

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS ON WEDNESDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2015 COMMENCING AT 3.00PM

1 PRESENT

Mr Keith Draper (Chairperson), Mrs Christine Robinson, Mr Arthur Thorpe, Mrs Debra Cadogan-Cowper, Mrs Helen McQuade, Mrs Noelene Carroll, Mr Allan Cameron, Mr Herbert Johnson

2 IN ATTENDANCE

Cr Andrew Calvert, Miss Amanda Mason (Executive Officer)

3 APOLOGIES

Mrs Fiona Doe, Mrs Jill Bennett, Mr Des Jennings (General Manager)

4 WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Chairperson welcomed new members Ms Carroll and Ms McQuade.

5 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.*

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Mr Arthur Thorpe/Mr Herbert Johnson

That the minutes of the meeting of the Ross Local District Committee held on **Wednesday, 2 September 2015** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

Carried unanimously

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Dog waste disposal units

Due to cost Council Works Department will not install an additional dog waste disposal unit on the corner of Church & High Streets. Works have offered to relocate existing unit to outside entrance to Caravan Park.

Action

No further action.

6.2 Canon

Inspection of canon being conducted on 22 October 2015 to make recommendations for restoration and housing.

It was requested by the Committee that the person conducting the inspection be advised that the wheel spokes are butted, not joined.

Action

Miss Mason to enquire with company who made wheels as to whether or not they have the original wheels.

Miss Mason to investigate the design of the original wheels of that canon.

6.3 Ross Entrance Statement

Costing being sought. It was suggested that a temporary sign be erected when the location of the entrance statements is decided.

6.4 Bus stop

Process for relocation of bus stop:

- Discuss with bus companies;
- Discuss with Department of State Growth;
- Community consultation.

Miss Mason has spoken with one bus company and the only concern raised was ability to park at the proposed bus stop during summer when the number of tour buses visiting Ross is high. Possible solution is to make the bus stop school bus only between certain times. Further liaison with two other bus companies required.

6.5 Vacant land in Ross

Council making enquiries.

6.6 Macquarie River – water testing

TasWater have provided data on testing conducted at the detention pond in Ross. Miss Mason to discuss further with Environmental Health Officer.

Action

Miss Mason to make enquiries about what happens if the Macquarie River is contaminated, what plans are in place for those using that water for domestic use?

6.7 Shipping containers

- Since 2012 5 containers have been approved, 3 removed, 2 have existing use rights, 1 has rights whilst valid building permit in place, a number exempt from planning approval.
- 8 properties had containers that weren't approved (6 have obtained approval).
- 2 properties are having action taken against them.

The Committee noted its opinion that retrospective approval should not be given for shipping containers.

6.8 Works items

Customer requests have been issued for all tree items listed in 8.2 of last meeting's minutes.

Relocation of park table and chairs is on Works list to be completed, no time frame available.

It was noted that there is an increase in rabbit numbers in Ross and confirmed that Council has approved the request of release of the calicivirus in Ross by DPIPWE in early 2016. It was further noted by the Committee that rabbit bait is available over the counter from farm supplies retailers.

6.9 Interpretive signage at Ross

Committee to meet at the Tacky Bridge at 2:30pm prior to the commencement of the next meeting to discuss further.

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.

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. Approx. 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

At Planning and Building Permit stage.

8 NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Chairperson of Ross Local District Committee

Mr Draper indicated that he wishes to resign as Chairperson of the Ross Local District Committee.

No nominations were given and the matter was deferred to the next meeting.

8.2 Lake Leake water testing

Committee to note that TasWater has partnered with UTAS to conduct a study aiming to trace and predict cyanobacteria (Blue Green Algae) blooms in Tasmania's catchments. Lake Leake has been identified as a location for the study.

8.3 Ross Bridge

Council is investigating nomination of the Ross Bridge for World Heritage Listing. Awaiting nomination form template from Australian Government.

8.4 Referral on Planning Review

Committee discussed the referral circulated the day before regarding Bond Street, Ross. The following questions were asked:

- Who is the applicant?
- Why is rezoning allowed?
- What is the intention for the use of the property?
- Why was a document issued with crossing out in it?

Action

[Miss Mason to seek more information from the Planning Department.](#)

8.5 Railway Crossings

Mr Allan Cameron/Mrs Christine Robinson

That the Badajos Street and Boulevard railway crossings be widened to allow for traffic to pass simultaneously.

Carried unanimously

8.6 Works requests

- White weed on road verges within Ross.
- Inspection of Cotton Thistle on properties in Ross.
- 6 trees on the Avenue require replacing.
- Request State Growth remove the road signs on the Midland Highway that indicate roadworks where there are none at the northern entrance to Ross.
- TasWater sewerage hole on High Street, stones are falling down.
- TasWater pipes on Tutnill's hill are breaking whenever heavy vehicles pass over them.
- Please mow the verges on the eastern side of the railway.
- Street light on corner of Bridge and Church Streets.
- Rubbish located in the river near the Ross Bridge at the entrance to Lovers Lane, as well as the section of ground near the staircase at the new walkway.
- Whose responsibility are the garden beds in the Main Street?
- Bushes on the railway line at Badajos Street need clearing.
- Street lights are still white and have not been changed back to amber.

- Mrs Cadogan-Cowper following up with Parks & Wildlife re the thistles at the Female Factory.

Action

Miss Mason to issue customer requests and follow up previous requests issued.

8.7 Cloud seeding

Mr Cameron advised he has requested that Council and the State Government advocate for cloud seeding in and around Ross.

8.8 Lake Leake water levels

It was noted by the Committee that the Lake Leake water levels are low and that Mayor Downie is meeting with TasWater next week to discuss.

8.9 High Street – first home in Ross

Committee discussed house being made an attraction for Ross. It was noted the property is privately owned.

Action

Place on hold for time being.

8.10 Boats and Caravans

The Committee discussed having an area to store boats and caravans in Ross. It was noted that storage of property is the responsibility of property owners and private land owners to reach an agreement.

8.11 Ross Local District Committee

Discussion was had in respect to the Ross Local District Committee identifying issues around Ross rather than only in the township itself. It was noted that all members of the committee look out for issues in and around the town. It is also the responsibility of the community to report issues to the committee.

8.12 Heritage Highway

The Committee noted the Heritage Highway Association is in discussion with the Department of State Growth regarding standardised signage along the Heritage Highway, including a “What’s on in Ross” sign.

8.13 Planning

The Committee discussed planning applications in the town and the impact on the heritage aspect of the town.

It was noted by Cr Calvert that the Ross community had input into the rezoning in previous years.

8.14 Volunteer Handbook

The Committee noted the development of a Volunteer Handbook as information for Council’s volunteers. Any members who aren’t registered as volunteers are to complete a volunteer registration form.

Action

Miss Mason to circulate copy with the minutes.

8.15 End of Year Function

The Committee noted the end of year Christmas function will be held for Avoca, Royal George & Rossarden, Campbell Town and Ross again this year and the Bowls Club has been nominated as the location.

9 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

Next meeting to be held **4 November 2015 at 2:30pm** at the Tacky Bridge.

The Chair closed the meeting at 4:22 pm.