

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
40 CHERRY STREET, BALLINA,
ON 4/03/13 AT 4.00 PM**

Attendance

Cr David Wright (Mayor - in the chair), Jeff Johnson (arrived at 4.01 pm), Sharon Cadwallader, Keith Williams, Keith Johnson, Ken Johnston, Paul Worth, Ben Smith (arrived at 4.01 pm) and Robyn Hordern.

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

There were eight people in the gallery at this time.

1. Apologies

An apology was received from Cr Susan Meehan.

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Robyn Hordern)

That such apology be accepted.

Absent at this Stage

Cr Ben Smith
Cr Jeff Johnson

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Susan Meehan and Cr Ben Smith

2. Declarations of Interest

Nil

Cr Ben Smith arrived at 04:01 pm.
Cr Jeff Johnson arrived at 04:01 pm.

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3. Deputations

- **Tom Bowers** – spoke in support of Item 4.6 – Community Infrastructure Projects – Priorities – and particularly in regard to the Sports and Events Centre.
- **Annie Lewis** – spoke in support of Item 4.6 - Community Infrastructure Projects – Priorities – and particularly in regard to a 25 metre indoor swimming facility.

4. Committee Reports

4.1 Election of Chair

A nomination was received for Cr David Wright, Mayor.

There being only one nomination, the General Manager declared Cr David Wright elected as Chairperson.

4.6 Community Infrastructure Projects - Priorities

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Robyn Hordern)

That Council resolve into Committee of the Whole to allow discussion to occur on the preferred community project priorities for this term of Council.

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

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Paul Worth)

Cr Jeff Johnson left the meeting at 05:28 pm.

That Council move out of Committee of the Whole.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Susan Meehan

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RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Keith Williams)

Sports and Events Centre

That Council confirms its support for a four court indoor sporting facility.

FOR VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Ken Johnston, Cr Paul Worth, Cr Robyn Hordern and Cr Ben Smith

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Keith Johnson

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Susan Meehan

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Keith Williams)

1. That Council confirms high priorities for the 2013/14 budget of a \$200,000 allocation for an indoor swimming facility at Ballina and \$50,000 for works at Alstonville Swimming Pool.
2. That based on the discussions held the General Manager prepare a priority listing for the future major capital works that is subject to funding sources becoming available (i.e. grants, land sales etc).

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Susan Meehan

Cr Ben Smith and Cr Sharon Cadwallader left the meeting at 05:48 pm.

4.2 Financial Performance Indicators and Benchmarks

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Keith Johnson/Cr Robyn Hordern)

1. That Council notes the contents of this report in respect to the Financial Performance Indicators and Benchmarks.
2. That Council receive a further report on amending the existing benchmarks to reflect latest industry advice and realistic goals.

Cr Keith Williams left the meeting at 05:55 pm.

There was no quorum at this stage.

Cr Keith Williams returned to the meeting at 05:56 pm.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Susan Meehan and Cr Ben Smith

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4.3 Rating Structure - Ordinary Land Rates

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Keith Williams/Cr Robyn Hordern)

1. That Council, for the purposes of the 2013/14 Draft Operational Plan, endorses a base rating structure modelled on the following principles:
 - a) Marginally less than 50% of the rate income for the residential category of properties being generated from the base amount
 - b) Business, farmland and mining categories to have the same base amount as the residential base amount
 - c) A total of 20% income from the rate yield to be sourced from the business category properties
 - d) The mining category rate in the dollar to be set as the same rate as the business category (currently no mining category properties exist within the shire).
2. Preliminary figures for this rating structure for 2013/14, as per tables two and three within this report, are outlined below:

Table Two: Proposed 2013/14 Rating Structure

Rate Category	5.9% Increase	
	Base Amount	Rate in Dollar
Residential	420	0.161054
Business	420	0.575440
Farmland	420	0.130375
Mining	420	0.575440

Table Three: Proposed 2013/14 Income per Category 5.9%

Rate Category	2012/13			2013/14		
	6.1% increase	% of total	Ave Rate	5.9% increase	% of total	Ave Rate
Residential	11,972,439	72.15	799	12,722,924	72.19	841
Business	3,318,583	20.00	2,632	3,525,028	20.00	2,793
Farmland	1,302,099	7.85	1,225	1,377,220	7.81	1,287
Mining	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00
Total	16,593,121	100.0	958	17,625,172	100.0	1,010

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Susan Meehan and Cr Ben Smith

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4.4 Water Operations - Long Term Financial Plan

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Keith Johnson/Cr Robyn Hordern)

That Council approves the inclusion of the following water charging structure in the draft 2013/14 Operational Plan.

Charge Type	2012/13	2013/14	% Increase
Water Access Charge 20mm meter (1)	165	178	8
Water Consumption under 350kl	1.77	1.91	8
Water Consumption over 350kl	2.66	2.87	8
Vacant Land Charge	165	178	8

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Susan Meehan and Cr Ben Smith

4.5 Wastewater (Sewer) Operations - Long Term Financial Plan

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Keith Johnson/Cr Robyn Hordern)

That Council approves the inclusion of the following wastewater charging structure in the draft 2012/13 Operational Plan.

Charge Type	2012/13	2013/14	% Increase
	674	728	8

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Susan Meehan and Cr Ben Smith

MEETING CLOSURE

6.12 pm