

MINUTES

THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS, ON TUESDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2022, COMMENCING AT 11.15AM.

1 PRESENT

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

2 IN ATTENDANCE

Lorraine Wyatt, Leisa Gordon, Margaret Papa, Phil Brown, Robyn Barnet, Ella Boas.

3 APOLOGIES

Councillor Andrew Calvert, Councillor Michael Polley AM.

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 August, 2022** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.*

Michael Smith / Christine Robinson

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.

No further update. 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 August inspection was conducted and NMMC are awaiting a final report. ENSPEC conducted inspections for a number of Tasmanian Council areas, therefore the report may not be available for some time.

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.

No further update. 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 approached the Ross Post Master, who gave an undertaking that he will refurbish the notice board as time and resources permit.

Committee discussed and is happy to leave the project with Ross Post Master.

No further action.

6.5 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.

No update. Matter ongoing.

6.6 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.

No update. Matter ongoing.

6.7 Not For Profit Organisations In Ross.

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 followed up this matter with Council, who advised that discussions were being held directly between Council and the RCSC.

No further action required.

6.8 Official Opening Of The Ross Village Green.

The Ross Village Green was officially opened on Tuesday 23rd August 2022.

- Thanks to NMC by the committee for the opening and the opportunity to meet afterwards in the Town Hall.

- NMC advised with all government funded projects, the proponents must acknowledge the input of the government / department. As Brian Mitchell MP, is the representative for Lyons and was instrumental in obtaining grants, he was invited to open the Village Green, and a date that was suitable to him was selected. Unfortunately, there were no weekend dates available.
- A brass plaque has been ordered by NMC to commemorate the opening. Council Works Manager felt it would be a good idea to place it on a piece of sandstone, similar to the Lone Pine stone. A decision on where to site the plaque has not been made yet, however if you have an idea you wish to submit, please send to Chair to forward to NMC. Please think about it, and hopefully a decision can be made before next meeting.

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

No further update. Matter ongoing.

6.10 Warning Sign High Street Pedestrian Rail Crossing

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.

Councils Works Manager advised that they will not be replacing the signs if the crossing is to be closed. Chair mentioned to the Works Manager that it would be pertinent to close the crossing before any houses are built on the new subdivision adjacent to the rail crossing, before residents came to expect an open pedestrian railway crossing.

Chair to follow up with Mr McCullough.

7 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Ross Tin Can Sculpture Show

The 2022 Ross Tin Can Sculpture Show will be held in Ross from Friday 22 October to Sunday 5 November 2022, in the Thistle Inn Stable Gallery and The Ross Hotel Gardens. Gallery viewing times are from Wednesday to Sunday from 10.30am to 3.00pm.

Robyn Barnet

Robyn spoke to the committee and thanked them for their time. This will be the third time the exhibition is to be held in Ross. Unfortunately the first two were held during Covid upheavals, and only the exhibition itself could be arranged. This time, the event will be more open and more oriented around local residents.

The idea for the event started 4 years ago, when the UTAS Sculpture unit closed down. As preparation was during Covid and more people were housebound and limited in activities, more cooking was conducted at home and so the idea of using household items such as saucepans and cans came into being. Sculpture gives people a different understanding of art as opposed to what can hang on a wall.

Now the restrictions with Covid have been lifted, the event is taking a slightly different direction this year. Ella Boas will be working with children and pre-schoolers to involve a wider group. The whole idea this year, is just to get people involved and have a go.

The organisers have added some extra items to the program to encourage people into Ross and a “Walk and Seek”. Robyn has been in contact with local businesses to show the art in Ross shops and to help bring people and hold them here to enjoy the display and Ross.

Artists not only from Tasmania have been invited to participate, but also from around Australia. Sculpture Tasmania will host the exhibition in two spaces in our historic town. Indoors will be at the Scotch Thistle Inn, and outdoor in the gardens of the Ross Hotel.

The exhibition will begin with the Opening Celebrations at the Ross Hotel on 21 October; 22 October will be the Long Lunch with Conversations; 29 October, Walk and Seek Experiences and Ephemeral Workshop and run from 22 October to 5 November.

Robyn thanked both Debra from the Thistle Gallery and Martin from the Man-O-Ross Hotel for their kind assistance with this event.

Ella Boas

Ella studied Architecture and her introduction to Ross was her involvement with the *Species hotel introduction and building* on the outskirts of Ross. Sculpture Tasmania have already received entries, mainly Tasmanian entries from various ages, but will be open for entries from Australia wide.

There will be no charge to view the exhibition and will be held mainly at the Man-O-Ross and The Thistle Gallery. A grant from NMC has helped the event to be staged and has been advertised in a wide variety of mediums e.g.; NMC, Art Groups, talkback radio shows, and social media.

Chair asked if RLDC could help in any way. Volunteers could be used in the gallery and wouldn't be onerous, just sitting and conversing with visitors. 22/10 – 5/11 final at the hotel with “evening under the stars”.

7.2 Bus Parking Sign for School Bus Area

Discussion was held regarding the correspondence received from State Growth and NMC regarding signage for the morning pick up area for the Redline school bus.

Committee does not support the installation of a “buses only between 7:00 – 7:30am” sign being installed outside the historic Ross Post Office. There are no other parking advisory signs in the main heritage block in Ross. NMC staff were understanding of this fact, however State Growth were harder to convince.

A number of suggestions were made as to where the bus could stop and collect the children, however it was felt that attendance from a State Growth representative and Jonathan Galbraith of NMC at the next RLDC meeting in October would be appreciated to further this discussion. State Growth is urged to consider alternative arrangements.

The committee discussed and passed a motion to be presented to NMC.

MOTION

The Ross Local District Committee has discussed the State Growth proposal to establish a Bus Parking Zone outside the Ross Post Office.

Apart from the Bus Zone outside the Town Hall, Ross currently doesn't have poles with parking restriction signs, and the proposal to erect two poles and install road marking outside one of the most iconic, photogenic, heritage buildings in the Ross Heritage Precinct is not supported.

Motion passed unanimously.

7.3 Round Table Discussion

A Thorpe

- Would like to place on record the committee's thanks to Herbie Johnson for his many years as a valued member of the committee, and acknowledge his support to the Ross community. A thank you card has already been sent.
- Also, the committee understands Ray Webb has finally retired and would like to thank him for his wonderful help with maintaining the cleanliness and tidiness of the Ross Township.

C Robinson

- Fun Run due to be held in Ross in September was cancelled as to a running organisation from NSW held another fun run without checking with local groups as to the availability of dates. Kingston also had to postpone their event. The Fun Run will still go ahead and will be held on the 23rd April 2023.
- A sign at the Town Hall pointing to the Sports Ground appears to be misleading. Chair to check and send photos to NMC.

Ann Thorpe

- Advised The Campbell Town and Ross District Garden Club will be holding an Open Garden Day in Ross on Saturday, 26th November. Hopefully will attract lots of visitors to the gardens and to Ross businesses.

Leisa Gordon

- Leisa Gordon introduced herself as a candidate in the upcoming Council Elections. She served as a councillor on the NMC from 2014-2018, and at the last election missed out on re-election by 10 votes. Leisa is standing again as she feels the south of the council area needs representation. Her aim is to advocate for local areas, as we haven't recently had any local representation. If elected, Leisa will be coming to RLDC meetings and make sure our views are put forward to council. Leisa mentioned that it has always been great to see such passion in Ross for the town. There are apparently quite a number of candidates choosing to stand for the 9 positions. Voting is compulsory and all ballot papers must be received by the 25th October.
Chair mentioned that any candidate for the upcoming NMC elections, is welcome to come along to the meeting and introduce themselves, however the RLDC can't endorse any one particular candidate.

S Langridge

- Cnr Bond Street / Boulevards, Tas Networks have left a pile of rubbish after completing work. Chair to follow up.

M Rodrigues

- Also mentioned the Open Garden Day in November. Garden Clubs around Tasmania have been invited and hopefully will bring quite a few visitors to Ross for the day. This will be of benefit to the businesses and the town as a whole.

M Smith

- Is there a regimen for replacement of footpath gravel in places where the rain has washed it out? Chair advised there is an amount in the NMC budget for maintenance of footpaths, however the amount covers the whole of the council area.

8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

The Chair closed the meeting at 12:15 pm.

Next meeting – Tuesday 4th October 2022 commencing 11.15am in the Ross Reading Room.