

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
40 CHERRY STREET, BALLINA,
ON 18/03/14 AT 4.00 PM**

Attendance

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

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

There were three people in the gallery at this time.

1. Apologies

Nil

2. Declarations of Interest

Cr Sharon Cadwallader – declared an interest in Item 4.4 – Community Services – Infrastructure Options. (Nature of Interest: non significant non pecuniary – she is a tourism provider in the Shire). She will be remaining in the meeting while the matter is discussed and voting on the matter.

3. Deputations

- **Peter Cucilovic – Ballina RSL Sub Branch** – spoke in relation to Item 4.9 – Community Infrastructure – Non-recurrent Capital Projects and in particular to the Ballina Cenotaph.

Cr Jeff Johnson arrived at the meeting at 04:02 pm.

- **Denis Magnay** – spoke in favour of Item 4.7 – Coastal Recreation Path/Walk Projects – Funding Update.

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4. Committee Reports

4.1 Rating Structure

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Sharon Cadwallader)

That Council notes the contents of this report on the existing rating structure, with particular reference to farmland and business properties.

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

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Susan Meehan

A **Motion** was moved by Cr Susan Meehan and seconded by Cr Keith Williams

That Council receive a report on options to review the farmland rating structure.

The **Motion** was **LOST**.

FOR VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Keith Williams and Cr Susan Meehan

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

4.2 Recycled Water - Pricing Survey

A **Motion** was moved by Cr Sharon Cadwallader and seconded by Cr Ben Smith

1. That Council's schedule of fees and charges for the draft 2014/15 Delivery Program and Operational Plan include a recycled water price of 80% of the price for drinking water.
2. That Council continue to implement its Recycled Water Education Program, including the monitoring of feedback from the community in relation to the quality and price of the recycled water supply.

An **Amendment** was moved by Cr Jeff Johnson and seconded by Cr Susan Meehan

1. That Council's schedule of fees and charges for the draft 2014/15 Delivery Program and Operational Plan include a recycled water price of 70% of the price for drinking water.

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2. That Council continue to implement its Recycled Water Education Program, including the monitoring of feedback from the community in relation to the quality and price of the recycled water supply.

The **Amendment** was **LOST**.

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

The **Motion** was **CARRIED**.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Ben Smith)

1. That Council's schedule of fees and charges for the draft 2014/15 Delivery Program and Operational Plan include a recycled water price of 80% of the price for drinking water.
2. That Council continue to implement its Recycled Water Education Program, including the monitoring of feedback from the community in relation to the quality and price of the recycled water supply.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

4.3 On-site Sewage Management - Program Update

A **Motion** was moved by Cr Ben Smith and seconded by Cr Sharon Cadwallader

1. That Council notes the contents of this report in respect to the status of the On-site Sewage Management Program.
2. That Council acknowledges the existing resource limitations, as detailed within this report, and endorses the works program as detailed in option a) of this report.
3. That Council write to Rous Water detailing outcomes of its OSSM grants scheme and requesting consideration of its re-implementation.

An **Amendment** was moved by Cr Paul Worth and seconded by Cr Keith Johnson

1. That Council notes the contents of this report in respect to the status of the On-site Sewage Management Program.

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2. That Council exhibit an increased fee of \$40 for OSSM inspections for 2014/15.
3. That Council write to Rous Water detailing outcomes of its OSSM grants scheme and requesting consideration of its re-implementation.
4. That Council receive a report on the changes the additional revenue from the increase in the OSSM inspection fee to \$40 will bring to the current works program, along with any other relevant fee changes.

The **Amendment** was **CARRIED**.

FOR VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Keith Johnson, Cr Susan Meehan, Cr Paul Worth, Cr Robyn Hordern and Cr Ben Smith

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader and Cr Ken Johnston

The **Amendment** then became the **Motion** and was **CARRIED**.

FOR VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Keith Johnson, Cr Susan Meehan, Cr Paul Worth, Cr Robyn Hordern and Cr Ben Smith

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader and Cr Ken Johnston

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Paul Worth/Cr Keith Johnson)

1. That Council notes the contents of this report in respect to the status of the On-site Sewage Management Program.
2. That Council exhibit an increased fee of \$40 for OSSM inspections for 2014/15.
3. That Council write to Rous Water detailing outcomes of its OSSM grants scheme and requesting consideration of its re-implementation.
4. That Council receive a report on the changes the additional revenue from the increase in the OSSM inspection fee to \$40 will bring to the current works program, along with any other relevant fee changes

FOR VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Keith Johnson, Cr Susan Meehan, Cr Paul Worth, Cr Robyn Hordern and Cr Ben Smith

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader and Cr Ken Johnston

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4.4 Community Services - Infrastructure Options

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Jeff Johnson/Cr Susan Meehan)

1. That Council notes the contents of this report in respect to Community Services – Infrastructure Options.
2. That the General Manager be authorised to investigate further the concept of transferring the function of Council's visitor services to the Kentwell Community Centre, and the existing Visitor Information Centre on River Street being adapted for use as a community meeting space.

FOR VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Keith Johnson, Cr Susan Meehan, Cr Ken Johnston, Cr Paul Worth, Cr Robyn Hordern and Cr Ben Smith

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader

4.5 Ballina Indoor Sports and / or Events Centre

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Susan Meehan/Cr Paul Worth)

1. That the Council notes the contents of this report relating to the planning for a new indoor multi-purpose sports facility and draft master planning for the Kingsford Smith Reserve in Ballina.
2. That the Council commits to planning for a multi-purpose indoor sports facility on Council-owned land within the Southern Cross Industrial Estate in Ballina. That the General Manager prepare a further report which identifies options and a preferred site within the Estate.
3. That the information within the Kingsford Smith Reserve draft master plan prepared by PDT Architects be used, where appropriate, in future land use planning projects undertaken by Council.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

4.6 Property Reserves - Future Cash Flows

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Paul Worth)

That Council notes the contents of this report with respect to the forward projections for the property reserves and in particular there is no discretionary funding available in the Community Infrastructure Reserve for additional non-recurrent projects in the 2014/15 financial year.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

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4.7 Coastal Recreation Path / Walk Projects - Funding Update

A **Motion** was moved by Cr Ben Smith and seconded Cr Sharon Cadwallader

1. That Council confirms its acceptance of the additional \$840,000 in grant funds from the RMS for construction of the two segments of the western cycleway, as outlined in this report.
2. In accepting the grants Council agrees to withdraw its applications for RMS grant funding for the Coastal Shared Path project from Angels Beach to Sharpes Beach on the basis that Council will commit to 100% funding this section.
3. That for the purposes of our financial planning Council confirms that funding for Section A will be sourced in the 2014/15 budget, if any grant applications are successful, through the deferral of road capital works projects. The identification of these projects is to be confirmed following announcement of the grants for 2014/15.
4. That for the purposes of our financial planning Council confirms that funding for Section D will be included in the year 2015/16, in Council's long term financial plan, with the project to be funded 50% from RMS grants and the balance from Council's Community Infrastructure Reserve.
5. That the Mayor write to the local State Member, Mr Don Page, thanking him for any assistance he may have provided in securing Council the additional RMS grant funds.
6. That Council not construct the 140 metre section on the Coast Road at Southern Angels Beach, at this point in time.

An **Amendment** was moved by Cr Keith Williams and seconded by Cr Jeff Johnson

1. That Council confirms its acceptance of the additional \$840,000 in grant funds from the RMS for construction of the two segments of the western cycleway, as outlined in this report.
2. In accepting the grants Council agrees to withdraw its applications for RMS grant funding for the Coastal Shared Path project from Angels Beach to Sharpes Beach.
3. That due to the availability of the funding in point one, Council confirms its priorities for future grant funding for the Coastal Shared Path / Walk / Western Cycleway projects is, in order of priority, and as referenced in this report:

Section A – Western Side of The Coast Road - Shared Path (North Creek Road \$890,000)

Section D – Eastern and Western Side of The Coast Road – Shared Path (\$1.7m)

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Section C - Eastern Side of The Coast Road – Coastal Walk (\$1.4m)

4. That for the purposes of our financial planning Council confirms that funding for Section A will be sourced in the 2014/15 budget, if any grant applications are successful, through the deferral of road capital works projects. The identification of these projects is to be confirmed following announcement of the grants for 2014/15.
5. That for the purposes of our financial planning Council confirms that funding for Section D will be included in the year 2015/16, in Council's long term financial plan, with the project to be funded 50% from RMS grants and the balance from Council's Community Infrastructure Reserve.
6. That the Mayor write to the local State Member, Mr Don Page, thanking him for any assistance he may have provided in securing Council the additional RMS grant funds.
7. That Council approves the construction of the Coastal Shared Path, just north of the Angels Beach underpass, to be consistent with the planning consent, if and when obtained, as per the attachment to this report.

The **Amendment** was **CARRIED**.

FOR VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Keith Johnson and Cr Susan Meehan and the casting vote of the Mayor
AGAINST VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Ken Johnston, Cr Paul Worth, Cr Robyn Hordern and Cr Ben Smith

The **Amendment** then became the **Motion** and was **CARRIED**.

FOR VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Keith Johnson and Cr Susan Meehan and the casting vote of the Mayor
AGAINST VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Ken Johnston, Cr Paul Worth, Cr Robyn Hordern and Cr Ben Smith

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Keith Williams/Cr Jeff Johnson)

1. That Council confirms its acceptance of the additional \$840,000 in grant funds from the RMS for construction of the two segments of the western cycleway, as outlined in this report.
2. In accepting the grants Council agrees to withdraw its applications for RMS grant funding for the Coastal Shared Path project from Angels Beach to Sharpes Beach.
3. That due to the availability of the funding in point one, Council confirms its priorities for future grant funding for the Coastal Shared Path / Walk / Western Cycleway projects is, in order of priority, and as referenced in this report:

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Section A – Western Side of The Coast Road - Shared Path (North Creek Road \$890,000)

Section D – Eastern and Western Side of The Coast Road – Shared Path (\$1.7m)

Section C - Eastern Side of The Coast Road – Coastal Walk (\$1.4m)

4. That for the purposes of our financial planning Council confirms that funding for Section A will be sourced in the 2014/15 budget, if any grant applications are successful, through the deferral of road capital works projects. The identification of these projects is to be confirmed following announcement of the grants for 2014/15.
5. That for the purposes of our financial planning Council confirms that funding for Section D will be included in the year 2015/16, in Council's long term financial plan, with the project to be funded 50% from RMS grants and the balance from Council's Community Infrastructure Reserve.
6. That the Mayor write to the local State Member, Mr Don Page, thanking him for any assistance he may have provided in securing Council the additional RMS grant funds.
7. That Council approves the construction of the Coastal Shared Path, just north of the Angels Beach underpass, to be consistent with the planning consent, if and when obtained, as per the attachment to this report.

FOR VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Keith Johnson and Cr Susan Meehan and the casting vote of the Mayor

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Ken Johnston, Cr Paul Worth, Cr Robyn Hordern and Cr Ben Smith

4.8 Community Infrastructure - Recurrent Capital Projects

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Ben Smith)

1. That Council endorses, for the preparation of the draft 2014/15 Delivery Program and Operational Plan, the program of recurrent funded capital projects, as detailed within this report, and subject to an additional \$50,000 being taken from the Roads budget and re-allocated to playground equipment.
2. That Council receive a report on the status of the air conditioning system at the Council Administration Centre.

Cr Jeff Johnson left the meeting at 06:34 pm.

FOR VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Keith Johnson, Cr Susan Meehan, Cr Ken Johnston, Cr Robyn Hordern and Cr Ben Smith

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Paul Worth

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson

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RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Keith Williams)

That Council receive a report on the infrastructure planned to improve the parking and traffic arrangements at Newrybar.

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

4.9 Community Infrastructure - Non-recurrent Capital Projects

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Keith Johnson/Cr Paul Worth)

That Council receive a report outlining the likely cost of preparing the site to a suitable standard for the Alstonville Pre-school.

Cr Sharon Cadwallader left the meeting at 06:49 pm

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Sharon Cadwallader

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Keith Williams)

That Council allocate a maximum of \$25,000 in 2014/15 to assist with the relocation of the Ballina Cenotaph.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Sharon Cadwallader

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Susan Meehan/Cr Robyn Hordern)

That Council confirms the following allocation of the discretionary property reserve funds available in 2015/16 and 2016/17 for the purposes of our draft 2014/15 Delivery Program and Operational Plan:

Year	15/16 '000	16/17 '000
Skennars Head Fields – Expansion (20% contingency)	1,200	0
Missingham Car Park	250	0
Ballina Town Entry Treatment Master Plan	0	300
Total	1,450	300

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Sharon Cadwallader

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RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Susan Meehan/Cr Robyn Hordern)

That Council support a redevelopment of the Ballina and Alstonville pools as soon as practicable seeking Federal and State Government Grants, along with receiving a report on the use of special rate variations to assist in funding this work.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Sharon Cadwallader

4.10 Long Term Financial Plan - General Fund

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Keith Williams)

1. That Council notes the contents of the draft operating LTFP, as per the separate attachment to this report, for inclusion in the draft 2014/15 Delivery Program and Operational Plan, including any adjustments resulting from this and other meetings prior to the formal exhibition process commencing.
2. That Council notes the proposal to defer the replacement of the positions identified within this report subject to improvements in the recurrent operating result.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Sharon Cadwallader

A **Motion** was moved by Cr Paul Worth and seconded by Cr Robyn Hordern

That Council receive a report on Ferry fees and charges to the next Finance Committee meeting.

The **Motion** was **LOST**.

FOR VOTE - Cr Keith Johnson, Cr Paul Worth and Cr Robyn Hordern

AGAINST VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Susan Meehan, Cr Ken Johnston and Cr Ben Smith

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Sharon Cadwallader

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RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Keith Johnson/Cr Keith Williams)

That Council conduct a strategic project review to establish a clear overall priority for our projects.

FOR VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Keith Johnson, Cr Susan Meehan and Cr Paul Worth

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Ken Johnston, Cr Robyn Hordern and Cr Ben Smith

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Sharon Cadwallader

MEETING CLOSURE

7.20 PM