

## MINUTES

### OF THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD AT THE ROSS COMMUNITY SPORTS CLUB, ROSS, TUESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020 COMMENCING AT 2PM

#### 1 PRESENT

Arthur Thorpe (Chair), Christine Robinson, Jill Bennett, Candy Hurren, Marcus Rodrigues, Helen Davies, Allan Cameron, Ricky Hebbard, Herbert Johnson, Ann Thorpe (Hon. Sec.)

#### 2 IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Janet Lambert, Councillor Andrew Calvert, Leisa Gordon, David Gatenby, Keith Jolley

#### 3 APOLOGIES

Mayor Mary Knowles OAM

#### 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

*Moved Allan Cameron / Jill Bennett*

*That the minutes of the meeting of the Ross Local District Committee held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.*

*Carried Unanimously*

#### 6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Chairperson expressed his thanks to Chris Robinson and the Ross Community Sports Club for their ongoing assistance in providing and preparing the Sports Club rooms for RLDC meetings.

## **6.1 Ross Bicentenary 2021**

Project appears to be in hiatus, however some RLDC members present at this meeting advised a follow up meeting is to be organised in the next week or two.

## **6.2 10 Days on the Island**

Christine Robinson advised she had met with Emma (10 Days on the Island) and Fiona Dewar (Council's Tourism & Events Officer), on the 5th August. Currently the activity is planned to go ahead in the middle of March 2021. Christine will be meeting again with the director and some of their team approximately the middle of September. This will involve a tour of the town hall and also looking around the town itself.

## **6.3 Ross Village Green**

As laid out in the Agenda, the Chair contacted Northern Midlands Council and was advised by Maree Bricknell that there was \$400,000 available to complete this project. Finance comprises \$150,000 from the Community Infrastructure Grant Program and \$250,000 from NMC.

The current forecasted timeframe for completion is May 2021.

NMC has undertaken to endeavour to keep the committee informed of progress as much as possible.

## **6.4 Ross Swimming Pool**

At Council's August meeting, the Swimming Pool strategy was debated and voted on in closed session of Council. Council then voted to release the decision to the public.

Council approved the appointment of Watershed Solutions to develop stage one of the Swimming Pool Strategy: the development of the Swimming Pool Strategy across all three pools at the same time. Watershed Solutions would be invited to a Council Workshop to review the outcomes from a prepared brief.

Committee held limited discussion and awaits the completion of the swimming pool strategy. Councillors present at the meeting advised that there will definitely be community consultation once the strategy is finalised.

## **6.5 Midland Highway Safety Upgrade – Final Stage**

Jacobs Consulting will be attending the RLDC October meeting, as by then they will have progressed from concept design to preliminary design which will include more detail, thus enabling them to be in a better position to answer questions. It will however, not be too late for RLDC's feedback to be taken into account as the design is developed.

As agreed previously, Chair has invited a delegation from the Campbell Town Forum (CTF) to attend the RLDC October meeting, so that they may have the opportunity to participate and contribute to the discussion. Leisa Gordon, member of CTF, advised they were aware of the invitation and were keen to attend.

## **6.6 Memorandum Of Understanding**

After discussion at last month's RLDC, the Chair prepared a response to Council's request for comment on proposed changes to the MOU. The document was distributed for Peer review and as no changes were raised, the response was sent to Council's General Manager and Councillors.

Councillors present at the meeting advised all local committee's feedback will be collated and presented to a council meeting. Actual date of council meeting paper yet to be advised.

## **6.7 Garden Beds**

Last meeting it was discussed that the garden beds outside of Mrs Keach's cottage looked quite sad, and the option of digging it all out and replacing with fresh soil was proposed. Also, they could be made uniform by putting in hedging to blend in with other main street flower beds.

Chair raised this with Council's Works Manager, however no response received as yet.

A query was raised as to whether the roses in question were originally planted by Mrs Keach. Mrs Bennett advised they were not planted by Mrs Keach, but that Mrs Keach was involved in setting up the original beds. No-one appeared to be absolutely certain about the origin of the roses.

Jill Bennett has volunteered to approach the cottage owner who is maintaining them, to discuss making over the bed.

## **6.8 Police visit**

Chair has requested Lucie Copas to issue an invitation to Tasmanian Police to attend the October meeting of the RLDC on a meet and greet exercise. In addition, to discuss Policing in general and how the RLDC may assist the Police in maintaining law and order.

This invitation has since been revised for the Police to attend in November, subject to Police availability and agreement. Date revised due to Jacobs Consulting attending the October meeting.

## **7 NEW BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Aspire**

*We are excited to be partnering with digital platform ASPIRE along with the Northern Tasmanian Development Corporation (NTDC) and other northern Tasmanian Councils. ASPIRE is an online matchmaking tool for material resource exchange, based on circular economy methodology for engaging and supporting small and medium manufacturing businesses.*

*If you are a business or individual in northern Tasmanian council areas with fewer than 20 staff you can join up for free, while larger businesses are also encouraged to join for a small fee. Find out more: <https://aspimes.com/>*

Committee noted the information.

This concept was not familiar to the RLDC, however Councillor Calvert advised this project was to aid small businesses – sharing of tools and equipment and resources, etc.

## **7.2 Launceston Airport**

*On 6 August 2020, the Full Court of the Federal Court allowed Council's appeal from the dismissal of its claim in the long running rates dispute that it has with the operator of the Launceston Airport. In doing so the Full Court determined that the primary judge was wrong to deny standing to council to seek various declarations as the meaning and effect of the lease obligation to make equivalent rate payments to council. The amount in dispute is very significant.*

*The case has been remitted to the trial judge to consider the merits of council's case. Council is, naturally, very pleased with this outcome as the issue is of importance to its ratepayers.*

*Given that the primary judge must now determine the balance of the case, it would not be appropriate to make any further public comment.*

Committee noted the information.

As this issue is back before the courts in an appeal process, not a great deal of information could be given to update the RLDC.

## **7.3 Australia Day Nominations**

*Nominations are now open for Councils Annual Australia Day Awards. The awards will be held at our 2021 Australia Day Event. The 2021 event will be held in Avoca.*

*Nominations are to be considered for the following:*

- *Citizen of the year*
- *Young Citizen of the year*
- *Community Event of the year*

*Volunteer recognition awards are also open.*

*Please contact Miss Copas for further information, or to obtain nomination forms.*

*Nomination forms and selection criteria are also available on Council's website.*

Committee noted the information.

General discussion was held on this matter, and attendees were advised they could complete applications themselves, or if assistance was required then the Chair would be happy to help. A number of nominees were discussed, however it would not be appropriate to name them in these Minutes.

## **7.4 Possible combined meeting between Campbell Town Forum (CTF) and Ross Local District Committee**

CTF member Leisa Gordon thanked the committee for the opportunity to speak. It was felt that the CTF and RLDC could meet on an as needs basis, to enable the two committees to

discuss matters of mutual interest, such as the 2021 bicentenary and the MoU.

There is the added benefit of larger numbers for approaching council. Mr Cameron thought this was a great idea, and a vital support for the community, as the more people we talk to, the better for everyone. Mr Gatenby mentioned that when Ross, Campbell Town and Oatlands are joined together, it represents an area of 17% of the state.

Perhaps combined meetings could be written into the MoU? All RLDC committee members were in approval for combined meetings. Councillor Calvert was aboard with this idea, but expressed the need to involve NMC to ensure adequately resourced, structured meetings.

The RLDC then raised a motion as follows:

*This committee, the RLDC, supports the idea of Ross and the Campbell Town Forum, meeting on an as needs basis to discuss issues of mutual interest, and that these meetings be resourced by NMC.*

***Moved, Mrs Christine Robinson, seconded Mr Allan Cameron  
Carried unanimously***

## **7.5 Campbell Town Hospital matters**

Chairman of the Campbell Town Hospital Board, Mr David Gatenby introduced himself and advised the following:

*David has served 3 years as the Chairperson of the Board, and thought it was remiss of him not to have come before to meet the committee. The Campbell Town Hospital covers a very large area. He was attending the meeting to seek support and ideas.*

*Hospital comprises 63 staff, 30 volunteers, a Doctor's surgery, and has a Hospital Auxiliary, and Hospital Board (15 members) which is representative of the whole community. The Board lobbies for funds etc., and have been recently working on a Master Plan and strategies for the next 5 years.*

*Currently, the nurses' home desperately needs to be upgraded or replaced and this is vital to attract new staff.*

*There are 6 acute/subacute beds, 20 residential beds and 1 palliative care bed.*

*As all will be aware, a new 4 bay ambulance station is being built at the southern entrance to Campbell Town and is a vital facility, as Campbell Town is central to a large area.*

*The Board is also looking towards upgrading of the hospital; parking is especially difficult, particularly for the disabled. All of the above will be of benefit to the local communities.*

*The Board is also looking to set up and site a Dementia Unit in the old ambulance building. Residents believe that those suffering from this illness should be with family and friends in a local environment. This project is in the early stages and has already been discussed at one meeting. Dr Gray feels 10-12 dementia beds will be needed as the area has a huge aging population. Dementia unit project would appreciate support from the RLDC Committee and*

*the Ross community (Committee happy to arrange a Letter of Support when required).*

*There is an Election coming up next year and there is hope this will prove a positive for funding. Campbell Town is a very important hospital for the communities and there is a need to push for funding. Need political help for funding, and to fight for the funding.*

*Dr Myrle Gray will be retiring at the end of November 2020. The Hospital Board is confident that a replacement will be found and is currently working towards this happening. Doctors cannot work 24/7; really need 2 doctors to cover the area and the hours required. Again, Board working very hard to replace doctors.*

*A Farewell function for Dr Gray will be organised, and Ross community input would be appreciated.*

Committee has agreed to think about what can be done and how it can assist.

#### 7.6 Jill Bennett - Nil matters raised.

Christine Robinson - Nil matters raised.

Ricky Hebbard - Issue raised as to the sweeping of local streets and that this appeared to occur on garbage collection day, which meant garbage bins were obstructing the street sweeping machine. Could street sweeping activities be scheduled not to occur on rubbish collection days. Chair to contact Works Manager.

Ross Running Festival (Marathon) to go ahead in October (hopefully).

Leisa Gordon - Nil matters raised.

Councillor Andrew Calvert - Councillor Calvert asked what was the reasoning for RLDC meetings now commencing at 2:00pm. Chair advised that it was because NMC had advised no attendance by staff due to COVID and the committee needing to organise own meetings/agenda/minutes. This was a time suitable to committee members and the availability of the facility. When NMC staff can finally attend meetings, they will again be coordinated with CTF and NMC. The RLDC was unaware that CTF had recommenced their meetings that morning.

Councillor Janet Lambert - Nil matters raised.

Helen Davies - Bicentenary quilt and relative items/things in the last 100 years to go on it. Asked names and existence of sports club, Ross anglers club, fire brigade, shooting club, progress association, rodeo, etc. Discussion held and advice given.

Alan Cameron - Dr Gray retires fairly soon. Discussion held regarding this issue.

Limbs over Beaufront Road, what can be done? Arborist was engaged by NMC after more limbs came down after snow and wind. Could a letter from the RLDC be sent to the landowner regarding this long standing issue.

Chair advised all letters from the RLDC have to be on Council's letterhead, and that the content

of letters must be approved by the NMC. General consensus was that any communication regarding this matter should come from the General Manager, as the portion of the trees that overhang Beaufront Road are the responsibility of the NMC.

Honeysuckle Road – grading completed on part of the 15 kms. Can the rest be graded please. Chair to contact Works Manager.

Keith Jolly - Nil matters raised

Herbert Johnson - Nil matters raised.

## **8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE**

The Chair closed the meeting at 3.30pm

Next meeting – **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October, Ross Community Sports Club at 2:00pm**