

MINUTES

THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS, ON TUESDAY
4th JUNE 2024, COMMENCING AT 11.15AM.

1 PRESENT

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

2 IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Allison Andrews AM, Councillor Richard Archer

3 APOLOGIES

Marcus Rodrigues

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 7th May, 2024** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings, noting that the meeting was held in the Ross Reading Rooms, not the Ross Community Sports Club Rooms as stated at the head of the minutes.*

Helen Davies / 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. NMC Works Manager still waiting for information from TasRail to progress this project.

This item has been retained as 1st priority on the 2024/2025 RLDC Capital Budget Request List, with the suggestion that the previously allocated \$60,000 be carried forward to the 2024/2025 financial year.

Discussion by committee & Councillors, noting that the budget items for 2024/2025 are still being discussed and not finalised.

Matter ongoing.

6.2 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.

Matter ongoing.

7 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Round Table Discussion

Ann Thorpe

- Best wishes to the new committee.

J Smith

- Has sent committee application to NMC, however not sure if it was received, as no notification of acceptance.

H Davies

- Capeweed very prevalent on the footpath to the old cemetery. Photo to be sent to Chair for customer request to be lodged. Chair also mentioned top stones missing from wall along the same footpath advising that a customer request has been lodged with Council requesting repairs to the wall.

Councillor Andrews

- On behalf of NMC thanked the Chair and Hon Secretary for all their efforts and time on the committee. Ross Committee very well organised and NMC appreciative. Councillor Archer mentioned that when a number of councils amalgamated, local district committees were instigated as a way of keeping in touch with all the towns in the new municipality. Not all Councils have these committees; it must be remembered that it is not a right, but a benefit. Individuals are within their rights to lobby Council, however the collective of a committee will usually achieve more than an individual.

M Smith

- Do we have any information on when is the exercise equipment in the old school oval is being installed? The recent wind and rain has moved the witches' hats and concern is for safety. It was advised that NMC works crews are currently working in Evandale, and when completed, will move on to Ross.

J Bennett

- Asked to have it noted in the Minutes, what a wonderful job has been done by the Chairperson and Hon Secretary, during their time on the committee. Most appreciative of all the efforts carried out on behalf of the village.
- With reference to the water leak on Roseneath Road, it doesn't appear to have been repaired as yet. Chair to contact Works Manager again, as it would appear to be NMC's responsibility, not TasWater.

C Robinson

- Wished to add her thanks to the Chair and Hon Secretary for their efforts.

Arthur Thorpe

- Conversation with Ben from Council re installing Wi-Fi to the Town Hall and the Ross Reading Rooms/Community Library. Council is currently conducting a cost/benefit study. Chair stated that Wi-Fi would benefit many users at the Council facilities, and if installed, would make locations such as the Reading Rooms a more attractive proposition to hire.
- Spoke to Council re additional disabled parking in closer proximity to the commercial area of Ross. Prospective site adjacent to the red phone boxes may not be available if the electric vehicle charging stations go ahead at this location. If that is the case, then an alternative site would have to be identified.
- The large rubbish bin in front of the red phone boxes has been removed. It was suggested that the large bin outside the cottage next to the Newsagency could also be considered for re-location. As previously advised, the large bins are here to stay in Ross due to operational issues and OH&S concerns.
- Chair noted that over the last 6 years, major projects such as the Ross Village Green, the Public Toilets, and the provision of en-suite facilities to the Caravan Park cabins have been completed, with the construction of the High Street Railway Pedestrian Crossing and the provision of a ¼ basketball court at the Ross Recreation Ground to be completed at a future date. In addition, many maintenance and public safety matters have been completed over the same period of time. While these are too numerous to mention individually, the provision of give way signs throughout the village, and the white traffic dividing lines on both the entrances to Ross come to mind. The Chair stated that in his personal opinion "The Council over many years has been a very good friend to Ross."
- Chair expressed his thanks not only to the current Ross Local District Committee, but also to the previous iterations of the committee of which he was a member, and also expressed his thanks to all the Councillors, Councillor Representatives and Council Staff, for their co-operation and kind assistance over the years.
- Chair particularly thanked Councils' Works Manager Mr Leigh McCullagh and his very capable team for all their help and encouragement over the years, noting that nothing was ever too much trouble for Leigh and his team.
- Chair stated that he would also like to thank his Deputy Chair Mrs Chris Robinson for her steadfast and able support over the years, particularly in the early years of his tenure as Chair, when he personally, in addition to the RLDC and the Council itself, was subject to unfounded and unjustified criticism by a former resident of Ross.
- Finally, Chair extended his best wishes to the incoming committee, for an ongoing and mutually rewarding relationship with the Council.

8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

The Chair closed the meeting at 11.46 am

Next meeting – Tuesday 2nd July 2024 commencing 11.15am in the Ross Reading Room.