

MINUTES

THE MEETING OF THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS ON TUESDAY, 2 APRIL 2019 COMMENCING AT 11:10AM

1 PRESENT

Mr Arthur Thorpe (Chairperson), Mr Allan Cameron, Mrs Candyce Hurren, Mr Herbert Johnson, Mrs Helen Davies, Mr Marcus Rodrigues, Mrs Christine Robinson, Mr Ricky Hebbard, Mrs Jill Bennett, Mr Tim Johnson, Councillor Janet Lambert.

2 IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs Ann Thorpe (Acting Secretary), Mr Steve Robinson, Mr Keith Jolly, Mr Keith Blacklock.

3 APOLOGIES

Miss Lucie Copas (NMC)

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

Mr Allan Cameron/Candyce Hurren

*That the minutes of the meeting of the Ross Local District Committee held on **Tuesday, 5 March 2019** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings with the following amendment:*

7.10 Customer Service Request, "Repair to stones in picnic area at top of Bridge Street", should read top of Church Street.

Carried unanimously

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Heritage Signs

Committee notes that Council Officers are still awaiting an update from Crown Land and expressed its concern at the length of time this item is taking to reach completion. Committee requests Council Officers please obtain an update from Crown Land as to current status. Matter ongoing.

6.2 Dangerous Trees – Tooms Lake Road

Mr Cameron distributed a copy of a newspaper article regarding a person killed by a falling tree on the Channel Highway at Margate. Mr Cameron expressed concern that the same situation could occur with dangerous overhanging trees on Tooms Lake Road. However it was noted that NMC has trimmed the trees in question on at least 2 previous occasions and Mr Cameron expressed the view that the trimming carried out by Council was still insufficient to prevent the possibility of a similar accident occurring.

A question was asked as to why Council should be involved in trimming trees growing on private land. Mr Thorpe explained that Council as custodian of the road in question, has a duty of care to ensure that road users are provided safe passage. Matter ongoing.

6.3 Shipping Container By-law

No update can be provided at this stage. Matter will be considered at a future Council Workshop. Matter ongoing.

6.4 Ross Anniversary 2021

Mr Thorpe explained that as per the terms of the Memorandum Of Understanding between the RLDC and NMC, the RLDC is an advisory body to Council only and is not authorised to act as an organising committee. However the RLDC can offer a letters of support, etc.

The Ross Progress Group, has asked the community for ideas and suggestions that could be incorporated into celebrations for the Ross Anniversary 2021. Comment was made that no recent meetings of the Ross Progress Group for this project have occurred, and no ideas or progress have apparently been forthcoming.

6.5 Visiting Dogs

Mr Thorpe to provide an update on relocation of the signs on the Old Ross School Oval. Mr Thorpe advised that 2 Dog Control signs have been erected, and the Dog Clean Up bag dispenser has been relocated to a more visible location.

Mr Jolley advised caravan owners were still allowing their dogs to run on the oval without leads and still defecating as well. This matter is still a concern, however difficult to control due to ranger not on site.

6.6 Budget Requests

The committee has provided Miss Copas with their budget requests for the 2019/20 financial year. The below requests are listed in order of preference.

1. Construction of steps from the car park to the Ross Bridge.
2. Reconstruction and sealing of Wellington Street leading up to the Convict quarry.
3. Painting of the Town Hall and Supper Room and replacement of carpet in the old Council Chambers.
4. Reconstruction and sealing of Waterloo Street between Portugal Street and Wellington Street.
5. Installation of two barbecue burners and exercise equipment in the Old Ross School Oval.
6. Construction of a pedestrian footpath from the Badajos Street Railway Crossing, east to Fitzroy Street.
7. Sealing of edges of Church Street from High Street to Badajos Street.
8. Installation of lighting (electric or solar) from the steps at the southern end of Church Street to the Female Factory.
9. Reconstruction of Portugal Street between Fitzroy Street and Waterloo Street.
10. Facilitate survey of the Tacky Bridge precinct to determine ownership of the area and then create access to the lower level at the Tacky Bridge and include interpretive signage on bridge. In addition create a parking area.
11. Installation of a charging point for electric vehicles.
12. Installation of a pump station for caravans. A suitable, identified spot is the Ross Recreation Ground.

The Committee noted these items, however the following points were raised in relation to item 7.

- *Extent of the sealing? Information presented that both sides of this section of Church Street are different, as there is a gutter on one side, but not the other. Drainage is also an issue. Committee to meet on-site at a future date to clarify exactly what is requested.*

Matter ongoing.

6.7 Grants and Event Funding

Miss Copas to provide website link with Agenda. Committee noted information.

6.8 Giveway Signs

The following motion was considered at the 18 March Council Meeting.

The Ross Local District Committee expresses its concerns regarding the lack of traffic control measures on four dangerous intersections in Ross, namely:

- *Bond St and Bridge St*
- *Bond St and Badajos St*
- *Waterloo St and Badajos St and;*
- *Park St and Bridge St.*

The Ross Local District Committee respectfully requests that the Northern Midlands Council install either Give Way Signs or mini roundabouts at these four intersections.

Carried Unanimously

Council resolved the following:

DECISION

Cr Goss/Cr Lambert

That Council officers investigate the recommendation of the Committee.

Carried unanimously

Committee to note decision.

Mr Thorpe wrote to the General Manager, and thanked him for the support given by Councillors and asked if the RLDC could be involved in the assessment which will be carried out by an independent Traffic Management Engineer. However the General Manager advised that the views of the RLDC are understood and that the qualified engineer will now assess and report to Council.

Councillor Lambert asked to be kept informed regarding this matter and provided with copies of all correspondence. Mr Cameron, through the Chair thanked Councillor Lambert regarding this matter and also for her continued support.

Committee member asked how the process worked, and Councillor Lambert advised that a report will ultimately come to a Council Meeting and will be judged on its merit and will be debated there.

Matter ongoing.

7 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Council Bus Tour

Councillor visit to Ross went very well. Mr Thorpe on behalf of the Committee presented the RLDC budget requests for the 2019/20 financial year as detailed in Minute Item 6.6. However, Council pointed out that due to current funding limitations it would be unable to complete all items on the budget request list. Councillors appreciated that these items were brought to their attention.

Members of the Committee expressed the desire to encourage other Councillors, as well as our delegated Councillor Representatives, to visit Ross and attend RLDC meetings.

With prior notice, Councillors may also be able to have a look around the area and discuss projects and concerns with committee members and residents.

7.2 Reminder

This is a gentle reminder that Miss Copas will not be able to attend the April meeting. Committee noted.

7.3 Suspension of Australia Post Mail Deliveries

Australia Post has suspended mail deliveries to 21, 23, 26, & 26A Bridge Street as well as 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22 & 24 Park Street, Ross due to the danger posed by unrestrained dogs emanating from 23 Bridge Street, Ross.

Mr Thorpe presented recent correspondence from The Ross Post Office to Council regarding this issue. However it was noted that this problem has been occurring since January 2018.

The Committee expressed extreme concern over the dangers posed to the delivery person and the inconvenience experienced by those residents whose mail deliveries have been suspended.

A resident who has been affected by the non-delivery of mail, and the ingress of unrestrained dogs onto his property attended the meeting and spoke to the Committee and asked for assistance in obtaining a resolution to this ongoing problem. The resident also advised that a number of affected households had written to Council seeking a resolution, however have not received a reply as of this meeting date.

Due to the concerns expressed above, the RLDC passed the following motion:

Christine Robinson/Alan Cameron

The Ross Local District Committee requests the Northern Midlands Council takes action immediately (e.g. impounding) regarding unrestrained dogs on Bridge and Park Streets Ross, emanating from 23 Bridge Street, Ross. It is unacceptable that due to the dangers posed by this dog problem, Australia Post has been forced into suspending mail deliveries to adjoining properties. The stray dogs also pose a danger to passing pedestrians and enter adjoining private properties. Adjoining property holders have also written to Council two weeks ago regarding this problem. It would appear that no reply from Council has been forthcoming.

Matter ongoing.

7.4 Committee member raised the issue of the edges of bitumen not been well looked after especially on Tooms Lake Road, but also at the North and South entrances into Ross.

7.5 With reference to the watering of garden beds in the main street, NMC kindly made a one off donation to the owner of the property who generously allows the use of her taps for this project. This donation is gratefully appreciated.

- 7.6** Previously, RLDC has requested that a Health Inspector visit the property at 23 Bridge St, Ross, due to complaints of rubbish and vermin. It would appear there has been no report back to the Committee. Could Committee please be updated on this matter? Councillor Lambert intimated that she will speak to the General Manger for an update.
- 7.7** A Committee Member has been approached by a number of residents expressing interest in the participation of Ross in the “Tidy Towns” event. As entering this event entails a lot of work to organise, perhaps this can be something to work towards for future participation.
- 7.8** Committee Member put forward a thank you to NMC regarding the removal of bushes on the School Oval organised through a Customer Request. The prompt action was very much appreciated.
- 7.9** It was noted that tourists had commented on the BBQs at the Ross Bridge Picnic Area are often not working. These are cleaned and maintained by a Council employee. However, a customer request will be arranged for them to be checked.
- 7.10** Mr Thorpe advised he had received correspondence from State Growth, regarding the issue of a new access/proposed landing to the Ross Bridge. State Growth advised they are endeavouring to organise a meeting between Heritage Tasmania, NMC and State Growth, however no date has yet been determined.
- 7.11** Ross Bridge carpark has loose stones on wall near the BBQ and appear to require repointing. Customer Request will be raised.
- 7.12** Visitor advised that it would appear the RLDC Agenda and Minutes are no longer available from the Ross Post Office. If this is the case, could this please be rectified and documents made available for residents.
- 7.13** Mr Robinson, a visitor to the meeting, asked if there had been any advance on resolution of item 6.14 Footpath – Ross Village Green, detailed in the March RLDC Meeting Minutes. Mr Robinson observed that it would appear that this item had not been carried forward to the April RLDC Meeting Agenda.

A letter to the RLDC was presented to the Committee from Mr Robinson (attached), which he asked to be included as part of the Meeting Minutes.

Mr Robinson then read the contents of the letter to the committee and a discussion took place regarding a number of items contained in the letter.

Among these were:

Mr Robinson submitted that other residents of Ross had not been given the opportunity to speak about the footpath, or table comments about replacing the bitumen with concrete, to the Committee.

Mr Thorpe raised the point that when the Planning Application was available during the advertisement period, a number of residents prepared representations against certain items contained therein. However, it would appear that no representor had an issue with the bitumen being retained, therefore it would appear that residents were happy to retain the bitumen footpath and service access.

Mr Robinson felt the inclusion of the bitumen being retained, as detailed in the Planning Application, may have been overlooked from the initial consultation and could perhaps be discounted.

Mr Thorpe advised that to the best of his knowledge, any applicant who submits a Planning Application, whether it be a private individual or Council, are legally bound to abide by all items and drawings contained in the documentation submitted and approved. They can't just be discounted or ignored.

However a process where changes can be achieved, is by submitting an Amended Planning Application to Council. Therefore, Council can't change any item of the original application without going through this process, hence the delay. Currently, Council are liaising with the Heritage Advisor before progressing any further.

Various other points were discussed, including the proposed colour of the concrete which Mr Robinson stated "it was never going to be red like Candy's jumper". Mr Robinson said that the concrete outside Classwoods was an orange colour. Mr Thorpe replied that colour perception is different for every individual.

Mr Robinson also has expressed concerns regarding the current state of footpaths in Ross and feels they are a risk to life and limb.

Mr Thorpe expressed the view that perhaps the considerable amount of money that would be needed to replace the bitumen with concrete, could be better used to create at least one footpath on the East side of the railway line, where there are currently no formed footpaths for residents.

Mr Robinson asked for his letter to be tabled to the Meeting and Mr Thorpe requested an electronic copy to be provided for inclusion in the Minutes.

8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

The Chair closed the meeting at 12:45pm.

Next meeting to be held **7 May 2019 at 11:15am.**