

## MINUTES

THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS, ON TUESDAY  
3<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST 2021, COMMENCING AT 11.15AM.

### 1 PRESENT

Arthur Thorpe (Chairperson), Christine Robinson, Helen Davies, Herbert Johnson, Grant Larkman, Jill Bennett, Marcus Rodrigues, Allan Cameron, Ann Thorpe (Hon Secretary)

### 2 IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Andrew Calvert, Graham McShane, Steve Robinson, Paul Eyre, Keith Jolly

### 3 APOLOGIES

Mayor Mary Knowles, Councillor Janet Lambert, Candy Hurren

### 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 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.*

*Christine Robinson / Allan Cameron*

*Carried unanimously*

### 6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

#### 6.1 Memorandum of Understanding

After clarification by Council's General Manager that emails emanating from the RLDC sent to

Council's staff do not need his prior approval, the Chair signed the MoU and returned it to Council.

No further action required.

## 6.2 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.

Councillor Calvert advised he has not seen the final report as yet. However, it is currently planned to be presented in the open section of the Council meeting of the 16 August.

## 6.3 Campbell Town Hospital Board

Chair attended the July meeting of the Hospital Board and there is not a lot to report; the front entrance has reopened, and it would appear that trades are currently working refurbishing the Nurses quarters.

Health Minister, Minister Jeremy Rockcliff attended a meet and greet at the hospital last week. The issue of funding for the proposed dementia ward was put forward.

## 6.4 Village Green

Work is proceeding, with an opening ceremony tentatively scheduled for September.

No work has been carried out for some time, however the seeded grass is growing well. Residents feel a September date for completion and official opening is debatable.

## 6.5 Ross Bicentennial Celebrations

Other events for the rest of 2021 are, **Sept** *Running Festival 27th, Old Timer's get-together & Questions, & opening of Village Green* / **Oct**, *sandstone carving and late in Oct, David Blakely watercolour exhibition of Ross, Camerata 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.*

## 6.6 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.*

Chair to follow up on this issue.

## **6.7 Condition Of Trees in Ross**

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 conducting 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.

Chair to follow up - If no old policy can be found, perhaps a new one can be formulated?

## **6.8 Vandalism And Hooning**

Recent occurrences of damage to, and theft of Council property, together with ongoing hooning have been reported to Tasmania Police. Chair raised customer request 46304 with the NMC, seeking re-installation of the damaged street signs. One set of signs at Tasman and High Streets was reinstalled, the sign at Nivelles Street was stolen before it could be re-erected. Hooning incidents have now escalated beyond damage to, and theft of Council property, to intimidation, harassment and Elder Abuse directed at those who have reported hooning incidents to the Police.

Discussion held regarding the attendance by Police a number of times, and statements made by residents to the Police. Enough complaints and information have now been made by residents which will hopefully enable this matter to progress further. Email from Senior Sergeant Mike Gillies advised that police are quite hopeful charges will be laid shortly for one of the incidents.

There has also been an assault incident in Ross, following an altercation at the Hotel. The severely injured person was airlifted to Hobart after being found unconscious in the street.

## **6.9 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.*

Nothing further received at this time.

## **6.10 Damaged Footpath**

The large crack in the asphalt footpath in front of Macquarie Homes damaged by the Elm Tree roots has been repaired. The footpath has been remediated from this point up to Café 31. Thanks to Council and Staff for the prompt attention to this matter.

### **6.11 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. The container has been removed, however the demountable is still on site.

Meeting was advised that a caravan has been purchased and will be used as a replacement for the demountable, the caravan is currently being refurbished before being moved to the site.

Issue will be monitored.

### **6.12 Ross Running Festival**

Event organiser Tracy Canham attended the July RLDC Meeting as a guest, to explain first hand, the Ross Running Festival. No further action required at this time.

### **6.13 Female Factory Parking Area**

Difficulties with caravans backing out of Female Factory parking area on to Beaufront Road (C305). Question was raised if there is any chance of making a larger car park?

Meeting was advised that Council has set its Capital Expenditure Budget for the current financial year and additional works such as this cannot be funded. It was suggested that this item could be added to the RLDC's Capital Budget Request List for the next financial year if the RLDC considers it worthy of inclusion.

There would appear to be difficulties enlarging/extending the area, due to the rail line, gabion walls and the Female Factory. Chair mentioned erecting a sign advising "No Entry to Large Vehicles" or similar. Committee member asked for it to be included on the Committee's wish list next year.

### **6.14 Footpath Trading And Commercial Activity In the Heritage Precinct General Residential Zone**

Concern was expressed at footpath trading and commercial activity being conducted in the Heritage Precinct General Residential Zone at the northern end of Church Street (West side). The matter has been referred to Council for action.

It would appear NMC Compliance Officer has spoken to the owner, as items have been moved from the footpath onto the owner's property. Discussion was held and attendees were advised that there is a State Law covering the use of chainsaws in residential areas. They can only be used for 2 hours over a 7 day period and only for residential garden maintenance.

The land owner appeared to be operating a chainsaw for commercial purposes outside of the allowed noise law times, which on a Sunday, is not before 10:00am. Also issues with burning off offensive material, a dog barking continually and the firewood business still being conducted in a residential heritage precinct area.

Chair to follow up on all issues with NMC Compliance Officer.

## 7. **NEW BUSINESS**

### 7.1 **Perth Blue Tree**



Councillor Calvert spoke at length about mental health about the blue tree and the organisations that hopefully will gain positive attention and support from the passing public having seen it. Blue Tree Concept has a website that explains what it stands for and the reasoning behind it. There are a total of 612 around Australia, 3 in Tasmania.

New data shows 3,300 deaths by suicide in 2019, an average of 9 per day; 108 in Tasmania! The data shows suicide is more markedly occurring in males. Quite a number of suicides are in young people, even 98 between 5 & 17 age group. 40% is in young age groups.

Councillor Calvert saw the tree and felt it was ideal for this project. It was on State Growth land, and when approached, they were positive about the concept. It was tabled at NMC, but the quote came in at \$13,000 and was declined to be funded by council. When word of the project went out to the public, Councillor Calvert and Leigh McCullagh received a lot of assistance and the overall cost was reduced, and NMC's contribution would only be \$4,000, however once again, NMC declined to fund. The project was finalised at no cost to ratepayers, as financial support came through donations, and a lot of the donations came from outside the NMC area. Mitre 10 supplied the paint, Pfeiffer Cranes provided the crane, Pat from Meander Valley Paints carried out the painting, Damien Wilson & Leigh McCullagh from NMC and others donated their time as well.

Councillor Calvert said that it just goes to show, if you believe in something enough, there will always be a way to achieve it.

Committee offered their congratulations to Councillor Calvert and all those involved in the project, for a project very well done.

### 7.2 **COVID-19 Immunisation Certificates**

The Commonwealth Government has COVID-19 Immunisation Certificates available from the myGov website. Chair circulated his Immunisation Certificate to attendees, and explained the procedure for obtaining them.

**7.3** Chair will write to Council seeking the \$2,500 allowance in lieu of secretarial support for the previous 12 months. However it needs to be spent on a project approved by NMC. A number of items were discussed; a new oven needed in Sports Club; a defibrillator at the sports oval; a new town information panel, perhaps sited at the Village Green. It would appear that the old information panel near the heritage Sunday School cannot be updated or changed, as it is heritage and is on private property. Chair asked attendees to please consider what projects this money (if approved) could be spent on and bring back ideas to next meeting.

**7.4** Ross Recreation Ground Masterplan – email from NMC / Mr Jennings regarding this project. How large an upgrade is not known at this time. Veteran’s Cricket is a major stakeholder with a lease on the recreation ground itself and they are hoping to hold Women’s Cricket matches on this ground as well. A masterplan to upgrade the outdated facilities is required to scope out the needs and financial requirements in order to apply for external funding. Consultants are sometimes needed as often qualified staff are not always employed at NMC.

Veteran’s Cricket is commencing early October, 2021

### **7.5 Round Table Discussion**

A Thorpe - Nutrien Ag are advertising applications for community grants funding, the advertisement is reproduced below.



H Johnson - The sign advising the Ross Bridge 20 ton weight limit, is often seen too late for large heavy trucks (B-Doubles) to turn around and not travel over the Ross Bridge. It was suggested that 20 tonne weight limit signs be placed on the directional signage on the Midland Highway so that vehicles are aware of the weight limit before entering Ross. This particularly applies to the southern Roseneath Road entrance, as once a truck turns off the Midland Highway and enters Roseneath Road they are committed to crossing the Ross Bridge.

Chair will raise matter with the NMC.

G Larkman – discussion held regarding weekends lost to tourism because of the lack of consultation between committees, i.e. the recent motor bike rally. Motor Bike Group decided not to hold it in Ross and decided to hold it in Oatlands instead, as they were not given permission to ride on the oval due to the cricket pitch. Grant felt there was a need for another group, a business group, that would fall between RLDC and the Sports Club to cover advanced knowledge of coming events, and attract people interested in participating. In the past there has been a Hub Group that filled this role and currently there is a Ross Progress Group, but it only has 3 members. After the bicentenary is finished, perhaps the bicentenary committee could be used as an “event” committee. It was also mentioned that the Man-O-Ross Hotel is only open 3 days a week which is not helping to attract tourists.

Chair mentioned that the Old School Oval is available for events, subject to approval being sought from Council.

A Cameron – Asked if we know if anyone is living in the police house in Campbell Town. We need police presence in the area. Can we push the issue? Also feels we need a person to stand as a Councillor from the Ross district in the next Council election. Put it on notice to the community and offer support.

M Rodrigues – spoke of the overlap between RLDC Committee members also being a business owner and being on the sports club committee. Would this assist in event consultation as mentioned by Grant Larkman?

Steve Robinson - Spoke about, and showed the commemorative medallion for the bicentenary. There have been 200 minted and 1 gold one which will be raffled. These can be purchased from Dinki, the Tasmanian Wool Centre & Martha’s Vintage.

## **8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE**

The Chair closed the meeting at 12:40 pm.

**Next meeting – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021 commencing 11.15am at the Ross Reading Room.**