

## MINUTES

OF THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE ROSS COMMUNITY SPORTS CLUB,  
ROSS, ON TUESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2020 COMMENCING AT 2PM.

### 1 PRESENT

Arthur Thorpe (Chairperson), Mrs Christine Robinson, Mr Marcus Rodrigues, Mrs Helen Davies, Mr Herbert Johnson, Mr Allan Cameron, Mrs Jill Bennett, Mr Ricky Hebbard, Mrs Ann Thorpe (Hon Secretary)

### 2 IN ATTENDANCE

Nil

### 3 APOLOGIES

Larna Pittiglio

### 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

***Christine Robinson / Allan Cameron***

***That the minutes of the meeting of the Ross Local District Committee held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.***

***Carried Unanimously***

### 6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Chairperson expressed his thanks to Chris Robinson and the Ross Community Sports Club for their ongoing assistance in providing and preparing the Sports Club rooms for RLDC meetings.

## **6.1 Ross Bicentenary 2021**

Christine Robinson provided an update as much as possible, however it would appear no meetings have been held since February. Larna Pittiglio has been chairing and organising meetings, and as she was not present nothing further was able to be added to this item.

## **6.2 10 Days on the Island**

Festival of Halls production scheduled for March 2021 in Ross, is planned to go ahead at this time. Christine Robinson has conducted a tour with the Producer to look over the Town Hall and the organiser was very impressed with the facility.

Chris will be meeting with NMC, Fiona Dewar (Council's Tourism & Events Officer) and the producer, on the 5<sup>th</sup> August to prepare and sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the Festival of Halls Committee and NMC.

## **6.3 Ross Village Green**

Works have recommenced on site. A resident was advised by a photographer recently seen on site that he was there to prepare a “tender” for landscaping. Is this fact? Will the landscape plan as attached to the Development Application be adhered to? Can the Committee please be given an update as to where this project is at?

A question was raised as to where the money from the sale of the Ross School went – it was noted that this money was used to purchase the land for the Village Green.

Committee were also advised that “progress appears to be spasmodic, although NMC staff are there”.

Chair to contact Mr Des Jennings regarding an update, and that an invitation be issued to the General Manager to attend the next RLDC meeting in September to discuss.

## **6.4 Ross Swimming Pool**

A petition by concerned residents of the Ross district, was raised and presented to NMC together with community feedback.

After community representations, Council has committed to work with the community to prepare a municipal-wide strategy to provide direction for the provision, planning, operating, and funding of swimming pool facilities in the region.

NMC has now agreed to open the pool for the foreseeable future (2021) and to engage community consultation for strategic planning of all Council swimming pools. An independent consultant will be hired to conduct the community consultation to ensure impartiality. Ross Community Sports Club is also looking at seeking external funding to enable continuity of use.

It was noted in NMC’s draft 2020/2021 budget, that an amount of \$10,000 for gel coating the

pool had not been carried forward to the final budget. The committee was advised that this should be done every year, but it would appear that this hasn't been done for some time.

If amount not available, could the cost of gel coating come out of NMC maintenance budget?

Discussion held regarding ability of older residents and one-car families with small children being able to access the Campbell Town pool, as suggested by Councillors. Surely the financial cost of bus/transport option mentioned by Councillors would go a long way towards keeping the Ross Pool open? A number of older residents use the pool as their main form of exercise (hydrotherapy) in the summer and can walk to the pool.

It was also noted that it appeared that the proposal to dispose of the Ross Pool, was a similar scenario to that of the Anglican Church wishing to dispose of Churches that had been built with donated labour and materials provided by the communities involved.

## **6.5 Midland Highway Safety Upgrade – Final Stage**

After contact with Jacobs Consulting by the Chair, it can be advised that they will be attending the RLDC September meeting to discuss this project and conduct a feedback session on the outcome of the first round of consultations. Chair advised that the NMC had apparently held a Zoom meeting with Jacobs concerning the above on 3rd August.

As the Midland Highway safety upgrade begins at the Mona Vale junction and continues north to Epping Forest, the Chair sought the Committees view in regards to inviting a delegation from the Campbell Town Forum to attend the RLDC September meeting, so that they may have the opportunity to participate and contribute to the discussion.

Committee was in favour - Chair to organise through Lucie Copas.

## **6.6 Ross Local District Committee terms of appointment**

Northern Midlands Council has extended the terms of all District Committees for a period of 12 months, expiring 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021. Current RLDC members all prepared to continue to June 2021. There has been one resignation, Larna Pittiglio, and a Ross resident has already completed the form to join the committee.

Discussion held regarding date and time of meetings – committee all in favour of the first Tuesday at 2:00pm, but will review date and time once the COVID-19 restrictions end.

## **6.7 Memorandum Of Understanding**

Council is reviewing the terms of District Committees Memorandums Of Understanding. Suggestions have been distributed to Committee members and feedback is sought from the committee by 30 August.

Committee discussed, some of the discussion/proposed feedback is listed below.

Chair to put discussion points into a document and distribute to committee members for peer review, before forwarding final response to NMC.

1. *Consultative versus advisory –stay as advisory.*
2. *Content of scope - yes, but Council scope should be included as well. Must be two sided.*
3. *Termination – 3 consecutive meetings, yes OK, but hard to keep members without some leeway. Do not support 6 months exclusion.*
4. *Councillors – we have always included Councillors in all discussions, so agree with this point.*
5. *Secretarial support – yes, we need support and meetings should be monthly. Secretary is the liaison between committee and Council and can often provide feedback to both committee and NMC. This vital function would be lost if Secretarial support is not ongoing.*
6. *Meetings to be held during office hours, and leave current time and dates as is until such time as NMC staff are able to attend after COVID-19.*
7. *\$2,500 – No, definitely require secretarial support.*
8. *Council’s existing Conflict Resolution Policy and Procedure needs to be included in the MoU.*
9. *The MoU should also include a clear policy regarding physical and verbal media interaction – need to have in MoU that only the Mayor is the official spokesperson for the media on behalf of RLDC.*

## **7 NEW BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Banner Poles**

The Committee and a number of residents are of the unanimous opinion that these should not be placed in a Heritage Village streetscape.

Discussion centred around just how many groups would physically possess banners and make use of the poles? It would appear that given the very limited number of events that are held in Ross, they would stand empty for the majority of the year, appearing like “gallows” and not adding to the heritage streetscape at all.

It was felt that the estimated \$11,000 that would be involved in the erection of the poles, would be better spent on updating currently existing street corner directional signage, or replacing derelict signage such as the Old Cemetery sign on the corner of Bridge and Park Streets.

### **7.2 Round Table Discussion**

*CR - trucks working up Tooms Lake Road, the majority are doing the right thing, but it has been noticed that some are coming over Ross Bridge, fully loaded and overweight. Should not go over the bridge loaded OR empty. Shaw Contracting has been advised and will take it up with their drivers. If seen, please take license plate number and contact Shaws, not NMC.*

*JB - garden beds outside of Keech’s cottage look disreputable. Can they be made uniform by putting in hedging to blend in with other main street flower beds. They also need digging out*

*and fresh soil added. Perfect opportunity for this to be done, while NMC working on Village Green – AT to contact Works Manager.*

**MR** – *nothing to add.*

**HD** – *nothing to add.*

**AC** – *ensuites at Caravan Park. Work appears to be done only on some days and leave a mess everywhere. Construction done by outside contractor. It was asked what the construction materials are they made of, etc. AT to provide HJ with a copy of the Development Application.*

*It was raised at a recent Lyons Electorate meeting about the sale of the police house in Ross. Minister of Police was unable to answer, however Rebecca White contacted Commission of Police who advised it would be sold.*

*Discussion regarding lack of police presence and the recent burglary in Ross. No-one knows who the police are in Campbell Town, perhaps the contingent stationed there could come to Ross to a meet and greet type of meeting? Chair to try to arrange this through NMC.*

*Discussion re article in The Examiner regarding NMC purchasing and subdividing land.*

*Disabled Access to Post Office – Heritage will not allow this to happen. Makes it very difficult for elderly residents to access services. Postmaster very good and assists people where he can. Could a rail be added instead of a ramp?*

*Works Manager has been advised that the trucks exiting Beaufront are churning up road edges and creating a hazard.*

**RH** - *mowing of streets appear like a “patchwork quilt”. Can ALL the foot paths be mowed, not just some of them? If it is going to be done, do a good job, not bits and pieces. This has been raised many time before.*

**HJ** - *Stray dogs running around. Seems to be more dogs than people. One particular instance involving two dogs has been brought to the attention of the Ranger, who will contact the owner.*

*Pot holes on the railway lines and rain washing away sides of road, need a bit of bitumen. Grader to Tooms Lake Road as it needs doing really badly.*

## **8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE**

The Chair closed the meeting at 3.30

Next meeting – **1<sup>st</sup> September, Ross Community Sports Club at 2:00pm**