

1. Attendance and Apologies

Councillor David Wright (Mayor) (present part time)
Councillor Eoin Johnston
Councillor Sharon Parry (Chair – in absence of Cr Ben Smith)

Pat Carney – Wardell Progress Association
Lois Wright - Plateau Seniors
Mary Birch – Wollongbar Progress Association
Jim Hahn – Probus Club of Alstonville
Malcolm Johnson - Ballina Environment Society
Russell Priddle – Alstonville Football Club
Des Burke – Alstonville Lions Club
Richard Lutze – Alstonville Wollongbar Chamber of Commerce
Wayne Garrard – Alstonville Cricket Club
Jane Gardiner – Alstonville Plateau Historical Society
Barry Jeffress – Tuckombil Landcare

Others in Attendance

Kerry Turpin – Wardell Progress Association
David Katschke – Alstonville/Wollongbar Chamber of Commerce
Mick Oaten – Alstonville/Wollongbar Chamber of Commerce
Marilyn Hahn – Probus Club of Alstonville

Staff in Attendance

Matthew Wood - Director Planning and Environmental Health Division
Caroline Klose - Manager Communications

Apologies

Councillor Ben Smith (Chair)
Tyrone McGillick – Alstonville Asphalt Watch
Ron Birch – Wollongbar Progress Association
Steve Miller – Rous Mill Ratepayers

The apologies were accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

Nil

3. Deputations

Nil

4. Confirmation of Minutes 8 November 2018

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 November 2018 were confirmed as a true and correct record.

(Eoin Johnston/ Richard Lutze)

5. Presentation by Council Staff

Caroline Klose, Manager Communications, made a presentation to the Committee on Council's communications portfolio (governance, communications and customer service).

Caroline's presentation included address of various functions of the communications portfolio including:

- operational plan and delivery program and community strategic plan.
- community connect publication.
- corporate website and social media platforms.
- e-rates competition.
- customer service statistics.
- grant preparation.

6. Business Arising from Minutes –8 November 2018

(a) OSSM Inspection Fees

The information provided in the agenda was noted.

Pat Carney sought clarification as to why the OSSM inspection fee is charged even when AWTS require inspection at a cost to landowners. This matter and the overall on site sewer program being the subject of general discussion amongst the committee.

Matthew Wood advised that the rationale for the fee is similar to the urban sewer charge and is in place to support delivery of the overall on site sewer program across the Shire. Further details regarding the fee are provided in the business agenda.

Barry Jeffress requested information on the income received by Council from the OSSM inspection fee and the cost associated with Council's program. To be referred to Council's Environmental and Public Health Section to provide further details.

(b) Removal of Shelter from Bulwinkel Park

The information provided in the agenda was noted.

Malcolm Johnson indicated ongoing concern with the decision to retain the shelter structure until adequate community engagement is undertaken (as noted in the information provided within the business agenda).

(c) Rifle Range Road Speed Sign Covered with Vegetation

The information provided in the agenda was noted.

Mary Birch indicated that vegetation is not the only issue associated with the sign. Mary suggested that the sign is in the wrong place and should be positioned further east. To be referred to Council's Engineering Works Section for review.

(d) Rous Mill Recreation Reserve

The information provided in the agenda was noted.

(e) Elizabeth Ann Brown Memorial Park – Public Art and Disabled Parking Space

The information provided in the agenda was noted.

Richard Lutze tabled a plan showing 45 degree angle parking along Daley Street. Richard requested that this be considered as part of future road and/or park refurbishment works. To be referred to Council's Engineering Works and Open Space and Reserve sections for noting.

(f) Removal of Services Club Sign near Frank Street, Alstonville

The information provided in the agenda was noted.

(g) Street Lighting in Alstonville Main Street

The information provided in the agenda was noted.

Richard Lutze asked whether the light fittings are fit for purpose (i.e. do they need replacement). To be referred to Council's Engineering Works Section for feedback.

(h) Green Street Footpath

The information provided in the agenda was noted.

(i) Follow up on NBN Works not completed in Green Street Alstonville

The information provided in the agenda was noted.

7. Council Documents on Exhibition

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

Malcolm Johnson asked whether there have been any significant changes to the volunteer insurance policy. Matthew Wood advised the policy has had some adjustments but no major changes.

Barry Jeffress indicated access to Teven Park is difficult and asked if Council can provide his Landcare group with a key. To be referred to Council's Open Space and Reserves Section for follow up.

8. Items raised by members of the Committee

(a) Leisure Centre Survey

Richard Lutze enquired about the results from the leisure centre survey. Matthew Wood advised that the survey responses are under review. Early issues include library size and configuration, temperature control and building condition.

Matthew Wood advised that funding is not allocated at present for the entire scope of any refurbishment but Council is moving to tender for roof replacement as this work has a funding allocation.

(b) Car Parking – Commercial Road, Alstonville

Richard Lutze asked whether Council intends to seal the surface and formalise the car parking in the vacant lot on Commercial Road adjacent to the village centre. To be referred to Council's Commercial Services Section for review.

(c) Tosha Falls Management Plan

Richard Lutze asked whether the management actions in the Tosha Falls Management Plan are funded. Matthew Wood advised that the initial actions are funded but the aspirational actions are not. Richard asked that consideration be given to funding the aspirational actions. To be referred to Council's Open Space and Reserves Section for consideration.

(d) Footpath/Pathways Connections

Richard Lutze raised various suggestions for footpath connections considered to be of benefit to the community (including economic benefit). Suggested pathways were Wardell Road to Summerland House, Bruxner Highway to Dirty Wheels Mountain Bike track, Pearces Creek Road to Wollongbar sports fields and Lumley Park to Tosha Falls. To be referred to Council's Engineering Works Section for consideration.

(e) Rescue Equipment – Dirty Wheels Mountain Bike Site

Malcolm Johnson suggested that emergency rescue equipment would be beneficial at the Dirty Wheels Mountain Bike site to aid road vehicle based rescues. To be referred to Council's Open Space and Reserves Section for consideration.

9. General Business

(a) Water Extraction

Barry Jeffress asked about the status of the water extraction development application (Ellis Road). Matthew Wood advised that submissions received are under assessment and Council is awaiting government referral responses.

Mary Birch asked whether the water to be extracted is water suitable for use given the operation of OSSM systems. Matthew advised the suitability of the water has been raised as an issue for consideration in relation to the application.

(f) Water Filling Station - Airport

Malcolm Johnson asked if there will be a water filling station in the new airport terminal. To be referred to Council's Commercial Services Section for comment.

(g) Rural Fire Service Access

Malcolm Johnson enquired about the Alstonville Wollongbar rural fire service access. Malcolm indicated that a turning bay is required due to the adjacent land owner wishing to secure the land (which will limit RFS access). Council has previously agreed to provide a turning area on the lawn but there is concern within the RFS that tankers will get bogged on wet ground. Malcolm also asked about the installation of a stand pipe at the RFS site. To be referred to operations Support for review.

(h) Bulwinkle Park

Malcolm Johnson advised that the Bulwinkle Park camphor laurel tree removal has been difficult to complete for various reasons. An alternate approach to the tree removal is currently being considered.

(i) Healthy Waterways Projects

Malcolm Johnson indicated that Ozfish is seeking details on healthy waterways projects and the expenditure of funds derived from the associated rate rise. Matthew Wood indicated that this information is readily available and that Ozfish should contact waterways project staff in this regard.

(j) Steam Weeding Trial

Malcolm Johnson and Barry Jeffress advised that the Tuckombil Landcare group trialled steam weeding in Teven Park. The group is monitoring the outcomes to see how successful the approach is.

(k) Road Infrastructure

Mary Birch asked whether Council has a plan for the provision of road infrastructure given the growth being experienced in the Shire. Mary referred to the examples of congestion at West Ballina and the use of the back road to Lismore.

Matthew Wood advised that Council has a documented plan for road works. In particular, Hutley Drive North and Ballina entry road duplication (bridge duplication) are priority projects at present.

Mary asked for information about works planned for Rifle Range Road. To be referred to Council's Engineering Works Section for feedback.

It was noted that the construction of the new BP service centre at the Pacific Highway/Bruxner Highway intersection is likely to create traffic congestion.

Mary asked whether Ballina Shire has to be a growth area. Matthew referenced the State Government planning framework and its identification of Ballina Shire as having urban growth areas. Council is required to respond to this by the State Government.

(l) Bruxner Highway Intersection Works

Councillor Johnston expressed concern about the concept of Bruxner Highway intersection works at Wardell Road on the basis of this approach directing traffic through Alstonville. C Ward as a whole expressed its concern with the design solution.

(m) Planning Proposal – Dual Occupancy at Wardell

Pat Carney asked about the status of the planning proposal to enable dual occupancy development in Wardell and the associated resident notification process. Matthew Wood advised that the planning proposal is an action from the Wardell Strategic Plan and is being implemented as a result of a Council resolution. To be referred to Council's Strategic Planning Section for comment on the notification process.

(n) Alstonville Pool

Mary Birch commended the Council for the construction of the Alstonville pool.

10. Reporting of Safety Related Matters

The information provided in the agenda was noted.

Councillor Sharon Parry raised concern about stormwater infrastructure in Panorama Drive being a trip hazard. To be referred to Council's Engineering Works Section for review.

11. Next Meeting

Thursday 9 May 2019 at 5.00 pm

Meeting Closure

6.15 pm