

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS ON WEDNESDAY, 1 JUNE 2016 COMMENCING AT 3:00PM

1 PRESENT

Mrs Christine Robinson (Chairperson), Mrs Debra Cadogan-Cowper, Mr Arthur Thorpe, Mrs Jill Bennett, Mr Allan Cameron, Mr Herbert Johnson

2 IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs Candyce Hurren, Mrs Margaret Langridge, Cr Leisa Gordon, Mr Des Jennings (General Manager), Miss Amanda Mason (Governance & Community Development Officer)

3 APOLOGIES

Mrs Fiona Doe, Mr Keith Draper, Ms Noelene Brown, Mrs Helen McQuade

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

Mr Arthur Thorpe/Mr Herbert Johnson

*That the minutes of the meeting of the Ross Local District Committee held on **Wednesday, 4 May 2016** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.*

Carried unanimously

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Rabbits

Committee to note that the release of the new strain of calicivirus has been delayed pending final approval to use the strain in Australia. Recent reports from Council's NRM officer are that the release has been successful.

6.2 Compliance issues

Committee to note that the several compliance issues that have been raised have recently been re-addressed and progressed where Council is in a position to do so.

6.3 Clean Up Australia Day

Mrs Robinson reported that enquiries have indicated that Clean Up Australia Day will insure the site, but won't insure for personal injury. Events can't be held on arterial roads, only on Council roads, with Council approval.

The Committee resolved not to 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:

Report and decision of Council at its 16 May 2016 Council meeting regarding the Draft State Cat Management Plan attached.

Comments were made on the issues of resourcing and who is responsible to target the problem. Concern was reaffirmed on the impact of feral cats on native fauna.

Motion (05/05/2015): *That the Ross Cannon 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:

Approved at the Council meeting of 16 May 2016. Decision now on public exhibition.

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

Update:

Has been submitted for consideration in the Council budget process.

7.2 Ross Cannon

Council awaiting quote from conservator, expected as soon as possible.

7.3 Ross Entrance Statement

Agreement reached with the Department of State Growth re locations. Planning application is presently on public display

8 NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Ross Town Square Master Plan

Committee to note that applications for the development of the master plan have closed and are being considered. Committee to be advised when successful candidate notified. Once appointed, consultant will work with relevant stakeholders in designing the master plan.

8.2 Signs

It was noted that a number of the street signs in Church Street require cleaning, as well as the load limit sign on the township side of the bridge.

Action

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

8.3 Disabled parking

It was requested a disabled parking space be installed outside the Town Hall for easier access to the amenities. It was noted that this is to be considered as part of the Town Square Master Plan which will look at access and parking within the town also.

8.4 Tacky Bridge

It was requested that Council make enquiries with the Department of State Growth for the installation of stairs at the Tacky Bridge. Clarification was sought on whose responsibility it was to maintain the road verge at the Tacky Bridge.

Action

[Miss Mason to enquire with Works Department and Department of State Growth.](#)

8.5 Christmas lights

It was requested that Christmas lights be reinstalled in the tree outside the Town Hall.

Action

[Miss Mason to enquire with Works Department.](#)

8.6 Lease of Ross Quarry

Mrs Cadogan-Cowper reported the Wool Centre has reached an agreement with Council to lease the quarry. Once finalised work will commence to tidy the quarry area up and open to the public.

8.7 Grading

Comment was made on the grading of the Auburn and Ashby Roads and the steep drop offs on the road verges in some sections.

Action

Miss Mason to raise with Works Department.

8.8 Crime in Ross

The Committee noted concern on incidents in Ross and reiterated the importance of reporting incidents to the Police so they can be investigated.

8.9 Rural Alive and Well

It was noted this group is not progressing due to lack of support.

8.10 Internet

Concern was raised re the availability of high speed internet connections within the rural areas around Ross.

Mr Allan Cameron/Mr Herbert Johnson

That Council note the issue of lack of internet services in the outlying areas of Ross and make enquiries regarding possible improvements.

Carried unanimously

It was mentioned that Telstra offer an internet/phone connection specific to rural areas which may be an opportunity for those who have poor service.

8.11 Telstra

Enquiry was made regarding a recent article in the Examiner re Telstra upgrades and whether this would apply to black spot areas surrounding Ross.

Action

Miss Mason to investigate.

8.12 Public toilets

It was raised that a resident had expressed concern that the toilet block plans showed the new amenities being built out of weatherboard. It was confirmed that the plans do not specify materials for construction. It was requested a low maintenance material be used.

8.13 Planning items

The Committee noted that Mayor Downie has suggested he, Mr Jennings & Mr Payton meet to discuss the role of the Ross Local District Committee and input on planning matters.

8.14 Off lead area in Ross

Council's Animal Control Officer has requested suggestions for an off-lead dog area in Ross. Two suggestions were forthcoming:

- Grass area near the Female Factory; and
- Old Ashby & Auburn Road areas.

Action

Miss Mason to notify Animal Control Officer.

8.15 Apologies for next meeting

Committee to note Miss Mason will be absent from the July meeting which includes the AGM.

9 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

Next meeting to be held **6 July 2016 at 3:00pm.**

The Chair closed the meeting at 3:46 pm.