

## MINUTES

### **THE MEETING OF THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS ON TUESDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2019 COMMENCING AT 11:15AM**

#### **1 PRESENT**

Mr Arthur Thorpe (Chairperson), Mrs Christine Robinson, Mr Allan Cameron, Mrs Jill Bennett, Mr Marcus Rodrigues, Ms Dale Cobban, Mrs Helen Davies

#### **2 IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr Keith Draper, Mr Graham McShane, Mr Phil Bravo, Mr Murray McLean, Mrs Ann Thorpe (Acting Minute Taker)

#### **3 APOLOGIES**

Miss Lucie Copas (NMC), Mr Ricky Hebbard, Mrs Larna Pittiglio, Mr Herbert 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**

***Mr Allan Cameron/Mrs Helen Davies***

***That the minutes of the meeting of the Ross Local District Committee held on Tuesday, 5 November 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.***

*Carried unanimously*

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

##### **6.1 Heritage Signs**

No update has been received since the November meeting. The Committee are concerned at the length of time this item is taking to be resolved. A question was raised as to whether there is one of the 4 designated signage sites that may be causing the delay. The locations are; near the Man-O-Ross Hotel, Ross Bridge parking area, and at the top and bottom of the steps leading to the Female Factory. The signs have been finalised and designed for the specific sites chosen.

The RLDC is prepared to offer any assistance to enable this matter to be brought to a conclusion, including participation in an urgent meeting on site with relevant parties.

#### ***Mr Alan Cameron/ Mrs Helen Davies***

*The Ross Local District Committee request NMC urgently endeavour to resolve this long outstanding issue and request clarification on the status of each of the 4 intended site ownership issues.*

*Carried unanimously*

## **6.2 Ross Anniversary 2021**

Update was given by Mrs Robinson. A meeting for December was organised however with Christmas fast approaching, it was decided to move this to January. Mrs Robinson has also approached the organising committee to discuss the nomination of the Ross Town Hall to be included in the 2021 Festival of Small Halls, as part of the bicentenary celebrations.

The Ross community would not have to take on any responsibility for this event, as the Festival of Small Halls Committee organise everything. Any event would be held as part of the 10 Days on The Island 2021.

Mrs Davies' quilt project involving personal histories of Ross is progressing well.

## **6.3 Macquarie River Co-naming**

Council Officers to progress - As there were no Council Officers present at the meeting, no update was received. However, RLDC members stressed the need for community consultation before any final decision goes before council.

## **6.4 Parking South Church Street**

Mr Thorpe provided an update on the meeting and town inspection with Works Manager, Mr Leigh McCullough. A double sized parking area opposite the Wool Centre was looked at, however the existing space is not sufficient and remedial work costings would be prohibitive. It was advised that on the odd occasion that people park on the grassed area no damage would be caused to the watering system, as it is located underground and pops-up when in use. No further action required.

## **6.5 Street Library**

Committee to discuss possible locations. It was suggested that RLDC members liaise informally with the community as to progressing the Street Library project, including the appropriate positioning of same, and advise feedback.

Mr Cameron suggested that the Community Library could perhaps be opened more often.

It was mentioned that a number of shops in the town sell books as part of their income stream both to passing tourists and locals. A street library may lead to a loss of income. Also mentioned was that the community library relies on volunteers and this affects the opening times.

## **6.6 Fire Hazards**

Mr Thorpe provided an update on his contact with NMC's Compliance Officer. 3 Areas of concern were noted and correspondence received advised that these concerns would be handled as per Council's Fire Abatement Policy.

## **6.7 Parking at the Hearth**

Mr Thorpe advised that land owners adjacent to the Midland Highway have been approached by State Growth regarding a possible consultation process before reconstruction of the Midland Highway commences. Mr Cameron to liaise with an affected landowner regarding possibility of community input.

## **6.8 Australia Day 2020**

The 2020 Australia Day event will commence at 12pm with formal proceedings including Official Australia Day Ambassador address, NMC Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony (TBC).

The event has been relocated to the Ross Recreation Ground in conjunction with the Ross Community Sports Club. The RCSC will cater for this event and are currently liaising with Lucie Copas.

## **6.9 Festival of Small Halls 2020**

Tickets are still available and can be purchased online via the below website or directly from Council Office. Tickets are \$25.

The event is underwritten by Council and is a fantastic night for music lovers. The 2020 event features Siobhan Miller (Scotland) and Jack Carty (Australia).

WHEN: Wednesday 8 January 2020

WHERE: Longford Town Hall (from 6:30pm)

Light supper and drinks will be available for purchase.

[www.festivalsmallhalls.com.au](http://www.festivalsmallhalls.com.au)

## 6.10 Updated Contact Details for members

The updated details were provided with the December agenda. If committee members have any problems with the accuracy of their information, please let Lucie know directly.

## 7 NEW BUSINESS

### 7.1 2020 Meeting Dates

The following dates have been set for 2020 meetings:

- 4 February 2020
- 3 March 2020
- 7 April 2020
- 5 May 2020
- 2 June 2020
- 7 July 2020
- 4 August 2020
- 1 September 2020
- 6 October 2020
- 3 November 2020
- 1 December 2020

### 7.2 Campbell Town & District Mens Shed

A Presentation was given by Keith Draper & Phil McLean on behalf of the Campbell Town And District Mens Shed regarding the proposed extension of the NMC building, currently used by the Mens Shed.

Before progressing this project, the Mens Shed Committee looked to the RLDC to support their application.

A drawing plan was circulated to the Committee for their perusal and to allow a better understanding of the proposal. An *approval in principle* from NMC would first need to be obtained and then fund raising can be progressed.

In previous years, funding has been obtained by the Mens Shed Committee which allowed concrete flooring, disabled access and a disabled toilet to be included in the building.

A ballpark figure has been costed, however as members expect to do a lot of the work themselves, this should reduce the costs appreciably.

The Mens Shed have a licensed builder who is prepared to be the liaison with NMC and oversee the project. Other members have volunteered their services to work on the project.

The RLDC overwhelmingly supports the proposal for extending the Mens Shed and passed the following motion:

### **Mr Arthur Thorpe/Mrs Christine Robinson**

*The Ross Local District Committee enthusiastically supports the proposal to extend the Campbell Town and District Mens Shed, and recommends that the Northern Midlands Council provides assistance wherever possible to the Mens Shed in their endeavours to improve the value and appearance of a Council owned asset, which contributes to the health and wellbeing of the community.*

*Carried unanimously*

### **7.3 Round Table Discussion**

- The Ross Quarry – NO ENTRY sign appears to be located in the wrong position. Christine Robinson to raise with NMC.
- Female Factory appears to be in serious need of repairs to the floors and roof, also a problem with gates. Funds would need to be raised to deal with these issues.
- Pole needs to be replaced in front of toilet to stop vehicular access. Christine Robinson to raise with NMC.
- Trees on properties south of the old burial ground were to be planted as an approval condition of the planning application. This issue was discussed by the committee and will be raised with NMC Officers. It is preferable that trees be planted during winter to facilitate their survival.
- RLDC discussed complaints from residents about the noise from the motorbikes going to and from the Recreation Ground for the recent motorcycle event. A suggestion was put forward to have entry via one street and exit via another to limit noise. Committee noted that this is an annual event which caused a brief inconvenience to residents.
- It was noted that a food truck was present during the above event providing refreshments. The Sports Club advised they will be catering for this event next year.
- Current customer requests in place with NMC were discussed.
- Badajos Resident asked if there is a roster of street mowing, as it appears to be an ad hoc process. The Elm Trees in this street are showing signs of distress – is it possible for NMC to bring a water truck to Ross in order to water. Mr Thorpe will raise a Customer Request.

Watering issues throughout the town were also discussed. Mr Thorpe to raise a Customer Request for a check of all sprinkler points in the town and along Chiswick Road.

- Mr Cameron thanked the Chairperson for his efforts on behalf of the committee and the community during the last 12 months. The committee agreed and requested this be noted in the Minutes.

### **8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE**

The Chair closed the meeting at 12.35 pm.

Next meeting to be held **4 February 2020 at 11:15am.**