

1. Attendance and Apologies

Members

Cr David Wright (Mayor)
Cr Sharon Cadwallader (Chair)
Cr Keith Williams

Alan Veacock, Ballina Heights Residences Action Group
Malcolm Milner, Lennox Head Residents Association
Shaun Eastment, Lennox Head Landcare
Debbie Smith, Lennox Head Chamber of Commerce
Lyn Walker, Ballina Environment Society
Fran Byrne, Coastcare
Darel Vidler, Lennox Head Combined Sports Association
Lorraine Leuckel, Marine Rescue Ballina
Jason Dwyer, NSW Sport and Recreation

Observers

Jim Gilchrist, Lennox Head Residents Association

Council Staff

John Truman, Group Manager Civil Services
Steve Barnier, Group Manager Strategic and Community Facilities

Apologies

Graham Shaw, Lennox Head Residents Association
Ian Duncan, Knockrow/Newrybar Residents Group
Cr Jeff Johnson

2. Appointment of Chair

Councillors in attendance agreed that Cr Cadwallader would chair Committee meetings.

3. Declarations of Interest

Nil.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

That the Minutes of the "B" Ward Committee held 18 July 2016 be taken as read and confirmed. (Mr Veacock/Ms Eastment)

5. Membership

Community members in attendance acknowledged the Council's decision to retain its Ward Committee structure, indicating their desire to retain membership.

Members unanimously conveyed an expression of appreciation to Ms Sheila Aveling for her significant service to the Committee on behalf of the Tintenbar community.

6. Code of Conduct

The Chair reinforced the importance of members' adherence to Council's adopted Code of Conduct.

7. Deputations

Nil

8. Outstanding Business

(a) West Ballina Access

Cr Cadwallader enquired about any response which may have been received from NSW Roads and Maritime concerning the use of Flathead Lane in West Ballina as an interim link between Tamarind Drive and the Pacific Highway/Teven Road interchange.

John Truman indicated that discussions with RMS are continuing, however agreement concerning this proposal is yet to be reached. John explained a final resolution is not expected in the short term as RMS require Council to purchase the land and this is not proposed by Council at this point in time. The discussions do however assist to register with the RMS Council's long term interest in the required land.

9. Business with Notice from Members

Ballina Heights Residences Action Group (BHRAG)

(a) Intersection Lighting, Tamarind Drive and Deadmans Creek Road

Mr Veacock presented information which he had researched concerning options for lighting this intersection. On behalf of his Group, Mr Veacock stressed the need for the improvements as an important safety measure.

John Truman outlined the standards which must be achieved and the associated costs for detailed design, installation and operation of this infrastructure.

As this intersection has not been identified as a priority within the Council's current works program, no resource commitment is able to be made to this proposal at this time.

(b) Centre Line Marking, Deadmans Creek Road and The Ridgeway Roundabout

John Truman indicated he would arrange for staff to follow up this matter.

(c) Provision of Telecommunication Services to Residential Areas

There was discussion about the frustration and hardship being caused by the lack of efficient telecommunication services in new and established residential areas. The current rate of delivery of these services is not meeting community expectations.

Mr Veacock indicated that BHRAG has recently made extensive representations to Federal and State political members, but has not received any positive responses.

(Footnote to this item – Following the meeting staff enquiries were made. According to the National Broadband Network's (NBN Co) three year construction plan, construction of the high speed broadband network to service the existing residential areas of Ballina Shire is due to commence during the second half of 2017. This timing applies to the urban localities of Ballina, East Ballina, West Ballina, Cumbalum, Lennox Head, Skennars Head, Alstonville, Wollongbar and Wardell).

10. Council Documents on Exhibition

The list of Council documents which have recently been exhibited for public comment was noted.

11. Business Without Notice

(a) Lorraine Leuckel – Marine Rescue Facility

Ms Leuckel noted that the transition to the new facility has progressed well, although there have been some challenges with telecommunications infrastructure.

Ms Leuckel also suggested that better monitoring of the landscaping and gardens recently provided as part of the development may be beneficial, to avoid loss or damage.

(b) Malcolm Milner - Lennox Head Business Centre Improvements

Mr Milner enquired about the status of this project.

John Truman indicated that negotiations with key stakeholders are continuing, including discussion about alternative traffic management options. He confirmed that the current budget allows only for preliminary concept design.

(c) Malcolm Milner – Plan of Management for Williams Reserve, Lennox Head

Mr Milner expressed concern regarding the poor state of the western bushland area within the reserve. Problems include weed incursion, rubbish accumulation and fencing in disrepair. He suggested that it may be appropriate to review the existing vegetation management plan for the area.

John Truman indicated that he will liaise with staff to look at options for improved maintenance and management of the area.

(d) Malcolm Milner – Shark Mitigation Strategy

Mr Milner sought clarification concerning the Strategy. Cr Wright was able to outline progress through his liaison with political and departmental representatives, noting that netting trials in Ballina are due to officially commence on 8 December.

(e) Debbie Smith – Lennox Head Chamber of Commerce Activities

Ms Smith advised that the Chamber's annual general meeting is soon to occur. The Chamber is also continuing to work closely with the Lennox Head Combined Sports Association in planning for this year's Lennox Head Carols.

(f) Darel Vidler – Megan Crescent Reserve

Mr Vidler advised of progress being made on the clubhouse and amenities improvements, and indicated his club may be seeking further Council assistance with the provision of landscaping within the reserve.

Mr Vidler also raised concerns with unkempt areas adjacent to the southern and western reserve boundaries. John Truman advised that he will ask staff to inspect these areas and consider options for their maintenance.

Mr Vidler also expressed concern about the lack of maintenance within the Aboriginal cultural site alongside the reserve, though it was acknowledged this land is not Council's management responsibility.

(g) Darel Vidler – Activities on Jali Land

Mr Vidler indicated that concerns had been raised with him about activities presently being undertaken on Jali land on The Coast Road, south of the shire boundary.

The meeting was advised that Council is aware of the situation and is liaising with the landowner with a view to having the matter amicably resolved.

(h) Darel Vidler – Epiq Estate Playing Fields

Mr Vidler enquired about options for the provision of lighting within this facility.

The meeting was advised that the provision of lighting was not an obligation on the estate developer, and that funding for the infrastructure would be reliant on a Council allocation, or grants.

(i) Jason Dwyer – Lake Ainsworth Sport and Recreation Centre

Mr Dwyer commended NSW Police and Council's Rangers for their effective surveillance recently undertaken within the Lake Ainsworth public reserve.

Mr Dwyer also provided an update concerning negotiations and planning for the proposed new training infrastructure within the Centre. With a project manager having been recently appointed, and a design team currently engaged to define the scope of work, Mr Dwyer's Department is hoping the new facility may be operational by December 2017, subject of course, to various regulatory approvals having been obtained.

(j) Fran Byrne – Coastal Recreational Pathway

Ms Byrne commended Council for its decision to build the section of the pathway immediately north of the East Ballina cycleway underpass alongside The Coast Road, rather than within the adjacent coastal reserve.

Ms Byrne expressed her concern however regarding the decision to re-route the pathway east of the Flat Rock Tent Park, as people will tend to cut through the dunes to access the beach, rather than using controlled/designated beach access pathways.

John Truman indicated that the design and regulatory approval for this project considered this issue. The approval conditions require ongoing vegetation mediation and management and this will assist to address the problems identified. Staff will monitor usage patterns in this locality as part of Councils asset inspections and the monitoring of the progress of the vegetation management plan for the project.

(k) Fran Byrne – Pedestrian Safety, Suvla Street

Ms Byrne referred to recent media coverage concerning pedestrian safety along Suvla Street and advocated for alternative, safer access options for those going to/from the beach being investigated.

(l) Fran Byrne – Shelly's on the Beach Café

Ms Byrne enquired about the status of the proposed café/restaurant redevelopment.

The meeting was advised that there has been no change to the current situation; that being that the site is under lease and it is a matter for the lessee to determine whether and when he will commence the redevelopment.

12. Next Meeting

Monday 20 March 2017 at 4.30 pm

13. Meeting Close

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.10 pm.