

**MINUTES OF A WARD COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD IN THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
40 CHERRY STREET, BALLINA,  
ON 27/08/24 AT 4:00 PM**

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**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 Rodney Bruem (Chair)  
Cr Stephen McCarthy  
Cr Phillip Meehan  
Cr Sharon Cadwallader (Mayor)

Claudia Caliri – Ballina Environment Society  
Meg Pickup – Dementia Inclusive Ballina Alliance  
Ros Felsch – The Ballina Peninsular Residents Association  
Richard Hughes – Ballina Croquet Incorporated  
Janet Chester – St Vincent de Paul  
Therese Crollick – Ballina Lighthouse and Lismore Surf Lifesaving Club  
Andrew Playford – Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club  
Julie Stephan – Ballina Evening View Club  
Maureen Fletcher – Ballina Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN)  
Kay Oxley – Cumbalum Residents Association  
Deb Pawsey – Ballina Rotary of Ballina-on-Richmond

*Council Staff*

Matthew Wood - Director Development and Environmental Health Division  
Christina Casey - Executive Support Officer

*Observers*

Mark Paterson – Candidate Ward A

*Apologies*

Margery Fitzgerald – Ballina Naval and Maritime Museum  
Lyn Davidson – Ballina CWA  
Geoff Jacobs – Ballina Bears Cricket Club

**3. Declarations of Interest**

Nil

**4. Presentations**

Nil

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**5. Confirmation of Minutes**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Minutes of the A Ward Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 9 July 2024 were confirmed with an amendment to Item 9.4 to identify Lismore and Byron Bay as hosts for the croquet tournament (in addition to Ballina) and acknowledge that the tournament was hosted by the Cherry Street and Ballina Croquet Clubs.

**6. Business Arising from Minutes**

**6.1 Business Arising from Minutes of 12 March, 14 May and 9 July 2024 - The Ballina Peninsular Residents Association - Hydrological Survey for River Drive and the impacts on the road**

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Matt Wood confirmed this is still under review. Ros Felsch noted ongoing concerns about deterioration of the road edges.

**6.2 Business Arising from Minutes of 9 July 2024 - Dementia Inclusive Ballina Alliance - Cyclists Safety Grant Street, Ballina**

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

**6.3 Business Arising from Minutes of 9 July 2024 - Ballina Evening View Club - Footpath / Laneway Pedestrian Safety**

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Julie Stephan noted that motorists may not be aware of the requirement to give way to pedestrians as well as motorists at either end of lanes. Concerns also raised that there are no indicators to pedestrians that they have changed from footpath to road way (e.g. no change in surface level), and that vegetation blocks vision in some laneway intersections (e.g. especially near psychologist).

Julie suggested use of Community Connect to provide some in relation to intersection rules.

**Action:** Communications section to consider article in Community Connect addressing intersection rules and associated safety matters.

Claudia Caliarì arrived 4:12pm.  
Cr McCarthy arrived 4:14pm.

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**7. General Business**

**7.1 General Business - Flight Path Information**

Matt noted flight path information relating to the Ballina/Byron Gateway Airport outlined in the August edition of Community Connect, Issue 55, page 17.

The group discussed changes in flight paths and that the flight paths are now proposed to be more controlled. Matt noted that more information on flight path design is available online and people can subscribe for updates:

[Ballina Airport - Introduction of controlled airspace](#)

**8. Business With Notice**

**8.1 Business With Notice - Ballina Lighthouse & Lismore Life Saving - Shaws Bay - Separate Access for Swimmers and Craft Users**

Therese Crollick enquired about the use of Shaws Bay by various users and whether it is appropriate for safety reasons to separate swimmers from craft users, surf club members suggest swimmers use the northern end of the Bay and craft users the southern end. Therese also enquired if Council staff done any investigation on this and what actions can be taken to keep all users safe.

**Staff Comment**

Council has no records of any incidents or issues regarding interaction between swimmers and watercraft users. The Coastal Management Plan that applies to the bay doesn't segregate or regulate the referenced swimming or watercraft activities on the water body.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

At the meeting Therese again raised concern about near misses, noting that it is not such an issue when locals are present. However, in busier times, during warmer weather and school holidays etc, there is the potential for increased risk of accidents and, therefore, some kind of regulation required.

Mayor raised that there has also been feedback about the need to regulate fishing in Shaws Bay.

Matt confirmed that fishing is not for Council to regulate, as it comes under jurisdiction of NSW Fisheries.

Therese also raised issue of regulating fishing on dog beaches, due to risk of injury to dogs from fishhooks.

Therese suggested use of Community Connect to raise awareness around shared use of Shaws Bay and dog beach adjacent to Kingsford Smith Drive.

**Action:** Communications section to consider article in Community Connect about shared use of Shaws Bay and dog beach areas.

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**8.2 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Closing time for agenda items for this meeting, 27 August 2024.**

Janet Chester requested this item be added to the agenda and discussed at the meeting.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

At the meeting Janet questioned the suitability of the callout for agenda items closing at 9am on a Monday morning. Janet also raised concern about the timeframe between agenda items being called for and closing.

Matt noted the concerns and that agenda items can be submitted at any time before the formal callout for items. The purpose of the closing time for request for agenda items before the meeting, is to enable time for staff comments to be collated prior to the meeting.

**8.3 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Previously raised agenda items**

Janet Chester requested previously raised agenda items be added to the agenda for discussion at the meeting.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Matt advised that where items have been addressed and staff are not in a position to give a different answer, other mechanisms need to be taken up to invite consideration by the elected Council. These mechanisms include a submission to the Delivery Program and Operational Plan and notices of motion.

**8.4 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - RAP progress**

Janet Chester requested RAP progress be listed as an agenda item for discussion at the meeting.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

**8.5 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Recruiting Aboriginal youth on the Junior Council**

Janet enquired about Council recruiting Aboriginal youth on the Junior Council.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Janet noted that a youth council has previously been mentioned in Community Connect.

Matt advised staff are currently reviewing options for youth engagement in response to a Council resolution regarding a youth council. It is anticipated this will be reported to Council for direction later in the year.

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**8.6 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Consideration of using Supply Nation for catering and tenders**

Janet enquired if council would consider using Supply Nation for catering and tenders.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

**8.7 Business With Notice - Cumbalum Residents Association - Council's decision to defer Barlows Road link**

The Cumbalum Residents' Association (CRA) expresses its concern and disagreement over the Council's decision to prioritise the Tamarind Drive dual carriageway and defer the Barlow's Road link.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

At the meeting there was discussion about grant funding and the extent of works for the Tamarind Drive upgrade, investigations required for the Barlows Road project and the Cumbalum Interchange.

**Action:** Civil Services to advise on purpose of a traffic counter located on Tamarind Drive near speed zone change at the edge of Ballina.

**8.8 Business With Notice - Dementia Inclusive Ballina Alliance - Footpath falls risk - BISC ramp access**

Meg Pickup raised that the ramp access in the footpath at the BISC is a falls risk because it is very difficult for people walking to the building from the carpark to see. Meg enquired could it be highlighted with yellow paint.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

At the meeting the Mayor raised Commemoration Park as an area that needs remediation (ground surface). Matt advised that remedial works are scheduled for the park once the rock revetment repairs on North Creek are complete (as the park is the access point for the works).

**8.9 Business With Notice - Dementia Inclusive Ballina Alliance - Replacement of angophora tree in Moon Street**

Meg Pickup enquired if the recently removed angophora tree in Moon Street between Swift and Crane Streets be replaced with a similar species.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

At the meeting Matt noted replacement of trees can be problematic in some locations, due to the impact of trees on stormwater structures, overhead powerlines, and other infrastructure.

Cr Meehan noted that Council currently invests \$25,000pa on street trees and has committed to increasing that by \$5,000pa over the next few years.

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Julie raised that the “green-ness” of central Ballina is decreasing due to smaller backyards and therefore tree cover needs to be increased as a priority.

Claudia Caliarì raised concerns regarding the future of green areas in Ballina. BES submitted a paper that included a map (displayed at the meeting) referencing location of tree stumps (indicating where Council has removed trees). It was raised that there is concern for shade in the future, and food and shelter for wildlife. Concern was also expressed regarding the trend for smaller housing lots resulting in a reduction of backyard trees. It was suggested that Council needs to coordinate a plan for wildlife, including micro creatures and prioritisation of environmental work and a tree replacement plan.

Matt mentioned that tree cover and urban vegetation is a topic for discussion through Council’s Public Realm Strategy. The Strategy is about setting direction for the urban environment into the future. Community feedback will be invited in relation to the greenspace the community wants to have and what priority should be given to elements like trees. This will ultimately inform budget and processes.

Claudia raised concern for the time taken for replacements, stating that it would be good for Council to plan ahead more for replacements and be more proactive with a succession plan for trees.

Andrew commended Council on tree planting initiatives associated with Ballina Coastcare. Andrew also noted the passing of Shirley White. The Mayor advised a memorial is being planned for Shirley.

**8.10 Business With Notice - Dementia Inclusive Ballina Alliance - Signage right turn sign to Ballina at the intersection of Tintenbar Road and Tamarind Drive**

Meg Pickup raised that it is easy for drivers unfamiliar with the Tintenbar Road and Tamarind Drive intersection to miss the right turn sign to Ballina when travelling towards the intersection from Tintenbar at night.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

**9. Business Without Notice**

**9.1 Business Without Notice - Planting Around Letterboxes**

Meg enquired if Council has any influence over what people plant around letterboxes (eg spikey/prickly plants planted near letter boxes) in the context of the Dragon Boat Club delivering Community Connect. Matt noted that Council cannot control this. Meg asked if information can be included in Community Connect to encourage clear access to mailboxes.

**Action:** Communications section to consider item in Community Connect on clear access to mailboxes.

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**9.2 Business Without Notice - Letter of Support - Local Area Health District - Supply from Norco Milk**

Meg raised that the Local Area Health District will no longer be buying Norco milk and enquired if Council could express concern about this change, noting that a petition is being put to parliament. Mayor stated would offer letter of support.

**Action:** Correspondence to be prepared from Mayor to NSW Health regarding dairy purchase in local hospitals.

**9.3 Business Without Notice - Cumbalum Residents Association - Public Use of Community Centre**

Kay noted that Cumbalum Residents Association attempted to arrange a meet the candidates event, however, could not secure a local venue to hold the meeting. Kay enquired if Council could ensure that the Community Centre planned for Banyan Hill is available for public use for such activities in the future.

Matt confirmed that broad community access to the Banyan Hill Community Centre is the intent, but this will be confirmed once built.

**9.4 Gratitude - Revetment Wall Works and New Basketball Outdoor Courts**

Andrew commended Council for recent revetment wall work and new basketball outdoor courts.

Post meeting note: feedback forwarded to relevant staff.

**9.5 Gratitude - Cr Bruem (Chair)**

The Mayor acknowledged Cr Bruem is not seeking re-election and noted his contribution in general, and specifically as Chair of the A Ward Committee meetings during his term as Councillor.

**9.6 Gratitude - Cycleway Network and Coastal Pathway Improvements**

Richard Hughes acknowledged the cycleway network in the Shire, including recent improvements to the coastal pathway.

**9.7 BES Questions for Candidates**

Claudia noted that BES has a series of questions to candidates for the current Council elections and that BES is inviting answers to assist voters making informed decisions. Claudia also acknowledged the hard work of Councillors and the discussion of issues via the A Ward Committee meetings.

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**10. Council Documents on Exhibition**

Nil Items

**11. Next Meeting/Future meeting Dates**

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 12 November 2024 at 4:00 PM.

**MEETING CLOSURE**

5:17pm