

1. Attendance and Apologies

Cr David Wright (Mayor)
Cr Ben Smith
Cr Paul Worth
Lisa Dillon – Alstonville Wollongbar Chamber of Commerce
Les Wiles - Alstonville Lions Club
Eoin Johnston - Rous Mill Ratepayers
Jane Gardiner - Alstonville Plateau Historical Society
Elva Fitzell - Alstonville Rotary Club
Sheila Aveling - Tintenbar School of Arts
Geoff Limbert - Alstonville & District Ratepayers' Association
Malcolm Johnson - Ballina Environment Society
Barry Jeffress - Tuckombil Landcare
Bob Cooper – Legacy/Plateau Seniors

Staff in Attendance

Steve Barnier

Apologies

Cr Keith Johnson
Pat Carney - Wardell Progress Association
Allan Hart – Rotary Club, Ballina on Richmond

The apologies were accepted (Mr Cooper/Mr Limbert).

Others in attendance

Nil

2. Election of Chair

Nominations were called for the position of Chair of the Committee.
Councillor Smith nominated for the position. His nomination was seconded by the Mayor, Councillor Wright.
There being no further nominations, Councillor Smith was elected to the position for an initial period of twelve months.

3. Declarations of Interest

Nil

4. Alstonville Community Pre-School

Steve Barnier provided an update on actions taken concerning the proposal to modify the category of Community Land over part of Crawford Park located immediately behind the Alstonville Swimming Pool. If approved, the new category of General Community Use would enable an application to be considered for the construction of a pre-school on that part of the reserve.

The Committee discussed the proposal at some length. Whilst a consensus view was achieved regarding the need for a new community pre-school in Alstonville, there was no agreement in relation to the suitability of the proposed site.

The site's central location was seen as beneficial in terms of access, but the potential disadvantages were noted as:

- alienation of public open space;
- excessive increases in traffic in the locality;
- conflicts with other established users of the reserve;
- loss of car parking;
- reduced general amenity for nearby residents; and
- conflicts with the use of the pool and restrictions on longer-term pool refurbishment.

The Committee noted that this matter is likely to be reported to the Council for determination at its December Ordinary Meeting.

5. Confirmation of Minutes –12 July 2012

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 July 2012 were accepted as a true and correct record (Mr Jeffress/Mr Johnston).

6. Business arising from Minutes – 12 July 2012

(a) Exclusion Fencing – Gap Road Playing Fields

The outcome of the current grant application for fencing construction is awaited.

(b) Rural Unsealed Roads Maintenance Program

The information provided by Council's Civil Services Group was noted. However, Committee members are interested to receive further advice about the benefit/cost of sealing the shire's gravel roads.

Action: That Council's Civil Services Group provide a further report to the next meeting of the Committee which discusses the respective benefits/costs of implementing a program to seal the shire's rural gravel roads.

(c) Disabled Parking in Alstonville Main Street

The advice provided regarding this matter was noted.

(d) Marking of Small Car Parking Spaces

The advice provided regarding this matter was noted.

7. Council Documents on Exhibition

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

8. Items raised by members of the Committee

- a) Timber seats in the Alstonville main street – The Committee requested that advice be provided concerning the replacement of the timber seats which had been removed to accommodate the village centre upgrade.
- b) Elizabeth Anne Brown Park refurbishment – The Committee requested that cost estimates be provided for the improvement of the Cenotaph/RSL component of this project.
- c) Dalwood Falls - The Committee will welcome the receipt of information which clarifies the ownership and management responsibilities of Dalwood Falls and the adjacent land.
- d) Recent Council election – Mr Johnston conveyed his congratulations to the Mayor and to the C Ward Councillors who were successful in the September local government election.

The Committee requested that Council's General Manager prepare and forward a letter to the former Mayor, Phillip Silver which recognises his past leadership and outstanding contribution to the shire, and for the manner in which he had previously represented C Ward.

- e) Proposed Wollongbar Sporting Fields – The Committee noted that the Council has recently awarded a contract for civil works associated with this project. Advice will be appreciated concerning the timing and scope of work proposed to be undertaken in Pearces Creek Road in association with the construction of the new eastern road intended to service the facilities.
- f) Road upgrade - The Committee acknowledged the substantial improvement arising from the recently completed Rifle Range Road realignment.
- g) Biochar Project – The Mayor, Councillor Wright informed the Committee of the status of this project, noting that a report is being presented to the Council's November Ordinary Meeting.
- h) Street collection for discarded household items – A member enquired about Council's intention to conduct a shire-wide street collection for discarded or obsolete household goods, including electrical items.

The Mayor, Councillor Wright informed the Committee that a proposal for an annual collection service had previously been investigated, but the Council had declined to implement the program, primarily because of excessive costs.

- i) Proposed fire levy – A member enquired about Council's preparedness to include the NSW Fire Levy on Council's rate notices. The Committee was informed that the matter has not been raised or considered by the Council.
- j) Tree removal – A member enquired about the recent removal of trees from land at the rear of the Federal Hotel and/or Colonial Arcade in Alstonville. It was requested that this matter be investigated and Committee members be advised of the outcome.

9. General Business

- a) Meeting schedule - Councillor Worth invited the Committee to consider a review of its scheduled meeting days and times.

A number of options were suggested and considered, but the majority of members wish to retain Thursday as the preferred meeting day. It was however agreed that the time of commencement would be changed from 7.30pm to 5.00pm, at least for the next scheduled meeting, when this would be further reviewed.

10. Next Meeting

Meeting dates for 2013:

Thursday 14 March
Thursday 9 May
Thursday 11 July
Thursday 12 September
Thursday 14 November

MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.00pm.