

Agenda

A Ward Committee Meeting 12 September 2023

An A Ward Committee Meeting will be held in the Ballina Shire Council Chambers, 40 Cherry Street, Ballina on **12 September 2023 commencing at 4pm.**

1. Acknowledgment of Country
2. Attendance and Apologies (including updates/changes in membership)
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Presentations
5. Confirmation of Minutes – Tuesday, 11 July 2023
6. Business Arising from Minutes - Tuesday, 11 July 2023
7. Business With Notice
8. General Business
9. Business Without Notice
10. Council Documents on Exhibition
11. Next Meeting/Future Meeting Dates
12. Meeting Closure

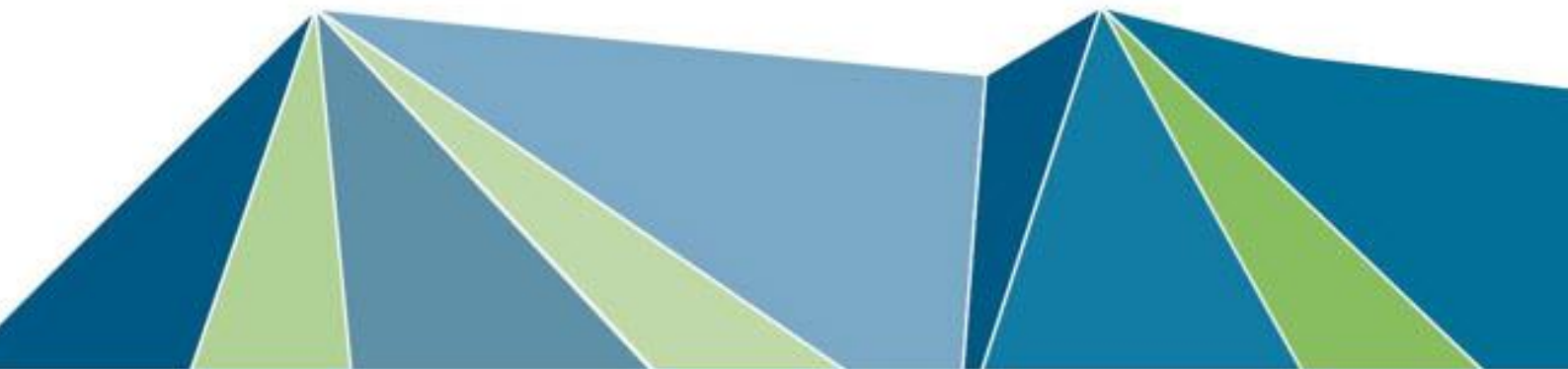


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1. Acknowledgment of Country
 2. Attendance and Apologies (including updates/changes in membership)
 3. Declarations of Interest
 4. Deputations
 5. Confirmation of Minutes
-

1. Acknowledgment of Country

In opening the meeting, the Chair will provide an Acknowledgement of Country.

We acknowledge the Nyangbul peoples of the Bundjalung nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today and pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.

2. Attendance and Apologies (including updates/changes in membership)

3. Declarations of Interest

4. Presentations

5. Confirmation of Minutes

A copy of the Minutes of the A Ward Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 11 July 2023 were distributed with the business paper.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirms the Minutes of the A Ward Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 11 July 2023.

6. Business Arising from Minutes

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Nil Items

7. General Business

7. **General Business**

Nil Items

8.1 Business With Notice - Ballina Lighthouse and Lismore Surf Lifesaving Club - Safety Issues Shared Pathways

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Therese Crollick raised the need for improvement to improve safety on the shared pathways. The paths aren't wide enough to accommodate both bikes and walkers. Concerned for safety on the shared pathways. Suggested Council considers widening.

Staff Comment

Shared paths in Ballina are designed and constructed to widths in accordance with the Australian Standard. New paths are designed in accordance with the relevant standards which take into account the volume of cyclists and speeds. Paths are currently typically constructed to a width of 2.5 metres, which is the desirable minimum width. As the population increases, for some paths it will be appropriate to considering options to widen the path.

Many issues relating to shared paths derive from behaviour and etiquette rather than path design or width. These issues are commonly cited on shared path networks within Australia and generally arise because pedestrians and cyclists differ greatly from each other in terms of speed of travel, ability to take evasive action, and the nature of the movement activity.

Council continues to monitor of points of conflict between pedestrians and cyclists along the shared path network. All community feedback is registered on a database, and contributes to ongoing monitoring of safety on the shared path. Current data and monitoring indicates moderate path use and relatively low levels of conflict on the path.

Where levels of conflict increase significantly and are prolonged, other options will be considered, such as higher level shared path etiquette signage at key points of use and access, or path widening. Path widening would also be considered in circumstances where there is a significant increase in cyclist volumes and speeds, more cyclists than pedestrians on a segment of the shared path network, or an increase in the number of cyclists using a segment for commuting.

To address the behavioural dimension of shared path use, Council uses a range of information, education and awareness-raising resources. Shared path etiquette and safety is promoted across the network in Ballina. Etiquette information is included on our website and on cycleway maps and etiquette postcards. Maps and etiquette cards are regularly distributed through bike retailers, the Visitor Information Centre, and Ballina Shire Council's Customer Service Centre (Cherry Street).

Safety information is also promoted through community events, such as Road Rules Awareness Week, an annual shared path safety project, and through periodic messaging on community radio. Safe use of the shared path is further promoted through the conduct of pop-up monitoring and information distribution

8.1 Business With Notice - Ballina Lighthouse and Lismore Surf Lifesaving Club - Safety Issues Shared Pathways

along the track, and through stencil and other signage with safety reminders. These initiatives will be ongoing to encourage safer behaviour on shared paths.

Any significant changes in path usage or demand, or changes in patterns of behaviour can be reported to Council for monitoring, path review and planning, and educational response.

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.2 Business With Notice - Dementia Inclusive Ballina Alliance - Council separating Rates Payments and Water Charges

8.2 Business With Notice - Dementia Inclusive Ballina Alliance – Council separating Rates Payments and Water Charges

Meg Pickup raised Council's decision to separate rates payments and water charges. There was a letter issued with the 2023/24 rates notice explaining that Council has decided to separate rates payments and water charges. What is the motivation for this decision and what thought was given to the second instalment of water charges due on 31 December 2023?

Staff Comment

Periodically, Council is required to upgrade the software applications to take advantage of software enhancements and allow for continued high level support from the software provider. Council uses Civica Authority software applications across Council including for rates and water billing. A planned move to software in the cloud is planned to occur during the 2023/24 year however this change does not fully support the pre-existing combined rates/water structure, and for that reason a split of the rates and water structures was implemented in advance of that change. (Ballina Shire Council were one of only a few Councils that had combined rates/water notices).

As part of this change, consideration was given to the timing of the notice issues and payment due dates. It was decided to issue the water notices 4 weeks later than the rates notice, allowing ratepayers to have ability to stagger their payment dates and might assist some ratepayers with managing their bills and cash flows.

From an administrative perspective also, the separation of the payment dates was considered preferable as it was expected to reduce the likelihood of ratepayers making payment to the wrong payment reference number. (The split out of the rates and water notices required that the water notice have its own unique payment reference number).

The Rates notice is issued in mid July, October, January and April. Payment due date is the end of the following month.

The Water notice is issued (approximately 4 weeks later) in mid August, November, February and May. Payment due date is the end of the following month.

This change does allow for separate payment dates for water charges. For the issue of the water notice mid-November, this means that the payment due date is the end of December.

It is at the discretion of ratepayers if they wish to make payment earlier, or take advantage of an extended payment due date up to the end of December before interest charges would apply.

The Residential Rates Notice includes the ordinary rates, waste and stormwater and also the annual water and wastewater service connection charge.

The Residential Water notice includes the quarterly water consumption only. For an *average* residential property, this is around 35 kl for 3 months, or \$93.

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.3 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Social Housing Opportunities - Cedars Caravan Park and Ballina Hotel

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Janet Chester enquired about social housing opportunities at Cedars Caravan Park and Ballina Hotel.

Staff Comment

Both the Cedars Caravan Park and Ballina Hotel are private land holdings.

There are currently two development applications for the Cedars Caravan Park under assessment. One being for the demolition of the existing caravan park and the other being for a mixed use industrial, commercial and residential development.

Staff are not aware of any current landowner plans for the use of the Ballina Hotel site (social housing or otherwise).

The provision of social housing is the responsibility of the State Government. Council has been advocating for some time, and recently in relation to the floods, for social and affordable housing delivery in the Shire and North Coast area more broadly.

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.4 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Outcomes from Council's Workforce Management Plan and the Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan

8.4 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Outcomes from Council's Workforce Management Plan and the Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan

Janet Chester requested an update on the outcome of Council's Workforce Management Plan and the Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan (reported to Council on 22/6/23).

Staff Comment

Information to be provided at the meeting.

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.5 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Update on keeping of Aboriginal History and the Cultural Facility - Community Facilities Developer Contribution Plan

8.5 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Update on keeping of Aboriginal History and the Cultural Facility - Community Facilities Developer Contribution Plan

Janet Chester requested an update on how Council is keeping place for Aboriginal history and the Cultural Facility that was identified in Council's Community Facilities Developer Contribution plan.

Staff Comment

An Aboriginal cultural facility remains listed in Council's Open Spaces and Community Facilities Contribution Plan. Contributions plans incrementally collect monies in association with new development that is then used to fund listed infrastructure and facilities.

At present the cultural facility is not though contained within Council's four year delivery program or long term financial plan.

A cultural facility is also something that requires further consideration in association with the Aboriginal community. Notably, there are various options for how this might be provided in the future.

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.6 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Status of Room Name Meanings at the Ballina Surf Life Saving Club

8.6 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Status of Room Name Meanings at the Ballina Surf Life Saving Club

Janet Chester requested an update on Council's review to include the room name meanings at the Ballina Surf Life Saving Club. This was previously referred to Community Facilities Section to review.

Staff Comment

Council's Communications and Customer Service staff are currently developing a new name plate for each meeting room to include the name meanings.

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.7 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Update on Cabbage Tree Island Options

8.7 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Update on Cabbage Tree Island Options

Janet Chester enquired if there were any updates on Cabbage Tree Island options.

Staff Comment

The Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council has decided to investigate relocation to an alternate site in Wardell and Council's understanding is that processes relating to this are ongoing.

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.8 Business With Notice -St Vincent de Paul - Percentage of First Nations People on Ballina Council's Payroll

8.8 Business With Notice -St Vincent de Paul - Percentage of First Nations People on Ballina Council's Payroll

Janet Chester enquired if there are any improvement on percentage of First Nations people on Council's payroll since December 2022 – 1.92%.

Staff Comment

Information to be provided at the meeting.

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.9 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Update on the Development of a Relationship/Partnership Agreement between Ballina Shire Council and the Aboriginal Community

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Janet Chester enquired if there has been any movement in the development of a relationship/partnership agreement between Ballina Shire Council and the Aboriginal Community. Particularly in relation to developing a Council Reconciliation Action Plan and signage such as “Welcome to Bundjalung Country”.

Staff Comment

Council has presented a draft partnership agreement to the Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council and is currently awaiting feedback. Council is mindful that a very high priority for the LALC at present is the future of Cabbage Tree Island and housing.

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.10 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Update on Shaws Bay Midden

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Janet Chester requested and update on what is being done to progress the Midden at Shaws Bay which has been fenced off for over 1300 days.

Staff Comment

Council has prepared plans for installation of sandstone barriers and removal of the current fencing as a means of improving amenity but continuing to restrict access to the land. Council has sought feedback from the Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council before proceeding with the barrier installation.

Attachment(s)

Nil

9. Business Without Notice

9. Business Without Notice

Nil Items

10.1 Council Documents on Exhibition

10. Council Documents on Exhibition

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The following is a list of documents currently on public exhibition.

Documents on Exhibition

Documents on public exhibition can be found on our website at the following link:

[Your Say Ballina](#)

Council Notices

Council Notices can be found on our website at the following link:

[Link to Council's Notices](#)

Attachment(s)

Nil

- 11 Next Meeting / Future Meeting Dates
 - 12 Meeting Closure
-

11. Next Meeting / Future Meeting Dates

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 14 November 2023 at 4pm.

12. Meeting Closure