

1. Attendance and Apologies

Cr Eoin Johnston
Cr Sharon Parry
Cr Ben Smith (Chair)

Les Wiles - Alstonville Lions Club
Steve Miller – Rous Mill Ratepayers
Tyrone McGillick – Alstonville Asphalt Watch
Lois Wright - Plateau Seniors
Mary Birch – Wollongbar Progress Association
Richard Lutze – Alstonville/Wollongbar Chamber of Commerce
Jane Gardiner – Alstonville Plateau Historical Society
Malcolm Johnson - Ballina Environment Society

Others in Attendance

Nil

Staff in Attendance

Kerri Watts, Acting Group Manager, Development and Environmental Health Group

Apologies

Cr David Wright (Mayor)
Elva Fitzell – Rotary e-Club of NextGen
Jim and Marilyn Hahn – Probus Club of Alstonville
Barry Jeffress – Tuckombil Landcare
Wayne Garrard – Alstonville Cricket Club

The apologies were accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

Nil

3. Deputations

Nil

4. Confirmation of Minutes 14 September 2017

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 September 2017 were confirmed as a true and correct record, with an amendment to Item 8(c) – the member of the Committee who raised this item was Marilyn Perkins, not Marilyn Hahn.

5. Business Arising from Minutes –14 September 2017

(a) Vandalism in Toilet – Crawford House

The information provided in the agenda was noted. Kerri Watts advised that the matter specially relating to the new flyscreens will be referred to Council's Civil Services Group for follow up.

(b) Leasing Arrangements for Wollongbar Hall

The information provided in the agenda was noted.

(c) Public Liability Insurance for Public Halls

The information provided in the agenda was noted.

Steve Miller from Rous Mill Hall questioned whether this would relate to privately owned public halls such as Rous Mill. Steve was advised to contact Steve Barnier – Group Manager Strategic and Community Facilities.

6. Council Documents on Exhibition

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

7. Items raised by members of the Committee

(a) Alstonville Strategic Plan

Jane Gardiner asked for an update on the Alstonville Strategic Plan. Cr Smith advised that Plan has been deferred as further consideration needed by Councillors and that future workshop will be held.

Discussion was held around the table on this matter and both Cr Parry and Cr Johnston explained their positions on the matter.

(b) Use of steam as a weed control system in public reserves

Tyrone McGillick raised if it is possible for Council to commence a trial using steam for weed management, similar to that being used in Byron Shire Council. This type of control would be aimed at use in residential areas, parks and reserves as a more environmental and public health friendly alternative to synthetic chemicals such as round up.

(c) New plans for Skate park

Mary Birch commented that she liked the new plans for the skate park at the Wollongbar sports field site. She asked about the timing of the lodgement of the DA. Kerri Watts will following up as to the timing of the new development application and advise the Committee.

(d) Thanks to staff

Mary also raised that she would like to pass on a compliment and a thank you to the Council staff for doing an excellent job in the Avalon Estate trimming trees and tidying up rubbish, the area looks great.

Cr Johnston also commented on an excellent job council staff performed when a tree had fallen on Cemetery Road after a storm and for the quick response to fixing pot holes along Wardell Road adjacent the Amaze 'n' Place.

(e) Special Rate Variation

Steve Miller raised some questions especially regarding the Healthy Waterways component. Cr Smith briefly explained the IPART application and Council's position. Kerri Watts advised the Committee on the Healthy Waterways Program and of the work program currently being planned and that a significant component of these works are planned on the Alstonville Plateau. These works will contribute to improving overall catchment water quality issues.

(f) Thanks to staff

Steve also provided feedback that the upgrade works along Marom Creek Road were completed by Council staff in a fast and professional manner and the road guttering works along Rous Mill Road were completed in two days and excellent.

(g) Disaster Relief Funding

Steve also asked about the disaster relief funding for the works at 'Devil's Elbow'. Kerri Watts to refer to Manager Engineering Works, Paul Busmanis for investigation and advice as to the timing of the funding.

(h) Alstonville Leisure and Entertainment Centre

Les Wiles asked about the current arrangements at the Centre and how will it work in the future if the arrangements change. Cr Smith explained Council's position and how the Centre will be management by Council in the future.

(i) Bulwinkle Park

Malcolm Johnson advised that there has been more vandalism at the Park with more than 100 plantings damaged and or ripped out.

Malcolm raised that Alstonville Lions Club would like to demolish the shelter in the park and Kerri Watts advised that she would refer to the appropriate Group in Council to contact Malcolm to discuss options available and the process required.

g.) Container Deposit Scheme

A question was asked as to whether Council has received any information on the Container Deposit Scheme facilities that are to be located at Woolworths. There is interest from local charity groups on this matter and Kerri Watts advised she would follow up as to the latest information available on these centres.

9. General Business

Councillors confirmed that the thank you to staff raised at this meeting be sent to the appropriate sections in Council to ensure staff are aware of the appreciation of their good work in the community.

10. Next Meeting

Thursday 8 March 2018 at 5.00 pm

Meeting Closure

6.08 pm