

## MINUTES

### **THE MEETING OF THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS ON TUESDAY, 7 MAY 2019 COMMENCING AT 11:17AM**

#### **1 PRESENT**

Mr Arthur Thorpe (Chairperson), Mr Allan Cameron, Mrs Helen Davies, Mrs Christine Robinson, Mr Ricky Hebbard, Mr Herbert Johnson.

#### **2 IN ATTENDANCE**

Mayor Mary Knowles OAM, Councillor Andrew Calvert, Mr Steve Robinson, Mr Graham McShane, Mr Keith Jolley, Mrs Ann Thorpe (Acting Secretary).

#### **3 APOLOGIES**

Councillor Janet Lambert, Miss Lucie Copas (NMC), Mr Marcus Rodrigues, Mrs Jill Bennett, Mrs Candy Hurren, Mr Tim Johnson

#### **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**

***Mrs Christine Robinson / Mr Allan Cameron***

*That the minutes of the meeting of the Ross Local District Committee held on **Tuesday, 2 April 2019** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings with two exceptions noted below.*

*Councillor Andrew Calvert should have been included as an apology for the 2 April RLDC Meeting.*

*Also, Mr Keith Jolley pointed out that Item 6.8 Give Way signs, Dot Point 4 should read Park and Badajos Streets, not Park and Bridge Streets.*

*Carried unanimously*

## **6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

### **6.1 Heritage Signs**

Council Officers have requested an update from Crown Lands. *Ongoing*

### **6.2 Shipping Container By-law**

Matter is listed for consideration at a future Council Workshop. *Ongoing*

### **6.3 Ross Anniversary 2021**

Chairperson apologised to those present as he had given the previous meeting incorrect information regarding the RLDC's ability to form a committee in connection with the Ross Anniversary. The RLDC cannot itself be a committee, but a Sub-group can be formed to further discussions and seek ideas for the celebration, and consider other possible groups that wish to be involved.

Christine Robinson advised the Committee that she was happy to form a Sub-group and is currently liaising with the Ross Progress Group. Any assistance or ideas from the Ross Community would be greatly appreciated. Interested persons should contact Christine. *Ongoing*

### **6.4 Budget Requests**

Committee's budget requests to be progressed through council's 2019/20 budget process. *NFA*

### **6.5 Give Way Signs**

Council Officers are progressing with the engagement of an independent Traffic Management Engineer. Chairperson read contents of emails with NMC and advised that the NMC is aware of the RLDC's views on this matter.

Mr Cameron advised that he almost had a collision on the corner of Bond and Bridge Streets when another vehicle failed to give way. A question was raised "Will give way signs work"? Most people don't stop at the "Stop signs" at the railway crossings; these signs aren't obeyed by many, locals included.

The general feeling of the Committee was that the signs were better than taking no action at all in regards to this matter. The Chairperson pointed out that signs are an invaluable *Aide Memoir* to drivers who may be confused about the give way laws at intersections. This particularly applies to tourists driving on the opposite side of the road to what they are used

to in their own country. Mini roundabouts was raised as an option to give way signs. *Ongoing*

## 6.6 Customer Requests

The following customer requests were raised:

1. Ross Bridge Picnic Area – repairs to surrounding wall.
2. BBQ not working – *Chairperson advised he tried the BBQ 3 days in a row and it heated up each time. NFA*

Discussion was held regarding the state of bitumen edging on Tooms Lake Rd from Ross to Trefusis – the edges need some attention. Work is currently being carried out on the bridge near Mt Morrison – could NMC staff repair this on their way past? It was pointed out that the Bridge workers not members of NMC staff and would be unable to carry out this work. Consequently, the Chairperson will raise a Customer Request for two badly eroded edges of the road approximately 150m south of the Wellington & Beaufront Roads intersection, and include photographs.

## 6.7 Agenda and Minutes Availability

The Committee has been advised that copies of the Minutes and Agenda are sent to the Ross Post Office each month. The Minutes are also available online for all to access.

RLDC have in the past, raised a motion to have the Meeting Agenda included on NMC website (Council Meeting Minutes 16/4/2018) but this request was declined. After relevant discussion, Mayor Mary Knowles and Councillor Andrew Calvert offered to revisit this request on behalf of the Committee.

## 6.8 Village Green Footpath

RLDC Agenda stated that the concrete for the new footpath has been laid. This statement is not entirely accurate. Mr Robinson advised the Committee, that he had spoken to workers on the project and the concrete is just a base ready for a top of asphalt. RLDC Committee has received no notification from NMC as to the next steps involved in this issue. It would have been preferable that the Agenda contained more up-to-date information.

The Chairperson expressed his concern that the lack of communication from NMC over the past three months on this matter, makes it very difficult for the Committee to perform one of its basic functions as stated in the MOU, which is to *“Provide a focal point for information between the Northern Midlands Council and the community of Ross”*.

Could the NMC please update the RLDC at its next meeting, as to the overall current status of the Ross Village Green Project.

Mr Robinson expressed the view that a golden opportunity has been missed to peel back one of the ugly layers of history to let go of the asphalt. It was put forward that perhaps this issue could be a project for the Bi-Centenary to replace footpaths with sandstone flagstones.

Mrs Robinson raised that replacing asphalt footpaths in Ross was on the budget “wish list” 2-

3 years ago.

## **7 NEW BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Apology**

Miss Copas is unable to attend 7 May meeting due to another commitment.

### **7.2 Dogs**

All members of the RLDC have been emailed regarding the unrestrained dogs problem. Councillors cannot say a great deal about this matter, as discussions were held in a closed meeting of Council. Specific dates, times of sightings have been tendered to Council. Mr McShane volunteered to the meeting that he had been chased by the dogs in question. Mayor Knowles asked Mr McShane to provide a letter to Council, detailing the incident. Council requires details of dates, times and places, in order to act.

Mr Jolley stated that he had looked at the property in question this morning, and packing cases, etc have been put up. Chairperson expressed the view that he understands the need for confidentiality between Council and its ratepayers on various issues, but questioned whether this protocol is relevant when it concerns a matter of public safety.

### **7.3 Bridge Steps**

The Chairperson advised that he had received correspondence from State Growth and Heritage Tasmania (HT) regarding access to the Ross Bridge from the south-eastern carpark. HT are not in favour of a sandstone landing or any structure that will hide how the bridge is constructed.

New steps adjacent to existing steps – NMC Works Manager has stated that NMC cannot put in steps that do not meet the relevant standards for Disabled Access.

HT has suggested *"The terrace wall could also be modified and bank graded to overcome the difficulty visitors experience in overcoming the step down from the grassed terrace to the base of the stairs"*.

This suggestion is perhaps one that Council could construct at minimal cost, and the RLDC will request a meeting on-site with Council's Work Manager to explore this suggestion further.

### **7.4 Roadside Spraying**

Can Council please confirm that this will be carried out by the end of this financial year. Committee expressed the view that spraying should be done on a regular basis, not just once a year.

Councillor Calvert stated that NMC were workshopping with a view to appointing a dedicated Weeds Officer. DIPWE not responsible, therefore Council needs to be proactive, otherwise weed control will not happen.

- 7.5** Mr Ricky Hebbard raised the matter of keys for the Town Hall. There appears to be an issue with accessing the Town Hall by the Midlands Film Society. Would it be possible for the society to be issued a key to the Town Hall to enable regular access for film screening and equipment maintenance?

The Committee supported this suggestion and passed the following motion:

*Christine Robinson/Helen Davies*

*RLDC requests NMC to permanently issue a key to the Secretary of the Midlands Film Society to enable access to the Town Hall when required.*

*Motion carried unanimously.*

- 7.6** Repairs to the footpath from old Ross School to the Female Factory have now been completed, and the surface of the footpath has appeared to have settled down. However, possible water pooling in one or two locations may occur in the event of rain. If this happens, a Customer Request will be raised for NMC's attention.
- 7.7 Rabbits** – release of the Calicivirus appears to have been carried out, as dead rabbits observed in many places.

- 7.8 Ross Bridge Steps;** Helen Davies commented she had carried out sweeping of the Ross Bridge steps and had observed that the south-eastern steps are being covered by eroded backfill from Council's retaining wall which appears to be causing damage to the steps. Erosion is quite prevalent and gravel falls down between the stones. A barrier at the back of the retaining wall would prevent this, however the Chairperson suggested that this issue be considered in conjunction with item 7.3 above, as the retaining wall may be modified if improved access to the bridge steps goes ahead.

Lovers Lane path also appears to have some degeneration through water erosion, Chairperson will raise a Customer Request.

Mrs Davies submitted an apology for the next meeting.

- 7.9** Mr Cameron advised that spraying had been carried out on the *Roseneath* property.
- 7.10** Several lights are inoperable in Town Hall. A Customer Request was raised 3 months ago for rectification. 5 lights still aren't working. No indication received from NMC as to when the lights will be repaired. Several Town Hall hirers were unhappy with the lighting and made a complaint to a member of the Committee. Christine Robinson will follow up, and if necessary raise a new Customer Request.

**7.11 Ross School Oval**

Mobile homes have been observed parking overnight on the oval, and this appears to be a regular occurrence. The RLDC does not support the suggestion that the oval be permanently chained and locked, as the oval is used frequently for organised events and family gatherings.

It was suggested that a new sign be attached to the existing metal pole already displaying the “Dogs on Leash” sign. The new sign to contain wording along the lines of “Overnight Camping on Oval not Permitted”. Chairperson will raise a Customer Request for Council’s consideration.

The issue of heavy vehicles accessing the oval and possibly damaging infrastructure such as underground pipes etc was raised.

- 7.12** Mr McShane made the suggestion that consideration be given to erecting a “*What’s on in Ross*” sign on the highway before the entries into Ross, similar to signs at the Oatlands entrance. It was pointed out that the land in question where the signs would be erected, was owned by State Growth, not Council, and that any signs must not obstruct approaching driver’s views of the Ross intersections.

## **8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE**

The Chair closed the meeting at 12.23pm.

Next meeting to be held **4 June 2019 at 11:15am.**