

MINUTES

THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE ROSS COMMUNITY SPORTS CLUB,
ROSS, TUESDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2021, COMMENCING AT 11.15AM.

1 PRESENT

Arthur Thorpe, Christine Robinson, Helen Davies, Candy Hurren, Marcus Rodrigues, Alan Cameron, Jill Bennett, Herbert Johnson, Ricky Hebbard

2 IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Janet Lambert, Councillor Andrew Calvert, Keith Jolley, Leigh McCullagh, Senior Sergeant Mike Gillies (Tasmania Police)

3 APOLOGIES

Lucie Copas, Ann Thorpe

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 / Alan Cameron

*That the minutes of the meeting of the Ross Local District Committee held on **Tuesday 1st December, 2020** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.*

Carried Unanimously

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 10 Days on the Island

Event is currently on track to go ahead as scheduled in March.

Committee noted information.

6.2 Midland Highway Safety Upgrade – Final Stage

Awaiting update and response from Catherine Searle (Jacobs). Will distribute when received.

Committee noted information.

6.3 Memorandum of Understanding

No advice received from NMC regarding this item.

Committee noted information.

6.4 Possible combined meeting between Campbell Town District Forum (CTDF) and Ross Local District Committee

Chair has held dialogue with Jill Clarke (CTDF Chair), regarding a combined stand-alone meeting be held in the New Year followed by coffee and cake. Chair will endeavour to discuss further with the Campbell Town District Forum.

6.5 Police visit

Senior Sergeant Mike Gillies attended the February 2021 RLDC meeting. The Campbell Town Police Officer was unable to attend due to rostering commitments.

A round table session was conducted with the main points being:-

- Criminal activity recently reported in the Ross District involved the theft of goats and a wool bale, and the burglary of the house next to the Ross Police House. Ross is generally a quiet town with a historically low crime rate.
- The Deloraine Division, which includes Ross and Campbell Town, has the lowest offence rate in Tasmania.
- The disposal of the Ross Police House could take up to 3 years, as was the case with the Cressy Police House. The Ross Police House will be maintained until it is sold.
- It is preferred that Police Housing is attached to Police Stations.
- Planning Application PLN-20-0279 has been lodged with the Northern Midlands Council for the construction of a new Police House at Campbell Town in addition to renovations to the existing Police House. The estimated cost of both projects is \$750,000

- By providing modern housing Tasmania Police are endeavouring to attract Police Officers to rural/semi-rural areas, but Police Officers cannot be forced to move to a rural area.
- Once the Police housing project is completed, it is hoped to have two Police Officers living in the Campbell Town housing. However the housing may not always be totally occupied at any one time, due to Police Officers moving to other operational divisions, or completing their contracts with Tasmania Police and deciding to leave the Force.
- Due to operational requirements and possible future departmental demand, Tasmania Police would prefer not to have civilians occupying vacant Police housing, particularly housing that adjoins Police Stations.
- The last round of Police recruitment resulted in several hundred applications for the available positions.
- Construction of the new Longford Police station will begin in February with completion due by the end of 2021.
- Poaching is on the Police radar with helicopter operations being extended to the south of the division this year.
- Deloraine Division staffing levels are sufficient to meet current operational demands.
- An invitation will be issued (through Senior Sergeant Gillies) to the Campbell Town Police Officer to briefly drop into a future meeting of the Ross Local District Committee, purely for a meet and greet exercise.
- Members of the public should report matters of concern to the Police. The Police can't act if they are not informed of a problem.
- For non-emergencies call 131444 for emergencies call 000
- To anonymously report a crime call Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000

6.6 Ross Pool

Council advises that it has engaged a Building Surveyor to prepare a report on the integrity of the buildings, along accessibility compliance within the site. The whole facility is being inspected, the structural integrity of the pool itself is not being inspected/tested by an engineer but being observed for any faults or signs of failure and compliance.

Councillors present at the RLDC meeting advised that they have not yet seen the "Swimming Pool Strategy" report being prepared by Watershed Solutions.

Chair stated that he had suggested to Watershed Solutions on more than one occasion, that Council be requested to release the report for public comment.

6.7 Electric Vehicle Charging Point in Ross

Chair has held further discussions with the Tasmanian Branch of the Australian Electric Vehicle Association (AEVA), who have confirmed that they will attend the March 2021 meeting of the RLDC to discuss the possibility of setting up of charging points in Ross.

Chair to issue invite to AEVA mid-February.

6.8 Campbell Town Hospital Board

No meeting January, next meeting scheduled for February 10th, when Chair will raise the matter of the lip in the drive way opposite the front door which apparently impacts on the passage of wheelchairs. Dr Rapley from the Medical Practice will be attending the meeting to discuss various issues with the Board.

6.9 Bus Zone Sign

It was decided to request replacement of the two Bus Zone signs currently in place outside the public toilets. If possible, the signs to include wording something along the lines of “No Other Parking Permitted” or similar wording.

Council’s Works Manager noted the request.

6.10 Road Marking On Bridge Street

In an effort to encourage kerb parallel parking rather than kerb angle parking outside the School Oval on the south side of Bridge Street, the Committee discussed with Council’s Works Manager the possibility of marking the road surface for parallel kerb parking by means of –I road markings. Council’s Works Manager undertook to obtain a quote for this road marking to be performed.

6.11 White Traffic Dividing Lines North and South Entrances

The White Traffic Dividing Lines on the North (Chiswick Road) and South (Roseneath Road) Entrances to Ross need repainting. This was raised with Council’s Works Department in June 2020 and again in November 2020.

Discussions were held with Councils Works Manager, who undertook to obtain quotes for repainting and for the installation of “Cat’s Eyes” on the bend approaching the Ross Bridge on the Southern Entrance.

6.12 Stormwater drainage

The RLDC discussed the status of Council’s plan to implement storm water drainage throughout the Council’s area. Previous advice from Council indicated that Perth would be first to have stormwater drainage upgrades, followed by Ross. It was noted that Council’s 2020/2021 Capital Works Budget included the amount of \$40,000 for Campbell Town / Ross flood modelling stage 2 – does this mean that Council is still conducting investigations and that a starting date for stormwater upgrades is yet to be determined? Chair undertook to clarify this matter with Council.

Council advises that the project is still ongoing, and will provide advice to the Committee once Council considers a report when it is presented.

Committee noted information.

7 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Australia Day Celebrations 2021

At this year's event held at Avoca, Mr David Gatenby received the Northern Midlands Council 2020 "Citizen Of The Year" award, and Dr Myrle Gray received a Certificate Of Appreciation.

Members of the RLDC who attended the event complimented the Council and Avoca Volunteers on a well run and very enjoyable event. Councillor Janet Lambert advised that the Council has also received compliments from many other people.

Councillor Lambert also asked people to consider nominating members of the Community who would be eligible for an Australia Day award by virtue of their service to the Community.

Next year's ceremonies will be held at Cressy.

7.2 Rabbits

The wascally wabbits are again approaching significant numbers in Ross.

Chair to ask Lucie Copas to contact DPIPWE regarding this year's release of the Calicivirus.

7.3 Heritage Street Signs

Ongoing project with street signs – where are we up to with them. NMC Engineer has previously advised some signs needed to be replaced as spelling was incorrect, but he would contact us when ready.

Chair to contact Jonathon Galbraith to ascertain where project is up to.

7.4 Village Green

Clarification was again sought about the completion date for the Village Green and whether it would be available for full or partial use for the Ross Bicentennial celebrations.

Council's Works Manager undertook to provide Chair with an update regarding its current status and likely completion date.

7.5 Ross Bicentennial Celebrations

The Bicentennial organising group meet on 1st February and have identified a full calendar of events. The Ross foundation date is 2nd June but an observance ceremony would probably be held on the weekend of 5th or 6th June.

It was suggested that the RLDC should take over the organisation of events in relation to the Bicentenary, but the Chair noted that under the terms of the MOU with the Northern Midlands Council that was not a function or responsibility of the RLDC, however a subgroup of the RLDC could be formed for that purpose.

It was decided to wait until Council's Works Manager provides an update regarding the completion and availability of the Village Green, before approaching Council further about events and observation ceremonies etc.

7.6 Bridge Steps And Barbeque Area

The RLDC met with Council's Works Manager at the Southern car park of the Ross Bridge. A makeover of the garden areas at the BBQ and the garden adjoining the eastern boundary fence was discussed. Council's Works Manager agreed to look into the proposal particularly now that two new apprentice positions have been established by Council.

The recurring question of an alternative pedestrian access to the bridge from the carpark was discussed. It was pointed out again that Heritage Tasmania would not permit any structure to be constructed that visually impacts the current view of the bridge. It was also reiterated that any new steps that may be permitted to be constructed, must include access for disabled people using wheelchairs etc, which effectively rules out steps per se.

It was then suggested that perhaps the existing grassed bank could be reprofiled by adding more soil, so as to offer a gentler gradient to enable an alternative pedestrian access to the bridge in the event that the existing steps are impassable due to flooding. Council's Works Manager agreed to examine this proposal, however Chair expressed concerns as to how the increased height of soil could be prevented from being washed into the river given that Heritage Tasmania would never agree to raising the height of the existing stone retaining wall.

7.7 Weeds

Mr Cameron expressed concern about a particular unidentified weed growing along Auburn Road and requested that Council engage the services of the spraying contractor to spray the infestation before it gets out of hand. Concern was also expressed about gorse infestation along outlying roads around Ross and that these infestations also needed spraying.

Councillor Andrew Calvert advised that caution is needed when spraying Gorse, as the chemicals needed to control Gorse were more potent than other weedkillers. Councillor Calvert also mentioned that he has for at least the last 3 years, been trying to get funding in Council's budget to fund a Weeds Officer.

7.8 Inspection Tour Around Ross

Three members of the RLDC accompanied Council's Works Manager on an inspection tour of eastern Ross streets. Apart from two small Gorse infestations that need spraying or removing, the streets were neat and tidy, in fact Council's large mower was in the process of mowing Wellington Street when the inspection tour was taking place.

Council and Council Staff, are to be congratulated on their efforts in keeping Ross in such a neat and tidy condition.

7.9 Badajos Street Footpath Construction

It was noted that Council has included the sum of \$30,000 in the 2020/2021 Capital Works Budget for the construction of approximately 105 meters of gravel footpath from No.28 Badajos Street to railway to west of Park Street.

Council's Works Manager advised that there have been some difficulties negotiating with State Rail in providing a crossing over the railway line.

It was suggested that as an alternative, the footpath be constructed on the eastern side of the railway line on the northern (housing) side of Badajos Street, from the corner of Park Street to the corner of Waterloo Street.

Council's Works Manager agreed that this was an acceptable suggestion and would be actioned accordingly.

8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

The Chair closed the meeting at 12.35 pm.

Next meeting – **Tuesday 2nd March 2021 commencing 11.15am at the Ross Sports Club.**