

## MINUTES

### THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS, ON TUESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2023, COMMENCING AT 11.12am

#### 1 PRESENT

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

#### 2 IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Alison Andrews AM, Councillor Richard Archer, Herbert Johnson, Paul Eyre

Mr Phil Brown attended the meeting at 11:00am, however left the meeting at 11:09.

Before the meeting started, Mr Brown attempted to give the Chair the results of a petition regarding the Ross Marathon. The Chair advised Mr Brown that the RLDC was unable to accept the petition, advising that it must be presented to a Councillor or the General Manager, not directly to the RLDC. Mr Brown chose not to wait until a Councillor arrived three minutes later, and left the meeting before it started, stating that the Chair was a bureaucrat.

#### 3 APOLOGIES

Candy Hurren.

#### 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 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2023** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.*

***Christine Robinson / Marcus Rodrigues***

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

### **6.1 Clearing The Macquarie River**

A low river level is necessary before Council can clear debris and Cumbungi, so it will probably be summer before the river is low enough to commence work. An undertaking was received from NMC / State Growth, that they will look at this issue when feasible.

NMC have again been contacted in late January, and the RLDC was advised on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March that they are awaiting an update from NRET.

Matter ongoing.

### **6.2 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. Although the sandstone is actually in reasonable condition, remediation work to the damaged sandstone will be carried out by a stonemason once the weather warms up.

Awaiting update from Council Works Manager who has advised they are awaiting the availability of a qualified stonemason.

Helen Davies volunteered to forward information on a qualified stonemason that may be able to assist.

Matter ongoing.

### **6.3 Damaged Wall South End Of Church Street & Damaged Sandstone Kerbing.**

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.

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.

Works Manager has advised they have acquired the necessary sandstone and are awaiting the availability of a qualified stonemason.

See point 6.2 for possible outcome.

### **6.4 Closure Of High Street Pedestrian Rail Crossing**

Ross residents are hoping to keep this crossing open. Chair has been advised that NMC will be conducting a cost and feasibility study, for a legally compliant pedestrian rail crossing linking the two sides of High Street. Once the report has been prepared it will be submitted to Council for consideration.

Works Manager has progressed this matter and NMC recently met with State Rail who have

advised what is required to form a legally compliant pedestrian crossing. These requirements will be incorporated into the cost and feasibility study being prepared by NMC.

A member of the public requested lighting be considered as part of the upgrade, and although this is not a NMC responsibility (TasNetworks), the Works Manager has been advised of this request.

Still awaiting info from Works Manager who is currently on leave. Matter ongoing

## **6.5 Ross Village Green – Entry Of Dogs On Leash**

Council has installed dog signage and a doggy bag dispenser at the Village Green. The current position of the doggy bag dispenser on a pole at the entrance to the Village Green is causing concern to many people, as it's very unsightly and ruins the otherwise attractive entrance to the Green.

Council has been asked to consider relocating the doggy bag dispenser, and to revisit the Village Green Signage to include advising the public that there is an off-lead dog exercise area available at the Ross Recreation Ground, and also to indicate that there is a uni-sex disabled toilet and barbecues available within the Green. It has also been observed that there is no signage warning dog owners not to approach within 10 metres of the children's playground.

Discussion held as to where entry signs and the dispenser could be placed. Inside the entry portico was suggested and placed altogether, so people could read them all together. Waiting for Works Manager to return for discussion regarding signage, and waiting for Council to consider the request to move the doggy bag dispenser inside the portico, supply a black coloured dispenser, and fitting it to the existing black waste bin as is the case in Longford.

Matter ongoing.

## **6.6 Painting Of Town Hall Entrance Foyer**

Awaiting advice from NMC as to whether the new carpet for the old Council Chambers used by the Church Group will be laid this financial year. Chair has liaised with the Church Group to ascertain the carpet definitely needs replacing. Carpet is patched in one area and could be trip hazard to Church goers.

Painting of the toilets at the rear of the Town Hall has commenced. Foyer looks finished however light shade not replaced as yet. It was mentioned that there is a shade of a similar vintage in The Wrinkly Tin shop.

Matter ongoing.

## **6.7 Maintenance Of Ross Footpaths**

Several gravel footpaths around Ross need remediation; photos have been sent to Council, and Customer Request 78015 has been raised.

Council has replied –

*“Unfortunately, due to the recent weather events this has disrupted multiple works throughout the municipality. Our priority atm is for roads to be repaired, but we do acknowledge your request and will have them addressed as soon as practicable.”*

Attendees discussed and agreed that the path to the female factory is the most important one and should be repaired as a matter of priority.

Update requested from Council on 30/1/2023, and we are awaiting advice from NMC.

Matter ongoing.

## **6.8 Budget Request List**

The RLDC was asked to bring ideas to March Meeting, as list needs to be with NMC by 31/3/2023.

Chair explained to committee members and meeting attendees that these ideas relate to Capital Works Budget items and it is only a “wish list”. It is submitted to NMC and they choose which items to fund and place in the budget. Not all items on the list are funded in the coming financial year. Last financial year, only 2 out of 10 items were completed.

Some suggestions for capital funding were the High Street pedestrian rail crossing, additional disabled parking, the Ross Entrance Sign having a more definitive bridge depiction as per the Red Bridge depiction on the Campbell Town entrance statements, erecting a shelter over the new park benches near the caravan park, completing the lighting on Church Street, providing shade within the Ross Village Green, replacement of deteriorating sandstone bollards on Bridge and Church streets and upgrading the footpath to the Ross Pool from the parking area in Bridge Street.

Although a leaflet had been distributed around the town by a private individual requesting input, the email address of the Chairperson contained in the leaflet received no requests at all from Ross residents. All suggestions for Capital Budget funding were white boarded, and will be circulated to the RLDC for further consideration before the list is submitted to Council.

## **7 NEW BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Round Table Discussion**

*Arthur Thorpe*

- Electric Vehicle Charging Stations - AEVA did discuss with NMC, and there was a submission lodged with Council regarding installing charging points in Ross. The submission was withdrawn as AEVA wished to update same. Further info has been provided by Council that AEVA will be lodging a new revised submission to NMC. This project is not a council funded proposal, but is usually privately funded by the charging station owners.
- BBQs in the Village Green do work; however instructions for use are somewhat confusing.
- Chair met with NMC Works Supervisor (Clint) to look at a few issues in Ross. In particular, sprinklers in Church Street between High Street and Bakery 31 do work; they are on a timer and come on at 2:30am to avoid wetting visitors and locals. Only 2 sprinkler heads need replacing, some needed tweaking and 1 gate valve is to be replaced.
- At previous meeting Mr Brown brought up trees to be replaced at cnr of Boulevards and Park St. Chair inspected but was unable to see where the trees were previously, so not

able to contact NMC for replacements. Awaiting further clarification.

- Mr McKean previously raised the solid dividing lines on the entrances to Ross and the legality of crossing them to overtake cyclists. Chairperson circulated State Growth road rules, which state that cyclists may be overtaken by crossing solid dividing lines, provided it is safe to do so.
- Photos requested by NMC of previous Councillors of the Ross Council, before amalgamation. Maybe the History Room at Wool Centre has some. Herbie Johnson has some and would arrange for Chair to copy and scan. Also, Kenneth von Bibra, Alan Cameron or Robert Riggall may be helpful. Items stored under the Town Hall stage had water damage (and were destroyed), and the rest of it was sent to the Wool Centre. Cr Archer mention the legality of keeping the minutes for a long period of time. Chair to conduct further enquiries and liaise with Council.
- Customer Request # 96338 raised for repair of broken sandstone bollards.

#### *Cr Archer*

- When asking for upgrading of footpaths, ensure they are the same of others in the village, not be replaced with concrete.

#### *Cr Andrews*

- Ensure distinction between our wish list and the maintenance list, so as to ensure value for our money by not including maintenance items in the Capital Budget request list.

#### *Helen Davies*

- Has been approached by residents regarding the condition of the Ross Caravan Park, which is apparently not kept as well as is expected. Manager has been trying to do their best, however the lessees do not appear to be interested in keeping it to a reasonable condition.
- Bicentenary Quilt framed and will be held by Helen until a final space is selected for display in the Wool Centre.
- Candy Hurren mentioned that in this time of reuse and recycle, we are not able to buy anything from the tip shop at Campbell Town which seems such a waste of resources. However, as this is technically a Campbell Town issue, the RLDC can't action this. An attendee mentioned that COVID had put a stop to this and the decision to keep the shop closed has not been rescinded.
- The UCA floodlight south end of Church Street appears to be inoperative again. Chair stated that he had already raised a customer request some time ago to have this seen to, but would follow up again.
- Long grass at south end of Church Street needs cutting – Chair to raise Customer Request.

#### *Herbert Johnson*

- Pedestrian Railway crossing at Portugal St, appears to have one complete chicane barrier removed and not replaced when recent maintenance work was completed on the eastern (cemetery) side of the rail line. It was also mentioned that the yellow vinyl tiles on the western side of the rail crossing are lifting badly and are a safety risk to the public. Chair to follow up both items.

## **8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE**

The Chair closed the meeting at 12:10pm.

**Next meeting – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023 commencing 11.15am in the Ross Reading Room.**