

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS ON WEDNESDAY, 3 FEBRUARY 2016 COMMENCING AT 3:01 PM

1 PRESENT

Mrs Christine Robinson (Chair), Mrs Fiona Doe, Mr Arthur Thorpe, Ms Helen McQuade, Mr Keith Draper, Mrs Debra Cadogan-Cowper, Mr Herbert Johnson, Ms Noelene Brown, Mr Allan Cameron

2 IN ATTENDANCE

Cr Mary Knowles, Miss Amanda Mason (Executive Officer), Mr Wayne Chellis (Works & Infrastructure Manager), Mr Leigh McCullagh (Works Supervisor),

3 APOLOGIES

Cr Andrew Calvert, Mr Des Jennings (General Manager), Mrs Jill Bennett

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.

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Mr Arthur Thorpe/Mr Keith Draper

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

Carried unanimously

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Bus Shelter

The motion of the Ross Local District Committee at its meeting of 2 December 2015 “that Council erect a bus shelter behind the Ross Town Hall and retain the Bus Only sign at its present location” was noted for investigation by Council at its meeting of 14 December 2015.

The Committee to note and discuss correspondence received from Ross resident suggesting the Tasmanian Wool Centre allow student/s to wait under their awning, eliminating the need for a bus shelter.

The Committee noted the correspondence and that the suggestion to use the awning of the Ross Wool Centre as a bus shelter could cause difficulty for two reasons; a) the shelter is not in front of the bus stop, and b) there would not be public liability insurance.

6.2 Minutes of Ross Local District Committee meetings

It was noted at the last meeting that the unconfirmed minutes of the Ross Local District Committee are tabled at the Council meeting immediately following the RLDC Meeting. The purpose of this is to enable any motions of the Ross Local District Committee to be received by Council and progressed by Officers. Should there be an amendment to the minutes once they are confirmed this is noted again in the following Council meeting agenda. It was further noted there had been a misquote of the Ross Local District Committee meeting minutes in a Council report. The relevant department manager was advised of this.

The Committee requested that the information be forwarded to Council.

6.3 Railway in Ross

Committee to note the fire hazards were cleared prior to Christmas.

It was requested that a request be submitted to TasRail to spray the briars.

6.4 Cumbungi

A request was submitted to the Department of Primary Industries Water & Environment requesting the cumbungi weed in the Macquarie River be sprayed in February.

Mr Chellis advised that Council sprays the cumbungi in the section of the Macquarie River between the Ross Bridge and the weir.

6.5 Rabbits

Request has been made to the Department of Primary Industries Water & Environment to release the calicivirus in Ross in 2016, providing adequate notice to residents to allow for domestic rabbit vaccination.

It was noted there are a number of warrens near the Pump Station. Mr Chellis to inspect to determine whether Council can do anything.

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:

Committee to note excerpt from the Local Government Association of Tasmania newsletter on cat management:

The Tasmanian Government is committed to developing a Tasmanian Cat Management Plan to outline ways that cats can be better managed across the State. Issues that are being examined include domestic and feral cats, roles and responsibilities, and identifying the necessary public and private resources to achieve effective outcomes. To inform the development of a plan, a Reference Group, a feral cat working group and a socialised cats working group have been established. The two working groups have met on a number of occasions to identify the key issues to be included in the management plan. LGAT is represented on each of these groups. A

facilitated workshop with the Reference Group will be held next week, with the aim of gaining in-principle support for the issues and proposed recommendations. Once this is achieved and the Minister is comfortable, a draft plan will be developed and a formal public consultation process will be undertaken. This is likely to occur in the first six months of 2016.

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 further action to be taken by Northern Midlands Council.

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:

To be considered as part of future capital works program.

Motion (02/12/2015): *That Council pay for an acoustics engineer to assess the Ross Town Hall.*

Update:

Quotes sought, awaiting response.

7.2 Cannon

Quotes have been received for cost of wheels. To be progressed.

7.3 Ross Entrance Statement

State Growth will give approval for the northern entrance to Ross. Awaiting further discussion regarding the southern entrance.

7.4 Ross Public Toilet

On Works schedule to be completed.

7.5 Information sign for businesses

A co-operative arrangement between business owners is the recommended approach for a business information sign in Ross. To be discussed by the Committee.

Action

Members of the committee to canvas businesses within the town and seek interest.

Discuss with Evandale businesses as to the cost.

Approach the Hub Group and advise them of proposed project.

8 NEW BUSINESS

8.1 White Weed

“White weed” a Zone A weed has been identified in Ross. Council’s Works Department have been notified to spray. Community awareness information is also to be circulated to residents to make them aware of the weed and how to eradicate it.

It was noted that the TFGA are not aware of this.

Action

Miss Mason to advise Ms Case notify TFGA.

8.2 Memorial Plinth – Sergeant Lewis McGee VC

Committee to discuss correspondence from the Department of Premier & Cabinet regarding the commemoration of Victoria Cross recipients and Centenary of ANZAC Grant Program funding.

Action

Mr Draper to raise with the RSL.

8.3 National Heritage Listing for Ross Bridge

Mrs Robinson tabled a letter from Mr Kim Peart.

Mr Keith Draper/Mr Arthur Thorpe

That the Ross Local District Committee provide a letter of support to Mr Kim Peart regarding an application for nomination of the Ross Bridge for National heritage listing.

Carried unanimously

8.4 Planning

A request was received from the Chairperson for the following:

- a) For a copy of the town zoning plans showing overlays.
A copy of the plan has been circulated with the Agenda.
- b) That the Local District Committee and any property owner affected by zoning changes be notified in writing.
Pursuant to the Land Use Planning & Approvals Act if a draft amendment relating to a particular parcel of land notice is given to the occupier and the adjoining property owners of that land. It is Council practice to notify the Local District Committee of the effected town also.
- c) That adjoining property owners be notified of building applications.
*To clarify, a **planning** application is to be submitted for development on land. Pursuant to the Land Use Planning & Approvals Act adjoining property owners are notified of the planning application unless it is a permitted use. Once planning approval is received a **building** permit can be issued.*

The Ross Local District Committee expressed the view that there have been instances where the Ross Local District Committee and relevant property owners have not been notified as per the Land Use Planning & Approvals Act, or Council policy.

Discussion was had in respect to real estate agents advertising land as zoned incorrectly – eg. residential when it is rural resource. Mrs Brown pursuing this in her personal capacity.

8.5 Council's tree maintenance program

Inspections commenced on Monday last week. Previous advice was that inspections would occur last winter, this was postponed until this year.

It was noted by Mrs Doe that the new ash trees on Bond Street have been damaged by rabbits.

It was further noted the pittosporum trees near the detention pond are impacting the elms.

Action

Mrs Doe and Mr Chellis to discuss further.

8.6 Meeting schedule for 2016

3 February at 3:00pm

2 March at 3:00pm

6 April at 3:00pm

4 May at 3:00pm

1 June at 3:00pm

6 July at 3:00pm

3 August at 3:00pm

7 September at 3:00pm

5 October at 3:00pm

2 November at 3:00pm

7 December at 3:00pm

The Committee endorsed the attached meeting schedule for 2016.

Mr Draper applied for leave of absence for May, June and July 2016.

8.7 2016/17 Budget requests

Information to be circulated to the Committee on the budget process and fund allocation for Ross.

It was noted this information is to be prepared by the Corporate Services Manager for the next meeting.

Committee to submit suggestions for 2016/17 Council budget considerations and prioritise these in the March meetings for submission to Council:

- Standardised directional signage for heritage walk -
- Painting of Town Hall and Supper Room
- Create access to lower level at Tacky Bridge (steps/path)
- Street scaping of western end of High Street and the Esplanade, including parking for small tourist buses and improving traffic flow to the Motel and Caravan Park
- Upgrade of footpath from Bridge Street to Portugal Street
- Upgrade Tasman Street so it connects with Waterloo Street
- Upgrade surface of Waterloo Street (between Bridge and Wellington Streets)
- Replacement of asphalt footpath surfaces (more information to be provided)

It was noted that works on the Esplanade will be listed for budget consideration.

8.8 Recent heavy rain

It was noted by the Committee that several drains require clearing after the recent storms. Mr Chellis and Mr McCullagh requested that any blockages/issues be reported and exact locations, eg street numbers be provided.

8.9 Project Champion – Longford

The Committee noted the recent advertisement for a Project Champion in Longford. It was advised this position was advertised as a result of a decision of Council on 18 January 2016, to coordinate and implement an activation plan from a recent study done for Longford.

The Committee was encouraged to make the request of Council to implement studies/recommendations of studies for Ross.

8.10 Works/Planning matters

- It was noted that the new pavers on Church Street installed as access to the rubbish bin are being obscured and the issue of compaction is occurring again next to the pavers.

[Mr Chellis to inspect.](#)

- Concerns were again raised regarding illegal signage in Ross not being policed/enforced.
- Mr Chellis advised the committee there is a plan to upgrade the streets of Ross over a ten year period. This was supported by the Committee.
- A discussion was had in relation to “untidy” properties in Ross. It was advised there is very little Council can do unless the property is a fire hazard, health risk or constitutes an unsightly article, or rubbish. The difficulty is arguing what an “unsightly article, or rubbish” is as this is a matter of perception.

Council will not issue abatement notices because a property is untidy.

Committee members are encouraged to report such issues through the Council Customer Request process either online or by phoning reception. These will then be investigated by Council’s Compliance Officer.

[Mr Chellis and Mr McCullagh left the meeting at 4:41pm.](#)

8.11 Church fence

Mr Draper reported the Church had been unsuccessful in obtaining funding for the repair to the Church Fence. It was noted that Council has Special Project funding annually.

Action

[Miss Mason to provide criteria to Mr Draper.](#)

8.12 Tacky Bridge

It was noted by the Committee that any proposal for upgrade to footpaths/access to the Tacky Bridge would need State Growth approval.

8.13 Wifi in Ross

It was noted the State Government in partnership with Telstra is looking at installing free Wifi in Ross.

8.14 Elizabeth Macquarie Irrigation Trust

It was noted by the Committee that there is an opportunity for a member of the Ross Local District Committee to attend meetings of the Elizabeth Macquarie Irrigation Trust (EMIT) to observe.

It was resolved Mrs Robinson would attend the EMIT meetings.

8.15 Ross water supply

The Chairperson tabled an email from resident regarding water availability in Ross, proposing the pump shed be reinstated to allow pumping from the Macquarie River.

The proposal was discussed and the Committee was not agreeable to the proposal.

Action

Mrs Robinson to prepare response to resident.

9 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

Next meeting to be held **2 March 2016 at 3:00pm.**

The Chair closed the meeting at 4:55 pm.