

MINUTES

THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE ROSS COMMUNITY SPORTS CLUB, ROSS, TUESDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2020 COMMENCING AT 11.15AM.

1 PRESENT

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

2 IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Andrew Calvert, Keith Jolley, Peter Foss

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

Candy Hurren / Christine Robinson

*That the minutes of the meeting of the Ross Local District Committee held on **Tuesday 6th October, 2020** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.*

Carried Unanimously

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Chairperson wishes to thank 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 10 Days on the Island

Event is currently on track to go ahead. However, nothing further to add at this point in time.

6.2 Midland Highway Safety Upgrade – Final Stage

After brief discussion with committee, it was decided no further actions required at the moment. Will await update and response from Catherine Searle (Jacobs) and distribute when received.

6.3 Memorandum of Understanding

No information from NMC regarding this item. No action required as yet.

6.4 Police visit

Tasmanian Police are unable to attend the November meeting of the RLDC due to ongoing COVID operational demands at Launceston Airport. An invitation will be issued for the December meeting, but acceptance will be subject to ongoing COVID operational demands.

6.5 Australia Day Nominations

Chair was advised that NMC are taking under consideration, an alternative award. This advice has not been confirmed and is tentative only.

Australia Day Ceremony and awards will be held at Avoca in 2021.

6.6 Possible combined meeting between Campbell Town Forum (CTF) and Ross Local District Committee

The Chair has held dialogue with Jill Clarke (CTDF Chair) endeavouring to set a combined meeting date. Committee discussed and it was decided that pre-Christmas is a busy time for everyone, and perhaps leave until the New Year. All committee members unanimous in leaving the meeting until then.

Coffee and cake had been discussed after the December meeting, however this will need to be firmed up. All in agreement with this action.

6.7 Honeysuckle Road

The grading of Honeysuckle Road was discussed, and the following advice from Council was noted,

“Council maintains 16.5kms of the road, the rest of the road is classed as Crown Land Reserve, therefore Council has no authority to maintain the remainder of the road.”

It was raised that three property owners, who apparently pay rates to the Northern Midlands Council, access their properties via Honeysuckle Road beyond the 16.5 kilometre distance maintained by the Council. The question arose that if these are indeed NMC ratepayers, does the Council have a responsibility to maintain Honeysuckle Road to enable safe access to their properties.

Chair advised that the individual property owners concerned should now raise this matter directly with the Northern Midlands Council for clarification, and undertook to provide Mr Johnson with Council's contact details.

7 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Ross Pool

A community meeting was held on Monday 19th October, attended by approximately 60 people. The meeting was very successful. Chair also attended Campbell Town meeting; only 8 people attended. It was noted that Cressy had very few at their meeting.

It was recommended that any further meeting need loudspeakers as a lot of elderly attendees couldn't hear what was being said.

Discussion was held and mention was made that Councils are now responsible for a number of State Government Acts, but had received no extra funding to cover costs of these projects (e.g. Cat and Dog control). Costs borne from ratepayers funds.

Monies received for Cressy Pool was a grant from State Government.

On Monday, 9th November, 7:00pm - a meeting will be held in the Ross Sports Club, to further discuss options for fund raising etc., in view to saving the pool.

Brian Mitchell MP will be in Ross at 1:00ish on 4th November, if any resident wishes to go along to chat to him and curry favour for the pool.

7.2 Campbell Town Hospital Board Meeting 21 October 2020

Chair attended this meeting and advised the most relevant items below:

- Dr Gray's Retirement Function
 - Dementia Ward visit
1. Dr Gray's retirement function will be held on 4th December in Campbell Town. RLDC members are invited and invitations will be distributed in due course.
 2. A new Dementia Ward is sought, and proposed to be placed in the old Ambulance Station area. A group from the Hospital Board has arranged to visit a Dementia Ward in Hobart. The State Government to be approached to fund this much needed community facility.

Discussion was held regarding new Doctors taking over from Dr Gray and new system with how they working. Interesting period as lots of changes happening. The Manager's position at Campbell Town Hospital will be advertised, and an Acting Manager is in place until February. Mention was made of dilapidated state of Nurses quarters. Mr Cameron has approached Senator Duniam regarding funding, however it is pretty much a "get in line" situation.

7.3 Heartlands Journey

These signs are part of 5 journeys within Tasmania that is supported and funded by the State Government. More information will be forthcoming in the near future.

7.4 Electric Vehicle Charging Point in Ross

Chair advised meeting he had received correspondence from the Tasmanian Branch of the Australian Electric Vehicle Association (AEVA) regarding setting up of charging points in Ross. Discussion held regarding DC & AC charging and electric car numbers, and where such a charging facility could be located in Ross. AEVA claim that there are no fast AC chargers between Launceston and Brighton – the chargers recently installed at Campbell Town are DC chargers which are not compatible with certain makes of electric vehicles. Chair suggested inviting a delegation from AEVA to come and talk to the committee next year, possibly at the March 2021 meeting. Committee agreed with this suggestion. Chair noted that there were apparently only 195 electric vehicles currently registered in Tasmania, compared with a total of 469,467 vehicles registered in Tasmania at the 2016 census.

7.5 Round Table Discussion

Chris Robinson - Business people and residents complaining about the poor condition of the Village Green. Is there any update on what is happening? Perhaps the Works Manager could be approached regarding the possibility of at least mowing the grounds.

Marcus Rodrigues – Car for sale on the verge at Tacky Bridge; any restriction on this by NMC? It was noted that the vehicle was on a State Growth road, and was therefore State Growth's responsibility. The vehicle has since been moved.

Cr Calvert – commended the RLDC on its communication with Council, and on the way its meetings are chaired and conducted.

Ricky Hebbard - Spraying from quad bikes along the edges of streets - resident concerned whether this is safe for pets walking with owners. Chair to ask Works Manager what weed killer is being used and if there are any safety concerns in relation to humans or pets. Also concern about mowing, seems as though it is not being done enough. Chair to tie request for mowing in with village green mowing.

Peter Foss – is it possible to have an “engine free day” on Sundays/Mondays on long weekends. Noise a concern in main street, as always seems to be some sort of engine going. Discussion held, but as noise part of everyday life, difficult to find a solution, particularly when the weekends are the only time that residents who work all week have for mowing. Also raised long grass on vacant blocks of land and the need to mow verges more often and more carefully.

Keith Jolley – Nil matters raised.

Alan Cameron – the bus zone sign outside the public toilet painted on the road is very faint and needs to be repainted. Also the north and south entrances white dividing lines need to be redone. Chairman to contact Works Manager.

Also, Female Factory requires mowing as it is looking very untidy. Parks & Wildlife have stopped sheep being placed in the paddock and they have only mowed bits and pieces. Wool

Centre endeavouring to have it looked after much better.

Long grass in Ross and surrounds needs to be attended to before fire season hits. Chair to contact NMC Ranger regarding the annual check of properties.

Paterson's Curse needs to be attended to on Mt Morriston. Mr Cameron sprayed road edges from Mt Morriston to Ross himself. It appears owners can't be prosecuted for noxious weeds? Does NMC have a Weeds Manager? Cr Calvert advised that hopefully NMC is looking at employing a weeds person as it was raised as an ongoing issue at last council meeting.

Helen Davies – Ross Bicentenary Quilt preparation/stitching still ongoing for next 6 months. Helen explained what she is aiming towards. Quilt will show not only the last 200 years, but also what is happening in Ross now.

Herbie Johnson - Mowing of the streets in Ross and also along the railway line desperately needed. Railway line mowing requirements need to go to State Govt (Chair to check).

Directional Signs that have been on the Agenda for years – where are we up to with that? NMC Engineer advised some signs needed to be replaced as spelling was incorrect, but he would contact us when ready. Chair to contact NMC to ascertain where project is up to.

Jill Bennett - Also concerned about the mowing. Why can't NMC come down with a full team and do it all at once rather than piecemeal. Works Manager advised he would assist with the quarry entrance mowing.

Cr Calvert mentioned he was meeting with General Manager about mowing as this had been raised by CTDF as well. This is a huge issue with the amount of rainfall received in the past few months. If not enough NMC staff available, perhaps the use of contractors will be needed.

Candy Hurren – also raised concerns about mowing and strips left behind after the machine had been along. Grass still very high under benches in Church Street.

8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

The Chair closed the meeting at 12.25pm.

Next meeting – **Tuesday 1st December, Ross Community Sports Club commencing 11.15am.**