

## MINUTES

THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS, ON TUESDAY  
6<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021, COMMENCING AT 11.45AM.

### 1 PRESENT

Arthur Thorpe, Christine Robinson, Allan Cameron, Helen Davies, Candy Hurren, Grant Larkman, Herbert Johnson, Jill Bennett, Ann Thorpe (Hon Sec).

### 2 IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Janet Lambert, Lucie Copas-Fowler, Merel Richardson, Paul Ayres, Graham McShane, Steve Robinson, Keith Jolly

### 3 APOLOGIES

Councillor Andrew Calvert, Marcus Rodrigues

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2021** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.*

*Allan Cameron / Jill Bennett*

*Carried Unanimously*

### 6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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

Chair reiterated that consultation with the community and lobbying by the RLDC resulted in the provision of two additional overtaking lanes between the Mona Vale intersection and

Campbell Town, together with improvements to turning circles and widening of the highway shoulder. Jacobs has been advised that another meeting with the RLDC is not required.

No further action.

## **6.2 Memorandum of Understanding**

Chair contacted NMC with the proposed changes the RLDC would like included in the MoU.

These were considered at the June Council meeting and a final version of the MoU was forwarded to the RLDC for discussion at the RLDC's July meeting.

The RLDC generally felt that the final MoU was an acceptable document, however it felt that clarification was needed as to the meaning of "all" correspondence requiring General Manager's approval before sending out. Chair has raised this point with NMC on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July, however had not received a reply prior to this meeting. The RLDC then discussed the necessity for approval of emails sent by the RLDC to Council/Council Staff.

Chair noted that in the 3 years of his chairmanship, he has recorded 3,770 Emails between the RLDC and Council/Council Staff. Chair intimated that the GM would spend all his time approving correspondence if every Local Committee sent the same number of emails. Chair advised that he felt unable to sign off on the MoU without clarification of this point. Mrs Copas-Fowler will discuss this matter with the GM.

## **6.3 Ross Pool**

An Interim Report was presented to NMC some time ago. The Final Report has now been submitted and Councillor Lambert advised it will be considered at either the July or August Council Meeting.

## **6.4 Campbell Town Hospital Board**

Chair was unable to attend the June meeting of the Hospital Board so nil information to disseminate.

## **6.5 Road Marking On Bridge Street Outside Old School Oval**

The T parking lines indicating parallel parking to the curb outside the Old School Oval, have now been installed. Thank you to NMC and Staff.

No further action.

## **6.6 White Traffic Dividing Lines North and South Entrances**

The lines have now been repainted. "Cats Eyes" have been installed on the Roseneath Road bend approaching the Ross Bridge which will further enhance vehicle safety. Again, thanks to NMC and Staff.

No further action.

## 6.7 Village Green

Following on from a concern raised at the RLDC meeting in May, the Chair personally measured the ablutions building (amenities pavilion) and has confirmed that the width of the building is 26.01 metres, and the depth is 5.10 metres. This is exactly the measurements as per the plan contained in approved development application P17-287 page 1-195.

Councils Works Manager also indicated that the colour of the footpaths may darken when the final sealing coat is applied.

Committee noted information.

## 6.8 Ross Bicentennial Celebrations

Official Opening to mark the bicentenary of the naming of Ross, was held at the Ross Town Hall on Wednesday, 2nd June. The ceremony was opened by Mayor Knowles OAM, and marked by the unveiling of a superb community quilt that tells the story of Ross, to be retained as a permanent record of the occasion.

Chair thanked Helen for the wonderful day with the quilt unveiling. Well attended by locals, politicians, and special guests. Very well organised and a pleasure to attend. Enlightening Ross Bridge lecture on the following Thursday by Dr Jenny Jackson, although not as many people attended the Quilt open day on the Friday as expected. However there was a visit by 2 school groups.

Other events for the rest of 2021 are, **July**, Colonial Dinner / **Aug**, tba / **Sept** Running Carnival 27th, Old Timer's get-together & Questions, & opening of Village Green / **Oct**, sandstone carving and late in Oct, David Blakely watercolour exhibition of Ross, Camera Obscura Classical Concert, 10<sup>th</sup> Oct / **Nov**, Ross Open Gardens / **Dec**, Bicentennial Cricket match (5<sup>th</sup> Dec), New Year's Eve on The Village Green.

## 6.9 Clearing The Macquarie River

The current condition of the Macquarie River is of great concern, with infestations of Cumbungi weeds and debris from previous floods needing removal.

No answer received as yet on the motion below, which was tabled at the June NMC meeting and carried unanimously. RLDC will be advised when response received.

*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.*

## 6.10 Condition Of Trees in Ross

Councils Council's Works Manager, Mr Leigh McCullagh, has located an electronic copy of Council's 2016 Tree Maintenance Schedule, and advises that Council's arborists will be doing an inspection of the trees in September/October and updating the schedule at that time.

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.

Committee noted information.

### **6.11 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.

It was mentioned that NMC apparently received a grant by a pet food company to the cost of \$20,000, to provide the dog exercise equipment in the Longford Dog Park. Federal Elections are coming up, and now is the time to approach politicians with applications for grants etc as there will be funding opportunities.

However, the actual off-leash dog exercise area in the Ross Recreation Grounds would probably need to be fenced off prior to any equipment being installed.

### **6.12 Commandants Stables**

Although repairs have recently been carried out, a long term solution requires a new roof, the provision of which would be subject to available funding. Again, perhaps through Federal Government funding. General feeling at the meeting was that this project would be more likely to attract funding than the dog park exercise equipment.

### **6.13 Vandalism And Hooning**

Recent occurrences of street sign damage and hooning have been reported to Tasmania Police. Chair raised customer request 46304 with the NMC, seeking re-installation of the damaged street signs.

A further incident on the night of 2<sup>nd</sup> July, happened when hoons entered the Ross Recreation Ground, and smashed the railings holding two chains and padlocks and they then took these items with them. More street signs have been knocked out of the ground, with one sign which was knocked out of the ground on a previous occasion being stolen before it could be re-erected. There were 2 vehicles involved this time, and although the residence of these vehicles is known, no registration numbers were able to be identified. It would appear one of the vehicles is apparently already known to police. NMC were in the process of repairing the fences and a broken part of a car was found in the oval.

A concerned resident who confronted the hoons has since had a personal attack on his property. No formal report taken by police although they visited complainant. This, and the hooning have been reported to police, however more people need to contact the police at the time of the incidents taking place.

Mr Cameron asked if there is a police presence in Campbell Town? Apparently Police are on duty, but often out in their vehicles, not necessarily in the police station buildings.

#### **6.14 North West Sandstone Wall**

Council's Works Manager has agreed to remove the vegetation on the Council owned land on the northern side of Roseneath road, between the road wall itself and the adjoining property. This will be completed as time and resources allow; followed by a working bee with Council registered and inducted volunteers to complete the clean-up.

Committee noted information.

#### **6.15 Badajos Street Rail Crossing**

Issues were raised concerning 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.

No answer received as yet on the motion below, which was tabled at the June NMC meeting and carried unanimously. RLDC will be advised when response received.

*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.*

#### **6.16 Damaged Footpath**

There is a large crack in the asphalt footpath in front of Macquarie Homes, which appears to have been caused by the Elm Tree roots. As this path is used regularly by elderly people, a concern has been raised that an accident is only a matter of time. Chair raised customer request 46302 with the NMC, seeking rectification of the footpath.

This matter is ongoing.

#### **6.17 Ross Sports Ground Security**

Chair met with Councils Works Manager to discuss the recent hooning incident within the Ross Recreation Ground. Council's Works Manager undertook to arrange for all removable barriers at the Ross Recreation Ground Oval to be secured by a chain and key system as used at other Council grounds. The Ross Recreation Ground entrance gate will not be locked; this is consistent with all other Recreation Grounds within the Northern Midlands Council Municipality which remain open 24/7 for all legitimate users.

See Item **6.13** for further detailed discussion.

#### **6.18 Shipping Container In Ross Caravan Park**

Chair contacted Council's Planning Department seeking clarification as to why there is a shipping container and a demountable building sited in the Council owned Caravan Park. NMC Planner advised that they requested the lessee to have these two items removed. This will happen, possibly as soon as the next 2 weeks. Mr Larkman advised that a caravan has already been purchased to replace the demountable.

## **6.19 Church Street Watering System**

Ross Business owner happy to water nature strips in the vicinity of his business, but needs a special “spigot” to turn on the watering system. Following discussions between Chair and Council’s Works Manager, it was arranged for the local overseer to provide business owner with a spigot and to be shown where the various taps are located to activate the system.

Spigot has been supplied and taps located – no further action.

## **6.20 Closure Of Roads For Public Events**

Mr 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 has contacted the NMC in an effort to determine the applicable procedure and who is responsible for administering it, and has ascertained that NMC is responsible for administering the process on Council owned roads, with both Chiswick and Roseneath Roads falling into that category.

Mr Brown has been advised of this, and copies of the NMC and Tasmania Police application forms required to be completed when applying for permission to hold an event have been supplied to him.

Forms sent to Mr Brown who acknowledged receipt of same and indicated that his concerns have now been addressed.

No further action.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Ross Running Festival**

Event organiser Tracy Canham attended the RLDC Meeting as a guest, to explain first hand, the Ross Running Festival.

The University Running Club, commenced in 2003/04 and has grown over the following years. They continued to organise the event until 2016/17 and the current organisers took over in 2018. This group have tried to make it more about Ross and the actual community, so the running day website also now focuses on accommodation, history etc., that embraces the community.

They have also rebranded images for the running festival, which include the bridge and church, so have refocused with the town image. Tracy mentioned that the Ross community provide volunteers on the day and the event couldn’t be run without them.

Event day was moved from September to April, which appears to be more suited to the event and the course was changed to include the Ross Bridge and Roseneath Road. Participants love having their photos taken on the famous bridge. Due to Covid, rain and the pressure from

other running events, dates have had to be changed from year to year. 2020 event was postponed and was held in September. They had more people competing than they ever had before. The date this year has also been moved from April to September.

Organisers have found it more appealing for the participants in the event, to have it held in the main part of the town, and feel if it was held at the Recreation Ground, it would detract from the event. Part of the charm is running through all the Elm trees, past all the historic houses and over the bridge.

Mrs Bennett congratulated Tracy on organising such a fabulous charity event, and although Mrs Hurren said as a business they receive no income during the time of the race, as the road leading to her business is closed, she commends the idea and the money going to charity.

Tracy showed everyone the traffic management plan and explained the system for the day. Caravan Park appears to require special traffic signage due to caravans needing to leave the park throughout the road closure time.

Chair asked if volunteers would need to be required? Steve Robinson mentioned that as it is the bicentenary, would we encourage lots of locals, etc to participate. Differing levels of courses to cater for levels of fitness. There will also be a special bicentenary medal to all those who attend.

Tracy has previously met with a concerned business owner regarding closing the street, and the owner is now satisfied with the conditions under which the event will be held. It would appear that all issues are under control to a point where everyone is happy.

Committee thanked Tracy for coming all the way from Hobart to present information on this event.

## **7.2 Personal Conduct At Ross Local District Committee Meetings**

Lucy Copas-Fowler emailed Council's Meeting Code Of Conduct to committee members. People attending Council meetings are expected to behave in an appropriate manner as per instructions issued by Council's General Manager. These instructions apply to both Ross Local District Committee members, and members of the public who attend RLDC meetings. This in no way reflects on this committee, but is provided for information only.

No further action.

## **7.3 Round Table Discussion**

*A Thorpe* - Ricky Hebbard has advised he will not be re-joining the committee. Chair asked approval to write to Ricky thanking him for his contribution and commitment over the last three years – RLDC approved this request.

Chair has requested TasNetworks to replace two inoperative street lights on the western side of Church Street - Pole numbers 347384 and 347388.

*H Johnson* - Difficulties with caravans backing out of Female Factory parking area on to Beaufront Road (C305). Asked if any chance of making a larger car park? Although not a lot of traffic in off-peak season, it is difficult. Chair to contact Works Manager to discuss

alternatives, if any. Also, back roads need roadside spraying for weeds.

*Lucie Copas-Fowler* - mentioned the new NMC recycling trailer which will be taken to schools and community events (Ross Running Festival ☺). The trailer will take items that can't go in normal recycling. Meeting thought this was a very good initiative.

*H Davies* - Could a "Thank You" be sent to Wayne Flett for all the extra work at the Town Hall for the quilt opening. Chair mentioned it would be more appropriate if it came from the Bicentenary Committee rather than the RLDC. Helen to do so.

Also there appears to be a concern regarding storage space in the Town Hall. There is only one very small space, which holds items for film society and Sunday's market items. A large cupboard is blocking the window and taking up a lot of space. NMC is apparently aware of the issue. A hirer of the hall stores equipment there but apparently pays extra to do so. Chair will discuss with Council's Works Manager.

*A Cameron* - concerned about weed control (as mentioned by H Johnson) and a residence at the northern end of Church Street (West side) appears to have a lot of items for sale out the front on the footpath. The particular location where this is occurring is zoned general residential.

Also, there is a paint spill on the road at the Northern end of Church Street – who is responsible?

## **8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE**

The Chair closed the meeting at 12.50 pm.

**Next meeting – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2021 commencing 11.15am at the Ross Reading Room.**