

MINUTES

THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE ROSS COMMUNITY SPORTS CLUB ROOMS, ROSS, ON TUESDAY 7th MAY 2024, COMMENCING AT 11.12AM.

1 PRESENT

Arthur Thorpe (Chairperson), Julie Smith, Jill Bennett, Helen Davies, Sally Langridge, Michael Smith, Marcus Rodrigues, Ann Thorpe (Hon Secretary)

2 IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Richard Archer, Councillor Alison Andrews AM, Herbert Johnson

3 APOLOGIES

Mayor Mary Knowles OAM, Christine Robinson

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 2nd April, 2024** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.*

Marcus Rodrigues / 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.

This matter has been ongoing for a very long time. Councillors expressed their frustration with TasRail as Council endeavours to be given the specifications to enable NMC to commence construction and finalisation of this project. Project was discussed with NMC Councillors on their Bus Tour visit on 17th April.

NMC Works Manager still waiting for information to progress this project.

Matter ongoing, and will be retained on the RLDC Capital Budget Request List, with the request that the \$60,000 be carried forward to the 2024/2025 financial year.

6.2 Review Of Local District Committee Structure

The review has now been completed and the revised MOU was accepted and passed by Council at their March meeting. The revised MOU is available for viewing on Council's Website, and will be operational from 1st July 2024, when a new committee commences its 2 year term.

No further comments; matter now finalised. Remove from agenda.

6.3 Basketball Hoop, Backboard and Post

The Ross ¼ basketball court is expected to cost \$36,550 – the Council was successful in obtaining grant funding of \$19,752 towards the project leaving a balance of \$16,798 for the community/Council to fund. Council has previously advised by email, that the Ross basketball court will be built during the 2024/2025 financial year. Also, see NMC Press Release on 14/3 from Mayor Knowles advising same.

Councillors, Council Staff and RLDC representatives viewed the possible location of the Ross ¼ basketball court at the Ross Recreation Ground, during Councillors annual bus tour. Clarification also sought as to whether they are to be a ½ court or ¼ court, general consensus of the meeting is that any new courts constructed will be a ¼ court.

Council was of the understanding that the current 2023/2024 secretarial allowance was also to be used for construction of the court – the RLDC discussed and confirmed that this is their intention for the funds to go towards the cost. Chair to advise NMC of committee's decision.

Chair asked to place on record, his appreciation for the efforts of two people; Chris Robinson who first brought this matter to the RLDC and was a driver for the project, and also Lorraine Green (NMC) who managed to obtain a \$100,000 grant to ameliorate the cost of 4 quarter courts throughout the council area.

Matter ongoing.

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

The RLDC prioritised Capital Budget Request List was submitted to Council on the 5th April 2024.

The prioritised list for the 2024/2025 financial year is listed below:

- Rail Crossing – carry forward to 2024/2025 financial year (No 1)

- Directional information sign to be erected in Village Green (No 2)
- Street Signage Enhancement as per other towns, i.e. Cressy & Oatlands (No 3)
- Portugal walkway to quarry (No 4)
- Entrance statement enhancements (No 5)

Matter now finalised. Remove from agenda.

7 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Public Forum -Northern Midlands Weeds Management Plan

Council has advised that there is a public forum scheduled end of May for the Northern Midlands Weed Management Plan, to be held at the following locations.

- Longford War Memorial Hall Wednesday 29th May 2024 3-5 pm
- Campbell Town Recreational Ground Complex Thursday 30th May 2024 3-5 pm

See attached flyer for more details.

Council also requests notification of any significant/historical trees for inclusion in the Significant Trees Register. The aim of which is to identify trees and vegetation of high community value and significance, worthy of protection by being included in the Significant Trees Register. Matter discussed and Chair advised the Elm Trees in Ross are individually numbered and are already on a separate tree register, however he asked committee for any other inclusions they are aware of.

No further action.

7.2 Round Table Discussion

Arthur Thorpe

- didn't receive the email from NMC regarding voting for Ross in the Tourism Awards currently being advertised. Requested Marcus forward a copy of the email for his information.

Jill Bennett

- stated that the new rubbish bins in Church Street, are an absolute eyesore. They have apparently been placed without any input from residents or the RLDC. If not enough bins to contain rubbish for more than 2 days, couldn't NMC put in more of the ordinary bins? Where they are located and the size are quite intrusive. Michael Smith has had a number of residents speak to him regarding the disapproval of same. Chair advised that NMC historically had the very best employee who worked over the weekend and there was never an issue with him emptying the bins, however work/life balances and operational and OH&S concerns are legitimate reasons for installing larger bins.

Councillor Archer mentioned the purchase of a new council truck to assist with rubbish collection, which removes the manual lifting of bins thus alleviating OH&S concerns regarding the weight of current bins and the newly installed larger bins.

After a full discussion, the RLDC moved the following motion regarding the size and crucially the location of some of the bins, and request NMC advise the committee of any future installations, so they may submit their feedback.

***MOTION:** the RLDC notes the recent installation in Ross of very large rubbish bins, and whilst appreciating the operational reasons for installing the bins, expresses its concern regarding their size and their locations. The RLDC respectfully requests that any further placement of bins be discussed with the RLDC prior to their installation. The RLDC also requests that the possible relocation of a number of bins to be discussed with Council's Works Manager.*

Moved A Thorpe / Marcus Rodrigues – decision passed unanimously

- Water leak on the Roseneath Road, near where the old road went in the past. A large volume of water appears to be there for some time. Sally Langridge advised she made a complaint some time ago. Not sure if the water line is owned by TasWater or NMC. Chair to contact TasWater and follow up.

Julie Smith

- Are the Ross Markets run by NMC or privately? There have been some concerns raised by residents, however as it is private, neither NMC nor the committee are able to become involved.
- Community Library requires new books and although the Ross Community Sports Club has donated money, Julie asked if the NMC give any assistance to community activities, i.e. libraries etc? Councillor Andrews suggested contacting Maree Bricknell to discuss.
- With the cost of living rising, does NMC assist small businesses? NMC as landlords not keeping up maintenance on buildings, and rent rising by 10%. Julie advised to contact Maree Bricknell to discuss.

Helen Davies

- With regard to the budget request for a new direction sign in The Village Green, the town map shown on handouts from the Tasmanian Wool Centre would be ideal. However, as the Tasmanian Wool Centre owns the commercial content, we can't use it as a shortcut. Also, they recommended not to place businesses on the board, due to changes happening fairly frequently. Chair thanked Helen for her initiative with this project, however money has not been allocated yet for this item.

Marcus Rodrigues

- Will be absent from the next 2 meetings. Advised he will be seeking to be re-appointed on the new committee, and Chair undertook to email Marcus a link to the documentation required.
- Would also like to personally thank Ann and Arthur Thorpe for their assistance and their time on the RLDC.

Herbie Johnson

- Raised the issue of disabled parking. Less mobile residents would like to have a designated parking space closer in the middle of town. This has been discussed previously with the committee and the Works Manager. Chair to follow up on this project.

8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

The Chair closed the meeting at 12:02 pm.

Final meeting of the current committee - subject to achieving a quorum of five members –

Tuesday 4th June 2024 commencing 11.15am in the Ross Reading Room.