

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
40 CHERRY STREETS, BALLINA,
ON 20/04/17 AT 4.00 PM**

Attendance

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

Paul Hickey (General Manager), John Truman (Group Manager Civil Services), Rod Willis (Group Manager Development and Environmental Health), Matthew Wood (Acting Group Manager Strategic and Community Facilities) and Joanne Cordery (Secretary) were in attendance.

There were six staff members and one member of the community in the gallery at this time.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cr Phillip Meehan and Cr Nathan Willis

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Ben Smith)

That such apologies 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 – later in the meeting declared an interest in Item 4.9 – Wollongbar Sports Fields – Budget Variance. (Nature of Interest: non significant, non pecuniary – he is a Life member of the Alstonville/Wollongbar Rugby Club). He will be remaining in the meeting while the matter is discussed and voting on the matter.

3. Deputations

Bruce Cadwallader – spoke in opposition to 4.2 - Water Operations - Pricing Structure Review

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4. Committee Reports

4.1 Interest Write Off - Survey Street, Lennox Head

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Ben Smith)

That due to the acknowledgment by Council staff that the concerns over the rates and charges levied on the subject property, as raised by the property owner could have been investigated in a more timely manner, Council approves the write off of interest charges on assessment No 224620 for the period between 12 September 2012 and 30 December 2016 for the amount of \$3,711.60.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

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

4.2 Water Operations - Pricing Structure Review

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Jeff Johnson)

1. That Council retain the existing water charging structure for 2017/2018.
2. That Council receive a report on having a separate water consumption charge for residential and non-residential properties that achieves the same level of consumption income in total.

FOR VOTE - Cr Sharon Parry, Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Eoin Johnston, Cr Stephen McCarthy, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Sharon Cadwallader and Cr Ben Smith

AGAINST VOTE - Cr David Wright

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

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4.3 Concealed Water Leak - Options for Management

A **Motion** was moved by Cr Johnson and seconded by Cr Williams.

1. That Council not charge the step two water rate when a concealed water leak is identified subject to satisfactory evidence being provided.
2. That Council not charge interest on concealed water leaks for customers entering into a repayment plan.
3. That General Manager prepare a policy to manage concealed water leaks.

An **Amendment** was moved by Cr Smith and seconded by Cr Cadwallader.

1. That Council not charge the step two water rate when a concealed water leak is identified subject to satisfactory evidence being provided.
2. That Council not charge interest on concealed water leaks for customers entering into a repayment plan.
3. That General Manager prepare a policy to manage concealed water leaks.
4. That this policy will only apply to residential properties.
5. That the policy allow an appropriate timeframe (i.e. two months) for applications to be submitted.

The **Amendment** was **CARRIED**.

FOR VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Stephen McCarthy, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Sharon Cadwallader and Cr Ben Smith

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Sharon Parry, Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Eoin Johnston

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

The **Amendment** then became the **Motion** and was **CARRIED**.

FOR VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Sharon Parry, Cr Stephen McCarthy, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Sharon Cadwallader and Cr Ben Smith

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Eoin Johnston

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

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Sharon Cadwallader)

1. That Council not charge the step two water rate when a concealed water leak is identified subject to satisfactory evidence being provided.

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2. That Council not charge interest on concealed water leaks for customers entering into a repayment plan.
3. That General Manager prepare a policy to manage concealed water leaks.
4. That this policy will only apply to residential properties.
5. That the policy allow an appropriate timeframe (i.e. two months) for applications to be submitted.

FOR VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Sharon Parry, Cr Stephen McCarthy, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Sharon Cadwallader and Cr Ben Smith

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Eoin Johnston

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

4.4 Concealed Water Leak - Palisade Way, Lennox Head

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council only charge the step 1 rate for the financial year and declines to provide further financial relief to Mr Rod Hornby as:
 - a) Council staff undertook reasonable efforts to inform Mr Hornby of the high water usage and
 - b) The circumstances in respect to the notification correspondence being returned to Council were beyond Council's control.
2. That Council confirms that Ms Tania Watson is not to pay the step 2 rate for the remainder of the financial year.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

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

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4.5 Water Operations - Long Term Financial Plan

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Eoin Johnston)

That Council endorses the annual charges, as per the following table, for exhibition in the draft 2017/18 Operational Plan, as well as the long term financial plan, as per the attachments to this report.

Charge Type	2016/17	2017/18	% Increase
Water Access Charge 20mm meter (1)	200	204	2.0
Water Consumption under 350kl	2.14	2.18	1.9
Water Consumption over 350kl	3.22	3.27	1.6
Vacant Land Charge	200	204	2.0

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

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

4.6 Workforce Plan - 2017/18 to 2020/21

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Jeff Johnson/Cr Eoin Johnston)

That Council approves the exhibition of the draft Workforce Plan, as attached to this report, in conjunction with the exhibition of the draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan for 2017/18 to 2020/21.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

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

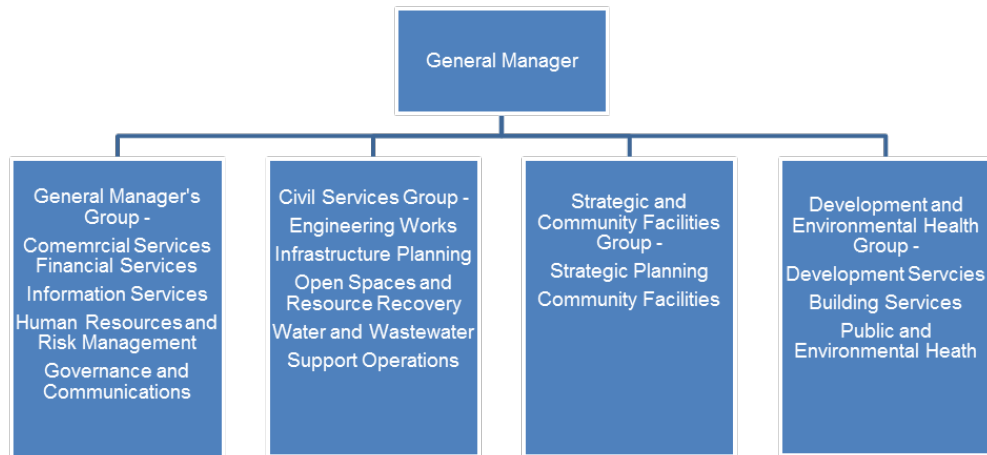
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4.7 Organisation Structure – Review

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Ben Smith)

1. That Council adopts the following organisation structure for the purposes of the Section 322 of the Local Government Act;



with the General Manager to review the title for the Governance and Communications Section with the reference to Governance to be removed.

2. That Council approves the reallocation of the customer services function from the Strategic and Community Facilities Group to the General Manager's Group, as detailed within this report.
3. That Council confirms that the senior staff positions within the organisation structure are as follows:
 - General Manager
 - Group Manager – Civil Services
 - Group Manager – Development and Environmental Health.

Cr Jeff Johnson left the meeting at 5:00 pm.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

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

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4.8 Fees and Charges - 2017/18

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Sharon Parry)

That Council approves the exhibition of the draft schedule of fees and charges for 2017/18 as attached, including any amendments resulting from this meeting.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

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

Cr Eoin Johnston at this point declared an interest in Item 4.9.

4.9 Wollongbar Sports Fields - Budget Variance

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Sharon Parry)

1. That based on the contents of this report Council approves an increase in the 2016/17 budget for the Wollongbar Sports Fields of \$500,000 funded as follows:
 - a) Transfer of \$110,000 from the Sports Fields contingency reserve
 - b) Transfer of \$100,000 from the Open Spaces Reserve
 - c) Transfer of \$120,000 from the Management Plans Reserve
 - d) Transfer of \$170,000 from the 2016/17 budget for the Lake Ainsworth Southern Precinct project

2. The \$170,000 for the Lake Ainsworth Southern Precinct is to be reimbursed in the 2017/18 budget funded as follows:
 - a) \$148,000 reallocated from the Sports Fields Capital Works budget with the current program of works deferred by one year
 - b) \$22,000 reallocated from the Stormwater Capital Works budget through the deletion of the Urban Stormwater Management Plan (\$22,000) project.

FOR VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Sharon Parry, Cr Eoin Johnston, Cr Stephen McCarthy, Cr Keith Williams and Cr Ben Smith

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader

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

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4.10 Community Infrastructure - Non-recurrent Projects and Funding

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Sharon Parry)

1. That Council notes the contents of this report in respect to the numerous non-recurrent community infrastructure projects under consideration by Council.
2. That Council endorses for inclusion in the draft 2017/18 Long Term Financial Plan the forecast movements in the Property Development Reserve and Community Infrastructure Reserve as per attachments five and six of this report.
3. That Council review the timing of the funds allocated for the implementation of the Captain Cook Park Masterplan and examine other options for the allocation of these monies.
4. That Council receive a report on the timing of the implementation of the Ballina Town Entry Treatment Masterplan.

Cr Jeff Johnson returned to the meeting at 5.30pm.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

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

4.11 Long Term Financial Plan - Consolidated Forecast and General Fund

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Eoin Johnston)

That Council approves the exhibition of the draft Long Term Financial Plan document, as attached to this report, subject to any amendments arising from this meeting.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

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

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4.12 Delivery Program and Operational Plan - Exhibition

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Ben Smith)

That Council approves the exhibition of the draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan document, as attached to this report, inclusive of any changes arising from this meeting.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

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

MEETING CLOSURE

5.57pm