

MINUTES

THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS, ON TUESDAY 5th DECEMBER COMMENCING AT 11.10AM.

1 PRESENT

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

2 IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Alison Andrews AM, Councillor Richard Archer, Lorraine Wyatt, Herbert Johnson

3 APOLOGIES

Mayor Mary Knowles OAM, Michael Smith

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 3rd October, 2023** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.*

Sally Langridge / Christine Robinson

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Closure Of High Street Pedestrian Rail Crossing

NMC has agreed to apply to TasRail for a license to build a new, legally compliant crossing. \$60,000 has been allocated in the 2023/2024 budget for the construction of this crossing.

Chair discussed with Council's Engineer, and he advised Council has given TasRail everything they require, and are now awaiting the technical specifications required for the job to proceed.

Committee expressed concern that monies allocated for this project will be lost if construction not commenced this financial year. Councillor Andrews suggested RLDC contact NMC and request funds be carried over to 2024/2025 financial year. Chair stated that next March when the RLDC compiles its prioritised Capital Budget request list for financial year 2024/2025, it will request that the funds be carried forward if not already expended.

Matter ongoing

6.2 Review Of Local District Committee Structure

Council had agreed to extend the terms of appointments of all LDCs and Forums until December 2023, while the Local District Committee structure review is being undertaken. The review will examine the LDC's role and function, membership, meeting times, funding and communication with the local community.

Council has subsequently advised that the current MOU, which was extended to 31 December 2023, is now extended until 30 June 2024, or sooner, if the new MOU can be agreed and implemented.

Council will also extend the current term of membership in line with the MOU extension, being 30 June 2024 (or earlier if the new MOU is resolved).

In addition to the RLDC, several other Local District Committee's requested additional time and a workshop meeting with Council to discuss the proposed changes. Council has considered this request and allowed further time for the review to occur. Council will be in contact with all Local District Committees in due course with advice of a date and time for a workshop to be held at Council's offices in Longford for all Local District Committee's Chairpersons to attend.

During discussion on this item, committee were advised that council were keen to hold the workshop before year end, however this was not possible and did not eventuate. Lorraine Wyatt advised that NMC are endeavouring to organise this for February 2024.

No further comments from committee, and all members happy to stay on committee until June 2024.

6.3 Basketball Hoop, Backboard and Post

Chair met with Council's Works Manager on Wednesday 20th September at the old Ross School Oval.

Following discussion, it was agreed with the suggestion put forward by the Works Manager, to place a basic post/backboard/hoop abutting the north east concrete pad was suitable. This work will need to be completed as soon as practicable, so as not to lose any further monies from the secretarial allowance. Committee were informed that apparently Council is currently applying for a grant to have a "proper" court built within the village, however the post, backboard and hoop could be relocated should any grant application be successful.

Email received from Works Manager advising ordered items have arrived at NMC. However, council has just been notified that they have successfully received funding from a tranche of State Government community funds for a quarter court basketball facility. At this time, no date for receipt of monies has been advised. Council's Works Manager will make the decision whether to place the basketball post/backboard/hoop either in the Old Ross School Oval or the Ross Recreation Ground, depending on the timing of funding. Works Manager was looking at co-installing fitness equipment and the BB hoop at the same time in order to utilise equipment and staff efficiently, however if the basketball equipment is to be sited in the Ross Recreation Ground then co-installation would not apply.

The RLDC needs to ascertain if monies utilised from the RLDC secretarial support funding will still be used for the basketball post/backboard/hoop already purchased, or if these items will be funded from the State Government Community funds.

Matter ongoing.

6.4 Placing Of Mature Age Christmas Tree In The Ross Village Green

Council will support planting a Christmas tree in the Ross Village Green.

Following discussion and advice from Allan's Nursery, it was felt transplantation of trees was not the preferred option due to lengthy timeframe and associated risks. All felt purchasing the 2 trees, one slow growing and one faster growing was a more attractive option and for the faster growing one to be placed in a suitable position for long term viability. Position would need to take into account, watering system, access to electricity and overshadowing of Man O Ross Hotel. Trees recommended by Allan's Nursery are: - slow growing Cedrus Deodara (Himalayan Cedar) and faster growing Picea Glauca (White Spruce).

Chair to liaise with Council's Works Manager re purchase and suitable location of both trees.

Matter ongoing.

7 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Round Table Discussion

C Robinson

- RSL placed a Remembrance Day wreath at the War Memorial and a second one at the

Lone Pine Tree site in the Village Green. Unfortunately, the second one in the Village Green was vandalised and broken in half sometime after 11:00am. Committee and Chair expressed concern at this event. Chair to liaise with Works Manager to ask for any CCTV footage that may be available.

A Thorpe

- Mentioned the passing of Allan Cameron which was very sad. Allan was a great benefactor to Ross and district over many, many years. Vale Eustace Allan Cameron.
- No Through sign at High Street & Bond Street previously requested, will be completed shortly.
- A sink hole has appeared in Badajos Street (near intersection with Nivelles St) and has been notified to NMC Works Department through the CR system. Chair marked position with tape for NMC, as difficult to see.
- Rubbish tin outside the Ross Village Bakery will be repositioned shortly.

H Davies

- A Village resident advised that it would appear that the trees in the Caravan Park are not being watered and look distressed. Also, the operators are disposing of their grass cuttings by dumping by the riverbank, rather than being disposed of offsite. Chair to raise matter with NMC.
- Midlands Film Society has asked if NMC could investigate the possibility of installing Wi-Fi at the Town Hall. This would enable the Film Society to stream films from YouTube and Netflix as fewer and fewer films are being released on CD/Blu-ray. This would be beneficial not only to the Film Society, but all users of the Town Hall and the password could be given to groups hiring the hall and perhaps a fee incorporated in the hall hire. Apparently the Government system of Free Wi-Fi financed between the Government and Telstra that had previously been available, has now been discontinued throughout Australia. Chair to raise with NMC.
- Does NMC use hormonal herbicides such as Kamba M in Ross, perhaps to control Cape Weed (e.g. old school oval)? Damage has occurred to her garden on her property that would appear to be from over-spray drift which resulted in uneven damage, and which also occurred in the same month as last year. If this is happening, could spraying please be avoided if there is any wind. Chair to raise with NMC.

L Wyatt

- Has resigned from NMC, and her last day will be 20/12/2023. Chair thanked Lorraine for all her assistance in the past, her support of the RLDC, and wished her well in the future.

Cl Andrews

- Wished all a Merry Christmas and thank you for making Councillors welcome at our meetings.

Cl Archer

- Asked committee if the community had any ideas on uses for the Uniting Church currently for sale. Also, what is happening to the land surrounding the church? It was suggested that Council ask current owners for correct boundaries and perhaps ask to purchase part of the land for community purposes. Discussion held regarding future access to the swimming pool for maintenance purposes and possible future uses of the area in question. It was felt that the community needed to use pressure to push for the connectivity of the church to the town. Committee was advised that it was thought the property had already been sold.

S Langridge

- Tables/chairs and concrete pads in the main street desperately need to be cleaned, especially close to Christmas and holiday season. Chair to raise CR.

J Bennett

- Queried the watering system in the village green; is this automated and does it run for long enough, especially in summer. Chair to raise with Works Manager.

Committee thanked the Hon Secretary for all her efforts over the past 3 years. These efforts have allowed secretarial funds to be made available for special projects in the village. Committee requested their appreciation be noted in the minutes.

8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

The Chair closed the meeting at 11.55 am.

Next meeting – Tuesday 6th February 2024 commencing 11.15am in the Ross Reading Room.