

MINUTES

THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE ROSS COMMUNITY SPORTS CLUB ROOMS, ROSS, ON TUESDAY 2nd April, COMMENCING AT 11.15AM.

1 PRESENT

Arthur Thorpe (Chairperson), Christine Robinson, Julie Smith, Helen Davies, Sally Langridge, Michael Smith, Marcus Rodrigues, Ann Thorpe (Hon Secretary).

2 IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Archer, Councillor Andrews, Alex Curtis (NRMA)

3 APOLOGIES

Jill Bennett

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 February, 2024** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings, noting that Mr Marcus Rodrigues was an apology for the February meeting.*

Christine Robinson / Michael Smith

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Closure Of High Street Pedestrian Rail Crossing

NMC has applied to TasRail for a license to build a new, legally compliant crossing. \$60,000 has been allocated in the 2023/2024 budget for the construction of this crossing.

Chair discussed with Council's Engineer, and he advised Council has given TasRail everything they require, and are now awaiting the technical specifications required for the job to proceed.

Chair contacted Council's Engineer on 14th February 2024 seeking an update, and received the following reply:-

"We're still waiting for TasRail. We have had a couple of meetings about it but no progress yet. I'll forward your email on to them as a reminder."

This matter has been ongoing for a very long time. Councillors expressed their frustration with TasRail as they endeavour to be given the specifications to enable NMC to commence construction and finalisation of this project.

Matter ongoing, and to remain on the RLDC Budget List, with the request that it be carried forward for the 2024/2025 financial year.

6.2 Review Of Local District Committee Structure

Council had agreed to extend the terms of appointments of all LDC's and Forums until June 2024, while the Local District Committee structure review is being undertaken.

Council conducted a workshop which was held at the Council offices in Longford Thursday 29th February commencing 5.45pm. Discussions between Council and representatives of all Local District Committees occurred, resulting in a revised MOU which was accepted and passed by Council at their March meeting.

NMC passed the document at their March 202 meeting.

Main changes are:

- Chairperson term
- Quorum
- Complaints
- Secretarial allowance carried forward for a period of 2 years
- Planning applications
- Welcome to Country mandatory at each meeting
- New Email address through NMC, for each local committee
- NMC - Social media can be established with council approval/oversight
- Meet monthly but support by NMC only bi-monthly
- Vulnerable people card required. Training is not lengthy and discussion is being held as to whether council pay associated fees for volunteers. Police check is part of that progress.

The revised MOU will be operational from 1st July 2024, when a new committee commences its 2 year term.

6.3 Basketball Hoop, Backboard and Post

Council has been notified that they have successfully received funding from a tranche of State Government community funds for a quarter court basketball facility.

Works Manager has advised the basketball hoop, backboard and post has been purchased by Council from the Secretarial Allowance funds, and is currently being held at Council's Depot.

Michael Smith raised the matter of refunding any monies already spent from the Secretarial Allowance on the purchase of the basketball equipment – Chair thought this would be highly unlikely, but would follow up. Michael also asked if the Ross Community Sports Club could please be involved in discussion on the placing of the court before Development Application applied for. Chair to relay this request to the NMC.

Council advised 23rd February 2024 that the Ross Community Sports Club will be consulted in regards to the basketball court project.

Chair asked Council on 16th and 28th February 2024 for clarification in regards to the current balance and availability of the RLDC Secretarial Allowance funds.

Item discussed. Matter ongoing.

6.4 Removal Of Weeds On Ross Bridge

Chair contacted State Growth on 9th February 2024, requesting removal of the weeds growing on the Ross Bridge.

State Growth replied 28th February that they currently have a works order out to remove the vegetation, which should be completed in the very near future.

Remove from Agenda as this has been actioned.

6.5 Preparation Of The RLDC Capital Budget Request List For Financial Year 2024/2025

The RLDC Capital Budget Request List is required to be submitted to Council by 5th April 2024 for consideration.

Following the closure of the meeting, the RLDC discussed, formulated and prioritised a list for Council at the conclusion of the April meeting.

Last budget request list had a number of items that the committee felt could be removed as they were either no longer relevant, or would be unable to be completed by NMC. The new prioritised list is a below:

Previous Projects:

- Rail Crossing – carry forward (No 1)

- entrance statement enhancements (No 5)
- Portugal walkway to quarry (No 4)

New Projects:

- Directional information sign to be erected in Village Green (No 2)
- Street Signage Enhancement as per other towns, i.e. Cressy & Oatlands (No 3)

Chair to prepare prioritised budget request list and forward to NMC by due date.

Matter ongoing.

7 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Presentation by Mr Alex Courtis of NRMA regarding the proposed electric vehicle charging station for Ross.

As this presentation was very involved and quite lengthy, the presentation is included in its entirety as an attachment to these minutes.

7.2 Round Table discussion:

- *Arthur Thorpe* - not many items on the budget list. Do we need the NMC Councillor bus to come to Ross? Consensus of committee and councillors was that it is a good idea to meet and greet. Any RLDC member wishing to come along is most welcome. Timing to be advised closer to the day.

Ongoing sewerage smell throughout Ross has been raised by a number of residents. Councillor Brooks raised this issue with GM, however no further details so far. The 29 Tasmanian Councils are in fact, stakeholders in Taswater. Attending Councillors to also raise when back at Council. Chair gave some background to the original sewage treatment plant project, which came about from the grants to the old Ross Council, issued in conjunction with the Australian Bicentenary in 1988.

- Helen Davies – spray drift on the oval. No further follow up received. Works Manager raised with contractor who advised the chemical used was safe. Councillor Archer asked residents to keep records of timing and weed speed and ask the Works Manager to let residents know when contractor is going to spray. Helen advised they were already keeping records.
- Councillor Archer mentioned the MOU and that some negative feedback had been received that council are not listening to committees. RLDC has not had that issue.

8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

The Chair closed the meeting at 12:23 pm.

Committee then commenced discussion of the budget priority items.

Next meeting – Tuesday 7th May 2024 commencing 11.15am in the Ross Reading Room.