Acquisition and Replacement Program**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Sharon Cadwallader )

1. That Council include in the 2011/12 budget a variation to the plant replacement program to include the purchase of the following additional plant items:
  - a) 1 x Backhoe (expansion)
  - b) 1 x Roller (expansion)
  - c) 2 x Tipping Trucks and Dog Trailers (expansion)
  - d) 1 x Water Truck (expansion)
  - e) 1 x Mini Excavator (expansion)
  - f) 2 x Light Tipping Trucks (expanded fleet to be operated by current staff)
  - g) 1 Crew Cab Utility (change in existing fleet to be operated by current staff)
2. That Council approves the financing of items 1 a) to f) from loan funds.
3. That Council endorses the employment of a maximum of six additional staff to ensure the maximum utilisation of the expanded plant fleet, as per items 1 a) to e), with recruitment to take place in line with the timing of the plant purchases.
4. That Council endorses the update of the Ten Year Plant Replacement Program for the purposes of guiding annual budget and long term financial plan preparations, as attached to this report. Subject to points one and two being approved, this program is also to be updated to include the expansion of the plant fleet.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.  
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Moore, Cr Wright

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**4.10 Works Depot - Draft Masterplan**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader /Cr Ben Smith)

1. That Council endorses the "Works Depot - Southern Cross Drive, Ballina - Draft Development Masterplan", as attached, subject to the funding for the works being examined in further detail through an additional report to Council, as per point two.
2. That Council receive a further report examining the impacts of financing the works outlined in point one through the use of an increased oncost rate, with that report also giving consideration to an extension of the works timeframe from five to up to ten years.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.  
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Moore, Cr Wright

**4.11 Roads - Capital Works and Operating Projects**

A **Motion** was moved by Cr Susan Meehan and seconded by Cr Alan Brown.

1. That Council endorses the approach outlined in this report that Council's engineering staff continue to monitor Smith Drive segments 20, 30 and 40 as part of the roads maintenance program, with maintenance works to be undertaken from within existing budgets, when determined necessary (estimate \$75,000).
2. That Council endorses the approach outlined in this report to take no further action on reconstruction work on Smith Drive segment 10 (estimate \$29,000) until intersection works with the Ballina Bypass Alliance project are complete (Segment 10).
3. That Council endorses the approach outlined in this report to not bring forward reconstruction work on Smith Drive segment 20 (estimate \$213,000) as it has been assessed as having a lower priority than other reconstruction works outlined in Council's forward financial plan.
4. That Council commit to improved Ballina Town Entry maintenance within existing budgets until Council road segments become Council responsibility and additional grant funding will likely be received.

Cr J Johnson left the meeting at 07:17 PM.

Cr K Johnson left the meeting at 07:31 PM.

The **Motion** was **LOST**.

FOR VOTE - Cr Brown, Cr Meehan  
AGAINST VOTE - Cr Silver, Cr Cadwallader, Cr Smith, Cr Hordern  
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr K Johnson, Cr Moore, Cr Wright, Cr J Johnson

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**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader /Cr Robyn Hordern)

1. That Council endorses the approach outlined in this report that Council's engineering staff continue to monitor Smith Drive segments 20, 30 and 40 as part of the roads maintenance program, with maintenance works to be undertaken from within existing budgets, when determined necessary (estimate \$75,000).
2. That Council endorses the approach outlined in this report to take no further action on reconstruction work on Smith Drive segment 10 (estimate \$29,000) until intersection works with the Ballina Bypass Alliance project are complete (Segment 10).
3. That Council endorses the approach outlined in this report to not bring forward reconstruction work on Smith Drive segment 20 (estimate \$213,000) as it has been assessed as having a lower priority than other reconstruction works outlined in Council's forward financial plan.
4. That Council endorses the approach to maintain current roadside maintenance practices within existing budgets and the scope of town entry maintenance works be reconsidered when the road segments become Council responsibility after bypass opening. Additional grant funding (which is yet to be determined) will likely be received.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr K Johnson, Cr Moore, Cr Wright, Cr J Johnson

**4.12 Delivery Program and Operational Plan - 2011/12 to 2014/15**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader /Cr Ben Smith)

1. That Council approves the exhibition of the Draft Delivery Program and Draft Operational Plan, as attached, inclusive of any amendments arising from this meeting.
2. That Council consider the provision of a bus shelter on the Pacific Highway in the Deadman's Creek locality as part of the Operational Plan.

Cr K Johnson returned at 07:31 PM

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Moore, Cr Wright, Cr J Johnson

**MEETING CLOSURE**

7.38 pm