

MINUTES

THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS, ON TUESDAY
7th FEBRUARY 2023, COMMENCING AT 11.15AM.

1 PRESENT

Arthur Thorpe (Chairperson), Christine Robinson, Jill Bennett, Candy Hurren (left meeting at 11:50), Marcus Rodrigues, Ann Thorpe (Hon Secretary).

2 IN ATTENDANCE

Cr Richard Archer, Herbert Johnson, James Dennis, Keith Blacklock, Phil Brown, Bill McKean.

3 APOLOGIES

Helen Davies, Sally Langridge, Michael Smith.

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

*That the minutes of the meeting of the Ross Local District Committee held on **Tuesday 6th December, 2022** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.*

The following two amendments have been requested to 7.1 Round Table Discussion:

Christine Robinson

That it be noted that Council was requested to advise the RLDC as to the current status of the dual renaming of the Tinamirakuna/Macquarie Rivers.

Cr Richard Archer

That the minuted notation;

e.g. Longford, Port Arthur Authority, etc. Parramatta Female Factory Authority is looking to join heritage groups and if successful, will assume responsibility to look after all the convict heritage buildings Australia wide. A number of grants are available through this system as well. Need to look at the core of the town of Ross, instead of just one item, e.g. bridge.

Be replaced with the notation;

e.g. Longford "Australian Convict sites World Heritage Property (ACS). Parramatta Female Factory is looking to achieve National Heritage recognition (and maybe World Heritage inclusion in ACS) and ACS has an interest in over 3000 convict sites or structures in Australia. Inclusion in National Heritage brings access to an annual grants program and Ross needs to look at the core of the town instead of just one item e.g. bridge".

Minutes confirmed subject to the above amendments - Christine Robinson / Marcus Rodrigues

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Clearing The Macquarie River

A low river level is necessary before Council can clear debris and Cumbungi, so it will probably be summer before the river is low enough to commence work. An undertaking was received from NMC / State Growth, that they will look at this issue when feasible.

NMC have again been contacted in late January, however to date we have received no further information.

Matter ongoing.

6.2 Weather Damage to Ross Reading Room

The cornerstones and the bottom course of sandstone bricks at the entrance of the reading room are weathering away and in need of attention. Although the sandstone is actually in reasonable condition, remediation work to the damaged sandstone will be carried out by a stonemason once the weather warms up.

Works Manager has advised they are awaiting the availability of a qualified stonemason.

Matter ongoing.

6.3 Missing (Stolen) Street Sign Nivelles Street

Customer request 61740 has been lodged with Council requesting the missing (stolen) sign be replaced.

Sign has now been reinstalled - no further action required.

6.4 Damaged Wall South End Of Church Street & Damaged Sandstone Kerbing.

Wall at the top (south end) of Church Street has top stones missing and looks very disordered. Customer request 61699 has been raised requesting rectification.

Kerbing in the centre car parking area opposite the Town Hall has been damaged by a truck, needs to be repaired. Chair has asked Council to repair the kerbing in conjunction with the sandstone wall at the southern end of Church Street.

Works Manager has advised they have acquired the necessary sandstone and are awaiting the availability of a qualified stonemason.

Matter ongoing.

6.5 Closure Of High Street Pedestrian Rail Crossing

A number of Ross residents are unhappy with the closure of this crossing.

Chair has been advised that NMC will be conducting a cost and feasibility study, for a legally compliant pedestrian rail crossing linking the two sides of High Street. Once the report has been prepared it will be submitted to Council for consideration.

Works Manager has progressed this matter and NMC recently met with State Rail who have advised what is required to form a legally compliant pedestrian crossing. These requirements will be incorporated into the cost and feasibility study being prepared by NMC.

A member of the public requested lighting be considered as part of the upgrade.

Matter ongoing.

6.6 Ross Village Green – Entry Of Dogs On Leash

NMC has voted on this and advised that dogs on leads are allowed in the Ross Village Green subject to a 12 month review, however dogs are not permitted within 10 metres of the children's playground area.

Will a sign be erected regarding dogs not being allowed within 10 metres of children's playground? Where will this be located and hopefully, it will not too conspicuous. Issues with dog faeces has been raised and we trust people will be responsible.

Mr Blacklock requested a Doggie Bag station also be situated in Church Street, perhaps at the Campbell Town end, as it has been noticed visitors park, let animals defecate on footpath as they have no bags close by to use, and move on. Customer request 95124 has been raised requested a Doggie Bag installation at the suggested location - currently awaiting a reply from NMC.

Off-lead Dog Park area is finished, and Works Manager advised they are plumbing water into the area in the near future. There will also be infrastructure for a dog water bowl in the area.

Chair to discuss with Works Manager the quantity and location of dog signage at the Ross Village Green.

Matter ongoing.

6.7 Painting Of Town Hall Entrance Foyer

The Town Hall entrance foyer and the toilets at the rear of the Town Hall were scheduled for painting during the current financial year. Foyer has been painted, however not sure if the light shade has been replaced as yet.

The new carpet for the old Council Chambers used by the Church Group was not laid last financial year. Chair has liaised with the Church Group to ascertain the carpet definitely needs replacing. Group has occupied this space for nearly 30 years, moving in after Ross Council amalgamated with the NMC in 1993, and the carpet looks like it has been there all that time. Carpet is patched in one area and could be trip hazard to Church goers.

Toilets at the rear of Town Hall are also to be painted by end of June 2023.

Matter ongoing.

6.8 Maintenance Of Ross Footpaths

Several gravel footpaths around Ross need remediation; photos have been sent to Council, and Customer Request 78015 has been raised.

Council has replied –

“Unfortunately, due to the recent weather events this has disrupted multiple works throughout the municipality. Our priority atm is for roads to be repaired, but we do acknowledge your request and will have them addressed as soon as practicable.”

Attendees discussed and agreed that the path to the female factory is the most important one and should be repaired as a matter of priority. Update requested from Council on 30/1/2023, and we are awaiting advice from NMC.

Matter ongoing.

7 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Updates

- Discussion regarding the dual naming of the Tinamirakuna/Macquarie River. Tinamirakuna is the name approved by the Minister on 23rd December 2021.

The RLDC as a group, were given the undertaking that the RLDC would be advised

before this matter was taken any further, and that the opportunity for Community Consultation on the proposed co-naming of the Macquarie River would be provided. It was noted that the proposed co-naming was advertised by Placenames Tasmania (NRET) for public submissions from 5.10.21 to 30.11.21, however this was not brought to the attention of the RLDC, possibly because of staff changes at the NMC. Members felt it was disappointing that the RLDC was not involved in consultation process.

Cr Archer mentioned that the Macquarie River also flows through Longford and surrounding districts, and that he had not heard of any opportunity for public consultation either.

- Disabled Parking outside the Town Hall was raised with Works Manager and unfortunately, it is not feasible to legally widen the current parking space. Chair and Works Manager discussed perhaps placing an additional 2 spaces in Ross, maybe 1 adjacent to the old garage in High Street. Discussion with members whereby they agreed that we ask for the 2 additional spaces. Candy mentioned that somewhere outside the pub would also be a good space.

7.2 Budget Request List

Please bring ideas to March Meeting, as list needs to be with NMC by 31/3/2023. Chair explained to attendees that these ideas relate to Capital Works Budget items and it is only a “wish list”. It is submitted to NMC and they choose which items to fund and place in the budget. Not all items on the list are funded in the coming financial year.

Some suggestions for capital funding were the High Street pedestrian rail crossing, additional disabled parking, the Ross Entrance Sign having a more definitive bridge depiction as per the Red Bridge depiction on the Campbell Town entrance statements, and covering over the new park benches near the caravan park.

Chair mentioned during discussion that perhaps Phil Brown and Grant Larkman would be good conduits for ideas from the community to include in the wish list. Chair to pass on to these gentlemen, forms and previous items from years past as an example.

7.3 Round Table Discussion

Arthur Thorpe

- Thanked NMC for installing the new seat behind the Ross War Memorial. As well as being an excellent place to sit and admire the magnificent Ross streetscape, the seat will also be very handy for the older members of our community to use at commemorative services, etc at the War Memorial.

C Robinson

- Broken concrete bollard outside the Catholic Church.
- Hooning still occurring in Ross at the 4 corners and also the Recreation Ground on the outer grassed area. Police need to be informed.

Cr R Archer

- NMC are happy to formulate policies, however need input from the community as to what they want included. One such policy could be regarding solar panels, especially in heritage areas.

J Bennett

- Top of one of the bollards along Bridge Street adjacent to the caravan park has been broken off.

H Johnson

- Electric Car Charging stations, do we know where this is up to? Chair advised that NMC and the proponents of this project met quite some time ago, however he would contact council and follow up.
- Plastic and sand bags up against walls at the caravan park. Looks unsightly and can they please be removed now the threat of flood is over.
- Piles of gravel have been dumped in the Quarry Car Park meaning there is nowhere for visitors to park.
- No space for caravans etc., to park and then turn at the Female Factory. This matter has been raised previously. Unable to progress as there is no land available for a turning circle - a sign has been placed at the Female Factory entrance stating no entry/turning circle for large vehicles.

J Dennis

- Discussion regarding planning applications and solar panels in Heritage Zone. Chair to print copy of Heritage Zones and Heritage Overlay and pass on.
- Annual Events leaving Ross to go to other towns. Shame as local businesses lose out.
- During discussions, matter also raised that the BBQs in the Village Green appear to have not been connected as yet. Chair to follow up with Works Manager.
- Matter was raised that the sprinkler systems in Church Street from Bakery 31 to High Street are not working. Also, sprinkler heads further along Church Street appear to have been damaged from the mower. Chair to raise matters with Works Manager.

K Blacklock

- Interested in the High Street Rail Crossing, however his questions have already been answered previously.

P Brown

- Resident asked if trees on the cnr of Bond St and The Boulevards that have died can they please be replaced.
- Ross Marathon, what is happening and when does the Ross Marathon intend talking to business owners and residents? RLDC is not involved and has not heard anything in relation to this, nor do they have the authority to organise and run events. Mr Brown felt the accommodations made by everyone at the last marathon did not work. The RLDC do not have the authority to approve or disapprove events, this is solely the responsibility of NMC.

B McKean

- No FOGO flyers received on the eastern side of the line – why?
- Could the solid line markings on the north and south entrance roads be broken up to allow overtaking when passing cyclists?

8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

The Chair closed the meeting at 12:18 pm.

Next meeting – Tuesday 7th March 2023 commencing 11.15am in the Ross Reading Room.