

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
40 CHERRY STREET, BALLINA,
ON 20/03/19 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 (arrived at 4.04 pm) and Ben Smith.

Paul Hickey (General Manager), John Truman (Director Civil Services Division), Matthew Wood (Director Planning and Environmental Health Division) and Sandra Bailey (Secretary) were in attendance.

Other Staff in Attendance – Craig Brown (Manager Community Facilities), Paul Tsikleas (Manager Commercial Services), Kylie Hardy (Coordinator Security - Airport), Linda Coulter (Manager Financial Services) and Caroline Klose (Manager Communications).

There were three people in the gallery at this time.

1. Apologies

Nil

2. Declarations of Interest

Cr Nathan Willis – declared an interest in Item 4.5 – Alstonville Preschool – Camphor Laurel Tree Management. (Nature of Interest: non significant, non pecuniary – he is a former Board member of the previous structure of the Alstonville Preschool). He will be remaining in the meeting while the matter is discussed and voting on the matter.

Cr Sharon Cadwallader – later in the meeting – declared an interest in Item 4.2 – Economic Development and Business Support. (Nature of Interest: non significant, non pecuniary – she is a tourism operator and a previous Manager of the Northern Rivers Business Chamber). She will be remaining in the meeting while the matter is discussed and voting on the matter.

Cr Sharon Cadwallader – later in the meeting – declared an interest in Item 4.11 – Water Pricing Structure. (Nature of Interest: pecuniary – she is the owner of a property affected by extra water charges for additional tenements). She will be departing the meeting while the matter is discussed.

3. Deputations

- **Jess Price-Purnell, Alstonville Community Preschool** - spoke in opposition to Item 4.5 – Alstonville Preschool – Camphor Laurel Tree Management.

Cr Sharon Cadwallader arrived at the meeting at 04:04 pm.

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
40 CHERRY STREET, BALLINA,
ON 20/03/19 AT 4.00 PM**

4. Committee Reports

4.5 Alstonville Preschool - Camphor Laurel Tree Management

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Phillip Meehan/Cr Ben Smith)

That Council implement a pruning program of the camphor laurel tree to only remove branches that overhang the pool structure (the water), with the tree inspected by Council's Arborist on a regular basis.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

4.1 Ballina - Byron Gateway Airport - Long Term Financial Plan

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Nathan Willis/Cr Keith Williams)

That the Committee move into Committee of the Whole.

FOR VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Sharon Parry, Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Eoin Johnston, Cr Stephen McCarthy, Cr Nathan Willis, Cr Keith Williams and Cr Sharon Cadwallader

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Phillip Meehan and Cr Ben Smith

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Sharon Parry)

That the Committee move out of Committee of the Whole.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Sharon Cadwallader)

1. That Council approves the inclusion of the Long Term Financial Plan for the Ballina – Byron Gateway Airport, as per this report, in the draft 2019/20 to 2022/23 Delivery Program and Operational Plan.
2. That Council authorises the Mayor to make on-going representations to the State and Federal Governments in respect to the urgent need to secure funding for the runway widening project as per the Long Term Financial Plan.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
40 CHERRY STREET, BALLINA,
ON 20/03/19 AT 4.00 PM**

At this stage, Cr Sharon Cadwallader made the following declarations of interest:

Cr Sharon Cadwallader – declared an interest in Item 4.2 – Economic Development and Business Support. (Nature of Interest: non significant, non pecuniary – she is a tourism operator and a previous Manager of the Northern Rivers Business Chamber). She will be remaining in the meeting while the matter is discussed and voting on the matter.

Cr Sharon Cadwallader – declared an interest in Item 4.11 – Water Pricing Structure. (Nature of Interest: pecuniary – she is the owner of a property affected by extra water charges for additional tenements). She will be departing the meeting while the matter is discussed.

4.2 Economic Development and Business Support

A **Motion** was moved by Cr Eoin Johnston and seconded by Cr Sharon Parry

1. That Council approves the inclusion in the draft 2019/20 Operational Plan an action to undertake a business community survey to help identify actions that Council can implement to support economic development and assist businesses in their operation and growth, with that survey to be developed in conjunction with the NSW Business Chamber and the local Chambers of Commerce, with a further survey to be conducted by research companies such as Micromex, with funds to be expended not in excess of \$10,000.
2. That Council notes the contents of this report in respect to the actions that support economic development and the business community.

The **Motion** was **LOST**.

FOR VOTE - Cr Sharon Parry, Cr Eoin Johnston, Cr Nathan Willis and Cr Keith Williams

AGAINST VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Phillip Meehan, Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Stephen McCarthy, Cr Sharon Cadwallader and Cr Ben Smith

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Stephen McCarthy)

1. That Council approves the inclusion in the draft 2019/20 Operational Plan an action to undertake a business community survey to help identify actions that Council can implement to support economic development and assist businesses in their operation and growth, with that survey to be developed in conjunction with the NSW Business Chamber and the local Chambers of Commerce.
2. That Council notes the contents of this report in respect to the actions that support economic development and the business community.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
40 CHERRY STREET, BALLINA,
ON 20/03/19 AT 4.00 PM**

4.3 Rating Structure and Land Valuations - 2019/20

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Nathan Willis)

That Council receive a further report on an option to have the business and residential rates increased by the 5.9% approved special rate variation.

FOR VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Sharon Parry, Cr Eoin Johnston, Cr Stephen McCarthy, Cr Nathan Willis, Cr Keith Williams and Cr Ben Smith
AGAINST VOTE - Cr Phillip Meehan, Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Sharon Cadwallader

4.4 Street Lighting - LED Bulk Replacement Program

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Nathan Willis)

- 1) That Council accepts Essential Energy's revised offer for the bulk replacement of street lighting with LED fittings, in accordance with Option 2 as detailed in this report.
- 2) The capital cost of approximately \$722,844 is to be funded from an internal loan through a transfer from Water and / or Wastewater Reserves.
- 3) The 2019/20 draft Long Term Financial Plan is to be based on the internal loan, with the loan repayments funded through savings achieved in the annual street lighting budget.
- 4) That Council authorises the General Manager to accept an alternate fitting technology, if supported by Essential Energy, subject to the environmental and economic performance achieving similar outcomes to the fittings accepted at the October 2018 Ordinary meeting.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
40 CHERRY STREET, BALLINA,
ON 20/03/19 AT 4.00 PM**

4.6 Alstonville and Ballina Swimming Pools - Operations Review

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Phillip Meehan/Cr Sharon Parry)

1. That Council confirms the Ballina swimming pool will close for the period 1 June to 30 June 2019 for essential maintenance with the pool to re-open for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.
2. The preference of Council for the Ballina swimming pool is to be open all year round, subject to annual reviews of the performance of the facility, relative to attendance numbers and operating costs.
3. That Council confirms the Alstonville swimming pool is to remain open until 30 June 2019 and then close for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 July 2019 for essential maintenance and to help reduce operating costs. The pool is to re-open for the period 1 August to 30 June 2020.
4. The preference of Council for the Alstonville swimming pool is to monitor the performance of the swimming pool, particularly during the winter months, to allow Council to make an informed decision on the preferred season duration, based on attendance numbers and operating costs.
5. That Council approves the amendments to the 2018/19 operating budgets, as per Table 12 of this report.
6. That Council authorises the inclusion of the forecast 2019/20 operating budgets in the draft 2019/20 Operational Plan, as per Table 12 of this report.
7. That Council authorises the extension of both the Ballina and Alstonville pool contract managers' contract payments for the proposed extended operating periods, with Council confirming fresh tenders for these management contracts will be called during 2019/20 for the 2020/21 season onwards.
8. That Council approves the immediate exhibition of the draft fees and charges for 2019/20, as outlined in this report, with the fees to be reported back to Council at the May 2019 Ordinary meeting following public exhibition period, to allow implementation from 1 June 2019.
9. That the list of preferred works also consider:
 - 25 metre pool blind improvements that include the concept of a fixed barrier on the sides.
 - Alstonville Pool – ground to ceiling fixture to keep the loading bay separate from the pool area and to prevent southerly winds.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
40 CHERRY STREET, BALLINA,
ON 20/03/19 AT 4.00 PM**

4.7 Alstonville Swimming Pool - Amenities Upgrade

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Sharon Parry)

1. That in respect to the upgrade of the Alstonville Swimming Pool amenities, Council confirms its preference is to allocate approximately \$400,000 in the 2020/21 financial year to undertake the improvements outlined within this report.
2. That Council receive a report to the April 2019 Finance Committee meeting outlining options to finance the \$400,000 required for the project.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

4.8 Wastewater Operations - Long Term Financial Plan

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Nathan Willis/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 2019/20 Operational Plan.

Charge Type	2018/19 \$	2019/20 \$	% Increase
Residential Availability Charge	975	1,001	2.7%
Vacant Land Charge	735	755	2.7%
Non Residential Usage Charge	2.47	2.54	2.8%
Non Residential Access Charge	Variable based on meter size		
Recycled Water	80% of potable water step 1		

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

4.9 Waste Operations - Long Term Financial Plan

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Nathan Willis)

That Council endorses the inclusion of the LRM and DWM long term financial plans and draft fees and charges, as attached to this report, in the draft 2019/20 Delivery Program and Operational Plan for public exhibition.

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

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Phillip Meehan

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
40 CHERRY STREET, BALLINA,
ON 20/03/19 AT 4.00 PM**

4.10 Water Operations - Long Term Financial Plan

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Eoin Johnston/Cr Keith Williams)

1. That Council endorses the long term financial plan, as per the attachments to this report, for the water operations.
2. That Council receive a briefing from Rous County Council on the following matters:
 - (a) forecast price increases (the need and reasons behind those) for bulk water
 - (b) future water strategy

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

Cr Sharon Cadwallader declared an interest in Item 4.11 and left the meeting at 06:26 pm.

4.11 Water Pricing Structure

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Nathan Willis/Cr Keith Williams)

1. That in respect to water access charges for 2019/20, Council confirms the implementation of the second phase of the access charge being applied in full to multi tenement properties.
2. The draft water access charges for the exhibition of the draft 2019/20 Operational Plan are to remain the same as the 2018/19 charges, to recognise that Council will generate additional income though the change in point one.
3. That for the exhibition of the draft 2019/20 Operational Plan, Council retain the existing consumption charging structure, based on a 50% premium to Step 1 for any consumption over 350 kilolitres per annum, based on a 2.7% increase.
4. That Council continue to monitor the balance of water income received from annual charges and consumption charges with the long term objective being to achieve 75% or more of the total income from these two sources from consumption charges, as per the State Government's best practice guidelines.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
40 CHERRY STREET, BALLINA,
ON 20/03/19 AT 4.00 PM**

MEETING CLOSURE

6.28 pm