

## **MINUTES**

### **MEETING OF THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD COMMENCING AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS ON WEDNESDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2015 AT 3:00PM**

#### **1 PRESENT**

Mrs Fiona Doe (Chair), Mrs Debra Cadogan-Cowper, Mr Allan Cameron, Mrs Jill Bennett, Mrs Noelene Carroll, Ms Helen McQuade, Mrs Christine Robinson, Mr Herbert Johnson

#### **2 IN ATTENDANCE**

Mayor David Downie, Mr Des Jennings (General Manager), Miss Amanda Mason (Executive Officer), Mrs Marlena Richardson, Mr Dennis Rule, Ms Laura Williamson, Mrs Pat Kirk, Mr Baden Helm, Mr Stephen Gafney and others

#### **3 APOLOGIES**

Cr Andrew Calvert, Mr Keith Draper, Mr Arthur Thorpe

#### **4 WELCOME AND COMMENT BY GUESTS**

Mrs Doe welcomed attendees to the meeting and invited the guests to make their comment.

Mrs Marlena Richardson – Ross

Mrs Richardson made comment in support of a couple who had moved to Tasmania to make a new life here (it was inferred Ms Richardson was referring to Mr and Mrs Gafney, the owners of 41 Park Street, Ross).

Mr Dennis Rule – Ross

Mr Rule advised a flyer had been distributed to Ross residents stating the Ross Local District Committee was against the planning application for Park Street, Ross. It was noted that not all residents of Ross received a copy of the flyer.

Mrs Doe advised attendees that the flyer was distributed by the Committee in its capacity as an information provider to the community. Nothing disseminated in the flyer was not already in the public domain. It was acknowledged that the interpretation of the flyer could have been misunderstood. The only reason for disseminating the information was to provide information. There was no intent for the flyer to guide any decision or outcome of the planning application.

Mrs Doe advised that if the flyer was misunderstood an apology is offered by the Ross Local District Committee.

Mr Jennings (General Manager) advised that planning applications are distributed to the District Committee as information. The District Committee does not consider planning items. The Planning Authority (Council) makes the ultimate decision on planning applications.

Mr Baden Helm – Ross

Mr Helm advised he has lived in Ross for 35 years. He did not receive the flyer and expressed his concern regarding the circulation of the flyer. It was particularly noted the flyer was unsigned.

Mrs Doe clarified that the flyer did make reference to the Ross Local District Committee.

Mr Stephen Gafney – Badajos Street

Mr Gafney advised that residents in Badajos Street did not receive the flyer. The Committee advised a limited number of flyers were distributed and there was no intent as to who did/didn't receive the flyer.

Ms Laura Williamson - Ross

Ms Williamson asked what the Ross Local District Committee could do regarding delay caused to the planning application.

Mrs Doe advised the Ross Local District Committee has no power to impact the progress of a planning application, that is an issue between Council and an Applicant.

It was noted this is the first flyer of this nature distributed amongst the community about planning applications and that the committee does not see every planning application that is made, only discretionary applications.

Mr Allan Cameron – Ross

Mr Cameron advised he has been a member of this committee for many years. He did not see the flyer and also expressed his concern regarding its distribution.

It was raised by Mr Gafney that there had been rumours in respect to the application and the type of building to be built.

Mrs Doe explicitly stated that rumours are to stay out of this room and would not be discussed further.

It was reiterated by Mr Jennings (General Manager) that anyone has the right to make a representation, for or against an application and the Planning Authority then deals with it.

Mrs Doe concluded the discussion by reiterating if anyone feels they have been negatively targeted by the flyer the Committee apologises. Further, the Committee has learnt from the outcome of this situation.

It was requested that in future if this committee is giving consideration to disseminating information there should be a formal vote and the information placed in a public place.

### **Other items**

Two attendees requested that Council prune the trees that have replaced the pine trees at the recreation ground, and that additional dog waste bag disposal units be erected within the town of Ross.

[The guests left the meeting at 3:30pm.](#)

## **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.*

Nil.

## **6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

***Mr Allan Cameron/Mr Herbie Johnson***

*That the minutes of the meeting of the Ross Local District Committee held on **Wednesday, 7 October 2015** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings with following addition being made to item 6.8:*

*It was further noted by the Committee that rabbit bait is available over the counter from farm supplies retailers.*

*Carried unanimously*

## **6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

### **6.1 Interpretive signage at Ross**

Committee to discuss. The Committee met at the Tacky Bridge prior to the commencement of the meeting.

The Committee wishes to investigate an interpretive sign at the bridge and seeks suggestions for the location of such signage.

Enquiry was made as to who owns the Tacky Bridge and the surrounding land.

Regarding the entrance statement, it was requested that Council put forward suggested locations and mark the area.

***Mr Allan Cameron/Mrs Fiona Doe***

*That Council tidy up the Tacky Bridge, removing the cumbungi weed, suckers and rubbish with the view to beautify the bridge, and that the regular cleaning up be included on the works roster with mowing on the southern side of Chiswick Road being extended toward the Midland Highway.*

*Carried unanimously*

## **6.2 Macquarie River – water testing**

Property owners who draw drinking water out of rivers are responsible for testing of the water themselves. Should an issue arise they are to notify the body responsible for the water, eg DPIPW and seek alternative water sources until resolved.

## **6.3 Cannon**

Report on condition and recommendations for restoration was received on 4 November 2015. Photographs of the original design have also been received.

### **Action**

Miss Mason to progress and request the watering system not be set to spray the cannon directly.

## **6.4 Bus stop**

Awaiting comment from State Growth.

## **6.5 Vacant land in Ross**

Investigations in progress.

## **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 dependent 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.

**Motion (07/10/2015):** *That the Badajos Street and Boulevard railway crossings be widened to allow for traffic to pass simultaneously* was noted for investigation by Council at its meeting of 19 October 2015.

#### **Update:**

Accepted by Council at the previous Council meeting.

## **7.2 Ross Public Toilet**

At Planning and Building Permit stage.

## **7.3 Ross Entrance Statement**

Awaiting receipt of quotes. It was requested Council investigate using the sandstone from the stockpile at Campbell Town.

### **Action**

Miss Mason to pass on request.

## **8 NEW BUSINESS**

### **8.1 Chairperson of Ross Local District Committee**

#### **Mrs Debra Cadogan-Cowper/Mrs Noelene Carroll**

*That Mrs Christine Robinson be nominated as the Chairperson of the Ross Local District Committee.*

*Carried unanimously*

Mayor Downie left the meeting at 3:45pm

### **8.2 Australia Day Awards and Volunteer Recognition**

Applications are now open for the Northern Midlands Council 2016 Australia Day Awards and Volunteer Recognition. Nominations are currently invited for the following:

Northern Midlands Council Australia

Day Awards:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Community Event of the Year

Volunteer recognition within the Northern Midlands community:

- 1 year volunteering service
- 2-5 years volunteering service
- Greater than 5 years volunteering

Prescribed nomination forms are available from the Council Offices at Longford or to download at [www.northernmidlands.tas.gov.au](http://www.northernmidlands.tas.gov.au).

The closing date for nominations is Monday, 30 November 2015.

Nominations are to be returned to the Executive Officer, PO Box 156, Longford Tas 7301.

Recipients are to be recognised at the Northern Midlands Council Australia Day event on 26 January 2016.

### **Action**

Miss Mason to send flyer to group and nomination forms to Post Office.

### **8.3 The Royal Life Saving Society Australia**

The Royal Life Saving Society of Australia will be holding First Aid, Bronze Medallion and Pool Lifeguard Courses at the Campbell Town Swimming Pool.

#### **First Aid Course only**

**When:** Saturday, 5 December 2015 from 9:00am

**Cost:** \$140

#### **First Aid Course and Bronze Medallion combined course**

**When:** Saturday, 5 December 2015 from 9:00am

**Cost:** \$220

#### **Pool Lifeguard Course**

**When:** Saturday, 12 December 2015 and Sunday, 13 December 2015

**Cost:** \$250 (for lifeguard course only)

#### **First Aid, Bronze Medallion and Pool Lifeguard Course**

**When:** Saturday, 5 December, Saturday, 12 December and Sunday, 13 December

**Cost:** \$430

For further information and bookings contact Royal Life Saving Tasmania on 6243 7558 or [tas@rlssa.org.au](mailto:tas@rlssa.org.au)

### **8.4 End of Year Function**

Committee to note the End of Year Christmas dinner will be held on 7 December 2015 and RSVPs are to be submitted to Miss Mason or Mrs Eacher by 30 November 2015.

### **8.5 Planning & Development**

#### *8.5.1 Draft Amendment to Interim Planning Scheme*

Committee to note Council under section 34 (1) of the *Land Use Planning & Approvals Act 1993*, initiated Draft Amendment 06/15 to rezone part of 9 Bond Street, Ross, from Community Purposes to General Residential at its meeting of 19 October 2015. The proposal is now on public display until 25 November 2015.

A question was raised as to whether or not this proposal was previously refused due to proximity to the railway line. It was further queried whether there would be any implications for the Tasmanian Fire Service.

It was noted that any queries in respect to implications on other entities are to be raised with the Northern Midlands Council Planning Department directly.

#### *8.5.2 Grain Processing Facility*

Committee to note Council at its meeting of 19 October 2015 approved a grain processing facility at "Williamwood", Ross, access from Auburn Road.

#### *8.5.3 Planning items – general*

It was requested that Council display of planning notices on the public notice board in Ross.

#### *8.5.4 Shipping containers*

Discussion was had in respect to shipping containers in Ross. It was noted that should the Committee wish to know how many containers have approval, a request can be made.

#### *8.5.5 Signage*

It was noted there are several new flags and signs in Ross. Miss Mason to follow up review conducted earlier this year.

***Mrs Debra Cadogan-Cowper/Mrs Christine Robinson***

*That Council investigate the installation of a consolidated sign (eg Evandale) for businesses in Ross.*

*Carried unanimously*

### **8.6 Watering**

Trees on Roseneath Road and verges within Ross.

#### ***Action***

*Mrs Bennett to speak with new owners of Roseneath re watering of trees.*

*Miss Mason to locate plan of taps for watering Church Street verges.*

### **8.7 Garden beds**

It was noted that some individuals are caring for the garden beds outside their properties.

#### ***Action***

*Mrs Bennett to approach businesses requesting they adopt a garden bed.*

### **8.8 Customer requests**

- TasRail regarding vegetation.
- Lovers Lane tidy up.
- Gorse / fire hazards within the town.

It was noted by the Committee that Council's compliance officer will be conducting inspections and issuing fire abatement notices this month.

- Weeds  
Miss Mason to seek update from NRM Officer.
- Badajos and Bond Streets pothole

It was advised by other committee members the works are complete.

### **8.9 Tour of Ross**

It was suggested the Ross Local District Committee participate in a guided tour of Ross to see the town through tourist's eyes.

## **9 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE**

Next meeting to be held **2 December 2015 at 3:00pm.**

The Chair closed the meeting at **4:31 pm.**