

MINUTES

THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS, ON TUESDAY 7th DECEMBER 2021, COMMENCING AT 11.15AM.

1 PRESENT

Arthur Thorpe (Chair), Jill Bennett, Candy Hurren, Helen Davies, Christine Robinson, Michael Smith, Marcus Rodrigues, Herbert Johnson, Ann Thorpe (Hon Secretary)

2 IN ATTENDANCE

Keith Jolly

3 APOLOGIES

Councillor Andrew Calvert, Councillor Janet Lambert.

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 November, 2021** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.*

Michael Smith / Candy Hurren

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Ross Pool

The installation of the pool liner has been completed, and the pool is scheduled to open on Saturday, 11th December.

There has already been a number of enquiries regarding the purchase of Ross pool season tickets and if they may be used in conjunction with the Campbell Town pool.

School visits from Oatlands are already booked in.

6.2 Village Green

Work is still ongoing, however no firm date for the opening ceremony has yet been advised. It is expected to be the end of January 2022. The bicentenary function planned for New Year's Eve on the green, will unfortunately not go ahead.

J Bennett raised the issue of the main gates opening outwards and on to the footpath instead of inwards towards the green. Unable to change opening direction, because if they opened inwards they would be impeded by the entrance arbour. Also, there doesn't appear to be the number of trees (mature) planted as per the plan. Perhaps next winter, more mature trees could be planted.

Would it be possible to find out how much exactly has been spent on this project for the information of ratepayers?

Lighting in the park is very bright, are they automatically switched off at a set time?

Question asked if there is going to be a drinking fountain? Committee discussed the issues around Covid in regard to this item.

Chair will discuss some of these matters with Council's Works Manager.

6.3 Ross Bicentennial Celebrations

Dec, New Year's Eve on The Village Green, will unfortunately not be held on the Village Green.

The Bicentennial Cricket match held on the 5th December between Ross and Campbell Town was a great success, well attended and greatly enjoyed. A fabulous day for cricket.

6.4 Clearing The Macquarie River

The issues of great concern are infestations of Cumbungi weeds and debris from previous floods needing removal. Chair contacted DPAC regarding the current condition of the Macquarie River, DPAC suggested referring the matter to DPIPW. Following this information, the Chair has contacted DPIPW and is awaiting a response.

Matter ongoing.

6.5 Condition Of Trees in Ross

Council's Works Manager, Mr Leigh McCullagh, has advised that the Victorian tree inspection company ENSPEC have booked to be in Tasmania 1st December 2021 to conduct their inspection of the trees in Ross.

No information as to whether this has been completed, as Works Manager on leave.

Chair to seek an update.

6.6 Badajos Street Rail Crossing

NMC has also advised this issue will have to go in next year's Capital Works Budget Request List if it is to be widened, using Council's funds.

An application for widening the crossing could possibly be made to TasRail for consideration in the next tranche of TasRail infrastructure funding, once the funding criteria and application process is determined.

The crossing has recently been resealed/repared by TasRail. There are still queries as to who actually owns the land abutting each side of the crossing itself. Is it up to NMC to complete the re-widening of the road approaches to the crossing, or are TasRail also wholly or partly responsible?

After discussion as to the costs associated with any widening of the Badajos Street approaches, and the effect that funding the widening of this crossing would have on future Ross Capital Works Budgets, it was suggested by the Chair that a "Give Way to Oncoming Vehicles" sign on one side of the crossing, would lessen the risk of an accident caused by two vehicles trying to cross the railway line simultaneously. The Committee, with one exception, were in agreement with the Chair's suggestion.

If Council agreed with this suggestion, the decision as to which side of the rail crossing the sign would be placed would need to be made by Council's Traffic Engineers in conjunction with TasRail.

Chair to discuss this matter further with Council's Works Manager.

6.7 Shipping Container In Ross Caravan Park

A caravan has apparently been purchased as a replacement for the demountable and is currently being refurbished in Launceston before being moved to the site.

It was expected to take approximately 6-8 weeks, however, as this issue was first raised in June 2021 completion is taking a lot longer than expected.

Chair to follow up with NMC Planning Department.

6.8 \$2,500 Allowance In Lieu Of Secretarial Support

Council's General Manager has confirmed that the \$2,500 allowance in lieu of RLDC secretarial support for the previous 12 months will be available to be spent on Council approved projects proposed by the RLDC. Committee has discussed various projects, and currently the general consensus is for a bench seat on the grass behind the Cenotaph facing north.

Chair to check with Works Manager if one is available from the depot. If a bench seat is not available then it was suggested that the funds be used for the purchase of one.

6.9 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. A report detailing the current condition of the sandstone footings and possible measures that could be taken to stop further deterioration was received from Council's Heritage Consultant.

It was mentioned that a similar problem had occurred to another heritage property on the main street of Ross and it was determined that water flow was the issue.

Chair to follow up with Council's Works Manager.

6.10 Council's Capital Works Budget 2021/2022

Council has released the Ross Capital Works Budget for financial year 2021/2022.

Budget distributed to the RLDC after clarification was received from Council's Maree Bricknell.

Committee noted information.

6.11 Water Leak Outside Ross Hotel

Chair contacted TasWater who stated that the leak is occurring in a Council sprinkler line. The Council's Works Manager undertook to have Council's local team have a look at the leaks. It appears to be the sprinklers on the hotel side of Bridge Street. The pipe and fittings are very old and replacements hard to source. May need to be replaced altogether.

Chair to follow up.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Ross Markets

The Ross Village Markets Group have raised \$28,403 over the last 10 years for the betterment of the Ross and Campbell Town communities.

Chair mentioned it was an outstanding effort for a small committee in a small town.

7.2 Round Table Discussion

H Johnson – (1) Stormwater Drainage Report, has it been completed? Chair advised that the anticipated completion date for the report was December 2021 depending on the receipt of further data from Landowners. (2) Trees and undergrowth on the northern side of the cricket ground need tidying. Lower limbs need to be removed to allow cars to park underneath in the shade. (3) Can NMC do spraying for weeds, particularly area near quarry? (4) Church Street sprinklers need to be repaired, however it would appear this has already been done? Asked for a tool to be given to shop owner to turn on sprinklers, but Chair was previously advised by Council's Works Manager that this had already been provided.

Chair to follow up on some of these items.

C Robinson – (1) Tradesperson trimmed trees and rubbish at the hotel and then blew rubbish out onto the road. They were asked to clean up but reply was that Council would do it. Not a great attitude or the right answer. (2) In the past, NMC received a grant to put up a new highway sign – does anyone remember it? Has anything been done? Committee could not immediately recall this matter.

J Bennett - (1) Bollards that were to be fixed on the way to the bridge. Tops of the bollards have been fixed but the chain linking them has not been put back. Would like to see the chain back as some have it and some do not. Committee stated they would like to see it all put back, but Chair recalled a conversation with Council's Works Manager where it was stated that the chains were a safety issue? (2) Thanked the Chair and Honorary Secretary for their efforts on the committee this year. Committee concurred.

C Hurren – In the old original cemetery, names on the headstones very hard to read. Committee discussed the placing of a plaque or a board with grave names and dates. Firstly, there would be a need to ascertain who owns the original cemetery and progress from there.

H Davies – (1) The mouse issue in the Town Hall appears to have been fixed, as cupboards, etc are clean. Would like to acknowledge the work done by NMC. (2) The thistles on the church ground/river walk were removed and tidying was carried out by Gary White, and the committee would like to formally acknowledge his contribution to the church grounds and the path. (3) Storage room at the Town Hall appears to be packed with stuff. Film committee and market group finding it difficult to access their items, or the electrical board, due to the congestion (photos shown) and it is becoming an occupational health and safety issue. Could local groups and regular users be given first priority to the space? (4) Town Hall Cleaners don't get a long time to clean and recent users appear to have the hall in a terrible condition. A suggestion that a "cleaning fee" be instigated; something for NMC to consider. (5) Also there is a drainage issue in Park Street however this will be covered under the Stormwater Drainage report being prepared for Council.

M Smith – Asked who is responsible for the notice board near the phone boxes in the main street. It needs cleaning/repainting, and removal of some of the notices as they are very old and out of date. Discussed having a working bee to carry out these items. Ownership of the notice board would have to be ascertained before any action is considered or undertaken.

M Rodrigues – Asked about information regarding building density in Ross. Members of the community had approached him regarding subdivisions, etc. Chair advised it was best for

concerned residents to contact NMC Planning Department directly to discuss. Enquiries with Council's Planning Department are only able to be made on certain days and at certain times, Chair will check and advise the committee when these days and times are.

There is also a document, "*The Northern Midlands Interim Planning Scheme*" that regulates all development in the Northern Midlands Council area and which can be accessed through Council's website via the link below.

(<https://northernmidlands.tas.gov.au/planning/development-in-the-northern-midlands/interim-planning-scheme>)

K Jolly – Concern that the herbicide sprayed around the bollards has killed a huge amount of grass, which then leads to erosion and cause the bollards to fall over. Realise the need for spraying, but perhaps a concrete plinth could be added to keep grass away from the bollards. Perhaps as an alternative Committee members could volunteer to assist with filling and seeding, however this would not prevent future overuse of herbicides around the bollards.

Chair to discuss with Council's Works manager.

8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

The Chair closed the meeting at 12.30 pm.

Next meeting – Tuesday 1st February 2022 commencing 11.15am in the Ross Reading Room.