

MINUTES

THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS, ON TUESDAY
7th SEPTEMBER 2021, COMMENCING AT 11.15AM.

1 PRESENT

Arthur Thorpe, (Chairperson), Candy Hurren, Grant Larkman, Marcus Rodrigues, Jill Bennett, Helen Davies, Herbert Johnson, Ann Thorpe (Hon Secretary)

2 IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Andrew Calvert, Councillor Janet Lambert, Graham McShane, Keith Jolly.

3 APOLOGIES

Christine Robinson.

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 3rd August, 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

Helen Davies / Jill Bennett

Carried unanimously

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Ross Pool

The Final Report from Watershed Solutions has now been submitted and was considered at the August Council Meeting.

Council decided that subject to certain conditions, the Ross Pool will continue ***“for as long as the pool is structurally/operationally safe to do so”***.

Council also passed a motion requesting ***“That Council procure a health and safety report (existing or newly commissioned report) to ascertain whether the Ross Pool is safe to be used.”***

Committee discussed, and along with the Ross community, are awaiting the safety report from NMC. All are cognisant of the fact that the future viability of the pool depends on the upcoming report.

6.2 Campbell Town Hospital Board

Chair attended the August meeting of the Campbell Town Hospital Board.

Work continues on the refurbishment of the Nurses Quarters and will hopefully be finished later this month. Any future use of the old Ambulance building will be totally dependent on THS.

The dementia ward project hinges on THS as well. It is understood that attraction/retention of qualified dementia staff could possibly be a major problem.

6.3 Village Green

Work is proceeding, with substantial progress having been made in the last three weeks. An opening ceremony is tentatively scheduled for September.

Jill Bennett raised that there appeared to be a high number of bollard lights, were they on the plans? Also, there have not been planted as many trees as was originally envisaged? Jill has offered to contact the General Manager of NMC regarding these items.

Also, a water feature (fountain) has been built in the middle of the grounds, however this does not appear to be on the original plans either. Attendee mentioned that the fountain may have possibly been installed to ameliorate a drainage problem?

6.4 Ross Bicentennial Celebrations

There have been a number of changes to planned events for the rest of 2021, ***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 (this item is dependent on Covid restrictions), Camerata Obscura Classical Concert, 10th Oct / Nov, Ross Open Gardens / Dec, Bicentennial Cricket match (5th Dec), New Year’s Eve on The Village Green.***

Committee noted the information and that there may be changes to the above program.

6.5 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.

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 had requested an update from NMC. As no reply received up to meeting date, Chair will again request an update.

6.6 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.

It would appear that Council does not have an existing Tree Management Policy.

However, Council's Works Manager has located a draft electronic copy of a proposed Tree Management Policy dated 2015. This will need to be completed and submitted to Council for consideration. Council's Works Manager to progress as time permits.

Committee noted information.

6.7 Vandalism And Hooning

A quiet month in Ross with no reports of hooning, and it would appear there have been no further episodes of vandalism following community complaints and police intervention. Chair to contact Senior Sergeant Gillies regarding the progress of possible charges being laid in relation to a previous incident.

6.8 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.

Chair had requested an update from NMC. As no reply received up to meeting date, Chair will again request an update.

6.9 Shipping Container In Ross Caravan Park

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

The caravan that has been purchased as a replacement for the demountable is currently being refurbished in Launceston before being moved to the site. It was expected to take approximately 6-8 weeks, a period of time that should now be close to being finalised.

Issue will be monitored.

6.10 Female Factory Parking Area

Difficulties with caravans backing out of Female Factory parking area on to Beaufront Road (C305). Chair suggested erecting a sign advising “No Entry to Large Vehicles” or similar and Council’s Works Manager has agreed to install a sign.

Helen Davies raised the issue of one of the proposed signs being misunderstood as “no parking overnight”.

Chair will clarify design of the sign with Council’s Works Manager.

6.11 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.

Chair has followed up 3 times with NMC Compliance Officer and been advised they are aware of the issue. However, it was submitted to the meeting that not only is the resident still cutting wood, but is now also conducting a business making concrete “statues” in the backyard and the noise and dust nuisance is causing concern and distress to neighbours. This business is being carried out at the back of the property out of view of the street.

Chair to follow up again with NMC.

6.12 \$2,500 Allowance In Lieu Of Secretarial Support

Council’s General Manager has confirmed that the \$2,500 allowance in lieu of RLDC secretarial support for the previous 12 months will be available to be spent on Council approved projects the RLDC proposes.

A number of projects were discussed, however committee members were again asked to think about these and any other worthwhile items. Councillor Lambert advised the money does not have a “time line” and will available while projects are discussed.

- Defibrillator at sports club. As there are funds currently available within the sports club, if necessary, they could purchase their own. Alternatively, there are grants available which may be used for this idea. Ross currently has 6 defibrillators through the village - Post Office, Town Hall (inside and 24hr outside the town hall next to public toilets) Ross Bakery Inn, Mens Shed, Swimming Pool (summer)/Wool Centre(winter).
- 2 interpretative historical boards/signs on the heritage walk. Tourists following current signs, but appear lost when they get to the bridge car park. Signs could show the position/information of the old bridge and the ford used before the current Ross Bridge was constructed. Complications are; important to make sure they fit with the other signs

and be the same or similar to the Female Factory ones. Is it Church land or not? NMC only responsible for the footpath. Councillor Calvert mentioned that there is a lot of history not shown about Ross, e.g. Viaduct, etc. Anything placed near the Bridge will need the approval of both NMC and Heritage Tasmania.

- Old, out of date village noticeboard currently is located on private land and a new one could be put on the village green to update locals and visitors alike. Chair mentioned the children from Campbell Town School could perhaps draw up ideas for one. Attendee advised that Brett from Dinki is a very good graphic artist, and this would be keeping the project local.

6.13 Ross Recreation Ground Masterplan

Several members of the RLDC, along with members of the Sports Club and Veterans Cricket Club, attended a meeting conducted by Council's Consultants held in the Sports Club rooms. The purpose of the meeting was to garner suggestions for improvement to the Ross Recreation Ground, should there be funding opportunities in the future.

The meeting group was informed that the masterplan was not for a complete rebuild (as for Campbell Town), but for upgrading toilet facilities, etc. A representative from a women's cricket group attended and discussed the need for a separate area for women. After inspecting the current areas, everyone at the meeting agreed the ablutions area did need work. A very good first meeting with representatives to sort out possible work for the future subject to funding availability. Next stage will hopefully be a meeting with the community to present the meeting group/consultants' ideas.

6.14 Ross Bridge 20 Ton Weight Limit Signs

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 has ascertained that there is already a large and clearly visible weight limit warning sign in place on the Midland Highway, approx 400 metres before the Roseneath Road entrance when approaching Ross from the south.

After liaising with NMC, they then contacted DSG who have agreed to install a similar sign just before the northern entrance to Roseneath Road. Very good result and prompt action and reply from both NMC and DSG. Installation may take a few months before this item is completed.

6.15 Police House Campbell Town

The house behind the Police Station in Campbell Town has been refurbished, and it would appear that a Police Officer will be shortly moving into the house.

Committee noted information.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- 7.1 Councillor Lambert** passing on a request from Campbell Town District Forum that a joint meeting between the forum and RLDC (which was discussed last year) go ahead. Committee discussed and happy to go ahead. Difficulty last time organising a time to suit everyone due to COVID restrictions, and the length of a double meeting if held the same day as the normal monthly meetings.

Chair is awaiting an official approach from the Campbell Town District Forum.

Arthur Thorpe – Australia Day Nominations are being called for. The celebrations will be held at Cressy in 2022. Please nominate anyone you feel worthy. Councillor Lambert urged all to nominate and it is important that we recognise those people out in the community that would otherwise remain anonymous. Especially important in this Bicentennial year when so many volunteers are working behind the scenes.

J von Bibra has stepped down as Chair of the Elizabeth Macquarie Irrigation Trust and David Downie was elected in his place.

The group, Save Our Churches (SOCS) which has been endeavouring to save St Johns Church, Ross, and other Tasmania Churches and graveyards from being sold/lost, is holding its AGM on Thursday the 30th September, at the Campbell Town Memorial Oval meeting room No 2, all welcome to attend.

Herbert Johnson – NMC were surveying drainage issues in Ross. A report was being prepared for NMC and RLDC had been advised of its completion. Could NMC please advise where this issue is up to? Chair to follow up with NMC.

Candy Hurren – Cricket nets at sports oval are in need of refurbishment and a real tidy up. Chair to follow up with NMC.

Helen Davies – would like to acknowledge the work that NMC has conducted on the gardens at the bridge car park. Helen mentioned it looks brilliant, quite lovely and many thanks to all NMC staff concerned.

Keith Jolly – the bottom course of sandstone bricks at the entrance of the reading room are weathering away and in dire need of attention. Chair to follow up with NMC.

8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

The Chair closed the meeting at 11.54 am.

Next meeting – Tuesday 5th October 2021 commencing 11.15am at the Ross Reading Room.