

MINUTES

THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS, ON TUESDAY 13th APRIL 2021, COMMENCING AT 11.15AM.

1 PRESENT

Arthur Thorpe (Chairperson), Allan Cameron, Helen Davies, Candy Hurren, Herbert Johnson, Christine Robinson, Ricky Hebbard, Grant Larkman, Ann Thorpe (Hon Sec)

2 IN ATTENDANCE

Mayor Mary Knowles OAM, Paul Ayre, Steve Robinson

3 APOLOGIES

Jill Bennett, Marcus Rodrigues, Councillor Andrew Calvert

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.

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Helen Davies / Candy Hurren

*That the minutes of the meeting of the Ross Local District Committee held on **Tuesday 2nd March, 2021** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.*

Carried unanimously

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 **Midland Highway Safety Upgrade – Final Stage**

As a presentation to the RLDC and interested residents on the above was held 6 months ago, the Chair contacted Jacobs requesting an update. Catherine Searle (Jacobs) has advised she

will email update through later this week. This response will then be forwarded to RLDC and members of the Campbell Town Forum who attended that meeting.

6.2 Memorandum of Understanding

Mayor Knowles advised changes to the MOU is still to be workshopped, as it was unable to be completed in the previous workshop. Will definitely be included in the next workshop. However when it will be presented to a Council Meeting is still to be decided. The various Local District Committees will have the opportunity to comment on the report.

6.3 Ross Pool

Draft report still to be presented to Council and it should be at the next council meeting. Would be included most probably as an item of the NMC closed meeting. Mayor Knowles advised that it is yet to be decided whether the report will be released to the RLDC and community before any final decision on the pool is made.

6.4 Electric Vehicle Charging Points in Ross

An interesting presentation was provided by Clive Attwater and Rob Dawkins from the Australian Electrical Vehicle Association (AEVA) to the March meeting.

Project proposal was well received and the RLDC supports the installation of electric vehicle chargers in Ross, and suggested that as a next step, AEVA contact Council's General Manager Mr Des Jennings. Chair has provided AEVA with Mr Jennings contact details.

However siting would possibly need to be outside the Church Street heritage area, unless contained with electric light poles. AEVA now to progress directly with Council, and community to think about where the points may be located.

6.5 Campbell Town Hospital Board

Chair attended the March meeting of the Hospital Board, and provided the RLDC with an update. The meeting was also attended by Rebecca White, Tasmanian Labor Leader and Member for Lyons.

Chair discussed the last meeting and the letters from Rebecca White to relevant government departments, regarding issues in relation to the Old Ambulance Station and security issues at the hospital.

Chair read David Gatenby's letter to the Labour Party regarding funding for a dementia ward within the hospital complex. Nurse's quarters upgrade hoping to commence before end of June. Committee member asked if the Hospital Board has any direct involvement in running the Hospital, Chair advised that the role of the Hospital Board was an advisory role, and that The Department of Health is responsible for all managerial and operational decisions.

6.6 Road Marking On Bridge Street Outside Old School Oval

Council's Works Manager has requested a quote for this road marking to be performed, and is awaiting receipt of same.

No further update available at time of meeting, however Chair to advise Committee when answer received.

6.7 White Traffic Dividing Lines North and South Entrances

Council's Works Manager advises that line marking has been organised for the North/South entrances; there is no start date at this stage.

Chair noted that 6.6 and 6.7 could possibly be done together as a cost saving measure. Chair to update Committee when advised.

6.8 Rabbits

Councillor Davis previously provided the RLDC with an update on the 2021 Calicivirus release program. Release will be limited this year due to abundant food already being available.

Committee member mentioned that newspapers stated it was to be released in Campbell Town, but not for Ross. There are a large number of rabbits inside the town boundary and are causing a public nuisance / danger by digging numerous holes in public places. Committee asked that a motion be put to Council:

Chris Robinson / Ricky Hebbard

Motion: The RLDC requests NMC approach DPIPWE regarding the release of the Calicivirus virus in Ross to ameliorate the increasing rabbit population in Ross Township and districts.

Carried unanimously

6.9 Heritage Street Signs

The Heritage Street signs have now been installed, and there are a small amount of adjustments necessary to some of the signs, mainly in relation to incorrect distances.

Following committee discussion, Helen Davies has offered to liaise with Jonathon Galbraith regarding correction of the distance errors. It was agreed that the signs were very welcome, and Helen commented on how the "flow" of tourists using the signs appears to be working, instead of tourists standing around looking lost.

6.10 Village Green

Work is continuing on the Village Green, and during Council's annual bus tour, Council's Trent Atkinson indicated that Council hoped to have the Village Green finished by the end of the financial year, i.e., 30th June 2021.

Discussion regarding how project is progressing and it was agreed it would be a great asset for the village. Helen Davies remarked about the safety of the depth of logs in the children's play area. Mayor Knowles advised all work will be carried out according to industry standards. Question asked if trees would be planted? Yes definitely, however they will be planted in winter when dormant. Mayor Knowles indicated that an official opening of the Village Green would be held later in the year.

6.11 Ross Bicentennial Celebrations

The Ross Bicentennial Organising Group met on 12th April, and although a full calendar of events had been organised, some items may not go ahead due to organiser unavailability. A Facebook page has been set up for public information.

6.12 Development Of Prioritised List Of Works And Services

A prioritised list of works and services for Financial Year 2021/2022 that could be considered for funding has been compiled and presented to Council.

During their annual tour on Wednesday 31st March, Councillors and Council Staff were shown locations of several items on the prioritised list, so Councillors were aware first hand of where these particular items are located. After the tour, everyone returned to the Village Green and discussions were held together with Christine Robinson and Candy Hurren.

Committee discussed the footpath funded in this financial year's budget and if the proposed alternative site was actually the best location. Original site was unsuitable as problems with State Rail arose regarding accessing the old station area, and the need for pedestrian chicanes at the rail crossing. In addition the proposed alternative location of the footpath has been questioned by several residents.

Park Street was a possible alternative mentioned as 7 houses would benefit. The condition of Park Street itself was also raised and questioned if the road could be upgraded at the same time. Chair to contact Works Manager and request an onsite meeting to discuss this matter.

A Weeds Officer in the local government area and other council areas is desperately required. It was stated that DPIPWE only deal with "declared" weeds. If they are not declared weeds, no-one has any authority to deal with them.

Committee members were advised to individually write to DPIPWE as concerned residents regarding the lack of weed control. It was also suggested that Candidates standing for election in the Tasmanian State Election on 1st May 2021, also be lobbied.

7 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Speeding Vehicles On Roseneath Road Southern Bridge Approaches

Several residents have expressed concern about the speed of vehicles when approaching and crossing the Ross Bridge via the Roseneath Road southern bridge approaches.

One alternative discussed was to move the existing 50kph speed sign further south by approximately 150 metres, to provide motorists with earlier warning about the approaching 50kph speed area. The existing speed sign is also located adjacent to the right hand bend approaching the Bridge, which means motorists have to take their eyes off the road to read it whilst negotiating the right hand bend.

Motion: The RLDC requests that NMC consider relocating the 50 kph speed sign a further 150 metres (approx) south towards Roseneath gates, in an effort to slow vehicles approaching

the Ross Bridge and to protect the safety of the many pedestrians that use the Ross Bridge.

Christine Robinson / Candy Hurren

Carried unanimously

7.2 Round Table Discussion

Christine Robinson advised the old stables near the bridge appear to need maintenance work. This building is under NMC ownership, not State Growth. It was noted that although roof had been replaced in recent years, work was still required. Chair to raise Customer Request.

Herbert Johnson raised that tree trimming under power lines in Badajos Street recently carried out by Active Tree Services on behalf of Aurora, look very unsightly and lopsided. Question raised if there was a process to follow as to how they should be trimmed. Even if classed as heritage trees, they are not exempt from trimming due to public safety and infrastructure protection requirements. It was suggested that concerned Community members contact Aurora directly, or write to the Examiner etc.

Maintenance required for road edging on Tooms Lake Road and roadside spraying for weeds which should be done as a matter of course.

Need for more truck stops in local area, particularly as female truck driver numbers are on the rise, necessitating a need for separate toilets. NMC looking at further truck stops as part of Campbell Town upgrades and the siting of same. However, need private enterprise willing to do it and private property would need to be accessed. Chair suggested this issue be raised during the next round of public consultation with Jacobs regarding the Midland Highway upgrade. NMC are also aware of the issues of trucks double parking in the main street of Campbell Town.

Candy Hurren raised issues/problems with rabbits digging holes in the nature strips in town, leading to safety issues with people tripping or falling because of the holes. Chair to discuss with NMC Works Manager and advise him of locations.

Alan Cameron asked if all the lights in Church Street are working? One in the north tends to be a bit on and off. Also mentioned that the Bus Stop sign is useless, as cars are still parking in this designated area. Feels a sign on the road is needed.

Mentioned that a number of young boys have been seen riding push bikes in a dangerous manner around town. This is not a council issue, concerned residents should report the matter to the Police.

Asked if the Customer Request "*Status List*" that committee received in the past could be reissued to all RLDC members. Mayor Knowles advised this was contained within the Council Meeting Business papers, however it was pointed out that not everyone on the committee has a computer. Chair also pointed out that the Ross outstanding Customer Requests would need to be extracted from the Council Meeting Business Papers, compiled into a list, and then modified as requests were added or deleted after completion. Chair stated that he was not prepared to undertake this task, but would look into why the "*Status List*" previously provided by Council, was discontinued approximately three years ago.

Ricky Hebbard questioned Mayor Knowles on The Examiner report regarding the comparative costing of Regional Council's Consultants Fees. Mayor explained that the reporting was skewed and that the article did not compare apples with apples. Some council projects cannot be carried out by staff as they do not have the qualifications required, so therefore a specialised consultant needs to be employed.

Chair pointed out that at the end of the day, Council either employs a person to carry out specialised tasks, or engages a consultant. Given that in most instances specialised tasks are "one offs" to be completed within a limited time frame, it is more financially cost effective to engage a Consultant for that limited time, rather than hire a full time Council employee.

8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

The Chair closed the meeting at 12.37 pm.

Next meeting – **Tuesday 4th May 2021 commencing 11.15am at the Ross Reading Room.**