

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
40 CHERRY STREET, BALLINA,
ON 17/03/20 AT 4.00 PM**

Attendance

Crs David Wright (Mayor - in the chair), Phillip Meehan, Sharon Parry, Jeff Johnson, Eoin Johnston, Stephen McCarthy, Nathan Willis, Keith Williams, Sharon Cadwallader and Ben Smith.

Paul Hickey (General Manager), John Truman (Director, Civil Services Division), Tara McGready (acting Director, Planning and Environmental Health Division), Kelly Brown (Director, Corporate and Community Division) and Sarah Carden (Secretary) were in attendance.

There were two people in the gallery at this time.

1. Apologies

An apology was received from Cr Nathan Willis and Cr Phil Meehan

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Sharon Cadwallader)

That such apology be accepted and leave of absence granted.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Phillip Meehan and Cr Nathan Willis

2. Declarations of Interest

- **Cr Eoin Johnston** - declared an interest in Item 4.1 – Ocean Pool Update (Nature of Interest: non-significant, non-pecuniary – he was a member of the Ocean Pool Committee). He will be remaining in the meeting while the matter is discussed and voting on the matter.
- **Cr Jeff Johnson** - declared an interest in Item 4.1 – Ocean Pool Update (Nature of Interest: non-significant, non-pecuniary – he is currently a member of the Ocean Pool Committee). He will be remaining in the meeting while the matter is discussed and voting on the matter.

3. Deputations

Nil

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4. Committee Reports

4.1 Ocean Pool - Update

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Sharon Cadwallader)

1. That Council approves the dissolution of the Council Ocean Pool Committee.
2. That Council continues to endorse the preparation of an application to seek the necessary planning approval for the Ballina Ocean Pool project at Shelly Beach, Ballina, subject to the application being inclusive of appropriate planning and technical assessments, consistent with resolution reference RT270918/3.
3. That Council confirms that the endorsement in point two does not provide approval to lodge a planning application, with that decision to be made by the elected Council, once the documentation is at a point where the General Manager, or nominated delegate, is of the opinion that satisfactory information is available for the planning assessment.
4. That Council continue to provide in-kind assistance to the Ballina Ocean Pool Committee Inc, through the provision of the Council Committee meeting room for meetings, and access to staff, as and when required, within reasonable limits as determined by the General Manager.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Phillip Meehan and Cr Nathan Willis

4.2 Hampton Park - Car Park

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Jeff Johnson/Cr Sharon Parry)

1. That Council defer consideration of its support to a new car park at Hampton Park until the Hampton Park Plan of Management is reviewed.
2. That Council write to the Cherry Street Bowling Club to advise the Club of its decision and request the Club's consideration of using the available grant funds to finance, part or all of the review of the Hampton Park Plan of Management. If the Club is not able to support this request, Council will receive a further report assessing funding options to the April 2020 Finance Committee meeting.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Phillip Meehan and Cr Nathan Willis

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4.3 National Bushfire Recovery Agency Funding Assistance

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Eoin Johnston/Cr Sharon Cadwallader)

1. That Council authorises the General Manager to submit the following program of work for approval to National Bushfire Resource Recovery Agency for the funding available to Council;

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Rural Fire Service (RFS) Facility Lennox Head | \$500,000 |
| Asset Protection Zones (APZ) | \$225,000 |
| Koala Management and Biodiversity Conservation Strategies | \$200,000 |
| Indigenous Protected Area Repairs | \$200,000 |
| Richmond Room Enhancements | \$100,000 |

2. The Council notes the information in the above report regarding the application submitted under the Regional Tourism Bushfire Recovery Grant program for funding to continue the Cultural Ways Project for the Coastal Shared Path and Coastal Recreational Walk.
3. That Council authorises the General Manager to develop, in consultation with the Jali Land Council, an application to the Bushfire Community Resilience and Economic Recovery Fund to allow the implementation of recovery activities and works to support future resilience capacity for the community located at Cabbage Tree Island.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Phillip Meehan and Cr Nathan Willis

A **Motion** was moved by Cr Cadwallader and seconded by Cr Johnson

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Jeff Johnson)

That Council allocate \$12,000 from General Revenue to clean up the beaches to mitigate tourism impacts.

FOR VOTE - Cr Sharon Parry, Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Eoin Johnston, Cr Sharon Cadwallader and Cr Ben Smith

AGAINST VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Stephen McCarthy and Cr Keith Williams

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Phillip Meehan and Cr Nathan Willis

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4.4 Land Valuations and Rating Structure - 2020/21

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Eoin Johnston)

1. That for the draft 2020/21 Operational Plan, Council approves the application of a base rating structure, which applies the following principles:
 - a) Marginally less than 50% of the rate income for the residential category of properties being generated from the base amount
 - b) Business, farmland and mining categories to have the same base amount as the residential base amount
 - c) A total of 19.35% income from the rate yield to be sourced from the business category properties
 - d) Farmland rate in the dollar is approximately 83% of the residential rate in the dollar
 - e) The mining category rate in the dollar to be set as the same rate as the business category (currently no mining category properties in the shire).
2. That Council notes the indicative figures for this rating structure for 2020/21, are as per Tables Eleven and Twelve of this report.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Phillip Meehan and Cr Nathan Willis

4.5 Wastewater Operations - Long Term Financial Plan

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Keith Williams)

That Council endorses the annual charges, as per the following table, as well as the long term financial plan, as per the attachments to this report, for the wastewater operations, for exhibition in the draft 2020/21 Operational Plan.

| Charge Type | 2019/20 \$ | 2020/21 \$ | % Increase |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Residential Availability Charge | 1,001 | 1,027 | 2.6% |
| Vacant Land Charge | 755 | 775 | 2.6% |
| Non Residential Usage Charge | 2.54 | 2.61 | 2.6% |
| Non Residential Access Charge | Variable based on meter size | | |
| Recycled Water | 80% of potable water step 1 | | |

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Phillip Meehan and Cr Nathan Willis

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4.6 Water Operations - Long Term Financial Plan

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Parry/Cr Ben Smith)

That Council endorses the annual charges, as per the following table, as well as the long term financial plan, as per the attachments to this report, for the water operations, for exhibition in the draft 2020/21 Operational Plan.

| Charge Type | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | % Increase |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Water Access Charge 20mm meter | 204 | 209 | 2.6 |
| Water Consumption under 350kl | 2.29 | 2.35 | 2.6 |
| Water Consumption over 350kl | 3.44 | 3.53 | 2.6 |
| Vacant Land Charge | 204 | 209 | 2.6 |

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Phillip Meehan and Cr Nathan Willis

4.7 Waste Operations - Long Term Financial Plan

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Eoin Johnston/Cr Steve McCarthy)

1. That Council resolves not to support the introduction of a targeted free voucher system for pensioners for 2020/21 due to the following reasons:
 - a) The system will result in additional cost pressure on Council's waste management operations at a time when the Landfill and Resource Management Reserve is overdrawn, Council is facing significant increases in operating costs and there remain numerous uncertainties in respect to how waste streams are to be managed into the future
 - b) The information Council has available on pensioners only includes pensioners registered for property rate rebates and no information is available on the number of non-registered pensioners and health care cardholders
 - c) The system is inconsistent with Council's waste management strategic objectives which focus on responsibility for waste management
 - d) There is no evidence available to support that the system will have any beneficial impact on illegal dumping in the Shire.
2. That Council endorses the draft fees and charges and Landfill and Resource Management and Domestic Waste Management long term financial plans, as per the attachments to this report, for exhibition in the draft 2020/21 Operational Plan.

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FOR VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Sharon Parry, Cr Eoin Johnston, Cr Stephen McCarthy, Cr Sharon Cadwallader and Cr Ben Smith
AGAINST VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Keith Williams
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Phillip Meehan and Cr Nathan Willis

MEETING CLOSURE

5.15 pm