

MINUTES

THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS, ON TUESDAY
1st JUNE 2021, COMMENCING AT 11.15AM.

1 PRESENT

Arthur Thorpe (Chair), Grant Larkman, Herbert Johnson, Helen Davies, Christine Robinson, Jill Bennett, Ricky Hebbard, Ann Thorpe (Hon. Sec.)

2 IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Janet Lambert, Mr Phil Brown, Mr Graham McShane, Mr Paul Eyre, Mr Keith Jolly,

3 APOLOGIES

Mayor Mary Knowles OAM, Councillor Andrew Calvert, Candy Hurren, Allan Cameron.

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

That the minutes of the meeting of the Ross Local District Committee held on Tuesday 4th May, 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

Christine Robinson / Jill Bennett

Carried unanimously

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Midland Highway Safety Upgrade – Final Stage

The second round of Public consultation with the community was from the 17th to the 30th May 2021, and was available on-line or by contacting Jacobs directly.

Jacobs have confirmed that two additional overtaking lanes have been added to the highway upgrade, making a total of 2 northbound and 2 southbound overtaking lanes between the Mona Vale intersection and Campbell Town. One northbound lane commencing at the Horton College ruins, and a second northbound starts north of Young's Corner. Southbound starts just out of Campbell Town and the next southbound is in the current dual overtaking lanes south of Young's Corner.

State Growth has declined the request to add a merge lane for north bound traffic at the Chiswick Road/Midland Highway intersection on safety grounds. As a result of this, both north and south intersections remain the same. Only the highway itself and safety fencing in the middle of the lanes and overtaking lanes are being looked at currently. Ashby Road and Auburn Road intersections will remain in the same configuration.

Committee felt that when government funds are available, the Ross community needs to push for upgrades to both the Northern and Southern intersections with the Midland Highway.

The consensus of the meeting was that there was no need for Jacobs to address another RLDC meeting. Chair will relay this decision to Jacobs.

6.2 Memorandum of Understanding

Council has now issued the amended Memorandum of Understanding to the Ross Local District Committee for review and comment. There were four requested alterations to the document distributed by NMC.

Chairperson raised four issues that only need to be covered by one liners:

- Item 5 Roles & Responsibilities

"Additional rights and responsibilities of both the Council and its Volunteers, are detailed in Council's Volunteer Handbook."

- Item 6 Meeting Procedures.

"Ross Local District Committee meetings, are subject to the same meeting conduct requirements which apply to meetings of the Northern Midlands Council."

- Item 7 Media Communication, Information Sharing & Consultation

A) "When approached by the media for comment on any issues, the media should be instructed to direct all enquiries to the Mayor."

B) "Where appropriate, Councils Issue Resolution Policy may be utilised in the event of an internal dispute between Committee members, and external disputes between Committee members and Councillors, Council Staff and the general public."

The Committee also requested that Council delete the words "community of Ross", and "local community of Ross" in section 2 – Purpose, and replace them with "Ross District" as detailed below.

The purpose of the Ross Local District Committee is to:

- ***Be a communication channel for information between Council and the Ross district.***
- ***Identify needs, concerns and expectations of the Ross district and advise Council of these needs.***
- ***Consider and provide feedback to Council in respect to matters referred to the committee by Council.***

Chair to contact NMC and include Councillor Lambert with the proposed changes the Committee would like included. Councillor Lambert mentioned that this had been a long and protracted project. Our input was really valuable to NMC and they would be happy to hear our recommendations.

Councillor Lambert also mentioned that when the MoU comes to be ratified at the next Council meeting, she will suggest that for the sake of expediency, a NMC representative come out to meetings to conduct Volunteer Induction sessions, rather than everyone having to travel somewhere else.

6.3 Ross Pool

An Interim Report has been presented to NMC and they are awaiting the presentation of the final report. No further update – still waiting final report.

6.4 Campbell Town Hospital Board

Chair was unable to attend the May meeting of the Hospital Board so nil to report.

6.5 Road Marking On Bridge Street Outside Old School Oval

Councils Works Manager has advised that these T parking lines could be completed by a different contractor than the contractor that does the North and South entrance lines. No further update at this time.

6.6 White Traffic Dividing Lines North and South Entrances

Councils Works Manager has advised that:-

“Council staff are still trying to have the white lines completed at the North and South entrances, every contractor has let us down so far and now the weather is going against us, we have contacted another company and are waiting for a reply.”

No further update at this time.

6.7 Village Green

Work is progressing on completing this project. It was remarked that the ablutions building and undercover area would appear to be longer than the original development plan. Also, it was mentioned that the footpath colour is not the colour that was agreed upon.

6.8 Ross Bicentennial Celebrations

Official Opening to mark the bicentenary of the naming of Ross, will be held at the Ross Town Hall on Wednesday, 2nd June. Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions, attendance will be by invitation only. The ceremony will be marked by the unveiling of a community quilt that tells the story of Ross, to be retained as a permanent record of this historic occasion.

In response to a customer request submitted by Helen, NMC sent down a cleaning crew to ensure the Town Hall and surrounds were looking at their best. There is also an article in The Examiner, and Nigel Davies took photos and was interviewed for the paper.

Mayor Knowles is to open the event, and politicians as well as The Examiner and The Mercury are expected to attend as well.

On Thursday 3rd June, Dr Jenny Jackson will present a “different” look at the Ross Bridge. Then on Friday, it will be an open day in the hall and the quilt will be on exhibition.

Other events for the rest of 2021 are, **July**, *Colonial Dinner* / **Aug**, cancelled / **Sept** *Running Carnival & opening of Village Green* / **Oct** *Bicentennial Cricket match, sandstone carving and late in Oct, David Blakely watercolour exhibition of Ross* / **Nov** *Open Gardens* / **Dec**, *New Year’s Eve on The Village Green*.

6.9 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, with the construction of another footpath on the eastern side of the railway line being the RLDC’s first priority.

Construction has now been completed on the footpath on the western side of Park Street between High and Bridge Streets, which was funded in the current financial year 2020/2021.

6.10 Speeding Vehicles On Roseneath Road Southern Bridge Approaches

Due to the concern expressed regarding the speed of vehicles when approaching and crossing the Ross Bridge via the Roseneath Road southern bridge approaches, State Growth were approached to allow the 50 kph sign to be moved 150 metres south, however this request was refused. State Growth did agree to a “50 AHEAD” sign at the suggested location, to further remind motorists to slow down.

The “50 AHEAD” sign has now been installed.

6.11 Clearing The Macquarie River

Although State Growth has been approached in the past to clean/clear the Macquarie River in the Ross area, no action has yet been forthcoming.

The Chair raised this issue at the May meeting of the Elizabeth Macquarie Irrigation Trust, who advised that as a first step, an approach should be made by the RLDC to Council, requesting that Council raise this matter with the relevant Government Department for action.

Accordingly, the RLDC raised the following motion:

The Ross Local District Committee request that the NMC contact the relevant Tasmanian Government Minister, requesting clarification as to which Government Department is responsible for maintaining the Macquarie River.

Jill Bennett / Christine Robinson

Carried unanimously

6.12 Condition Of Trees in Ross

The issue of the tree trimming in Badajos Street was raised and discussed. Mr Johnson has provided a copy of the NMC “Tree Inspection Form (Risk And Management)”, completed in 2005 for every Council owned tree in Ross, and a copy of Council’s “Tree Management Policy” dated 2010.

Chair has asked Council’s Works Manager to update the “Tree Inspection Form (Risk And Management)” and take whatever remedial action is necessary, given that some trees are so badly lopsided, that they now present a public safety risk in high winds through the possibility of collapse, and may need further “remedial” pruning, or removal and replacement. In addition, some of the trees are extremely unsightly, and due to the severity of the “pruning” may never recover their natural shape or form.

Chair has also asked Council’s Works Manager to confirm if Council still has a “Tree Management Policy” and if so, where is it located on Council’s Web Page listing of Council Policies? At the time of meeting no update has been received from NMC.

Mr McShane read from the above document, and remarked that Section 4.4, states Council is responsible for all trees within The Ross District. Also, If NMC had performed regular maintenance, then this debacle would not have happened. Chair advised that tree pruners need a special License/Certificate to be able to trim beneath certain high voltage lines.

6.13 Dog Exercise Park

The matter of providing dog exercise equipment in Ross, similar to that in the Longford Dog Exercise Park was raised. A project such as this would depend on available funding. Chair also mentioned that when the dog park in Ross was established, Council indicated it would be fenced off and that this had not occurred.

Committee discussed. As the RLDC Budget Request List has been completed for 2021/2022, Mr Hebbard was OK to leave this matter until the 2022/2023 budget year. It was mentioned that NMC apparently received a grant to provide the dog exercise equipment in the Longford Dog Park. Chair to follow up.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Round Table Discussion:

C Robinson – enquired as to the progress in the co-naming of the Macquarie River. Chair mentioned that there may be some differing views as to the correct co-name. NMC has submitted the co-naming application.

Also, there doesn't appear to any repairs commenced to the old stables as yet. Chair to follow up with Works Manager.

Herbert Johnson – there has been some vandalism in regard to street name signs (Badajos & Tasman Streets) which have been pulled out of the ground. Chair will report the vandalism and submit a customer request.

Jill Bennett – the sandstone wall on the north-west side of the Ross Bridge is very overgrown and untidy. Can volunteers be organised to help clear this? Before commencing, need to ask who actually owns the land. Chair to follow up with NMC as to the owner and then progress.

R Hebbard – raised the issues of problems with the rail crossing in Badajos Street. Who is the relevant Government Minister and can we perhaps have a representative visit to enable a visual explanation of what we need. A motion to this end, was been raised as below:

The RLDC requests that NMC contact Tas Rail to determine the extent of Tas Rail ownership of the Badajos Street rail crossing, for the purpose of future widening of the road to ensure the safety of road users.

Ricky Hebbard / Herbert Johnson

Carried unanimously.

P Eyre – there is a large crack in the asphalt footpath in front of Macquarie Homes, 9 Church Street Ross, caused by the Elm from the tree roots. As this path is used regularly by elderly people, an accident is only a matter of time. Chair will submit a Customer Request.

Also, there has been an issue with hooning on the sports ground. This has happened twice, as recently as Thursday night of previous week. A 4 wheel drive car has tried to get onto the oval proper, but was unable to, so used the outside of the sports oval as a hoon track. Chair recommended that the Police need to be informed so that they are aware of the issue.

Chair to contact Works Manager to discuss security of the oval and surrounding grassed areas.

K Jolly – containers in Ross are an ongoing eyesore. The work in the Caravan Park has been completed, but the container presumably associated with the recent works is still sitting there. Not a good look in a heritage area. If building is finished, can the container please be removed. Chair to contact NMC.

G McShane – business owner happy to water footpaths, but needs a special “spigot” to turn on for watering. It was suggested that perhaps the Works Manager/Assistant could show a number of different people where and how turn on the water. Apparently there are a number of different spigots for different areas. Chair will discuss with Works Manager.

P Brown – asked the question, who gives the authority for people to close off the roads for activities? Mr Brown has contacted NMC and the Police, but no one seems to know who is

responsible. When roads are closed (particularly Church Street), a number of businesses are unable to be accessed by vehicles for a period of time, and income is lost.

Chair will contact the NMC in an effort to determine the applicable procedure and who is responsible for administering it.

8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

The Chair closed the meeting at 12.40 pm

Next meeting – **Tuesday 6th July 2021 commencing 11.15am at the Ross Reading Room,**

Please note that this meeting will commence with a Volunteer Induction Program, followed by the Bi-annual General Meeting, then proceed on to the usual monthly RLDC meeting.