

**Minutes of the 'A' Ward Committee Meeting  
Held 13 March 2018  
In the Committee Rooms, 40 Cherry Street, Ballina**

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**Time Commenced**

The meeting commenced at 4.00pm.

**1. Attendance and Apologies**

*Attendance*

Cr David Wright	Mayor
Cr Phil Meehan	Councillor
Cr Stephen McCarthy	Councillor
Margaret Hains	Ballina Day View Club
Mary O'Brien	Lighthouse Day Club
David Felsch	Ballina Peninsular Residents Association
Michael Young	Ballina Chamber of Commerce & Ballina Retail Action Group

Yvonne Scarrabelotti	Ballina CWA
Ross Pickering	Ballina & District Citizens & Ratepayers Association
	Ballina Environment Society
Marilyn McIntosh	Ballina Evening View Club

Andrew Dougherty	Ballina Lighthouse & Lismore Surf Lifesaving Club
Andrew Playford	Ballina Coast High School & East Ballina Lions Club.

*Council Staff in Attendance*

John Truman	Group Manager Civil Services
Joanne Cordery	Secretary - Civil Services Group

*Apologies*

Cr Nathan Willis	Councillor
George Young	Ballina Lions Club
Narelle Besseling	BRAG & Ballina Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Stephen Wills	Ballina Bears Cricket Club

*Observer*

Dennis Magnay

**2. Resignations/Changes to Memberships**

Andrew Dougherty representing Ballina Lighthouse & Lismore Surf Lifesaving Club was welcomed as a new member of the Committee.

Andrew Playford representing Ballina Coast High School & East Ballina Lions Club was welcomed as a returning member.

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**3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. Deputations**

Nil

**5. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 November, 2017 were accepted as a true and correct record.

Ross Pickering inquired if further investigation could be done on the footpath at Ross Park. John Truman advised he would inspect the path and review the Staff assessment.

*Post Meeting Note from John Truman*

I have inspected the path and noted there are some tree root intrusions on the path, however I agree with the staff assessment that intervention is not required at this point in time. The extent of works balanced against the root issue does not justify the cost.

I have provided staff Mr Pickering's further feedback and reinforced our commitment to monitor this path within our regular inspection program.

**6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

*Container Deposit Scheme*

Cr Meehan noted that the return and earn collection point was located near Woolworths at Ballina Fair and was very popular.

*Ferry Concession Tickets*

John Truman advised that Council had agreed to change the pricing for caravans using the ferry as per the Committee's request.

*Issues on South Ballina Beach*

The information in the staff report was noted.

*West Ballina Pedestrian Crossing - Investigations*

The information in the staff report was noted.

*Ferry Line Marking*

The information in the staff report was noted.

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*Danns Lane Sink Hole*

The information in the staff report was noted.

*River Drive – Bank Erosion*

The information in the staff report was noted.

*Start/Stop Lights near 848 River Drive*

The information in the staff report was noted however David Felsch advised that there have been a number of near misses. He asked if anything else could be done to slow the vehicles down and could it be reinspected.

John Truman advised the draft budget (to be presented to Council's Finance Committee) included an allocation for the bridge replacement project.

**7. General Business**

Ross Pickering discussed the letter from Ballina Residents Association.

*Item 1 – Flooding and Flood Gates*

John Truman advised floodgates had not been removed, rather historically they disintegrated with age.

John explained the contemporary approach is to install floodgates on land to ensure future maintenance programmes can be implemented.

John also explained the Council now has a recurrent funding program for floodgate improvements. The first project in this program is Burns Point Ferry Road. The Council is scheduled to be briefed on the details of our stormwater management.

*Item 2 – Western Arterial Road*

John Truman advised the Western Arterial Road is included in the Council's Section 94 Developer Contributions Plan. Further information regarding the works schedule under this plan are available on Council's website.

*Item 3 – Porter Park*

Ross Pickering discussed the antisocial behaviour in Porter Park and asked why the toilets were permanently locked and the No Alcohol consumption signs had been removed.

John Truman confirmed the Council's general alcohol prohibition in parks applied to Porter Park and staff would inspect to ensure appropriate signage is in place.

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*Post Meeting Note*

Staff have inspected the site and report the policy prohibition has not been subject to signage at Porter Park. At the commencement of the policy it was noted in advice to Council, signage would be updated on as needs basis.

Our review of this history has also identified the policy is now ultra vires following legislative amendments limiting Council's powers in respect of alcohol prohibitions. This means an amended policy will now be reported to Council. Porter Park will not be able to be included as a place with alcohol consumption restrictions in the future.

*Item 4 – Lake Ainsworth*

Ross Pickering advised that the Ballina Ratepayers Association opposed the plans to close the road at Lake Ainsworth.

*Item 5 – Clement/McDonald Park*

John Truman advised the Department of Education had enclosed the ground without consultation. Council's efforts to reverse this decision were unsuccessful.

Ross Pickering tabled a letter that his Association had forwarded to the Department of Education (attached).

*Item 6 – North Creek Road - Drainage*

John Truman advised that the drains had been cleaned in the week prior to the meeting.

*Item 7 – Footpath 143 Fox Street*

John Truman advised that he would arrange for staff to inspect this section of footpath.

**8. Council Documents on Exhibition**

The list of previously advertised documents was noted by the Committee.

**9. Business Without Notice**

*i) South Ballina Beach*

Reports of increasing anti-social behaviour and vehicles issues were noted. Council is not the land manager for this location.

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*ii) General Garbage*

Margaret Hains asked what bin you would place a garden hose in and did you need to cut it up.

John Truman advised that it was the Residual Garbage Bin however this would be confirmed.

*Post Meeting Note*

An email was sent to Margaret confirming that the hose was to go in the residual garbage bin and you can place it in whole.

*iii) Saltwater Issue in River Drive*

David Felsch thanked Council for the extra resources in placing signs out during high tides.

John Truman advised that a presentation was being made to the Council shortly regarding this.

John also advised that Council was waiting on delivery for the internal pipe sleeves for the floodgates for Burns Point Ferry Road and they would be installed as soon as they arrived.

*iv) Pole Houses*

David Felsch asked for an update on Pole Houses in South Ballina.

John Truman advised a revision of the Risk Study for the Floodplain Management Plan has commenced. An expert constancy has been engaged to complete this review. The consultant has met with key stakeholders and is expected to provide the report to Council shortly.

*v) Review of Ferry Fees*

David Felsch inquired if he could participate in the budget review. He Felsch also advised that he was organising a survey about Ferry Fees and one of the suggestions was a reduced cost season pass for residents who lived in the rest of the shire.

John Truman advised that the draft fees and charges would be presented to the Finance Committee of which he could attend and make a deputation. John also offered to review the data from the survey with David.

*vi) Motorcross Track in South Ballina*

David Felsch noted South Ballina residents had reported concerns about a motorcross track operating at a Carrs Lane address. Council has inspected the site and is not currently taking any further action following an assessment under Council's Enforcement Policy.

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David also expressed concerns no action in relation to this complaint would influence the assessment of a development application also at South Ballina which includes a motorcross facility.

John Truman advised the development application will be assessed under the planning framework which is a merits based assessment process entirely independent of the alleged unapproved facility.

*vii) Swimming Pool*

Andrew Playford enquired when the pools would be open and whether the operating days and hours would be extended.

John Truman advised that Council is still waiting on the delivery of the electrical substations and once these arrived the pools could open. Mr Truman also advised Council was yet to make a decision about the season opening and closing.

*viii) Indoor Sports Stadium*

Andrew Playford asked about the use of the sports stadium by the School and whether they had to pay to use it.

John Truman advised that the agreement with the Department of Education was that the School would have use of their part of the building during school hours and that Council would manage all bookings for the site. These arrangements are managed by a formal Deed of Agreement between the Department of Education and Council.

*ix) Clement Park/McDonald Park*

Andrew Playford asked why the sign for McDonald Park had been removed. (soccer park behind Clement Park). Andrew asked if Council wanted the sign so it could be reinstated.

John Truman advised that staff would investigate.

*x) Chamber of Commerce*

Michael Young advised the Chamber will have new board members and it may be that future representatives may not always be able to attend A Ward meetings in the future.

*xi) CWA Building*

Yvonne Scarrabelotti advised that the management of the CWA Building has been transferred from Crown Lands to Council.

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*xii) Ballina Lighthouse & Lismore Surf Lifesaving Club*

Andrew Doherty advised that the lifesaving season will finish on 29 April 2018. Mr Doherty also congratulated Council on the works done at Lighthouse Beach and Shaws Bay.

Mr Doherty also advised that the storage facility at the surf club is a project that will be completed prior to the next season and that the trial of drones has been very successful.

*xiii) Christmas Lights*

Marilyn McIntosh asked whether the rest of the trees in the main section of River Street could have Christmas decorations.

John Truman advised staff were installing extra lights when the Christmas budget allowed, however this budget was modest and decorations are required for Ballina, Wardell, Alstonville and Lennox Head.

*xiv) Global Warning/Sea Rise*

Yvonne Scarrabelotti asked whether Ballina had been impacted by global warning.

John Truman advised Council used data published by the NSW Government in respect to sea level rise and climate change predictions to inform various plans and strategies, most notably the Ballina Floodplain Risk Management Plan and the Coastal Hazard Risk Management Plan.

**10. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is to be held at 4.00pm on Tuesday 8 May 2018.

**11. Meeting Close**

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

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A Ward Meeting Attendance Sheet – 13 March 2018		
Name	Business	Signature
Cr Nathan Willis	Ballina Shire Council	Apology
Cr Phil Meehan	Ballina Shire Council	P Meehan
Cr Stephen McCarthy	Ballina Shire Council	S McCarthy
Cr David Wright	Ballina Shire Council	D Wright
Yvonne Scarrabelotti	Ballina CWA	Y Scarrabelotti
Jacqueline Mountford	Ballina CWA	_____
Ms Elaine Ballard	Ballina CWA	_____
Mr George Young	Ballina Lions Club	Apology
Mr Michael Young	Ballina Chamber of Commerce & Ballina Retail Action Group	_____
Ms Narelle Besseling	Ballina Chamber of Commerce & Ballina Retail Action Group	(Apology)
Ms Margaret Hains	Ballina Day View Club	Ms M. Hains
Ms Marilyn McIntosh	Ballina Evening View Club	M J McIntosh
Ms Mary O'Brien	Lighthouse Day Club	M O'Brien
Mr David Felsch	South Ballina Community Association	_____
Dr Ann Mulder	South Ballina Community Association	_____
Mr Stephen Wills	Ballina Bears Cricket Club	Apology
Mr Ross Pickering	Ballina & District Citizens & Ratepayers Association	R Pickering
Andrew Dougherty	Ballina Lighthouse & Lismore Surf Lifesaving Club	_____
Andrew Playford	Ballina Cast High School & East Ballina Lions Club	Andrew Playford
	Ballina Environment Society	_____
Ms Aurora McTigue	St Andrews Nursing Home	_____
Mr John Truman	Group Manager Civil Services	John Truman
Ms Joanne Cordery	Civil Services Group	_____
Dennis Magray	Observer	



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The Ballina District Citizens & Ratepayers' Association Inc.  
Box No 8011, P.O. West Ballina 2478.

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March 2, 2018,

The Hon. Rob Stokes M.P.  
Minister for Education,  
G.P.O. Box No. 5341,  
SYDNEY.....2001.

Dear Minister,

Re: Clement Park and McDonald Park, Ballina, N.S.W.

We are seeking your assistance on behalf of the general public of Ballina, in that, probably some of the best parkland in our town is currently fenced off by the Education Department and we are told "maintained by the N.S.W. Government at taxpayers' expense".

From what we can gather our local Council transferred this parkland (plus a section of Burnett Street) over to your Department in the mid 70's when our population was much smaller. Obviously at that time, our Mayor and Councillors could not have envisaged the way in which our town would grow especially with Medium Density Housing changing the demographics so dramatically in this location which is currently, very close to our central business district.

Please be assured that we are not suggesting in any way that any of the land swaps or whatever occurred during the 70's should be reversed. We are, however, wondering if current fencing and/or gates could be re-arranged thus ensuring that students continue to have access to the space and at the same time, residents have the same benefit. Access to the space is very important as is security of our school buildings and its facilities.

We sincerely hope you will find a way for the general public to enjoy both Clement Park and McDonald Park as it could very well be in your interest during the next State Election. You are probably aware that our Electorate currently has a Green's Member of Parliament.

Looking forward to your reply,

Yours faithfully,

Ross Pickering – President  
(p.p. Secretary).

c.c. Electorate Office,  
1725 Pittwater Road,  
Mona Vale 2103.

*Copy S. McCarthy (Councillor) 9/03/2018*