

**1. Attendance and Apologies**

Cr David Wright (Mayor - Chairman)  
Cr Paul Worth  
Cr Keith Johnson  
Les Wiles - Alstonville Lions Club  
Eoin Johnston - Rous Mill Ratepayers  
Jane Gardiner - Alstonville Plateau Historical Society  
Sheila Aveling - Tintenbar School of Arts  
Geoff Limbert - Alstonville & District Ratepayers' Association  
Malcolm Johnson - Ballina Environment Society  
Barry Jeffress - Tuckombil Landcare  
Pat Carney - Wardell Progress Association  
Allan Hart – Rotary Club, Ballina on Richmond  
Tony Pennisi – Alstonville/Wollongbar Rugby Club  
Lois Wright – Plateau Seniors  
Ern Sandral – Alstonville Community Preschool (ACP)  
Wayne Garrard – Alstonville & District Cricket Association

**Staff in Attendance**

Rod Willis

**Apologies**

Cr Ben Smith  
Elva Fitzell - Alstonville Rotary Club  
Bob Cooper – Legacy  
Brian Hill – Alstonville RSL Sub-Branch

The apologies were accepted.

**2. Welcome to New Members**

Cr David Wright, Chairman, welcomed new members and visitors.

There was a deputation of visitors being owners of land adjacent to Dalwood Falls – Item 5(e) of Business Arising from Minutes of 8 November 2012.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

Mr Tony Pennisi – declared an interest in Item 5(f) in the Business Arising from the Minutes of 8 November 2012 – Wollongbar Sporting Fields. Mr Pennisi is an executive member of the Rugby Club.

**4. Confirmation of Minutes 8 November 2012**

(Geoff Limbert/Pat Carney)

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 November 2012 be accepted as a true and correct record.

**5. Business arising from Minutes –8 November 2012**

(a) Alstonville Community Preschool

Mr Ern Sandral advised the Committee that a deputation from the preschool is going to Sydney to meet with the Minister for the Department of Education Mr Piccoli, on Thursday 26 March 2013 to seek funding avenues and support for approval on community land.

The immediate focus of the group is to secure temporary accommodation.

This information was noted.

(b) Rural Unsealed Roads Maintenance Program

The detailed report on Rural Unsealed Roads submitted to the Committee was noted.

(c) Timber seats in Alstonville main street

Appreciation was expressed to the Northern Rivers Woodcraft Group for their work in refurbishing the timber seating for Alstonville.

It was advised that the new seats in the main street were showing signs of cracking and Council was asked to check these and advise on their condition.

(d) Elizabeth Ann Brown Park Refurbishment

The advice provided was noted. The Committee was advised by the Chairman that the Council was making enquiries seeking 'memorial' grants to have the 'Cenotaph' upgraded in response to the Government's announced Centenary of Anzac Day scheme.

(e) Dalwood Falls

The Committee resolved to ask Council staff to examine possible solutions to the following matters:

- Personal injury risk;
- Traffic/parking safety, and
- Private trespass.

(f) Wollongbar Sporting Fields

A detailed report was provided and the Chairman provided an update on progress and developments with the project.

The Committee asked if Council staff would provide a report about traffic safety considerations for the use of Pearces Creek Road as a major access point to the new facility. In particular, the vertical alignment, sight distances and capacity of the road to safely meet the future use of the facility was questioned.

(g) Tree Removal – Rear of Federal Hotel/Colonial Arcade

An update about this matter was presented. Members questioned the tree species that were removed. Local advice was that they were Cadaji trees and not Fig trees.

The advice was noted.

**6. Christmas Decorations**

The report was noted.

**7. Draft Community Strategic Plan**

The information presented in the report and the advertised response period was noted.

**8. Code of Conduct**

The application of the Code to Committee members was outlined and the report noted.

**9. Council Documents on Exhibition**

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

**10. Items raised by members of the Committee**

**(a) Pat Carney – Wardell Memorial Hall**

Pat spoke about progressing the transfer of ownership of the Wardell Memorial Hall to the Council.

He advised that local people considered that this would assist the community to repair and maintain the hall. Local people felt that approximately \$20,000 was needed for basic repairs. The Committee was advised that the Council

had decided to transfer funds from the Village Upgrade Project to hall maintenance.

The appropriateness of utilising the project's funds for the hall was discussed as was the question related to whether or not the Council should have focussed on entirely taking over the hall.

The local community was pleased with the Council's support for their local hall.

**(b) Lois Wright – Plateau Seniors**

Asked about gutter and drainage repairs and was advised that such were scheduled as soon as weather allowed.

**(c) Eoin Johnston – Rous Ratepayers**

Asked about disabled parking matters and it was noted these had been completed.

He also requested support where it could reasonably be provided to local business people operating the "Garden House Café" in Wardell Road. The Rous Ratepayers Group supported the business.

Development consent and statutory planning issues relating to the site were outlined to the Committee.

**(d) Richard Lutze** was thanked for his persistence and work in the successful provision of the new entrance signs to Alstonville.

**(e) Jane Gardiner – Alstonville Plateau Historical Society**

Asked about the suitability of Lumley Park for a skateboard park.

The Chairman advised that Lumley Park was one of a number of potential sites and that no commitment had yet been made as it is only early in the site investigation process.

**(f) Les Wiles – Alstonville Lions Club**

Asked about what provision was being made for Community Event Promotional signage.

The Committee was advised that there was a report going to the March Council meeting that addressed community and event signage and it was expected that such would be placed on public exhibition to allow community comment to be made.

**(g) Les Wiles – 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Alstonville**

Les advised of the forthcoming 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Alstonville and sought support from the community groups and the Council to plan a suitable

celebration. Mr Wiles was directed to the Council's Events Policy so that any application could be made in accordance with Council's policies.

The Committee requested the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Alstonville to be listed for the next meeting agenda.

**(h) Wayne Garrard – Alstonville & District Cricket Association**

Asked about repairs to Gap Road following the periodical washout that occurs adjacent to the playing fields.

Mr Garrard was advised that repair work was in hand.

**(i)** The Committee congratulated the Council on the recent obsolete television dumping initiative.

**11. Forthcoming Meeting Times**

Agreed unanimously that meetings will be held at 5.00 pm.

An apology for the 9 May 2013 meeting was received from Mr Eoin Johnston.

**MEETING CLOSURE**

7.45 pm