

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
40 CHERRY STREET, BALLINA,
ON 8/04/20 AT 4.00 PM**

Attendance

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

Paul Hickey (General Manager), John Truman (Director, Civil Services Division), Matthew Wood (Director, Planning and Environmental Health Division), Kelly Brown (Director, Corporate and Community Division), Linda Coulter (Manager Financial Services) and Caroline Klose (Manager Communications), and Sandra Bailey (Secretary) were in attendance.

There were no people in the gallery at this time.

1. Apologies

An apology was received from Cr Nathan Willis.

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Sharon Parry)

That such apology be accepted and leave of absence granted.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Nathan Willis

2. Declarations of Interest

Nil

3. Deputations

- **David Felsch, Ballina Peninsula Residents Association** – provided a written deputation in relation to Item 4.5 - Fees and Charges – 2020/21 and in particular to fees and charges for the Burns Point Ferry. (The written deputation had been circulated to Councillors).

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4. Committee Reports

4.1 Ballina SES Headquarters - Update

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Eoin Johnston)

1. That Council authorises the General Manager to have further discussions with the Ballina SES in respect to the use of the land immediately to the south-west of the current site for a new building.
2. If this site is not deemed suitable following those discussions, Council is to receive a further report on the preferred site(s).
3. That Council approves an allocation of \$25,000 from the Strategic Planning Reserve to assist with the preparation of the concept designs and plans for the new Ballina SES building.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Nathan Willis

4.2 Lennox Head RFS Shed and Community Pre-school - Update

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Eoin Johnston)

1. That Council authorises for the arrangements for the planning and development of the Lennox Head Community Pre-school and the Lennox Head Rural Fire Service Headquarters to be amended, to enable these facilities to be developed independently.
2. In respect to the Rural Fire Service facility, Council will continue to advance the planning and development of this project.
3. That Council authorises the General Manager to have further discussions with the Preschool in respect of the design options for the building. If design matters are not able to be resolved, Council is to receive a further report.
4. That Council continue negotiations on the terms and conditions of the lease agreements, including suitable arrangements for sharing of the costs for car parking.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Nathan Willis

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4.3 Car Park - Upgrade Program

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Sharon Parry)

1. That Council defer the draft car park lighting program.
2. That Council hold a briefing on the draft program prior to reporting back to Council.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Nathan Willis

4.4 North East Weight of Loads Group (NEWLOG)

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Sharon Cadwallader)

That Council endorses the draft NEWLOG budget for 2020/21, as per the contents of this report.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Nathan Willis

4.5 Fees and Charges - 2020/21

A **Motion** was moved by Cr Phillip Meehan and seconded by Cr Sharon Parry

1. That Council approves the exhibition of the draft schedule of fees and charges for 2020/21 as attached, including any amendments resulting from this meeting.
2. That Council notes the proposal to remove cash as a form of payment for the ferry from 1 July 2020 onwards.

An **Amendment** was moved by Cr Keith Williams and seconded by Cr Eoin Johnston

1. That Council approves the exhibition of the draft schedule of fees and charges for 2020/21 as attached, including any amendments resulting from this meeting.
2. That Council notes the proposal to remove cash as a form of payment for the ferry from 1 July 2020 onwards.
3. That Council introduce a car and trailer annual fee for the ferry at a price of an additional 10% on the car fee.

The **Amendment** was **LOST**.

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FOR VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Eoin Johnston, Cr Keith Williams and Cr Sharon Cadwallader

AGAINST VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Phillip Meehan, Cr Sharon Parry, Cr Stephen McCarthy and Cr Ben Smith

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Nathan Willis

The **Motion** was **CARRIED**.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Nathan Willis

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Phillip Meehan/Cr Sharon Parry)

1. That Council approves the exhibition of the draft schedule of fees and charges for 2020/21 as attached, including any amendments resulting from this meeting.
2. That Council notes the proposal to remove cash as a form of payment for the ferry from 1 July 2020 onwards.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Nathan Willis

4.6 Plant Replacement Program - Long Term Financial Plan

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Jeff Johnson)

That Council approves the inclusion of the Plant Replacement Program, as per Tables Two and Three, as well as Attachment 1, plus the addition of a new cleaner's vehicle and a new electrician's vehicle, as per the contents of this report, for inclusion in the draft 2020/21 to 2023/24 Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Nathan Willis

4.7 Workforce Management Plan - 2020/21 to 2023/24

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Jeff Johnson)

1. That Council approves the exhibition of the draft Workforce Management Plan 2020/21 to 2023/24, as attached to this report.
2. That subject to the adoption of that document, the following actions are recommended in respect to the additional positions identified:

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- Strategic Planner – Three days per week – Proceed with recruitment due to existing planner transitioning to retirement.
- Compliance Officer – Full-time – Delay recruitment subject to sufficient revenue generated to finance additional position.
- Building Surveyor - Full-time – Delay recruitment subject to sufficient revenue and / or workload to finance / justify additional position.
- Trainee Building Surveyor – Additional two days – Proceed with recruitment to increase days for existing position.
- Plumbing and Drainage Officer – Additional Two Days – Proceed with recruitment to match workload which is anticipated to remain at recent levels.
- Parking Officer – Three days week – Delay recruitment subject to lifting of lock down restrictions.
- Resource Recovery – Waste Education Officer – Full-time – Proceed with recruitment as position funded from waste revenues.
- Open Spaces - Labourer – Full-time – Proceed with recruitment as position required for infrastructure management and not dependent on economic activity.
- Maintenance and Construction Officers – Various – Position recruitments dependent on on-going analysis of existing and forecast maintenance and construction budgets.
- Fitter / Machinist – Full-time – Proceed with recruitment as position required for infrastructure management, is primarily funded by Water and Wastewater revenues and is not dependent on economic activity.
- Water and Wastewater Assistants – Two full-time - Proceed with recruitment as positions are required for infrastructure management, are fully funded by Water and Wastewater revenues and are not dependent on economic activity.
- Financial Services - Management Accountant – Proceed with recruitment as position required to meet statutory responsibilities and is not dependent on economic activity.
- Trainee and Apprentice Support Officer – Two days temporary role for 12 month period - Proceed with recruitment due to ongoing immediate needs to support program and ability for role to be funded by existing operational budgets.

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4. That further information be provided on the key action measures outlined in the draft document.

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

4.8 General Fund - Long Term Financial Plan

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Jeff Johnson)

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

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Nathan Willis

Adjournment

The Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 5.27 pm

The meeting resumed at 6.05 pm
Cr Keith Williams left the meeting at 6.12 pm during the adjournment.

4.9 Community Infrastructure Projects - Non-Recurrent Expenditure

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Sharon Parry)

1. That in respect to the 2019/20 budget for the Skennars Head Sports Fields expansion, Council approves a variation of \$215,000 funded as follows:
 - Killen Falls – saving of \$15,000
 - Wardell Wharf Shade – saving of \$11,000
 - Internal Reserve - Open Spaces - \$79,000
 - Internal Reserve - Cemeteries - \$110,000
2. That Council notes the major non-recurrent community infrastructure projects included in the draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan, as summarized in Table Four of this report.
3. That Council receive a further report on funding strategies to implement the Lake Ainsworth Coastal Management Plan, prior to or at the June 2020 Ordinary meeting.

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4. That Council seek relief from the Crown in respect to the seagrass payment for the Shaws Bay Coastal Management Plan.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Nathan Willis and Cr Keith Williams

4.10 Community Infrastructure - Recurrent Expenditure

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Stephen McCarthy)

1. That Council approves the inclusion of the recurrent capital expenditure priorities, as outlined in this report, in the draft 2020/21 to 2023/24 Delivery Program and Operational Plan.
2. That Council include a comment that Barlow's Road is still under investigation in the draft document.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Nathan Willis and Cr Keith Williams

4.11 Delivery Program and Operational Plan 2020/21 - Exhibition

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Ben Smith)

That Council approves the exhibition of the draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan, as attached to this report, and subject to:

- any changes arising from this meeting and
- inclusive of the Revenue Policy and Capital Works program, as determined by Council.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Nathan Willis and Cr Keith Williams

MEETING CLOSURE

6.27 pm