

## MINUTES

### THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS, ON TUESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2022, COMMENCING AT 11.15AM.

#### 1 PRESENT

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

#### 2 IN ATTENDANCE

Mayor Mary Knowles OAM (left Meeting at 11.50am), Cr Richard Archer, Phil Brown, Herbie Johnson, Keith Blacklock

#### 3 APOLOGIES

Cr Allison Andrews, 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 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2022** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.*

***Michael Smith / Christine Robinson***

## **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.

We have received an undertaking from NMC / State Growth, that they will look at this issue when feasible.

Matter ongoing.

### **6.2 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.

### **6.3 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.

### **6.4 Damaged Wall South End Of Church Street & Damaged Sandstone Kerbing.**

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.

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.

Matter ongoing.

### **6.5 Closure Of High Street Pedestrian Rail Crossing**

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

Mr Brown / Mr Blacklock asked what Council would look at when compiling the report, and what was required. Committee was unable to answer this question, as TasRail, not Council specify the compliance parameters for a crossing.

Mr Brown asked why this crossing would require a chicane when there were no others in Ross. Chair advised there is one on the dedicated pedestrian only access and crossing from the Female Factory to the original burial ground. He also asked why other crossings are ok for pedestrians. Chair stated that TasRail would be the appropriate organisation to answer that question, however the other existing combined road/pedestrian crossings would appear to be TasRail compliant, or otherwise TasRail would not permit them to be used either.

Matter ongoing.

## **6.6 Bus Parking Sign for School Bus Area**

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.

Signs have now been installed, but the wording was incorrect, but this has already been rectified. State Growth have contacted Redline to confirm the change in arrangements and the new pickup system will commence at the beginning of Term 1 in 2023.

No further action.

## **6.7 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 was tabled at the October meeting of Council.

Still awaiting a decision by Council. Mr Blacklock requested a Doggie Bag station be situated in Church Street, perhaps at the Campbell Town end, as it has been noticed visitors park, let animals defecate on footpath as they have no bags close by to use and move on. After discussion, it was felt that on the corner of Badajos Street near the Village Bakery, would be a suitable place to install one as quite a number of visitors park near here. Placement of station needs to be thought out we are all aware of visual pollution in the heritage area.

Chair to contact Works Manager.

Matter ongoing.

## **6.8 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.

The Town Hall gutters have been cleaned out; the Drill Hall gutters will be cleaned when the Drill Hall roof is replaced.

No further action.

## **6.9 Dr Neil Davidson, Restoration Ecologist, Senior Lecturer UTAS**

It has been suggested to Dr Davidson, that UTAS 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.

An adjoining landowner 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. Chair advised that Council will not do any work on an unmade road if they are owned by Crown Land. Can it be upgraded and sealed?

Chair has ascertained this western unmade side of The Boulevards is owned and managed by State Growth, not NMC. Perhaps an approach by parties involved with the Species Hotels could be made to State Growth to seal this section now that it is being used frequently.

No further action.

## **6.10 Painting Of Town Hall Entrance Foyer**

The Town Hall entrance foyer and the toilets at the rear of the Town Hall are scheduled for painting during the current financial year. A new lamp shade will be provided if funds permit. The new carpet for the old Council Chambers used by the Church Group was not laid last financial year.

Chair to liaise with the Church Group to ascertain if the carpet actually needs replacing, or whether a clean by a Commercial Carpet Cleaning Company would suffice. Chair to discuss with church group after contact names forwarded to him.

Matter ongoing

## **6.11 Maintenance Of Ross Footpaths**

Several gravel footpaths around Ross need remediation, photos have been sent to Council, and Customer Request 78015 has been raised.

Council has replied –

*“Unfortunately, due to the recent weather events this has disrupted multiple works throughout the municipality. Our priority atm is for roads to be repaired, but we do acknowledge your request and will have them addressed as soon as practicable.”*

Attendees discussed and agreed that the path to the female factory is the most important one and should be repaired as a matter of priority.

Matter ongoing.

## **7 NEW BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Round Table Discussion**

*Arthur Thorpe*

- Notice has been received by residents that Northern Midlands Medical Service is closing Campbell Town Medical Practice on 6th January 2023, leaving the area with no Doctors. This crisis is being felt in rural areas, not only in Tasmania, but all of Australia. Campbell Town Hospital Board members David Gatenby, Poppy Lyne & Judith Gregg had a meeting with the new Specialist Care Clinic Director and are positive this may alleviate residents concerns. NMC is convening a meeting on the 14th December with relevant Federal, State and Local Government representatives regarding medical services to the hospital and locals. Some councils are currently levying ratepayers in a number of council areas to try to overcome his issue. Mayor Knowles mentioned that some areas are using nurse practitioners and call on Drs when needed.

NMC Bus tour of all council areas will be conducted next year, instead of representative presentation as happened in 2022. This is to allow new councillors to become familiar with towns/villages and issues contained in each one. This will probably be held in April before the budget is set. Chair asked for members to think of projects to be included in the budget capital request list. Chair explained to Cr Archer that as Ross records its own minutes, they receive an allowance of \$2,500 p.a. for a council approved, local project. Also need to decide what project we want to consider for this year’s allowance. Chair also to follow up with Works Manager about last year’s project (bench seat behind Cenotaph).

*Christine Robinson*

- Cr Allison Andrews apologised for being unable to attend our meeting, but wanted to assure residents that she is available to all, please be in contact if she can help with any issue.

*Cr Richard Archer*

- Cr Archer spoke to the meeting regarding his background. A number of reasons for joining NMC, however one specific reason he came onto council was about planning issues, which can be frustrating. Councils are hamstrung in some areas in what they can do as they are bound to conform to the Planning Scheme. The State Government needs to be more appreciative of heritage and peoples wishes. His background is quite extensive in heritage and has belonged to a number of heritage committees, eg Longford, Port Arthur Authority, etc. Parramatta Female Factory Authority is looking to join heritage groups and if successful, will assume responsibility to look after all the convict heritage buildings Australia wide. A number of grants are available through this system as well. Need to look at the core of the town of Ross, instead of just one item, e.g. bridge. Cr Archer also asked the committee if it had been involved or advised of the issue with

land acquisition/subdivision behind the Police House in Ross. Committee was not advised of this issue at all.

*Helen Davies*

- Mentioned the David Bleakley Art Exhibition to be held at the old Ross School from the 9/12/22 – 11/12/22. This exhibition was to be included in the Ross Bicentenary, but as with a lot of things affected by COVID it was not possible.

*Sally Langridge*

- Chair asked Sally how the opening of Ross Pool went. Sally advised the attendance was very good; over 25 on the first day.

*Herbert Johnson*

- Raised the issue of the Disabled Car Parking spot near the Town Hall. Apparently wheelchair users sitting in a passenger seat, can't open left hand door. Need to look at the issue and see what could be done. Also, another Disabled Car Park is needed further down in the main shopping area. Discussion was held and a space near the old garage was felt to be a good spot.

Drainage Survey done for Ross, has this been completed? Yes, and is available to the Public on NMC's website. Chair to contact Lorraine Wyatt at NMC and request a printed copy be made available and placed in the Ross Post Office for residents without computer access to be able to view.

*P Brown*

- Disappointed the Committee did not take up the option of putting out the agenda to the shops for display. This was discussed at a previous meeting where Chair advised the Agenda was disseminated to the public by NMC, not the Committee. Chair has been in contact with NMC, requesting details of whether the agenda and minutes are still being forwarded to the Ross Post Office for viewing by residents, as had been done in the past. Although he has requested this information twice, he has still not received a reply.

Mr Brown also asked why the Agenda could not be done 2 weeks in advance instead of one? The MOU between committees and NMC state that Agendas are to be sent to members not less than 4 days in advance. NMC Council Meeting Papers are also prepared and sent out on this same timeline. Chair expressed the view that issuing the Agenda two weeks in advance is too early, because it meant that items that arose in the second week before the RLDC meeting could not be included in the Agenda, therefore allowing insufficient time for meeting attendees to prepare to discuss those items. Committee has requested on two separate occasions, that NMC consider placing the agenda on NMC website, then the agenda would be in the public domain for ease of viewing. However this request was refused on both occasions. Mr Brown will raise the matter of placing the Agenda on Council's website when he meets with Mayor Knowles.

## **8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE**

The Chair closed the meeting at 12:15pm.

**Next meeting – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023 commencing 11.15am in the Ross Reading Room.**