

**MINUTES OF THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL
ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE TUCKEROO ROOM IN COUNCIL'S CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE
AT 5.00PM ON THURSDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2013**

1. Attendance and Apologies

Members

Dianne Creighton, Carmel Kapeen, Sandra Bolt, Kylie Coldwell, Lois Cook, Marcus Ferguson, Lenkunyar Hickling, Troy Anderson

Apologies/Absent

Kim Vincent, Susan Anderson, Samantha Anderson

Observers

*Carolyn Roberts

*Nita Roberts

In Attendance

Mayor Councillor David Wright

Councillor Susan Meehan

Councillor Keith Williams

Paul Hickey, General Manager

Steve Barnier, Group Manager Strategic and Community Facilities

*Members noted that the application recently lodged by Bunjum Aboriginal Cooperative Limited for membership of the Committee is to be reported to the Council's September Ordinary Meeting for consideration. Upon approval, Bunjum will be represented by Carolyn Roberts, with Nita Roberts as alternate member.

Councillor Wright provided an Acknowledgement of Country and conveyed a welcome to Committee members on behalf of Ballina Shire Council.

2. Election of Chair

Following discussion, it was agreed to trial a "rotating Chair" arrangement, with a different Chairperson for each meeting.

Marcus Ferguson was nominated to Chair this meeting. There being no further nominations, Marcus accepted the role.

The Chair then invited each person to briefly introduce themselves.

3. Code of Conduct

Paul Hickey advised the meeting that, as with all other committees of Council, the adopted Codes of Conduct and Meeting Practice apply to members of this Committee.

Copies of the Codes are distributed with these Minutes.

4. Terms of Reference

The Chair invited members to consider the Terms of Reference, a copy of which had been distributed to each member. It was agreed that this document will be resubmitted for endorsement at the next meeting, incorporating the minor changes which were suggested.

In terms of the Committee's name, the preference was that the Committee be titled The Ballina Shire Council Aboriginal Community Committee.

The members agreed that the Committee's meetings should be scheduled to occur every second month, rather than three monthly, as stated in the initial Terms of Reference. It was also agreed that meetings commence at 5.00pm on a Thursday, but this could be reconsidered after a review period.

Paul Hickey indicated his desire for all of Council's key policy documents to be referred to this Committee for consideration, either as the policies are being drafted or at the time of their exhibition for public comment.

Membership of the Committee was discussed. It was agreed that members need not be associated with or represent groups or organisations. Individuals from within the Aboriginal community will be welcomed. Members will be encouraged to promote and support attendance by interested young people, to bring a youth perspective to matters considered by the Committee.

It was pointed out that the Committee's operation might benefit from membership by the Bullinah Aboriginal Health Service. Whilst a response from that organisation was not received to the initial invitation for membership, a further invitation will be extended.

Members were advised that Inspector Nicole Bruce from Ballina Police had recently contacted Council, offering NSW Police to be in attendance at Committee meetings. Whilst members appreciated the NSW Police's offer to be available, it was acknowledged that the Committee's main function is to work with the Council in terms of its service delivery, rather than being a forum for discussion of broader community issues. Inspector Bruce's invitation was therefore declined at this time.

5. General Business

- a) Gallery Exhibition – members discussed the recent "Origin of the Story" project and the associated exhibition currently being held at the Northern Rivers Community Gallery.
- b) Councillor Meehan advised the meeting of the details of the public art which has been commissioned by Woolworths as part of its new store in River Street, Ballina, which is nearing completion.

- c) Members enquired about Council's procedures for signage and naming of public places within the shire. The Committee's desire is to become actively involved in this issue. Use of appropriate Aboriginal place names will be strongly encouraged.

- d) Members were advised of a family fun day which was being held by Council on Saturday 7 September. Activities were being held to encourage families living near Porter Park in West Ballina to provide ideas for upgrading of the park.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee is to be held at 5.00pm on Thursday 7 November 2013 in the Tuckaroo Room of Council's Customer Service Centre, 40 Cherry Street Ballina. Agendas will be distributed prior to that meeting.

7. Meeting close

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.35pm.