

## MINUTES

### **MEETING OF THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS ON WEDNESDAY, 1 MARCH 2017 COMMENCING AT 3:00 PM**

#### **1 PRESENT**

Mrs Christine Robinson (Chairperson), Mr Allan Cameron, Mrs Helen Davies, Mr Keith Draper, Mr Tony Thorogood, Mrs Debra Cadogan-Cowper, Mrs Margaret Langridge, Mr Arthur Thorpe, Mrs Jill Bennett (3:20pm)

#### **2 IN ATTENDANCE**

Cr Andrew Calvert, Cr Leisa Gordon (3:02pm), Cr Mary Knowles, Mayor David Downie (3:06 pm), Mr Des Jennings (General Manager, 3:10pm), Mrs Amanda Bond (Regulatory & Community Services Manager), Miss Georgina Brown (Executive & Communications Officer), Mr Herbert Johnson (Guest), Ms Candyce Hurren (Guest), Mr Pat Hyam (Guest).

#### **3 APOLOGIES**

Mr Tim Johnson

#### **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**

*Mrs Debra Cadogan-Cowper/Mr Keith Draper*

*That the minutes of the meeting of the Ross Local District Committee held on **Wednesday, 7 February 2017** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings with the inclusion of:*

### **6.4 ANZAC Funding**

*Mrs Robinson to be included in the working group.*

### **6.6 Stormwater and streets**

*Resealing will be carried out along Church Street, from the Boulevard to the Church Street turn around, including parking areas.*

### **8.11 Green waste bins**

*The proposed motion was adopted.*

*Mrs Debra Cadogan-Cowper/Mr Keith Draper*

*The Ross Local District Committee request the Northern Midlands Council to consider fortnightly collection of green waste bins in 2017/2018 budget.*

### **8.12 Rabbits**

*In 2017, a new strain of the calicivirus is scheduled to be released. There will be nationwide trials in March and community release is scheduled to occur in May 2017. As per previous years, Council can notify the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) of areas of concern for additional release points. Council has raised Ross as an area of concern with the department.*

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

### **6.1 Ross Village Green Master Plan**

Council decided at its meeting on 20 February 2017 to accept the quote of Lange Design and Loop Architecture.

It was reported that Lorraine Green has completed a comprehensive submission for the Building Better Regions funding application.

#### ***Action:***

Miss Brown to confirm the time frame of the project to the committee.

### **6.2 Ross Cannon**

Awaiting outcome of Commemorative Grant application submitted Friday, 25 November,

2016 for funding toward the restoration.

RSL have confirmed contribution.

**Action:**

Mrs Bond to progress.

### **6.3 Alternative parking**

The Committee have reported on several occasions that vehicles continue to park on the verges and nature strips which are no parking areas. It was noted the Committee support a yellow line to be painted along the grassed areas at the Ross Bridge.

The Ross Local District Committee request that Council consider alternative parking be made available at the Ross Oval for hirers of the Town Hall.

**Action:**

Council's Works Manager to be made aware of this request and investigate alternative parking at the Ross Oval.

Miss Brown to review hire agreements for Ross Town Hall.

### **6.4 Progress Group**

Committee noted the Ross Progress Group have made their first donation of \$200 towards volunteer support in Ross.

### **6.5 Aurora Australis viewing**

It was mentioned that a response from Council has not been received in regard to a proposal forwarded in November 2016, requesting Council support for a viewing platform for Aurora Australis in Ross.

**Action:**

Mrs Bond to follow up.

### **6.6 Ross entrance statement**

Both the southern and northern entrance statements are complete. Council's Executive and Communications Officer to promote via Council's social media and other communication channels.

The Ross Local District Committee reported the entrance statements look great and have received similar feedback from local residents.

## 6.7 Sergeant Lewis McGee Commemoration

Working group to provide an update regarding proposed content of the brochure.

Clarification of the project was provided by Cr Knowles. The Ross Working Group will manage the content for the brochure.

### Action:

Mrs Bond to confirm time frame of the project, noting the anniversary is October 2017.

## 6.8 Defibrillator

The Ross Local District Committee agreed to request the defibrillator, located at the swimming pool be relocated to the Wool Centre in the off-season.

Mrs Robinson reported the Ross Sports Centre have verbally confirmed to relocate the defibrillator from the pool to the Wool Centre when the pool is closed.

Written confirmation is to be obtained.

## 6.9 'My Council Services' Mobile App

'My Council Services' is a mobile IT platform which enables members of our community to submit customer service requests via their smartphone device (an App).

Miss Brown confirmed promotion of the new Mobile App includes publishing an article in the Country Courier, Examiner's Your Region section and uploading to Council's website.

## 6.10 Australian Government Mobile Service Centre

Residents of Ross and surrounds will be able to visit the Mobile Service Centre to find out about Australian Government payments and services for rural families, older Australians, students, job seekers, people with disability, carers, farmers and self-employed people.

Promotion of this service has been shared in the Examiner and Council's Facebook page.

Where: Ross Town Hall, Bridge Street, Ross

When: Friday, 10 March 2017 from 9am – 4pm

Miss Brown confirmed information has been shared through the Examiner's Your Region section and Council's Facebook page.

## 6.11 2017/2018 Budget request

The Northern Midlands Council will begin reviewing the 2017/2018 budget in March 2017. It is requested the Ross Local District Committee consider which strategic projects they would like to see included in Council's budget.

The Ross Local District Committee agreed to meet prior to the next Committee meeting and prepare a list of items to be considered in Council's 2017/2018 budget.

## 6.12 Process for motions passed by Local District Committees

Given issues arising from last meeting, committee to note the following:

1. Proposed motions to be worded by a committee member and confirmed by reciting to the group;
2. Unconfirmed minutes will be included in the next Council agenda;
3. Amendments to committee minutes must be confirmed at a committee meeting.

The Ross Local District Committee agreed with above process.

## 7 MATTERS IN PROGRESS

### 7.1 7.1.1 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:**

Still awaiting outcome of Final Cat Management Plan.

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

**Update:**

Council's Works Supervisor has inspected the Ross Town Hall and removed the majority of the stains from the ceiling. Council Works Supervisor would like meet with committee member at the Town Hall to discuss requirement for repainting.

### 7.2 Road Safety

Advice on broken white line on Roseneath Road, Chiswick Road and Tooms Lake Road into Ross has been sought from Council's Engineering Officer. An additional traffic count was completed in early February 2017.

Council's Engineering Officer, has reviewed the recent traffic count data and reported low traffic numbers. Chiswick Road (northern access) 639 vehicles per day and Roseneath Road (southern access) 907 vehicles per day. Daily vehicle counts around 2,000 would support a stronger case for white lines.

By way of comparison, Longford Main Street has 5,000+ vehicles per day, Hobart Road has 2,000+ vehicles per day, Arthur and Clarence Streets in Perth record 1,200 and Pateena Road approximately 900 per day.

The recommendation of the Engineering Officer is the traffic count data does not support the case for painting white lines on the road. The speed limit is 80 km/hr and visibility is good. International drivers have been considered in this recommendation.

Committee expressed disappointment at Council's recommendation and raised concern

regarding international drivers entering the township.

**Action:**

Mr Jennings to review recommendation with Council's Engineering Officer.

## **8 NEW BUSINESS**

### **8.1 Weeds**

A comprehensive weed management report was presented at Council's February 2017 meeting. This report detailed Council's current weed management plan and identified opportunities for improvement.

Council decided at its 20 February 2017 meeting:

- a) Affirm and investigate improvements to current weed management processes in response to customer requests.
- b) Investigate expanding engagement with weed management within the Municipal area by:
  - Cost benefit analysis,
  - Participating in the up-coming rounds of consultation for the Biosecurity Legislation.
- c) Seek Council's approval to engage with DPIPW further with the Biosecurity: Future Directions consultation processes.
- d) Prepare a motion to LGAT, asking LGAT to lobby the State Government for a more coordinated approach to weed management so that DPIPW does not need to duplicate work done by Councils, and that all relevant agencies collaborate to map weeds across Tasmania and develop an action plan that can be implemented whenever weed infestations are reported by the community.

Carried unanimously

Mr Cameron expressed disappointment at the Council's management of weeds across the municipality and towards the decision made by Council at its February 2017 meeting.

Mayor Downie confirmed that Council recognises the issues within the Northern Midlands and the decision made at Council's February meeting addresses these concerns.

### **8.2 Signage in Ross**

The Committee showed support for the aged 'Tidy Town' sign, located at the entrance to Ross to be removed.

Noted Customer Request has been submitted for Council to investigate installation of give way signage and white lines east of Church Street.

**Action:**

Miss Brown to issue a request to Council's Work department to remove the sign.

### **8.3 Compliance issues**

Two issues of compliance were raised.

Council Officers to provide update to the relevant Council department.

### **8.4 Ross toilet update**

An enquiry was made in respect to the expected completion date of the Ross toilet facility upgrade.

Mr Jennings reported that Council are currently awaiting the relevant permits and will progress the project as quickly as possible. It is hoped the toilet block will commence by the end of this financial year.

### **8.5 Dead tree in Macquarie River**

A request was made that Council investigate removing a dead tree from the Macquarie River whilst the water levels are low. The committee expressed concern in the event of the river flooding, the tree could be carried downstream and cause damage to the bridge and other infrastructure.

#### **Action:**

Miss Brown to follow up with DPIPWE regarding debris removal from river.

### **8.6 Trees along Beaufront Road**

Concern was raised in respect to the potential danger presented by the overhanging trees along Beaufront Road, and relevant property owners have been notified of concerns.

### **8.7 Church Street grass**

It was reported by a visitor to the meeting, the grassed area at the front of their residence is not growing. Suggestions were made to install irrigation or to cover the area with gravel.

#### **Action:**

Miss Brown to submit a request to Council's Works Department to meet with resident and discuss issue.

### **8.8 Ross township brochure**

The Committee and visitors discussed redesigning the Ross brochure. The cost of the project was raised and it was suggested the Committee include this item within 2017/2018 budget request.

## **8.9 Parking in Ross**

Lack of parking in Ross parking in Ross was raised as a concern. General discussion around potential locations for additional parking spaces were discussed. It was suggested the Committee identify alternative parking sites in Ross and include within the 2017/2018 budget request for Council to consider.

## **8.10 Launceston Airport**

Mayor Downie informed the Committee that he and Mr Jennings travelled to Canberra and met with the Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Mr Darren Chester on 15 February 2017. The Minister advised he would investigate the issue and report back to Council in March.

## **8.11 TasWater**

Mayor Downie reported there are two key issues for TasWater. Infrastructure and cost of services across Tasmania. TasWater have a ten-year plan to address these issues.

Local Government will respond to the Treasurer's statements made about local Councils.

## **9 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE**

Next meeting to be held **3 April 2017 at 3:00pm.**

The Chair closed the meeting at 4:05pm.