

**MINUTES OF THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL
ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE TUCKEROO ROOM IN COUNCIL'S
CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE
AT 5.00PM ON WEDNESDAY 16 APRIL 2014**

At the commencement of the meeting the Mayor Cr Wright conveyed condolences to Ms Cook on the occasion of the loss of her mother.

1. Attendance and Apologies

Members

Denise Duroux – Bullinah Aboriginal Health Services

Marcus Ferguson – Community Member

Lois Cook – Elder

Troy Anderson – John Cook Foundation

Sasha Anderson (observer)

Apologies

Diane Creighton

Mark Moore

Nita Roberts

Councillor Susan Meehan

In Attendance

Mayor David Wright

Paul Hickey, General Manager (from 5.45pm)

Steve Barnier, Group Manager Strategic and Community Facilities

Paul Busmanis, Engineering Works Manager

Ian Fox, Council's Heritage Consultant.

The Members were advised that Council has received advice from Ms Kylie Jacky tendering her resignation from the Committee due to a work relocation.

2. Appointment of Chair

The Committee has previously agreed to operate with a rotating Chair. On this occasion, Lois Cook was nominated to chair the meeting and she duly accepted the role.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest in relation to any items on the Agenda.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the Committee meeting held on Thursday 20 February 2014 were accepted, by consensus, as a correct record of that meeting, with the exception of Item 7 (a) of General Business – Aboriginal Welcome Statement. Members requested that this item be resubmitted to a future meeting of the Committee for further consideration.

5. Matters Arising from Last Meeting

- a) Responsible Pet Ownership – The information in the report was received and noted. Members indicated they support planned initiatives by Council and other agencies concerning responsible pet ownership on Cabbage Tree Island, and will welcome further engagement about programs to be undertaken. It was also requested that options to assist residents not be limited to those living on Cabbage Tree Island.
- b) Draft Vegetation Management Plan for the East Ballina Reserves – The information provided in the report was received and noted.
- c) Management of Wardell Cemetery – Members agreed it will be beneficial to improve current record-keeping practices for Aboriginal burials. It was suggested that Council liaise with Bunjum Cooperative as a starting point for discussion, but that other family groups and organisations should also be consulted to assist with this project.
Members also expressed concern about the maintenance and general management of the Wardell Cemetery. Particularly, that the internal access roads should be formalised and upgraded and that a shelter, toilet facilities and drinking water should be supplied.
Mr Hickey indicated that consideration will be given to the preparation of an improvement plan for the cemetery.

6. Deputations

There were no deputations to the meeting.

7. General Business

- a) Coastal Pathways Projects – Paul Busmanis and Council's Heritage Consultant, Ian Fox provided an update concerning the coastal pathway projects and the associated cultural heritage assessments being conducted. Acknowledgement of the projects' registered stakeholder involvement was also made.

Confirmation was sought about the extent of site/route monitoring that is preferred now that the construction phase for part of the western pathway is about to start. Each of the three registered stakeholders present at the meeting indicated their desire to be involved in monitoring work.

- b) National NAIDOC Awards – The information contained in the report was noted.

Planning for the 2014 NAIDOC Week activities was discussed. Members indicated that the Committee is an appropriate forum for these discussions, given the various community groups which have representation. Lois, Marcus and Troy offered to be part of a steering group, for planning purposes, with participation from other community representatives who wish to nominate.

Members feel that the activities which have been conducted in past years need review, with a desire to “freshen up” the program and actively seek broader community engagement.

It was agreed that Council officers will seek to convene a meeting of the new group quite soon to discuss a program of events for the current year’s celebration.

- c) Aboriginal Mural in Council’s Customer Service Centre – The information in the report was noted. Members agreed the project outcome is excellent.
- d) Draft Ballina Shire Cultural Plan – The information in the report was noted. Clarification was sought about the timeline for public submissions. Whilst it was noted that the formal exhibition period has concluded, it was agreed that late submissions will be received until 25 April.

8. Business Without Notice

- a) Unauthorised dumping – Members raised concern about the extent of illegal dumping which is occurring in the southern parts of the shire, both in road reserves and on JALI land. The material includes household furniture and tyres, as well as other bulky items.

Marcus advised that funding had recently been obtained under the Government’s Protecting Our Places grants program and that this had been used to clear some of the dumped material. However, the extent of unauthorised activity appears to be increasing.

It was agreed that the problem is a significant one, and that Council should continue to explore ways of identifying and prosecuting those involved. The General Manager advised he would arrange for further information to be provided to the Committee.

b) Responsible pet ownership – Troy sought further clarification about what action might be taken to promote responsible pet ownership. The investigations currently being undertaken by Council's Environmental Health Unit (refer to earlier item) were noted. It was agreed this is an important issue to address, and that the combined effort of various agencies, with adequate community consultation, should lead to improved outcomes.

9. Council Documents on Exhibition

The documents which have recently been on public exhibition for community feedback were noted.

10. Next Meeting

Members consider it desirable to schedule meetings on a fixed day every second month, with the second Thursday being preferred. This being the case, the next meeting of the Committee will be held at 5.00pm on Thursday 12 June 2014 in the Tuckaroo Room of Council's Customer Service Centre, 40 Cherry Street Ballina.

Agendas will be distributed to Committee members prior to that meeting. Any matters which members wish to have considered for inclusion in the next agenda should be emailed to Council by 30 May.

11. Meeting close

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