

**Minutes: ROSS DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE Ross Community Sports Club 4-10 Park St, Ross,
ON TUESDAY 1 OCTOBER 2024, COMMENCING AT 11.15AM.**

1 PRESENT

Helen Elizabeth Davies, Julie Smith, Michael David Smith, Nigel Davies, Rodney Haigh, Sally Langridge

2 IN ATTENDANCE: Cr Richard Archer, Cr Alison Andrews, Vivien Tan – NMC Executive and Communications Officer.

GUESTS: Deputy Mayor Janet Lambert, Chris Beach, Elizabeth Porter, Barry Pyke, and Danny Saunders

3 APOLOGIES: Debra Cadogan-Cowper, Marcus Rodrigues, and John Barber

4 ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as the traditional and original owners, and continuing custodians of this land on which we gather today and acknowledge Elders – past, present and emerging.

5 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

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved: J. Smith

Seconded: M Smith

Carried

*That the minutes of the meeting of the Ross Local District Committee held on **Tuesday 2 September 2024** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceeding subject to the amendment that the acceptance that the minutes read 'held on the 6 August 2024'.*

7 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

7.1 Basketball Hoop, Backboard and Post

The Ross ¼ basketball court is expected to cost \$36,550 – the Council was successful in obtaining grant funding of \$19,752 towards the project leaving a balance of \$16,798 for the community/Council to fund. The council has previously advised by email that the Ross basketball court will be built during the 2024/2025 budget year.

Action: Officer investigating schedule of work and the significance of the posts and markers on the cricket pitch. Enquiry sent to Works and Infrastructure.

7.2 Wi-Fi Access at Ross Reading Rooms

Approval from the Heritage Board has been granted. Installation will occur when the workforce is available and weather permitting. **Action:** Monitor for installation.

7.3 Disabled Parking

MOTION: **Moved: J Smith** **Seconded: H Davies** **Carried Unanimously.**
Committee recommends that a disabled parking bay be marked out at Bridge Street adjacent to the clinic with disability access to alight from both the left- and right-hand side of the car.

- Reserve a space for disabled parking in front of the playground on Bridge Street, while leaving the NMC access to the swimming pool
- need for more disabled parking in Church Street. Committee noted that the present disabled parking area which is on the western side of the Ross Town Hall was unsuitable site as it does not give disabled passengers enough space to alight the vehicle on the left-hand side and on the driver's side there is potential danger of other vehicles passing too closely.
- Suggestion is that more disabled parking needs to be provided closer to the centre of the main street with space to alight from both sides of the vehicle on both sides.

Background: The location Bridge Street parking would be able to have disability access to alight from both sides of the car. The current car park only has access to alight from one side of the car. There is an acceptable location between the driveway and the gate at Bridge Street carparking area.

7.4 Information Board – Ross Directional signage

Capital Works allocation of \$5,000 set aside for this project. A notice board to be incorporated in the design to provide current events notifications. Chair provided the Council with the Tasmanian Wool Centre map as a reference for the design. Wool Centre was contacted, and they are amenable to using the map as a base. The graphics designer would be contacted to update the map to include walking trails. Keep it simple and with heritage buildings only so it will be timeless.

[Action: Tourism officer emailed to see if Heritage Highway has a base map. Awaiting response.](#)

Places to be nominated:

- Seating areas – picnic area
- Toilets
- Dog park
- Camping space
- Dump Point
- Pool
- Heritage Walk

7.5 Ross Community Library Upgrade

Capital Works allocation of \$5,000 was set aside for this project.

[Action: Monitor use of the funding.](#)

7.6 Budget 2024 / 2025 Response from Council

\$1.3 million – Capital Works

\$1 million – Roads

\$60,000 – Railway crossing in High Street

\$20,000 – Culvert works

\$60,000 – Roof repairs on Drill Hall

\$10,000 – Roller system for pool cover

\$36,500 – Half Basketball Court

\$5,000 – Village Green directional signage / visitor information sign.

\$5,000 – Library upgrade

7.7 Gorse on Church Grounds

Council has contacted the landowner to remove the Gorse. If it is not removed, then there is a possibility to issue abatement notice as it could be a fire hazard leading into fire season.

[Action: Monitor to see if the issue is resolved.](#)

7.8 Uniting Church Damaged Gate posts

Repairs to be paid for by offender. [Action: Monitor to see if work is progressing.](#)

7.9 EV Charging Station in Ross

Awaiting more information. [Action: Awaiting report](#)

7.10 Christmas Trees for Village Green

Trees are growing and will be planted when conditions are right.

[Action: Awaiting Parks and Reserves Staff to plant the trees](#)

7.11 Streetlight not working – 36 Church Street and in Macquarie Street

Tas Networks were requested to replace faulty/ blown light bulbs in Church Street on 20th August 2024. [Action: Chair to Approach Tas Networks](#)

7.12 Damage to Street Signs and Guideposts

Several street signs and guideposts have been run over.

[Action: Chair to note locations and send a works request to Council Works and Infrastructure.](#)

7.13 Food Van

Food Van is still available after 4 pm at Village Green – [Action: Remove from next Agenda.](#)

7.14 District Committee Dinner - 6 pm November 21st, 2024

- Southern District Committees - Campbell Town and Ross District Committees
- The Ross Hotel
- 35 Church Street, Ross.

8 NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Email rossdistrictcommittee@nmc.tas.gov.au

This is an email received by the council and then forwarded to the Chairperson and nominated secretary.

- Chair will receive the Council emails and circulate to Committee Members.
- The District Committee email and meeting dates to be listed in the Ross Newsletter.
- IT support will investigate the setup of an automated response to the committee email.

[Action: Email is set up by IT and ready to use.](#)

8.2 Bicycle Parking Facilities – Priorities List

MOTION: Moved M Smith **Seconded:** S Hills **Carried Unanimously.**

That Council install the bike rack at the Bridge Street Playground at the entrance area to the pool and use a green finish to the concrete slab to help it blend more harmoniously with the surroundings and have a more visually appealing and subtle appearance.

- 1) Near the playground – next to the trees and seats on Bridge Street (between 6 and 8 Bridge Street)
- 2) Corner of High Street and Church Street – has 4 new bike racks already installed without consultation. Does this mean there is still an option to choose an additional location or is this considered one of the two sites?

8.3 Australia Day Nomination Forms – [Action: Follow up on nominating individuals.](#)

8.4 DarkSky Place International Certification

MOTION: Moved N. Davies **Seconded:** M Smith **Carried Unanimously**

That council supports Ross Township's application for DarkSky Certification as the 5th location in Australia due to Ross's unique position of a dark night sky and unrestricted horizons and request to formally ask TasNetworks to install a shade on the light pole of Church Street to block out light on the Southern and Western sides.

Background: The area at Church Street is ranked at level 1 for a dark sky. The Ross township is considered a level 2 rating. The committee seeks to apply for certification to be listed as a Dark Sky Place. The International **DarkSky** Places Program is a conservation-based program rooted in grassroots advocacy to protect **dark skies** and the nocturnal environment. The DarkSky Approved program provides objective, third-party certification for lighting products, lighting designs, and installed lighting projects that minimize glare, reduce light trespass, and reduce light pollution. To be certified, they must restrict the amount of upward-directed light. A Dark Sky Community is a town, city, municipality that has shown exceptional dedication to the preservation of the night sky through the implementation and enforcement of a quality outdoor lighting ordinance, dark sky education, and citizen support of dark skies. Stargazing enthusiasts journey to Tasmania to be mesmerised by dark skies and constellations. Renowned as a haven for nature lovers with its pristine landscapes, remote wilderness areas, and minimal light pollution.

President of Dark Skies Tasmania, Landon Bannister, says the rise of astro-tourism happened organically. He sees it as part of a broader shift toward reconnecting with nature.

“It’s really important to embrace darkness. One of the most beautiful things about stargazing is to just take the time to let your eyes dark adapt. We spend so much time under artificial light now.”

The desire to see stars benefits rural communities. Urban billboards, car parks and multi-story office buildings lit up throughout the night are some of the biggest sources of light pollution.

The stars are still there ... it literally is a matter of just flicking a switch

Landon Bannister

Bannister says you have to drive around three hours from cities like Melbourne and Sydney to see the Milky Way – and even further from cities in the US and Europe. But in places like New Zealand and Tasmania, you only need to drive 30 minutes out of town to see the drifts of light that give the Milky Way its name.

8.5 School Bus Stop – near the bike rack needs some more bitumen.

Action: M. Smith to send a works request to Council.

8.6 Culvert at The Heath – needs maintenance to stop the ruts.

Action: J Smith to send a works request.

8.7 Back door at the Town Hall- There is a [B] marking on the ground.

Action: Officer to check what this [B] means. Is it meant for the placement of the rubbish bins?

8.8 Exercise Equipment – There are still markers on the grass area.

Action: Officer to check if work is completed.

9 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

The Chair closed the meeting at 12:20pm

Next meeting – Tuesday December 3, 2024, commencing 11.15am in the Ross Reading Room.