

**Minutes of the 'A' Ward Committee Meeting
Held 14 May 2013
In the Committee Rooms, 40 Cherry Street, Ballina**

Time Commenced

The meeting commenced at 4.00pm.

1. Attendance and Apologies

Attendance

Cr Sue Meehan	Councillor
Cr Robyn Hordern	Councillor - Chair
Cr Ken Johnston	Councillor
Cr David Wright	Mayor
Allan Hart	Paradise FM
Margaret Hains	Ballina Day View Club
Mary O'Brien	Lighthouse Day Club
Andrew Playford	Ballina High School & East Ballina Lions Club
George Young	Ballina Lions Club
Dr Lee Andresen	Ballina Environment Society
Glenn Costello	Ballina Chamber of Commerce & Ballina Retail Action Group
Lorraine Leuckel	South Ballina Community Association
Boyd Lancashire	Ballina Bears Cricket Club
John Leon	Ballina Rugby Union Club
Paul Dunn	Ballina Environment Society
Ross Pickering	BDCRA
Sheila Aveling	Paradise FM

Council Staff in Attendance

John Truman	Group Manager Civil Services
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Apologies

Betty Barwick	Ballina CWA
Hazel Elliott	Ballina Evening View
Pip Carter	St Andrews Ballina
Pamela Steele	Ballina Coastal Country Musical Festival

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Deputations

There were no deputations.

4. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 March 2013 were accepted as a true and correct record.

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5. Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

Paradise FM Shed

Council staff have provided a proposed resolution to this matter. John Truman will report to Alan Hart separately.

Tap at Fripp Oval

The information in the staff report was noted.

Illegal Camping

The response by staff to send a letter to the NSW Government was noted.

Coxspur Coral Trees

The information in the report was noted. The Committee also requested Council consider implementing the recommendations contained in the report. In addition to the report recommendations the Committee requested that Council consider facilitating a volunteer program to assist in the implementation of the recommendations. One suggested option was to include this project in the Clean Up Australia Program. (Note – East Ballina Lions would be interested in assisting.)

Lee Andresen also requested that Council consider re-establishing its “Weed of the Month” education program. John Truman advised that he would task staff to implement.

Aboriginal Apprenticeship Schemes

The information in the report was noted. John Truman also advised that the Ballina Aboriginal Child and Family Centre was not a Council project. Those with further inquiries should direct those to the project proponents.

Missingham Bridge Roundabout

The information in the report responding to this action was noted.

Porter Park

The information in the report was noted. Further to the information John Truman advised that staff were looking to engage a facilitator to lead a community consultation program to consider the options for the potential embellishment of the park.

Howard Crescent/Riverside Drive

The information in the report responding to this action was noted.

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RV Friendly Signage

The information in the report was noted.

6. General Business

Nil

7. Council Documents on Exhibition

The list of previously advertised documents were discussed. This information was noted by the Committee.

8. Business Without Notice

i) Illegal Dumping in South Ballina Area

Lorraine Leuckel identified concerns about illegal dumping in the South Ballina area.

John Truman advised that Council had recently reviewed its campaign approach to illegal dumping and suggested that staff could meet with Association representatives to discuss strategies that may be appropriate for the area.

ii) Traffic Count Data

Lorraine Leuckel requested traffic count data for South Ballina Beach Road and River Drive.

iii) Ferry Charges for Trailers

Lorraine Leuckel requested Council not charge for the use of the Ferry by trailers.

John Truman suggested a submission in response to the public exhibition of the 2013/2014 fees and charges would be the most appropriate process to seek Council's review of the request.

iv) Greenhalgh Street

Paul Dunn requested that maintenance of the road should be undertaken and the drainage improved.

v) Wigmore Arcade

Glenn Costello thanked Council for its work to investigate the upgrade of the arcade.

vi) Captain Cook Park Management Plan

Glenn Costello requested an update on this project.

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vii) RMS Truck Stop

Glenn Costello inquired did Council know when this facility will be ready.

viii) High School Footpaths

Andrew Playford thanked Council for its implementation of the footpath improvements at the School and requested the program continue as resources allow.

ix) Market Grounds

Andrew Playford thanked Council for the mowing and presentation of the market area.

x) Access to the Market Area and Lions Shed

Andrew Playford noted this track needs maintenance.

xi) School Bus Shelters

Andrew Playford requested Council to provide more bus shelters and to check whether the current shelters with advertising are properly part of the contract arrangement as the shelters were installed by Council.

xii) Prawn Festival

Andrew Playford thanked Council for its financial support to this festival.

xiii) HSC Examination Centres

Andrew Playford requested Council consider providing alternate exam centres if the Richmond Room is no longer able to be used for that purpose.

xiv) Rememberance Park Mulch

Andrew Playford requested permission for community groups to use this mulch.

John Truman provided approval to this request.

xv) Lions Shed/Tafe Footpaths

Ross Pickering noted this footpath needs attention.

John Truman advised that the Council shared this concern however to date funding resources have not allowed the renewal of the path to proceed.

xvi) Letter from Ralph Moss

Cr Ken Johnston tabled a letter from Ralph Moss for the information of the Committee (copy attached.)

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xvii) Pelican 181

Alan Hart requested an update on the progress to repair the building.

xviii) Highway Services Centre

Alan Hart requested an update on this project.

John Truman advised that the Council has approved the development application and it was now a matter for the proponent regarding when they may proceed to construction.

xix) T20 Competition

Boyd Lancashire reported the cricket club is proposing a T20 competition.

xx) Richmond Room

Mary O'Brien noted her ongoing concerns regarding Council's position on the future of the Richmond Room.

xxi) Community Strategic Plan

Lee Andresen tabled notes expressing concerns about Council's response to the Society's submission to the CSP in relation to the plan's discussion regarding cultural heritage (copy attached).

Lee noted the document contained legal opinion which the Society intended to pursue. Lee also noted the Society had not yet raised this matter with the Mayor or General Manager.

John Truman advised the meeting that in his opinion the objective of the Ward Committees was broad community consultation, and those groups with specific legal issues should address those directly with the Council as legal issues were not consistent with the purpose and function of the Committee.

xxii) North Wall

Cr Sue Meehan reported Council was continuing to liaise with the local member regarding the concerns about the recently completed rehabilitation of the North Wall.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting to be held at 4.00pm on Tuesday 9 July 2013.

10. Meeting Close

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.30pm.

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The Chair Person

14 March 13

A Ward Meeting,

Councillors Sue Meehan, Robyn Hordern, Ken Johnson ;

Would you please clarify just what is the role of the Ballina Shire Council from here on in the dredging of Ballina Bar?

As we were told about four years ago that it would take about two years, to get Bar dredged? Now over three years have elapsed and yet we were told at March 2013 meeting that it would take at least two years for the Dredging to commence?

As all the Fishermen were under the direct impression that the Ballina bar would be started to be Dredged in July/ August calm period of 2012?

There will have to be a Maritime section put together at this Council level, under an independent Portfolio, Banner or name :

March 2013 meeting : Stated on page 109 : Notice of Motion - Port of Ballina : Councillor : Cr Williams :

How far has Council progressed in relation to the Motion of Councillor Williams motion from March Meeting, will the Committee be changed around to suit the next meeting of the task force to be held in first week of June, some four weeks away?

This then brings forth with the following , What progress has been done over last five years :

- Dredging of Ballina Bar
- What has been done by Marine Authority in relation to North and South Walls that have resulted to improvements to Ballina Bar over last five years?
- What has been done by Marine Authority in the way of maintenance of marina in Regatta Avenue and existing Ballina Boatharbour (where dredges used to 40 – 60 years ago
- Dredging within the estuaries of North Creek, Ballina Boatharbour, River opposite RSL Club, up River past Burns Point Ferry, and Emigrant Creek ;

Told a Licence would cost \$400,000 with survey :

We were also told by Council that a Plan of Management had to be drawn up first, why were we not told years ago? That will have to be started soon.

What are the exact procedures to go forward from here on? and, When will it happen?

As all the Fishermen were under the direct impression that the Ballina bar would be started to be Dredged in July/ August calm period of 2012?

Would be at all possible to have some Question and Answers at next Council meeting?

Yours Faithfully,

Ralph Moss.



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**A-Ward Advisory Committee meeting Tuesday 14th May 2013
Item B COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN**

Ballina Environment Society notes that the April Council Ordinary meeting voted unanimously to adopt the exhibited draft Community Strategic Plan with minor amendments.

We wish to draw the A-Ward Committee's attention to a matter of deep disappointment to our Association. This arises from two issues:

1. We regret the way the Council report in the Business Papers dismissed our case that Cultural heritage generally, and Aboriginal heritage in particular, was completely missing from the Strategic Plan, and by implication also missing from Operational Planning for the coming 4 years. This seemed to us to be a grave omission.
2. We regret that not one out of the ten Councillors who voted to adopt the Plan spoke about or indicated any concern regarding this major omission. There certainly was no discussion or debate over the issue. This suggests the possibility that Councillors - and thus Council as a corporate body - had not actually considered the case BES put forward.

Our concern here is far from trivial. This Strategic Plan is the foundation instrument to direct everything Council does and spends ratepayers' money on for the coming 4 years.

BES has sought legal advice over the omission. The advice we have received is that:

a) It may well be possible to draw an inference that the council has not, in fact, taken the BES submissions (as a whole) into consideration in considering the draft plan, in that the Report tells councillors that the submission is effectively 'irrelevant for the purposes of the CSP' in so far as it draws attention to this omission. There is thus a strong view that the Council did not genuinely consider the public submissions.

b) The Council is required to consider relevant State Plans in developing its CSP. The State Plan (NSW 2021) incorporates a specific goal in relation to 'fostering opportunity and partnership with Aboriginal people' (goal 26), with specific targets prescribed. The State plan is also underpinned by the Northern Rivers Regional Action Plan, which itself refers to an Aboriginal Affairs Strategy.

To the extent that Ballina Shire Council ignored this State Plan by ignoring Aboriginal cultural heritage it does appear that it would again be in breach of the CSP provisions of the Act. This omission casts doubt on the validity of the Plan.

This is being tabled for information only and we suggest no action at this point.

We do nevertheless advise the Committee that BES, following this legal advice, will be seeking through appropriate channels an amendment to the CSP. To have it amended to include the missing matters is something which, we are advised, presents no particular legal obstacles.

We will report back to a future meeting as matters move forwards.