

MINUTES

THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS, ON TUESDAY
2nd AUGUST 2022, COMMENCING AT 11.15AM.

1 PRESENT

Christine Robinson, Michael Smith, Helen Davies, Sally Langridge, Marcus Rodrigues, Arthur Thorpe.

2 IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Michael Polley AM, Mr Phil Brown, Mr Paul Eyre

3 APOLOGIES

Councillor Andrew Calvert, Candy Hurren, Jill Bennett, Ann Thorpe.

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 5th July, 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

Chris Robinson / Michael Smith

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Clearing The Macquarie River

The issues of concern are infestations of Cumbungi weeds and debris from previous floods needing removal.

Correspondence with various Government Departments regarding weed management and debris removal have been forwarded to Council, who advise that they are in discussions with NRET (previously DPIPWE) and will advise when spraying is scheduled. A low river level is necessary for debris clearance.

Probably summer before the river is low enough to commence work.

Matter ongoing.

6.2 Condition Of Trees in Ross

Council's Works Manager, Mr Leigh McCullagh, has advised that the Victorian tree inspection company ENSPEC have inspected the Elms in Church Street, and will be returning to Ross in April to inspect the trees in other streets.

The April inspection did not occur, now scheduled to be conducted in August. If ENSPEC are again unavailable, then a local contractor may be engaged to conduct the inspection.

Awaiting report from ENSPEC.

Matter ongoing.

6.3 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.

NMC has carried out cleaning and rectification of the southern gutters of the building, which should now route rainwater directly to the stormwater drains. It is still to be determined if a drain does in fact run along the eastern base of the building.

Inspection revealed no drain has been found. The fine fill currently in the trench will be removed and coarser aggregate will be inserted to aid drainage. The sandstone is actually in quite good condition and remediation work to the damaged sandstone will be carried out by a stonemason once the weather warms up.

Matter ongoing.

6.4 Ownership of Original Ross Burial Ground and Public Notice Board

Despite numerous enquiries, the ownership of this notice board has been unable to be determined. Best guess is that it was erected in the old Ross Council days. It should probably now come under NMC's wing, as it is standing on Council's nature strip. The RLDC is prepared

to provide the labour to refurbish the notice board, Council's Works Manager has confirmed that Council will supply the paint subject to the colour being approved by Council's Heritage Consultant. Chair has been in contact with Paul Godier who is endeavouring to obtain a colour chart of the approved colours, so that the RLDC can make a selection and have the colour approved by Council.

It was stated at the meeting, that the Notice Board is actually the property of the Ross Post Office.

Chair will talk to the Ross Post Master and ascertain if this is indeed the case.

Matter ongoing.

6.5 Councils Capital Budget Request List For Financial Year 2022/2023

The RLDC's prioritised budget request list was presented to Councils May meeting and the RLDC is awaiting advice from Council as to which requests will be funded.

Council has subsequently provided a list of those projects that will be funded from Council's 2022/2023 Capital Works Budget.

The RLDC discussed the various projects, and noted that the RLDC's first and second prioritised items, i.e., fencing the dog exercise area, and a BBQ for the Village Green, had been funded.

Clarification may be sought on two other items included in the Capital Works Budget.

6.6 Missing (Stolen) Street Sign Nivelles Street

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

Sign apparently not installed at 2nd August – Chair to follow up.

Matter ongoing.

6.7 Regrading Of Road Edges

Customer Request 61742 has been lodged, Council's Works Manager advises that; "the grading program will start shortly and we can start around Ross, the shoulder grading is about to kick off as well, we would like to see a bit more rain so the roads and shoulders settle back down straight away." In hand, so hopefully to happen soon.

Work has been completed.

6.8 Damaged Wall South End Of Church Street

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. Council's Works Manager has advised that repairs to this wall will be a major undertaking; it almost needs rebuilding.

Part of the issue is sourcing the appropriate sandstone as a large amount required.

Matter ongoing.

6.9 Not For Profit Organisations In Ross.

At the July RLDC meeting, Mr Brown sought clarification in relation to overnight parking of recreational vehicles being permitted at the Ross Recreation Ground. Mr Brown pointed out that when Council gave approval at its June 2022 meeting for overnight parking (Minute No.22/195) at the Ross Recreation Ground, one of the conditions was that:-

“The recreational vehicles must be of a size that cannot be accommodated by the Ross Caravan Park”

Mr Brown asked if the condition meant that only large caravans would be allowed to park overnight?

A member of the Ross Community Sports Club present at the meeting, also pointed out that the two night maximum stay is unrealistic, given that most of the groups arrive on a Friday afternoon, stay Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights, and depart on the Monday. A three night maximum stay would be more appropriate.

Mayor Knowles undertook to take both matters back to Council for clarification, and has subsequently advised:-

“With regards to the clarification around smaller vans participating in a group event overnight stay at the Rec ground, specific permission from Council would need to be requested by the Ross Community Sports Club. This would also apply for events that may require more than two overnight stops, eg. long weekends.”

Council has advised the RCSC of the requirement to seek Council’s permission for camping events in excess of two nights stay, but it would appear that the requirement to seek Council’s permission for smaller vans to also stay, has not been communicated to the RCSC.

Chair to follow up.

6.10 Beaufront Road (C305) Speed Signage.

It was mentioned that there was an apparent inconsistency between the two speed signs at the beginning of Beaufront Road (C305) heading south. The 100 KPH speed sign appeared to be inconsistent with a 35 KPH speed sign on the first left hand bend.

Inspection reveals that they are not inconsistent - the 100 KPH sign informs drivers that the speed limit on Beaufront Road (C305) is 100 KPH unless advised otherwise, the 35 KPH sign is an advisory speed sign informing drivers that 35 KPH should not be exceeded when negotiating the first left hand bend.

It was also suggested that the 100 KPH sign should be moved to a position south of the two houses in the adjacent locality, because the houses were situated in the General Residential Zone.

Examination of the NMC Ross Zoning Map reveals this not to be the case.

The southern extremity of the Ross Urban Growth Boundary is Portugal Street, the 100 KPH sign is south of both Portugal Street and Wellington Street, and is located in the area zoned Rural Resource/Rural Living, and as such the 100 KPH sign is both correctly sited and appropriate for the zoned locality.

No further action is required in regards to this matter.

6.11 Community Garden In Ross Village Green.

The subject of community garden beds in the eastern corners of the village green to be established and tended by local residents was raised. Chair asked that information regarding the proposal be sent to him and he would raise the matter with the NMC. It was pointed out that Public Liability Insurance would probably be required.

No further information has been provided to the Chair at time of publication of this Agenda, however it was stated at the meeting that more information is being gathered and may be presented in due course.

Chair mentioned that in his own personal opinion, tin sheds to hold garden tools and supplies would not be a good look in the Ross Village Green.

Councillor Polley suggested that the Ross Recreation Ground might be a more suitable place to site a community garden.

6.12 Official Opening Of The Ross Village Green.

Council has advised that the official opening of the Ross Village Green will be held on Tuesday 23rd August 2022.

The Ross Community is awaiting advice from Council as to what form the opening will take.

6.13 Key To The Community Library And Public Noticeboard.

Key to the Community Library – can the Ross Community Sports Club have their own key to the Library Room as they apparently lease the room? The Club also requested a key for the public notice board, as they place information about events on the board and the key at the Post Office is only available during office hours Monday to Friday.

Chair has requested keys for the Ross Community Sports Club from Council.

Council has subsequently advised that “they are making arrangements directly with the hirers”

Matter ongoing.

6.14 Damaged Sandstone Kerbing.

Kerbing in the centre car parking area opposite the Town Hall has been damaged by a truck,

needs to be repaired. Chair to action.

Chair has asked Council to repair the kerbing in conjunction with the sandstone wall at the southern end of Church Street, refer Customer request 61699.

Matter ongoing.

6.15 Dangerous Condition Of Ross Rodeo Grandstand.

Chair expressed concern at the safety of the small grandstand adjacent to the rodeo area and in very close proximity to the children's playground. There are missing floor planks and exposed nails in the grandstand, and its structural integrity is also unknown. Chair will take photographs and raise the matter with Council, and also ask Council to determine ownership of the grandstand.

Council has subsequently fenced off the grandstand, and will determine ownership of the stand before repairs are considered.

7 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Round Table

Chris Robinson – Bridge Street sign in vicinity of the Hotel has been damaged.

Chair to photograph and raise Customer Request with Council.

Arthur Thorpe – expressed concern that Councils Draft Footpath Trading By-Law appeared to indicate that footpath trading will be permitted along the entirety of both Church and Bridge Streets, which both have a mix of General Residential and Local Business zonings, and that the draft document did not specifically mention that footpath trading was not permitted in the General Residential zone. A personal submission regarding the draft by-law will be made to Council.

Was disappointed that Council asked for full hiring rates of the small Campbell Town War Memorial Meeting Room for a recent meeting of the Campbell Town Area Community Services Board. It was pointed out that the Board was unable to meet in the Campbell Town Hospital due to the current COVID surge, and that the Board is not a club, or a sporting or social organisation which members pay a fee to join to avail themselves of the facilities. The Board amongst many other things, provides and maintains the Holman Link Car to transport community members to Launceston Oncology services. Councillor Polley suggested that this matter be brought to Councils attention, with a view to providing the small meeting room free of charge to the Board whilst they are prevented by COVID from holding their meetings in the Hospital.

A general discussion was held regarding the re-emergence of vehicle hooning within the village. Chair and other members of the public have contacted Tasmania Police who agreed to increase patrols within the Ross area. Apart from catching offenders in the act, Police rely on members of the public to report such incidents, and where necessary be prepared to lodge a formal signed complaint preferably with details of the registration numbers of the vehicles

involved and photographs where possible. Chair advised that if a formal signed complaint is made, and the matter proceeds to court, then those lodging the complaint will be required to attend court and provide evidence.

Councillor Polley – mentioned that fencing of the dog exercise area, and the BBQ for the Village Green, had both been funded in Council’s 2022/2023 Capital Budget. Also reminded attendees, that voting in this year’s Council elections is compulsory.

Helen Davies – mentioned that the old information sign on the corner of Church and High streets is totally out of date. Chair stated that the sign is privately owned and on private property and may be heritage protected, and that the owners would need to be approached regarding its current condition.

The warning sign on the village side of the High Street pedestrian railway crossing is dilapidated and requires upgrading. Chair advised that Council has been instructed by State Rail that the pedestrian crossing is dangerous and must be closed off. Chair to obtain update as to the current status of the pedestrian railway crossing.

Asked if small notice boards could be installed in the Town Hall to hold the various COVID signage erected everywhere in the hall which is currently secured by sticky tape and adhesive blocks. Chair asked for a photograph of the intended notice board to be sent to him, which he will then raise with Council.

Raised the matter of the health of the Macquarie River and whether it had had a recent health check. Chair stated that a health check could be carried out in conjunction with agenda item 6.1 when that work is carried out later this year, or in the new year.

Michael Smith – Road side reflector signs run over and flattened on Park Street Cemetery Hill.

Chair to photograph and raise Customer Request with Council.

Paul Eyre - asked why the Church bells no longer rang on the Anglican Church. It was pointed out that the Church is now locked, and no one in Ross has a key to be able to open the Church. It was also mentioned that the ringing of the bells were discontinued some years ago, because of a complaint from a neighbouring property.

8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

The Chair closed the meeting at 12.30 pm.

Next meeting – Tuesday 6th September 2022 commencing 11.15am in the Ross Reading Room.