

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS ON WEDNESDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 2015 COMMENCING AT 3.00PM

1 PRESENT

Ms Fiona Doe (Chair), Mrs Debra Cadogan-Cowper, Mr Arthur Thorpe, Mrs Jill Bennett, Mr Herbert Johnson

2 IN ATTENDANCE

Ms Helen McQuade (Ross Motel), Ms Susie Solah (Man O’Ross), Mr Des Jennings (General Manager – Northern Midlands Council), Miss Amanda Mason (Executive Officer – Northern Midlands Council)

3 APOLOGIES

Mrs Christine Robinson, Mr Allan Cameron, Mr Keith Draper, Cr Calvert

The Committee noted with regret Mr Terence Jacobson has resigned as he is relocating back to Western Australia.

4 GUESTS

Ms Solah introduced herself and advised she and Ms McQuade had attended the meeting to make themselves known to the committee and determine if there is anything they can be involved with the assist the group. Ms Solah has a background in sales and marketing. She has a strong commercial background and if those expertise can be used by the committee she is happy to offer up that experience.

It was noted there are two vacancies on the committee. Miss Mason explained the process of joining the committee is that a nomination form is to be completed and once received it is to be presented to the following Council meeting for the Councillors to endorse the membership.

Action

[Miss Mason to send nomination forms to Ms McQuade and Ms Solah.](#)

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.](#)

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Mr Arthur Thorpe/Mrs Debra Cadogan-Cowper

*That the minutes of the meeting of the Ross Local District Committee held on **Tuesday, 4 August 2015** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.*

Carried unanimously

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Dog bag disposal unit

Ms McQuade reported that she had been advised by the Council Works Supervisor that a dog bag dispenser will not be installed on the Esplanade as there is one available in the Caravan Park. It was requested the dispenser be installed at the corner of Church and High Streets.

Action

Miss Mason to issue customer request.

6.2 Ross Strategic Plan

Committee to discuss the following items in respect to the Strategic Plan:

- Entrance statements
 - Committee to review plans prepared and discuss.
- The Committee approved the design.

Action

Miss Mason to seek costings.

- Tree review (audit has been undertaken in past month – awaiting recommendations out of audit).
 - Recommendations have been requested from the Works Department.

Action

Miss Mason to chase update.

6.2 Canon

Update to be provided in respect to progressing to cover canon.

Mrs Cadogan-Cowper reported that she had met with two representatives from Port Arthur Historic site. Their recommendation was that the canon not be moved or covered because there are restoration techniques available now to prevent the need for covering. There is a conservator coming to Tasmania next month.

Action:

Mrs Cadogan-Cowper to provide details of conservator to Miss Mason.

Miss Mason to arrange conservator to inspect canon.

Mrs Cadogan-Cowper to follow up with Eric Hutchinson MP re funding and keep Council informed.

6.3 Bus stop

Matter referred to Council's Works & Infrastructure Manager. Update to be provided as available.

Action:

Miss Mason to report to the committee the process.

6.4 Vintage machinery display

Mr Johnson to report on proposal to display vintage machinery in Ross.

Mr Johnson advised there were a number of pieces of vacant land at Ross that could be used for such a display. It was noted further that there has been interest shown to develop a display by a private enterprise.

Action:

No further action required.

6.5 Vacant land in Ross

Mr Johnson to report on vacant land for sale in Ross.

Mr Johnson advised there are two vacant blocks for sale in Ross for the potential development of a public space in Ross.

Action:

Council to contact property owner to discuss.

6.6 Macquarie River – water testing

Update to be provided.

The Committee was advised that TasWater conducts testing of the water that they supply for consumption (Elizabeth River), but not the Macquarie River.

Action:

Miss Mason to follow up on whether the outlet of the detention pond in Ross is tested.

Miss Mason to enquire whether DPIPWE conduct testing of the Macquarie River.

6.7 Railway line at Badajos & Bridge Street

TasRail advised would inspect the vegetation in the week of 17 August 2015.

Action:

No further action required.

7 MATTERS IN PROGRESS

7.1 Motions to Council

Motion (17/02/2015): *The Ross Local District Committee request the Northern Midlands Council to have all cats registered is being investigated by Council officers.*

Update:

To be provided in January 2016 when outcome of State Government Cat Management Plan released.

[Mrs Cadogan-Cowper circulated pamphlet regarding the Invasive Species Taskforce for committee information.](#)

Motion (05/05/2015): *That the Ross Canon be included on the heritage listing in the Northern Midlands Council Planning Scheme was noted by Council at its meeting of 18 May 2015 for investigation by Council and has been referred to the Planning Department to be included in next amendment to the Northern Midlands Planning Scheme.*

Update:

Time frame is dependant on finalisation of Interim Scheme. Hoped to be in the next 12 months.

Motion (05/05/2015): *That Council investigate the possibility of offering a subsidy for returning bottles/can/drink bottles was noted by Council at its meeting of 18 May 2015 and has been referred to Northern Regional Waste Management committee.*

Update:

No update available.

7.2 Ross Public Toilet

Works to be completed in 2015/16. Planning application on public display.

8 NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Planning items

- It was requested the committee be provided with an update on the status of the illegal shipping containers in Ross.
- Enquiry was made in respect to the minimum number of signs permitted on a business.
- The Committee noted that 18 Badajos Street has applied for a permit for demolition after a house fire.

Action

[Miss Mason to make enquiries and advise committee.](#)

8.2 Works items

- A request has been received for Give Way signs to be installed on the cross streets (east – west) of Ross.
- The Committee offered its thanks to the Council Works Staff for the sealing of the edges and planting of the trees in Badajos Street, as well as the new walkway.
- The Committee requested an update please be provided on the relocation of the park bench at the bottom of Church Street, to the top of Church Street.
- The Committee requested Council please investigate the replacement of the silver birches on the southern side of the recreation ground with a more robust tree. Oaks were suggested.
- The Committee requested Council please investigate the replacement of the trees that have died on the side of the detention pond, as well as the installation of some additional trees on the northern side. The Elm in amongst them requires pruning.
- The Committee requested the footpath in the new toilet block be constructed out of thunderstone or some other sort of paver in keeping with the village, rather than a cement footpath.
- The Committee requested Council prune the suckers coming up on the verge of Chiswick Road.

Action

[Miss Mason to issue customer requests.](#)

8.3 Midland Highway 10 year action plan

Mrs Cadogan-Cowper circulated information to the committee on the Midland Highway 10 Year Action Plan and advised planned roadworks were presently on display in the Wool Centre.

Action

[No action required.](#)

8.4 Greening Australian and UTAS installation

Mrs Doe and Mrs Cadogan-Cowper reported that they attended a presentation recently on the installation of sculptures in the tree regeneration works that are being conducted around Ross, creating tree corridors for wildlife. At this stage the project is a concept only.

Action

[No action required.](#)

8.5 Interpretive signage

- The Committee requested an interpretive sign be installed at the Tacky Bridge for the 42 South sign.

It was resolved that all signage at the entrance to Ross needs to be reviewed and consolidated, in conjunction with the Entrance Statement.

- The Committee discussed the sign on the corner of Church and High Streets which requires updating. It was noted it is on private land and owner approval would be required.

Action

Miss Mason to action.

8.6 New walking track near the Ross Bridge

- The Committee to hold a working bee prior to summer to clean the area around the new walking track near the bridge up.
- The Committee noted the pile of dead trees on the land near the walking track.

Action

Mrs Bennett to facilitate working bee.

Mrs Doe to discuss tree heap with land owners.

8.7 Guest enquiries

- Ms McQuade and Ms Solah raised that visitors to Ross often approach the Caravan Park and Ross Motel as they are unable to find the public toilets. It was noted that there are several signs on the entrance to the town saying public toilets and that the new public toilets will have large lettering on the side saying Public Toilets.
- Ms Solah enquired about fortnightly rubbish collection and whether or not this could be increased to weekly. Mr Jennings advised that this is a service cost and if services were to increase to weekly then costs to ratepayers would increase and bin sizes would decrease.
- Ms Solah raised concern about the number of empty shops in Church Street. It was noted by the Committee that it is disappointing to see and perhaps something that could be discussed with the Ross Progress Association.
- Ms McQuade suggested that the kerbing on the top end of Church Street be changed to profile to prevent cars parking on the verge.

9 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

Next meeting to be held **7 October 2015 at 3:00pm**.

The Chair closed the meeting at 4:22 pm.