

MINUTES

THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE ROSS COMMUNITY SPORTS CLUB, ROSS, TUESDAY 6th OCTOBER 2020 COMMENCING AT 2PM.

1 PRESENT

Arthur Thorpe (Chairperson), Christine Robinson, Alan Cameron, Helen Davies, Candy Hurran, Jill Bennett, Herbert Johnson, Marcus Rodrigues, Ricky Hebbard, Ann Thorpe (Hon Sec)

2 IN ATTENDANCE

Mayor Mary Knowles, Councillor Andrew Calvert, Tru Dowling, Keith Jolley, Patsy & Peter Bewg, Judith Lyne, Jill Davis, Fiona Oates, Carmel Archer, Jessica Barker, Richard Bennett, Helen McQuade, Peter Foss, and Catherine Searle, Troy Prince, Julian Koning from Jacobs Consulting.

3 APOLOGIES

Councillor Janet Lambert, Leisa Gordon

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

Moved Christine Robinson / Candy Hurran

*That the minutes of the meeting of the Ross Local District Committee held on **Tuesday 1st September, 2020** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.*

Carried Unanimously

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Chairperson wishes to thank Chris Robinson and the Ross Community Sports Club for their ongoing assistance in providing and preparing the Sports Club rooms for RLDC meetings.

6.1 10 Days on the Island

Christine Robinson advised this event was definitely going ahead. There will be a number of meetings happening on a regular basis. Currently there is a meeting planned with an Author who is preparing a piece to go in the *Island Magazine*.

6.2 Midland Highway Safety Upgrade – Final Stage

A project update and question and answer session was conducted by Jacobs Consulting personnel Catherine Searle (Lead Principal Consultant), Troy Prince (Project Manager), and Julian Koning (Design Lead For The Ross Section) regarding the Midland Highway safety upgrade.

See separate Addendum for Jacobs Consulting presentation and questions arising from the presentation.

A delegation from the Campbell Town District Forum (CTDF) was welcomed to the meeting.

Mayor Mary Knowles commented that it was brilliant thinking on RLDC's part to ask CTDF to come along and work together for the benefits of both communities.

6.3 Memorandum of Understanding

There will be a NMC Workshop and then it will go to a formal Council Meeting. No date set as yet, as replies from committees still being evaluated and collated.

6.4 Garden Beds

Jill Bennett has contacted the owner of the cottage to discuss. The owner is happy to replace any roses that are needed. The roses have been fed and trimmed and hopefully will be ok. No new soil to be applied and no further action at this stage.

6.5 Police visit

An invitation to Tasmanian Police to attend the November meeting of the RLDC on a meet and greet exercise has been issued and accepted. Meeting venue and time will need to be reconfirmed with the Police before the November meeting.

6.6 Australia Day Nominations

There was discussion regarding the nomination criteria. The Chair is to write to the Mayor regarding issues discussed in the meeting.

6.7 Possible combined meeting between Campbell Town Forum (CTF) and Ross Local District Committee

CTDF member Leisa Gordon raised the possibility of the CTDF and RLDC meeting on an as

needs basis, to enable the two committees to discuss matters of mutual interest, such as the 2021 bicentenary and the MoU.

The RLDC agreed with the proposal and raised the following motion:

This committee, the RLDC, supports the idea of Ross and the Campbell Town Forum, meeting on an as needs basis to discuss issues of mutual interest, and that these meetings be resourced by NMC.

Moved, Mrs Christine Robinson, seconded Mr Allan Cameron
Carried unanimously

The Northern Midlands Council at its September 2020 meeting, made the following decision in relation to the above motion:-

“That Council note the motion and consider when appropriate the attendance and resourcing accessibility of the proposed meetings.”

6.8 Honeysuckle Road

Chair thanked Councillor Lambert for unsolicited assistance regarding the request for grading.

Grading has been completed, however it would appear that more work may be required. Councillor Calvert spoke to the Works Manager and as of 10 years ago, NMC ceased grading dirt roads of long distances. Honeysuckle Road will be graded for 15 kms, however there was some discussion as to whether the “rest” of the road was a private road or not.

In order to seek clarification on this issue the RLDC passed the following motion:-

Moved Herbert Johnson / Alan Cameron

That the RLDC request NMC to clarify what distance of Honeysuckle Road is Northern Midlands Council responsible for maintaining.

Carried Unanimously

7 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Christmas End Of Year Function

The Committee noted that NMC had advised that the annual Christmas End of Year Function would not be held this calendar year due to COVID-19, and was of the opinion that this was a good idea considering financial hardship in the council area.

7.2 RLDC Meeting Times

Committee on board with reverting to 11.15am meeting start time, on the first Tuesday of the month, commencing with the November meeting. Next meeting will again be held at the sports club.

7.3 Round Table Discussion

Ann Thorpe – nil matters raised

Arthur Thorpe - advised that he has been appointed to the Campbell Town Hospital Board.

C Robinson - Nil matters raised

A Cameron - Community should be aware of what is happening with our Health Centre. Currently no Dr on at weekends; Manager has resigned. Our Health Centre is very important to the community.

H Johnson - Mowing of the streets happening as we speak. Is the big mower going to be coming through as well? Chair to ask Works Manager when. Also, spraying of Cumbungi weed in Macquarie River; this issue has been raised before and it is not a matter for NMC. Although river is in the NMC area, requests need to be progressed through State Growth who are the responsible agency. Not likely to use spray in the river area. Old Cemetery has become very hard to park on side of the road as it has been washed out. Chair to put in works request.

K Jolly - When is the village green going to be finished? Response was hopefully May next year, depending on weather issues. Hoping to have a special function there in June 2021. Mayor advised there will be an opening ceremony as well – although the Village Green may be able to be used before this ceremony.

R Hebbard - Pot holes and asphalt edges in all streets need attention. Are NMC aware that the Town Hall gutters are full of leaves. Rabbits overrunning Badajos Street (all through town). Was bait put out this year or not, due to Covid? Need to ensure it is progressed next year.

J Bennett - Nil matters raised

M Rodrigues - Nil matters raised

H Davies - Nil matters raised

C Hurren - Ongoing project with street signs – where are we up to with them. Chair to contact Jonathon Galbraith.

8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

The Chair closed the meeting at 3.30 pm

Next meeting – **Tuesday 3rd November, Ross Community Sports Club commencing 11.15am.**

Jacobs Consulting Presentation

A project update and question and answer session was conducted by Jacobs Consulting personnel Catherine Searle (Lead Principal Consultant), Troy Prince (Project Manager), and Julian Koning (Design Lead For The Ross Section) regarding the Midland Highway safety upgrade.

Jacobs are Consultants to State Growth, and are conducting community consultation on their behalf for the Midland Highway final stage safety upgrade. The final stage project has been ongoing since middle of last year, including rounds with property owners along the Midland Highway. The design is yet to be finalised, today's presentation is a brief overview of what is currently being proposed.

Background – The Midland Highway upgrade is a 10 year action plan and is currently into its 5th year with an estimated completion date of 2024. The final stage includes Jericho to South of York Plains, Mona Vale Rd to Campbell Town and Campbell Town to Epping Forest, approximately 51 kms in total.

Currently the highway is 1-2 star, widening with centre lane dividing wire will improve to a 3 star safety rating. 5 star rating is the highest that can be achieved. Safety the main factor of the upgrade. Public road access from the sides of the highway will be kept. Left & right turn dedicated lanes to be kept. Heavy industry / farm access will be needed. Safety cuts down overtaking, so will be looking at putting in overtaking lanes and where the turn facilities will be. Roseneath, Auburn, Ashby and Chiswick Road to have access to highway, wire rope otherwise. Turning circles at Little Chiswick, Lewisham and south Campbell town.

Public consultation has led to feedback and to discussion with Government about the feedback. Lots of issues, devil is in the details. Another round of Public Consultation in February/March and will consult on the next iteration of the plan. Need to gain an understanding of how properties blend / interact with highways. Discussion with public re extra overtaking lanes which appears to be the most relevant submission along with the Chiswick Road intersection.

Q&A

- Have school bus operators consulted – yes & again, safety of children paramount re stopping on highway. The school bus is a nightmare particularly in winter exiting Chiswick Road to the Highway. Quite dangerous to pull out due to lack of visibility caused by fog. Trees can be dangerous and hinder sight.
- When was the last traffic count on the Midland Highway held – not able to be answered. State Growth has permanent counters near Mona Vale. Is it possible to provide a traffic count from the Mona Vale counters please? Last traffic count along Chiswick Road was approx 900 vehicles per day.
- Concern expressed about passing lanes. Looking at 2 lanes in each direction in future, but some confusion about this. Can the exact number of passing lanes between Mona Vale and Ross be confirmed please? Entrance to Ross is apparently safe sight distance – is this correct? Is it also feasible to retain the existing 4 lane overtaking section on the Campbell Town straight from Little Chiswick Gates to Young's Corner?
- Ashby Road, right & left hand turn lanes needed and a "speed up lane" as it is a 110 km zone. Will both these turns be included in the final design?
- The Chiswick Road intersection is of primary concern to a great number of Ross residents. Recently a B.Double at the entrance almost had a collision with another vehicle. Have you had discussion with heavy vehicle drivers, no, but in contact with Tasmanian Transport Association

truck industry. This intersection badly needs redesigning with the entrance moved more to the south to provide clearer line of sight and also needs to have a north bound speed up lane incorporated particularly necessary in winter due to fog etc. Are there any plans to redesign the intersection and incorporate a north bound speed up lane? Trees at the intersection have been raised before and the trees will be removed on the north western side to allow for widening on that side to save Tacky Bridge. Can the trees be removed to the south of the intersection to assist with the line of sight? This intersection may need to be a separate project in its own right as it appears to be very important?

- The Conara intersection has the same dangerous situation as the Chiswick Road intersection above. This intersection also needs a speed up lane. Nature of discussion with the Department, can this be part of the scope or does it need to be a separate safety issue? May need to be its own separate project?
- Federal budget tonight, extra money available will it make a difference to finality of project. Phased construction leading up to 2024.
- When can more detail be available on the website that the public can see when you zoom into? Next few weeks hopefully and will be in touch with affected landowners and plans updated to show progress to date.
- Do Jacobs have input into speed limits? Jacobs stated the need to maintain minimal disruption to long term driving and don't tend to recommend reduced speed limits. Improve line of sight and road instead is the preferable alternative.
- Distance of passing lanes are too short and make for aggressive driving. Need to be longer and need to look at increasing the distance. Climbing lanes are being looked at as optimal preference, as inclines slow heavy vehicle traffic and allow safer overtaking. The project is constrained by the brief the Department set. The main aim of the safety upgrade brief is the installation of the central wire barrier leading to improved safety.

The Chair thanked Jacobs for attending the RLDC meeting and stated that while a four lane highway from Launceston to Hobart would be the ultimate objective, any improvements made to the highway would be better than what we have now.