

MINUTES

THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS, ON TUESDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2022, COMMENCING AT 11.15AM.

1 PRESENT

Arthur Thorpe (Chairperson), Christine Robinson, Helen Davies, Sally Langridge, Michael Smith, Marcus Rodrigues, Ann Thorpe (Hon Secretary).

2 IN ATTENDANCE

Steve Robinson, Margaret Papa, Phil Brown, Russell Thompson. Keith Blacklock.

3 APOLOGIES

Jill Bennett, Candy Hurren.

4 DECLARATION OF ANY PECUNIARY INTEREST BY A MEMBER OF A SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL

In accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Part 5, S48A – S56, a member of a Special Committee must not participate in any discussion or vote on any matter in respect to which the member:

- a) has an interest; or
- b) is aware or ought to be aware that a close associate has an interest.

A member has an interest in a matter if the matter was decided in a particular manner, receive or have an expectation of receiving or likely to receive a pecuniary benefit or pecuniary detriment.

It should be noted that any person declaring an interest is required to notify the General Manager, in writing, of the details of any interest declared within 7 days of the declaration.

Nil Declared

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

That the minutes of the meeting of the Ross Local District Committee held on Tuesday 4th October, 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

Christine Robinson / Michael Smith

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Clearing The Macquarie River

A low river level is necessary before Council can clear debris and Cumbungi, so it will probably be summer before the river is low enough to commence work. (Possibly February)

Matter ongoing.

6.2 Condition Of Trees in Ross

ENSPEC inspected the remaining Council trees in August and issued their report to Council.

RLDC has received a copy of the report from Council which is quite lengthy. The report shows Council owned trees in Ross and what maintenance needs to be carried out. If anyone feels a particular tree in Ross needs attention, please look at the tree number and let Chair know who will then raise a Customer Request. NMC will not replace trees for aesthetic reasons, only if tree is diseased or dangerous and unable to be saved.

Matter finalised, no further action.

6.3 Weather Damage to Ross Reading Room

The cornerstones and the bottom course of sandstone bricks at the entrance of the reading room are weathering away and in need of attention.

The sandstone is actually in reasonable condition and remediation work to the damaged sandstone will be carried out by a stonemason once the weather warms up.

Matter ongoing.

6.4 Missing (Stolen) Street Sign Nivelles Street

Customer request 61740 has been lodged with Council requesting the missing (stolen) sign be replaced. Sign has now been reinstalled.

Unfortunately the blade sign was attached to the wrong post. It was then redone, however appeared to be pointing in the wrong direction. NMC have now removed it again and are waiting for water to subside before it can be placed in the correct position.

Matter ongoing.

6.5 Damaged Wall South End Of Church Street

Wall at the top (south end) of Church Street has top stones missing and looks very disordered. Customer request 61699 has been raised requesting rectification.

Matter ongoing.

6.6 Damaged Sandstone Kerbing.

Kerbing in the centre car parking area opposite the Town Hall has been damaged by a truck, needs to be repaired.

Chair has asked Council to repair the kerbing in conjunction with the sandstone wall at the southern end of Church Street, refer Customer request 61699.

Matter ongoing.

6.7 Warning Sign High Street Pedestrian Rail Crossing

A number of Ross residents are unhappy with the closure of this crossing.

It was mentioned by a long term resident that it was thought the High Street vehicle rail crossing was originally closed due to the rodeo activity on the eastern side of the line. The rodeo in the past was a very large event, with lots of attendees camping along the railway line and in the grounds, creating a pedestrian hazard along that section. However, no one is really quite sure of the reason for blocking off High Street to vehicular traffic. It was also felt that if State Rail were not keen on a pedestrian crossing, then it would be very unlikely it would entertain the reinstatement of “another” vehicle crossing.

Chair has been advised that NMC will be conducting a cost and feasibility study, for a legally compliant pedestrian rail crossing linking the two sides of High Street. Once the report has been prepared it will be submitted to Council for consideration.

Matter ongoing.

6.8 Bus Parking Sign for School Bus Area

Discussion was held regarding the correspondence received from State Growth and NMC regarding signage for the morning pick up area for the Launceston Redline school bus.

Committee does not support the installation of a “Buses only between 7:00 – 7:30am” sign being installed outside the historic/photogenic Ross Post Office.

State Growth and the NMC have now agreed that picking up students outside the Town Hall in Bridge Street is an acceptable alternative solution. Signage will be prepared by NMC for installation at the location which will be attached to existing poles.

Chair has requested NMC that the sign states - “Mon-Fri only, 7:00 to 7:30 AM” - as this area is used on weekends for access to the Town Hall for markets, other activities and Church Services. Chair to follow up with Engineers at NMC and ask for committee to see and approve the draft sign artwork before going to the printers.

Matter ongoing.

6.9 Ross Village Green – Entry Of Dogs On Leash

Margaret Papa presented a petition with 100 signatures asking NMC to consider allowing dogs on leashes into the Ross Village Green, and to install a doggie bag container. The petition has been tabled at the October meeting of Council.

Margaret hasn't heard anything further, however presumes the recent council elections will have played a part in this.

Mr Brown looked up the Dog Control Act, and said that in his opinion, the Act stated that the General Manager has the ability to make changes to the Act as he sees fit.

It would appear a Private Contractor has started the "off lead" dog area at the Ross Recreation Ground. However, no one on the committee has been advised that this would be commenced. At the time of the meeting it had not been completed, presumably due to inundation by rain water.

Matter ongoing.

6.10 Town Hall Guttering

Town Hall guttering needs cleaning out as it has vegetation growing in it. This is causing flooding which is leaking into the supper room. Customer Request 76081 has been raised, requesting remediation.

Works Manager advised that staff need a cherry picker to get up to gutters. Committee Member mentioned that while the cherry picker was in Ross, could the Drill Hall be looked at as well.

Matter Ongoing.

6.11 Non Council Signs Outside Ross Swimming Pool

There are non-council signs on the footpath outside the small playground near the swimming pool, which look very decrepit and untidy, and which have been there for a considerable period of time. Could these please be removed?

Customer Request 76083 has been raised.

Signs have been removed – No further action required.

6.12 Dr Neil Davidson, Restoration Ecologist, Senior Lecturer UTAS

Presented on the Species Hotels site and tree planting around Ross, including on either side of the Midlands highway where it crosses the Macquarie River at Ross.

When asked how the RLDC could assist, it was mentioned that a sign pointing to where the Species Hotel is and what it is, would be of assistance.

Customer Request 76093 has also been raised, requesting Council to consider relocating the "SPECIES HOTEL" sign from its current position on the western side of Church Street, to the

eastern side where it would be more visible to passing vehicles, and this has been carried out.

Dr Davidson has been requested to have an information/directional sign manufactured which could be attached to the existing pole on the western side of The Boulevards. Once manufactured, Chair will pass it on to NMC for consideration, however it may need a development application to be installed which NMC would progress.

Mr Thompson asked if the western unmade side of The Boulevards is council owned. It is carrying more traffic since the species hotel opened, and also, school buses that are attending the outdoor classroom are making a mess of the road. Can it be upgraded and sealed? Chair advised that Council will not do any work on an unmade road if they are owned by Crown Land.

Chair will ask Council to ascertain who actually owns the western unmade side of The Boulevards.

Matter ongoing.



7 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Round Table Discussion

C Robinson

- A Stormwater Drainage Report has been mentioned for some time (years). Is the report finalised and where is it up to? Chair to contact General Manager and follow up.
- Concerns that the southern entrance "Road Closed" Signs are in wrong place when Roseneath Rd is flooded. If they are placed too far along Roseneath Road, motorists get caught up too far down the road and are unable to turn around. Can this issue please be looked at.

A Thorpe

- Discussed the NMC Council Elections and what councillors are now elected. Won't know who will be our Committee Councillor Representative for some time.
- Disturbing incident was reported where a device made from a star picket was found in a wheel rut full of water in Tasman Street. Long screws were sticking up from wood attached to the star picket and would have caused quite a bit of damage if a car had driven over it. The matter was referred to Tas Police, and NMC have also been advised for staff safety. Just be careful if you are out walking, especially with animals.



H Davies

- Although the painting of the town hall has been done, the entrance hall has not been included. Not painted, very dirty and the light globe is bare; whole area looks very tatty. Not a good introduction to the lovely Town Hall. Chair to follow up. Sally asked where the carpet mentioned in the upgrade is going. Chair advised he will follow up.

M Smith

- Has photos for the damage to the footpaths which the Chair will forward to Works Manager.
- Also, some residents don't want their land sprayed by Council Contractors. Can they opt out of the system? Chair advised there is a "No Spray" Register for people that don't want this done. Residents need to directly contact NMC and advise them.

M Papa

- Asked who owns/looks after the water rights and taking water from the river. What happens or who is culpable if the river happens to flood the town. Concerned the river has changed over the course of history and will this affect ownership. Chair advised that the Elizabeth Macquarie Irrigation Trust (EMIT) licenses water issued to irrigators for agricultural purposes, and TasWater looks after the potable water for the town. Chair to forward info via email for Margaret to follow up as a private issue.

P Brown

- Signage to Ross on main highway, looks really decrepit; a large part of one sign is missing. This issue and the signs belong to State Growth. Unlikely to see any repairs or improvements whilst the road works are happening.
- Businesses in Ross have offered to put up information in their windows for any issues that require the input of the community. The Agenda and Minutes although prepared by the committee, need to be submitted to NMC, who then disseminate the documents. The Minutes are available on the NMC Website. Committee has previously asked for the Agenda to also be on the website, however Council declined to progress this request. Chair to check if a hard copy of the RLDC Agenda and Minutes are still sent to the Ross Post Office for community perusal.

8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

The Chair closed the meeting at 12:00 pm.

Next meeting – Tuesday 6th December 2022 commencing 11.15am in the Ross Reading Room.