

MINUTES

THE MEETING OF THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD AT THE ROSS COMMUNITY SPORTS CLUB, ROSS, ON MONDAY 8 JUNE 2020 COMMENCING AT 2PM.

1 PRESENT

Arthur Thorpe, Christine Robinson, Alan Cameron, Helen Davies, Jill Bennett, Ricky Hebbard, Herbie Johnson, Ann Thorpe (Hon Secretary)

2 IN ATTENDANCE

N/A

3 APOLOGIES

Lana Pittiglio, Marcus Rodrigues, Dale Cobban

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 Alan Cameron / Mrs Helen Davies

That the minutes of the meeting of the Ross Local District Committee held on Tuesday, 3 March 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

Carried Unanimously

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Ross Bicentenary 2021

Due to pandemic, no meetings have been held recently, although it has been advised a meeting will be happening in the near future.

6.2 10 Days on the Island

Festival of Halls scheduled for March 2021 in Ross to go ahead at this time. C Robinson has been in contact with the Producer, who is looking to visit early July to inspect the facility.

6.3 Trees on Beaufront Road

As the Councillor annual bus tour was cancelled, if reinstated, it will be requested that the first stop on the bus tour to be on Beaufronts Road at the trees in question.

6.4 Ross Village Green

Works have recommenced on site. Council's 2020/21 Capital Works Budget shows an amount of \$150,000.00 for this project to be continued.

Mrs J Bennett asked if colour of paths could be sandstone if possible. Mrs Bennett volunteered to contact Damien (NMC) to discuss.

7 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Ross Swimming Pool

Council at its May 2020 meeting voted unanimously ***“That Council consult with the Ross community on the disposal of the Ross Swimming Pool.”***

Bearing in mind we are still in the midst of COVID-19 restrictions, it is yet to be advised by Council when and where consultation will take place, and in what format.

The RLDC discussed the disposal of the Ross Swimming Pool at length. All Committee Members stated that they have been approached by many Ross residents who expressed concern at the proposal and opposition to the possible closure of the pool.

Following full and frank discussions, the RLDC passed the following motion and requests that it be included in the Agenda of the next Northern Midlands Council Meeting.

Mr Arthur Thorpe / Mr Alan Cameron

The Ross Local District Committee has been made aware of deep community concerns regarding the disposal of the Ross Community Swimming Pool.

The Ross Local District Committee requests the Northern Midlands Council to reconsider their intention to dispose of the Ross Community Swimming Pool and have meaningful consultation with the community about how it can remain open.

Carried unanimously

7.2 Midland Highway Safety Upgrade – Final Stage

The Tasmanian Government has issued a flyer seeking Public Consultation on concept designs in relation to this project. Submissions close 12th June 2020.

The Chair provided a summary of the proposed Midland Highway safety upgrade to the meeting. It should be noted that public consultations close Friday 12th June, and the Chair requested those RLDC members who wish to make submissions on the project to lodge them electronically via the website, by that date.

7.3 Councils draft 2020/2021 Capital Works Budget

Mr Thorpe gave an update on Council's Draft Capital Works Budget for 2020/2021.

Items included:

- Footpath on Badajos Street, east of railway line
- Bridge on Verwood Road / Ellinthorpe Creek (externally funded)
- Stormwater Flood modelling
- Painting and carpet, Ross Town Hall
- Banner Poles
- Ross Village Green
- Gel coating of Ross Swimming Pool
- Signage (all areas)

7.4 Ross Local District Committee terms of appointment

The tenure of the current committee expires June 30th 2020.

Northern Midlands Council may be considering extending ALL committees for a period of either 6 or 12 months. Question was raised that perhaps action needs to be carried out before 30th June, 2020.

It was generally agreed that if Northern Midlands Council does agree to extend the terms of the current committee, that it appoint the committee for a further 12 months rather than 6 months, in an effort to stay aligned with the standard 30th June expiry date, and to avoid the pre-Christmas period that a December nomination and appointment process would entail.

7.5 Memorandum Of Understanding

Council is reviewing the terms of District Committees Memorandums Of Understanding. Suggestions have been distributed to Committee members and feedback will be sought by Council at an appropriate time in the future.

This item was discussed at length and various issues raised, consequently it was decided to invite Mr Des Jennings, General Manager, to attend a meeting of RLDC to discuss various aspects of the proposal to update the MoU, before progressing any further with feedback to Northern Midlands Council.

7.6 Any other business

Round table discussion:

- C Robinson – nil.
- A Cameron – nil.
- J Bennett – nil.
- H Johnson – advised he felt road edges not in good condition and grading has not been carried out, possibly in the past 12 months. Also, grass mowing within Ross township, is it possible to be carried out by large and small mowers simultaneously, rather than piece meal.

Tooms Lake and Honeysuckle Roads not in good condition.

White road line markings need to be reinstated on those roads and intersections that have recently been resurfaced in Ross. As this is a public safety issue, it should be completed as soon as possible.

The old Doctors Clinic building - could this be sold to a private individual? Seems wasteful to sit empty for much of the year.

- R Hebbard – queried narrow road approach to the rail crossing in Badajos Street. This has been discussed previously. This is Tas Rail’s responsibility, not NMC. Suggestion that the Minister for Transport, Minister Ferguson be invited to Ross for a meeting.
- H Davies – whilst pleased to see Development Application for heritage signage, asked where exactly they will be placed. Is there a process that would allow Committee Member(s) to be present when they put them in?

Street lighting opposite Scotch Thistle has been replaced by a strange coloured light – it was determined that the replacements are white LED’s and in the future, all globes will be replaced with this type and colour.

Advised there was a leak in the watering system on the weekend outside Drill Hall and was unable to be turned off. TAS water couldn’t find it after looking for plans. Was eventually repaired.

Discussion regarding replacement of trees at Ross Uniting Church. Mr Abetz frequently plants new trees, a number which subsequently die. Do they have to be replaced and does anyone know who is responsible, i.e. NMC or Heritage Council? Mrs Davies will contact Mrs G White regarding this matter.

8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

The Chair closed the meeting at 3.50 pm.

Next meeting – **date, time and venue to be advised.**