

MINUTES

THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS, ON TUESDAY 3rd MAY 2022, COMMENCING AT 11.15AM.

1 PRESENT

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

2 IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Andrew Calvert, Mr Phil Brown, Mr Cedric Tuffin.

3 APOLOGIES

Candy Hurren, Christine Robinson.

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 5th April, 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

Jill Bennett / Helen Davies

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Clearing The Macquarie River

The issues of concern are infestations of Cumbungi weeds and debris from previous floods needing removal.

Correspondence with various Government Departments regarding weed management and debris removal have been forwarded to Council, who advise that they are in discussions with NRET (previously DPIPW) and will advise when spraying is scheduled.

Council has confirmed there are similar problems in the Elizabeth River at Campbell Town and Back Creek in Longford. NMC are currently liaising with NRET to resolve these issues. Matter ongoing.

6.2 Condition Of Trees in Ross

Council's Works Manager, Mr Leigh McCullagh, has advised that the Victorian tree inspection company ENSPEC have inspected the Elms in Church Street, and will be returning to Ross in April to inspect the trees in other streets.

No further advice on this matter has been received and the Chair will follow up with Mr McCullagh. Matter ongoing.

6.3 Removal Of Demountable In Ross Caravan Park

This issue was first raised in June 2021 and removal is taking a lot longer than expected.

Chair has again contacted Council's Planning Department in March 2022, requesting that the demountable be removed.

Committee is awaiting an update from Council, as unsure if the current lease has been extended or a new tender for the lease of the Ross Caravan Park will be advertised. No update received at the time of the meeting. Chair will keep in touch with NMC to follow up.

6.4 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.

NMC has carried out cleaning and rectification of the southern gutters of the building, which should now route rainwater directly to the stormwater drains. It is still to be determined if a drain does in fact run along the eastern base of the building.

Mr McCullagh has asked street cleaning staff to remove the loose material on the footpath in front of the reading room to enable a closer look at the problem.

6.5 Water Leak Outside Ross Hotel

Chair contacted TasWater who stated that the leak is occurring in a Council sprinkler line on the hotel side of Bridge Street. Councils Works Manager and Chair reinspected in February, as the problem appears to be continuing. Chair to follow up with Council's Works Manager regarding repair or total replacement.

Advice has been given that the repair has been carried out. No further action.

6.6 Ownership of Original Ross Burial Ground and Public Notice Board

Council has confirmed that it does own the Original Ross Burial Ground, but that the Public Notice Board behind the red telephone boxes does not appear on its asset register. It is not known who owns the noticeboard.

Marcus Rodrigues previously volunteered to contact the current land owner to check if it belongs to what was the "old garage". Marcus has contacted both Mr Goddard (garage owner) and the previous Postmistress, Karin, neither of whom had any knowledge of who installed it.

Chair to write to Maree Bricknell, requesting the name of Council's Heritage Advisor to check for appropriate heritage colours. Following committee discussion, a working bee will be organised to bring the noticeboard back to an acceptable standard. Perhaps Council could assist with the supply of the materials. Matter ongoing.

6.7 Councils Capital Budget Request List For Financial Year 2022/2023

The RLDC's prioritised Capital Budget Request List has been sent to Council.

This year's Council Bus Tour will not take place, however the RLDC will be able to make a presentation of the Capital Budget Request List directly to Council in approximately early May.

Chair has prepared a PowerPoint presentation for NMC to view. Asked committee for any comments or changes. Lorraine Wyatt advised that there may be an opportunity to present to a workshop of Council; Chair asked that if anyone else would like to accompany him to the workshop, they would be most welcome. Councillor Calvert mentioned it would be a good opportunity to present to Council.

6.8 Missing (Stolen) Street Sign Nivelles Street

Customer request 61740 has been lodged with Council requesting the missing (stolen) sign be reinstalled. Chair mentioned the accident which took out the 80/50 sign on Roseneath Road. Sign replaced. The 50 Ahead sign which has also gone missing at this location has to be re-ordered. No further action at this time.

6.9 Excavation Outside 7 Church Street

Issue raised with Council who are looking into the matter. Part of NMC drainage system and Mr McCullagh will follow up with staff.

6.10 Regrading Of Road Edges

Customer Request 61742 has been lodged, Council's Works Manager advises that; "the grading program will start shortly and we can start around Ross, the shoulder grading is about to kick off as well, we would like to see a bit more rain so the roads and shoulders settle back down straight away." In hand, so hopefully to happen soon. No further action required at this time.

6.11 Damaged Wall Ross Bridge South East Steps

The sandstone block retaining wall at this location is damaged and backfill is washing out onto the steps and down into the river. Customer request 61696 has been raised requesting rectification. NMC to remediate by repairing wall and tidy up. No further action required at this time.

6.12 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. When wall at bridge fixed this will be attended to as well. No further action required at this time.

6.13 Letter Of Thanks To Mr Michael Brown

A letter thanking Mr Brown for watering the Church Street nature strips has been raised and given to him. This award has been presented to Michael who was very pleased to receive the accolade.

7 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Round Table

Helen Davies:

- Noticed several areas in Ross that need upkeep. Could perhaps volunteers assist, rather than always asking NMC – i.e. clean the bridge steps, phone boxes, keeping an eye on the garden beds, female factory path, convict stables (which were looking rather disreputable and were cleaned by Gary White). Some items are on private property, but most aren't. Ideas? A number of these items are already being looked after by volunteers, but perhaps this could be looked into further, particularly as RLDC committee members are already covered by NMC volunteer insurance.

Andrew Calvert:

- Commented that the northern entrance to Ross always looks so good but it would be a good idea to look at the southern entrance, as it needs something to bring it up to the same level. Discussion ascertained that of the trees that were planted previously, some were still alive but needed attention. Others had died due to the changes in ownership of Roseneath in recent years and subsequent neglect. It was ascertained that there is a watering system, but it was on private land. Jill Bennett/Arthur Thorpe would look at contacting the new owners regarding revitalising the trees, the surrounds and watering of same. Volunteers would be needed for a watering regime.

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Jill Bennett:

- Concerned with the watering regime of the Village Green trees. She has noticed that 3 Ash Trees look unhealthy. Jill happy to follow up with staff, or Chair to follow up with Mr McCullagh when he follows up other items from this meeting.

Sally Langridge:

- Raised a concern that the 42° sign placed just outside Ross appears to have part of the top east section broken off or missing. Need to confirm if this is the case, then Chair will contact Professor Peter Davies of UTAS to advise him of the issue.

Marcus Rodrigues:

- Asked if there will there be an official opening of the Village Green. Chair advised that yes there will be, however NMC are endeavouring to organise distinguished guests to attend and in the political lead up to the election, this may prove to be difficult to accomplish.

Herbert Johnson:

- Asked for further update on the Drainage Survey. Chair advised that the length of time taken for this survey being completed/presented was that it had been conducted council wide, taking in all the towns. The final report will be presented to the June Council Meeting.
- Any further news on electric car charging stations? All relevant information on this matter has been distributed directly to the NMC by the charging station proponents.
- What is happening with the highway intersection at Tacky Bridge as part of the highway upgrade? Jacobs Consulting advised previously that this is not part of the current upgrade, so no changes were planned. Any changes would need to be included in further funding grants for the highway.
- Tacky Bridge parking area and beautification of the area. Professor Peter Davies (UTAS) had in past years, looked for funding to make a car park in this area to support the "Hearth" installation nearby. However, funding issues and lack of public space were an issue.
- Had previously raised the idea of a Community Garden in Ross. Apparently there is interest and there were a number of sites where it could be situated. Discussion asked where? Mention was also made of the Oatlands one that started well but did not appear to continue. Would need substantial investigation before progressing.

Mr Brown:

- Mr Brown from the Ross Newsagency and Takeaway, stated that there are two not for profit organisations in Ross, namely The Ross Community Sports Club and the RLDC, and asked if they are permitted by Council to trade in opposition to the local business community.

Mr Brown cited two specific instances;

- 1) The recent caravan/motor home club meeting held at the Ross Recreation Ground;
- 2) The sausage sizzle held in Church Street in conjunction with the Picnic Day Car Gathering in Ross.

Chair stated that the RLDC does not trade, raise, receive or distribute funds, but is purely advisory body to Council, and therefore does not fall within this discussion.

In relation to the other matters, Chair undertook to seek clarification from Council.

8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

The Chair closed the meeting at 12.05 pm.

Next meeting – Tuesday 7th June 2022 commencing 11.15am in the Ross Reading Room.