

**Minutes of the 'A' Ward Committee Meeting
Held 12 November 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 (left at 5.00pm)
Cr Robyn Hordern	Councillor - Chair
Cr Ken Johnston	Councillor
Cr David Wright	Mayor
Allan Hart	Paradise FM
Betty Barwick	Ballina CWA
Pip Carter	St Andrews Ballina
Ross Pickering	Ballina & District Citizens & Ratepayers Association
David Humphrey	Cumalum East Community Precinct Steering Committee
Dr Lee Andresen	Ballina Environment Society
Lorraine Leuckel	South Ballina Community Association
Pamela Steele	Ballina Coastal Country Musical Festival
John Leon	Ballina Rugby Union Club

Council Staff in Attendance

Paul Busmanis	Engineering Works Manager Civil Services
Joanne Cordery	Secretary - Civil Services Group

Apologies

John Truman	Group Manager Civil Services
George Young	Ballina Lions Club
Glenn Costello	Ballina Chamber of Commerce & Ballina Retail Action Group
Andrew Playford	Ballina High School & East Ballina Lions Club
Mary O'Brien	Lighthouse Day Club
Margaret Hains	Ballina Day View Club

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 10 September 2013 were accepted as a true and correct record.

Mary O'Brien/Lorraine Leuckel

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5. Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

Lantana – South Ballina Beach Road

The information in the staff report was noted and Lorraine commented that it was an excellent job.

Tropical Soda Apple Sighting

The information in the staff report was noted. (FNCW has subsequently confirmed no Tropical Soda Apple found).

Cane Drains in South Ballina

The information in the staff report was noted.

Prawn Festival – Parking at Kingsford Smith Park

The information in the staff report was noted.

Fripp Oval

The information in the staff report was noted.

Wardell – Large Sign near Truck Stop

The information in the staff report was noted.

Request for BBQ at Pop Dennison Park

The information in the staff report was noted. The Council will consider this project further at the Facility Committee meeting to be held 19 November 2013.

6. General Business

Copy of minutes of the Cumbalum East Interim Precinct Steering Committee of 11 meeting held 11 October 2013.

Street Lighting request for the corner of Tamarind Drive and Deadmans Creek Road.

The information in the staff report was noted. David will await the response from staff.

Road Speed Limit

The information in the staff report was noted.

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Australia Post Letterbox

The information in the staff report was noted.

Road Maintenance Requests

The information in the staff report was noted. However the Cumbalum East Community Precinct Steering Committee are still requesting for two access points and will be making a further submission to Council.

Paul Busmanis advised that Ballina's Floodplain Risk Management Study identified that Deadmans Creek Road forms a barrier and should be removed or lowered for floodway improvement. This recognises that Ballina Heights Drive (under construction) is the replacement access road. There is no timeline for removal/lowering of Deadmans Creek Road at this stage.

As Cumbalum develops further access roads will be provided, eg; Sandy Flat Road.

Flood presentation information will be provided to the group when it is available.

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) Captain Cook Park

Betty Barwick asked about the water park for Captain Cook Park.

Discussion was provided regarding the proposed "splash pad" and the public exhibition for the Captain Cook Park Masterplan.

ii) Walkway -Missingham Bridge to Sailing Club

Betty Barwick asked if the roots of the Pandanus trees could be cut back, they are making the footpath very hard to walk on. Would also like to see if the path could be made wider, like some of the other sections.

Paul Busmanis advised that an inspection would be organised (previous root intrusion repairs were achieved by "widening").

iii) Main Street, Ballina

Betty Barwick commented that the Poinciana trees in the main street are beautiful.

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iv) Commemoration Park Playground

Pam Steele asked if a shade structure could be erected over the playground in Commemoration Park.

Cr Meehan advised that there were trees being planted and seating being installed in the park. Council has a park upgrade program.

v) Council Managed Caravan Parks

Pam Steele asked where the money from the caravan parks went.

Cr Wright advised that Flat Rock Tent Park was the only tourist park under Council control and that the others were managed by the State Government. Any money from the tent park went back into the maintenance of the park.

Pam commented that the tent park looked good.

vi) Country Music Festival

Pam Steele commented that the Country Music Festival went very well and that the events in Fawcett Park were great. Future events are to be bigger and better.

vii) Shaded Outdoor Areas

John Leon asked if Council could provide shaded outdoor areas near the ocean so residents can sit and drink coffee as there is not a lot of open places near the water. He suggested Black Head, Sharpes Beach and Lennox Head Surf Life Saving Club.

Cr Hordern responded and talked about the reasons behind the closed facilities around Ballina.

Cr Hordern also advised the Committee that a mobile coffee van would be envisaged at the Marine Rescue Tower.

viii) Lennox Head Markets Relocation

Lee Andresen gave the group a talk about the history and science of Lake Ainsworth – refer the handout attached below. He agreed that the current spot is the “perfect location” for a market, except for the fact that it was harming the lake.

He advised that BES congratulated Council on its decision to move the markets and BES hope that Council don't reverse the decision.

ix) Porter Park Embellishment

Ross Pickering asked when the report on Porter Park would be available.

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Cr Wright commented that it appeared the majority of people wanted a minimalist approach.

John Truman to provide a response regarding the community consultation when finalised.

x) Porter Park Centre

Ross Pickering asked when the building would be open as it is still vacant.

Cr Wright advised that the building complied with regulations but did not appear to meet user requirements, it has been slightly modified.

xi) Changes to Land Use – Ballina Quays

Cr Wright discussed with the group the changes to land use at Ballina Quays waterway. He told the group that the land was illegally built upon under the current land classification and it needs to be changed to operational land to solve the problem.

xii) Structures on Community Land

Cr Meehan commented on the change to operational land at Ballina Quays and told the group that it was a legal matter and that you can't build private structures on community land which is why the change needs to happen. She also commented that the Council is committed to the maintenance of the canals.

xiii) Request for Bin at the Spit Area

Cr Meehan requested that a bin be installed at the spit area where markets are held.

John Truman to respond.

xiv) Trees behind Maritime Museum

Cr Meehan advised that the banksias behind the Maritime museum were dying and asked if new trees could be planted to replace the dead ones.

xv) Prawn Festival

Cr Meehan asked everyone to attend the Prawn Festival on the weekend, it was going to be a fantastic event.

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xvi) Club Lennox

Pip Carter advised that they appreciated the Council's help in getting the lease through with the licensing board. They are not sure whether they can open prior to Christmas. They may be able to open as BYO with catering done by external parties.

xvii) RMS Site near Trawler Harbour

Lorraine Leuckel asked if the rumours were true about the RMS site being turned into a marina.

Cr Wright advised that the site had been studied some time ago, and more recently by the State Government, but no commitment had been made.

Lorraine made the comment that it was embarrassing that there was no where for boating visitors to get fuel, etc. The Committee agreed.

xviii) Alstonville Entrance Signage

Allan Hart asked why Ballina didn't get the entrance signage that Alstonville has.

Cr Wright advised that it was part of the Alstonville Bypass project funded by Roads and Maritimes Services. RMS did the community consultation. He also advised that Council does not own any land in the entrance area to Ballina.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting to be held at 4.00pm on Tuesday 11 March 2014.

10. Meeting Close

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.20pm.

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A Ward Meeting Attendance Sheet – 12 November 2013		
Name	Business	Signature
Cr Sue Meehan	Ballina Shire Council	<i>S. Meehan</i>
Cr Robyn Hordern	Ballina Shire Council	<i>R. Hordern</i>
Cr Ken Johnston	Ballina Shire Council	<i>K. Johnston</i>
Cr David Wright	Ballina Shire Council	<i>D. Wright</i>
Ms Betty Barwick	Ballina CWA	<i>B. Barwick</i>
Mr George Young	Ballina Lions Club	Apology
Mr Glenn Costello	Ballina Chamber of Commerce & Ballina Retail Action Group	Apology
Dr Lee Andresen	Ballina Environment Society	<i>L. Andresen</i>
Ms Margaret Hains	Ballina Day View Club	<i>M. Hains</i>
Mr Allan Hart	Paradise FM	<i>Allan Hart?</i>
Mr Andrew Playford	Ballina High School & East Ballina Lions Club	Apology
Ms Hazel Elliott	Ballina Evening View	
Ms Mary O'Brien	Lighthouse Day Club	Apology <i>M. O'Brien</i>
Mr Pip Carter	St Andrews Ballina	<i>P. Carter</i>
Mrs Lorraine Leuckel	South Ballina Community Association	<i>L. Leuckel</i>
Ms Pamela Steele	Ballina Coastal Country Musical Festival	<i>Pamela Steele</i>
Mr Boyd Lancashire	Ballina Bears Cricket Club	
Mr John Leon	Ballina Rugby Union Club	<i>J. Leon</i>
Mr Ross Pickering	Ballina & District Citizens & Ratepayers Association	<i>R. Pickering</i>
Mr David Humphrey	Cumbalum East Community Precinct Steering	<i>D. Humphrey</i>
Mr John Truman	Group Manager Civil Services	Apology
Ms Joanne Cordery	Civil Services Group	<i>Joanne Cordery</i>
<i>PAUL BUSIMANS</i>	<i>CIVIL SERVICES GROUP</i>	<i>P. Busimans</i>

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**BALLINA ENVIRONMENT SOCIETY INCORPORATED
PO BOX 166 BALLINA 2478 <bes2478@gmail.com>**

Protecting Lake Ainsworth

Council is to be congratulated for its recent proposal to pursue the restoration of the riparian zone of eastern side of Lake Ainsworth.

To achieve this restoration would be the most important move to assist water quality in the lake since the parlous state of the lake was documented in the 1990s. Local residents have always given the health of the lake their highest priority.

Various researchers place the age of Lake Ainsworth up to 120,000 years. It is a very precious asset. The 2002 Independent Inquiry into Coastal Lakes by the Coastal Lakes Commission rated Lake Ainsworth's catchment health in the lowest category 'Targeted Repair'.

The 2002 BSC Lake Ainsworth Management Plan identifies three significant impacts from the eastern road. These are traffic impacts on safety, water quality and erosion of the lake edge. All were rated high priority actions. They also identified over-use as an issue.

Unfortunately, after eleven years, no action has been taken on any of the significant management plan recommendations and the impacts of this negligence are now becoming very apparent.

The latest "Beach Watch" results show that during 2012-2013 over 80 per cent of samples collected from the site were below the safe swimming limit. This follows the 2011-2012 summer holidays which saw several cases of illness attributed to swimming in the SW corner of the lake.

To remain healthy, any water body must have an efficient riparian zone - the land adjoining the water body from which and through which water flows during rain. The 2002 Management Plan recommendation to remove the eastern bitumen and create a wider grassed and permeable area to absorb nutrients and other pollutants is intended to achieve this.

As a direct consequence of this recommendation traffic would be limited on the eastern side to emergency and service vehicles only. Furthermore, it would eliminate events that generate mass movement of people over the riparian zone which limits that zone's efficiency by compacting the surface, thereby aiding direct runoff and erosion.

Since the Lennox monthly markets are the biggest mass event on the east side that we have, BES applauds Council's resolution to move them to another site.

Permanently protecting the fragile area around the lake so it can continue to be safely used recreationally, and to continue attracting visitors, should far out-weigh the value attributed to the ambience of the site for a monthly market day.

Malcolm Milner
for Ballina Environment Society

12 November 2013