

**MINUTES OF THE B WARD COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
40 CHERRY STREET, BALLINA,
ON 18/03/24 AT 4:30PM**

1. Acknowledgment of Country

In opening the meeting, the Chair provided an Acknowledgement of Country.

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

Members

Cr Jeff Johnson (Chair)
Cr Eva Ramsey
Cr Kiri Dicker
Cr Sharon Cadwallader (Mayor)

Brad Pollard - Lennox Head Chamber of Commerce
Darel Vidler - Lennox Head Combined Services Assoc
Geoff Wegg - Lennox Head Residents Association
Jim Gilchrist - Preserving Lake Ainsworth Assoc. (Inc)
Sharon Clark – Marine Rescue Ballina

Council Staff

John Truman - Director Civil Services Division
Caroline Klose- Director Corporate and Community Services Division

Observers

Apologies

Lou Wilson – Lennox Head-Alstonville Surf Life Saving Club

3. Declarations of Interest

Nil

4. Presentations

Nil

5. Confirmation of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee confirms the Minutes of the B Ward Committee Meeting held on Monday 20 November 2023.

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6. Business Arising from Minutes

6.1 Business Arising from Minutes of 20 November 2023 - Ward Boundary Changes

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

7. General Business

7.1 Raising Items Prior to Meetings and Reporting Safety Matters

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

7.2 Public Interest Disclosures Act

The information provided in the staff report and the presentation by the Director Corporate and Community Services Division was noted.

7.3 Ward Committees - Meeting Dates - September 2024 Election

The Committee decided to cancel the meeting scheduled for 16 September 2024, without replacement.

8. Business With Notice

8.1 Business With Notice - Lennox Chamber of Commerce - Pat Moreton Precinct - Car Park and Shared Path

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

8.2 Business With Notice - Lennox Chamber of Commerce - Relocation of RFS and New Car Parking

The Lennox Chamber is seeking an update on when the relocation of the RFS will be complete and a start on the new carparking project (on the existing site) will commence?

Further, we'd like to request a copy of the design plans for the new carparking project (on the existing site).

Staff Comment

We are currently assessing tenders for this work and expect to award a contract over the next few weeks.

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1. The information contained in the agenda was noted.
2. The Committee requested the Public Art Committee consider if public art can be incorporated onto the project's boundary fence.
3. The Committee requested information on the status of replacing the mural on the reservoir at Lennox Head.

8.3 Business With Notice - Lennox Chamber of Commerce - Highway Signage on M1 Motorway

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

8.4 Business With Notice - Lennox Head Residents Association - Request for E-Bike Education Program

Due to the proliferation and use of E-bikes especially in Lennox Head, LHRA sees the need for an education program be introduced via BSC publications, schools and social media outlets to advise owners and riders of the regulations in force regarding the ownership, use and modification of e-bikes.

Since the completion of the Lennox Village Vision beautification and the levelling of footpaths in Ballina Street between Park Avenue and Byron Street, bicycle and e-bike riders now believe that these footpaths are a shared pathway, to the detriment of pedestrians, shoppers and diners at restaurants with outdoor facilities. Inevitably there will be a collision involving a cyclist and pedestrian on the footpaths on either side of Ballina Street. To ensure safety of cyclists and pedestrians consideration should be given to a program to make the footpaths in this area a bicycle free zone.

Staff Comment

Over December 2023 and January 2024, Council received community feedback expressing concern over illegal motorcycle use, illegal modifications to e-bikes and dangerous bike riding, particularly within Lennox Head. The issue of e-bikes was discussed at the recent Local Traffic Committee meeting (14 February 2024). At the meeting, police reported that they would be undertaking enforcement operations to ensure compliance with e-bike regulations, and would be preparing an education campaign, notably targeting local schools. Council has drafted information for community education around e-bikes for publication in the Community Connect, on the council website and social media, and as a possible flyer. The draft has been forwarded to police to ensure consistent messaging, and the police are seeking clarification from their Operational Legal Service on their position. In the interim, council is distributing an informational brochure produced by Transport for NSW/ Centre for Road Safety regarding 'Bikes, e-bikes and e-scooters'. The document has also been uploaded to Council's website (on the Cycling & Walking page).

A more intensive community education response is preferred prior to any consideration of implementing a cycling ban. Under the road rules, generally, it is illegal to ride on a footpath. However, if you are under 16 years old, or if you are 16 years old or older and supervising a child riding a bike under 16 years old, you may ride on a footpath. A ban on all cycling would, therefore,

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only have a new legal impact on child riders and/or their supervising adults. This proposal would need to be considered carefully, taking into consideration the following:

- whether other wheeled recreational devices (such as scooters and skateboards) would be included in the ban,
- the impact on young children using active transport to get to Lennox Public School and the function of Lennox CBD as a significant travel route,
- whether a ban on bikes and other wheeled recreational devices in Lennox Head CBD would precipitate an extension of this ban to other towns and villages in the Shire for consistency.

The option to ban all bike riding on footpaths in the CBD would require a change in regulation, approval from the Local Traffic Committee, and installation of approved signage and bike parking at all town entry points. Community consultation and a movement study would also be required. As a preliminary step, regulatory opinion on this issue is currently being sought from Transport for NSW.

Council recognises that the footpaths in town centres and CBDs are very busy pedestrian areas. We encourage all riders to dismount and 'walk you wheels'. To support this, we are currently preparing some 'walk your wheels' etiquette signage.

The Committee requested a road safety program be implemented specifically targeting e-bike and bike riding on the footpath in the Lennox Head CBD.

8.5 Business With Notice - Lennox Head Residents Association - Commemorative Plaque - Ross Park

Replacement of the commemorative stone and plinth giving the story of Thomas Ross for whom the park was named in Ross Park.

Now that the work in Ross Park has been completed when will the stone and plaque be replaced?

Staff Comment

There were five plaques removed from Ross Park and Lennox Head CBD during the upgrade works. The plaques consisted of:

- Tidy Towns – 1985
- Tidy Towns – 1984
- Official opening of Lennox Head Beach Management Works – 1993
- Official opening of Ballina – Lennox Head Water Supply Scheme - 1988
- Lennox Head Water Supply – 'mark of appreciation for the initial efforts of Cr Tom Ross in obtaining a water supply' 1968

We do not propose on reinstating these plaques in the public domain as they are no longer relevant. The infrastructure they are commemorating has been superseded progressively with new infrastructure. The Tidy Towns program

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concluded many years ago and these plaques have been progressively removed.

Council however will be installing a new plaque at Lennox Park, within the shelter Shed, commemorating the 2022 Lennox Centenary; 100 years since the town was named.

The Committee resolved the following recommendation:

1. The plaques attached to the rock be reinstated in Ross Park.
2. The Council retain and display as appropriate the Tidy Town Award plaques.

9. Business Without Notice

9.1 Small VMS

Cr Ramsey requested Council purchase a small VMS that has the capability to add messages to the radar signs to enhance our road safety program.

9.2 Speed Data - Ballina Street Pedestrian Shared Zone

The Committee noted staff were arranging the collection of speed data for the Ballina Street pedestrian shared zone.

9.3 New Market Operator

The Committee noted the introduction of a new market operator maybe a convenient time to resolve the longstanding concern of the Combined Sports Association regarding the market's impact on the condition of Williams Reserve.

9.4 Williams Reserve

Darel Vidler asked if Council was aware the Lennox Head Public School was denied permission to conduct their athletics carnival on Williams Reserve.

Darryl was encouraged to contact Council's Open Spaces Team regarding this matter.

10. Council Documents on Exhibition

10.1 Council Documents on Exhibition

The list of Council documents recently exhibited for public comment was noted.

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11. Next Meeting/Future meeting Dates

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Monday 20 May 2024 at 4:30pm.

MEETING CLOSURE

6.00pm