

MINUTES

THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS, ON TUESDAY
5th OCTOBER 2021, COMMENCING AT 11.15AM.

1 PRESENT

Arthur Thorpe (Chairperson), Herbert Johnson, Candy Hurren, Christine Robinson, Helen Davies, Ann Thorpe (Hon Secretary)

2 IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Andrew Calvert, Councillor Janet Lambert, Michael Smith, Paul Eyre, Keith Jolly, Cain Ratcliffe, Noah Ratcliffe, Callum Catto, Emily Hyland.

3 APOLOGIES

Jill Bennett, 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 7th September, 2021** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings with following amendment:-*

*Item **7.1 New Business** - "Friends of St Johns" is the organisation endeavouring to save St John's Church Ross.*

Helen Davies / Candy Hurren

Carried Unanimously

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Ross Pool

The health and safety report to ascertain whether the Ross Pool is safe to be used, is still to be received and NMC expect it to be presented by the end of the month. However, it was stated by Councillor Calvert that the Ross Pool will be open for the 2021/2022 season.

6.2 Campbell Town Hospital Board

Chair attended the September General and Annual General Meeting of the Campbell Town Hospital Board.

David Gatenby was elected Chair, Judith Lyne Vice- Chair, and Judy Gregg Secretary/Treasurer.

A Board member may serve a maximum term of 6 years on the committee then the member has to retire for one year before reapplying for any position. The Chair and Treasurer each have approximately 2 years left of service.

6.3 Village Green

Work is ongoing, however it is looking close to finalisation. No date for the opening ceremony date has yet been advised.

6.4 Ross Bicentennial Celebrations

There have been a number of changes to planned events for the rest of 2021, **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*, *Ross Remembered, 17th / Dec*, *Bicentennial Cricket match (5th Dec)*, *New Year's Eve on The Village Green*.

The *Ross Running Festival* was very successful and the concert *Obscura Camerata* is fully booked. *Bicentennial Cricket* match received an overwhelming response to the request to form teams for the Ross versus Campbell Town cricket match.

6.5 Clearing The Macquarie River

NMC has contacted Minister Rockcliff regarding the current condition of the Macquarie River. The issues of great concern are infestations of Cumbungi weeds and debris from previous floods needing removal. A reply from the Minister's office is awaited.

Herbert Johnson presented to the meeting, an item from the Northern Midlands Courier paper, regarding "*Stream Fencing Grants*" that cover amongst other issues, weed management & fencing of waterways. The closing date for applications is 29th October and NRM North is the responsible authority. These grants may be of some help with the issues at hand.

Chair to ascertain grant conditions from NRM North.

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 COVID has delayed the scheduled visit by arborists from Victoria.

Questions were asked as to why NMC was not using the expertise of a Tasmanian company instead of a Victorian one. Chair to contact NMC with this question, particularly with COVID having no end in sight and presumably, substantial delays to all projects as a result.

6.7 Vandalism And Hooning

A quiet month in Ross with no reports of hooning/vandalism. Senior Sergeant Gillies has advised that charges have been laid in relation to a previous incident.

However, it would appear that a motor attached to the cricket ground roller at the Ross Recreation Ground has been removed. It is not known when this may have occurred, and the matter may not have been reported to the police at this point in time.

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.

NMC has replied regarding ownership of the Badajos Street Rail crossing. This information has been emailed to RLDC members.

NMC has also advised this issue will have to go in next year's Capital Works Budget Request List if it is to be widened. Committee need to think about whether this project will go ahead. Councillor Calvert mentioned that a presentation from TasRail at a NMC workshop, advised there was a \$489 million spend state wide on rail infrastructure. Not on trains, but crossings, lines, etc. Perhaps this would be good time to raise our issue and try and get it on the list.

Councillor Lambert mention that a rail crossing in Arthur Street, Perth has been upgraded, and the end result was worthwhile. Councillor Lambert to forward information to Chair on this tranche of money. There is already one balance of money available and another tranche to come in the future.

6.9 Shipping Container In Ross Caravan Park

A caravan has been purchased as a replacement for the demountable and 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. However, there has been a delay in completion of works, as the need to make this caravan disability accessible, is taking longer than expected.

Issue will be monitored.

6.10 Female Factory Parking Area

Issue that there were difficulties with caravans backing out of Female Factory parking area on to Beaufront Road (C305) was raised previously. As currently there is no available funding, together with the inherent physical restrictions on widening the Female Factory parking area, a sign advising “No Turning Area For Caravans And Trailers Beyond This Point” has now been installed.

Committee member asked that an enlarged parking area still be considered for inclusion in next year’s Capital Works Budget Request List.

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.

The matter was referred to Council for action and would now appear to have been resolved.

The resident presented to the meeting about the issue from the family’s side.

It was mentioned that Real Estate agents are not always familiar with planning schemes, and that prospective purchasers should always make their own enquiries as to what is permitted in various zones.

Chair reiterated that under the MOU between the RLDC and NMC, all issues of concern raised with the RLDC must be forwarded to Council.

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 proposed by the RLDC.

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 be available while projects are discussed.

- Oven / Defibrillator for the sports club.
- 2 interpretative historical boards/signs on the heritage walk.
- 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 felt there was need to include the wider community and Committee discussed how to achieve this. The newsletter, Ross Neighbourhood News was mentioned, as was the Ross Neighbourhood News Facebook page, as a way to ensure the inclusion of the Ross community to garner wider ideas for a project. As mentioned previously, there is no rush to settle on a project, but would need to be used/allocated within this financial year.

6.13 Ross Bridge 20 Ton Weight Limit Signs

DSG have installed a 20 tonne weight limit warning sign just before the northern entrance to Roseneath Road. Very prompt action by both NMC and DSG to complete this item.

No further action.

6.14 Drainage Issues In Ross

A survey drainage report has been prepared for NMC and RLDC had been advised of its completion.

Chair contacted NMC regarding this matter, Councils General Manager replied:-

“We have undertaken the following re flooding in Ross:

- Ross Urban Stormwater System Flood and Risk Assessment
- Downs Creek flood modelling – the 1% AEP flood footprint
- Ross/Campbell Town Flood Study update– we had been waiting for some responses to letters we set out to landowners regarding historical flood information/heights etc. Unfortunately we only got two responses back last month. Not expected to be finalised until Nov – Dec.

In the meantime if anyone comes forward with historical flood observations or photos, that information would be most welcome.”

Committee discussed. Christine mentioned that back in the “old days”, channels were dug across blocks of land to alleviate water pooling. Some blocks in Bond Street are particularly susceptible to this problem, and pumping water on to the street from under houses is required.

Chair asked those present to come forward with any flood observations or photos which could be of assistance to the project.

6.15 Cricket Nets In School Oval

The issue of the Cricket nets at school oval that are in need of refurbishment and a real tidy up was discussed. Chair had suggested that the cricket nets may be better utilised by moving them to the Recreation ground, however a representative of Tasmanian Cricket, Mr Headlam, inspected them and advised the cricket club wouldn't use them. As they are still periodically used, it was decided to leave them where they are and the Chair will contact NMC to organise a clean up.

6.16 Weather Damage to Ross Reading Room

The cornerstones and the bottom course of sandstone bricks at the entrance of the reading room are weathering away and in need of attention.

Chair contacted NMC Works Manager, who, as a first course of action, had agreed to look at the roof down pipes and drains. Mr McCullagh thought part of the problem was the asphalt

footpath, and was arranging for his staff to look. Possible remediation of damaged sandstone footings will be considered once the pipes/drains have been repaired.

This item ongoing.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- 7.1 Arthur Thorpe** - Grant Larkman and Allan Cameron have resigned from the RLDC and the Chair thanked them both for their service. Allan's many years of service both to the RLDC and many other forums was noted, as was his continual involvement with, and obvious concern and caring for the Community of Ross.

As there are now only 7 out of 10 members on the Committee, there is a need for more members, particularly in light of reaching a quorum before being able to conduct a meeting. A member of the public attending the meeting expressed their interest and Chair will email them an application form.

Christine Robinson – a resident drew attention to a bright blue water sampling box installed by TASWATER in the main street, and that it really detracts from a heritage village. Councillor Calvert advised it would be more appropriate to contact Taswater for an explanation, rather than NMC. Chair to follow up.

Herbert Johnson – feels the town needs a clean-up. White posts have fallen over, street signs are twisted out of direction etc. Could white lines, particularly outside the hotel on the northern side of Bridge Street show angle parking? Consensus of the committee is to take no action on this issue at this time. Also raised are dedicated Truck Bays planned on highway? Not included currently, nor facilities for truck drivers, particularly for lady truck drivers. The white lines on the northern side of the intersection of Church and Bridge Streets need remarking. Chair to raise with NMC.

Candy Hurren - there are mouse droppings in Town Hall Kitchen. NMC have been advised, however they stated they were not prepared to pay extra cleaning. This does not seem appropriate, as public pay to use the facilities and would expect to have clean items to use. Chair to contact NMC after Helen Davies takes appropriate photos.

Helen Davies – Infestation of harlequin beetles at the edge of the old school oval. Can NMC attend to this issue? Unfortunately the infestation is mainly on private property. Also, on the Southern side of the Uniting Church property, African thorn, gorse and scotch thistle are becoming a real issue. Again, as this is private (Church) property, NMC are unable to do anything about it. Helen to contact Gaile White for an appropriate Church contact person.

8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

The Chair closed the meeting at 12:20 pm

Next meeting – Tuesday 2nd November 2021 commencing 11.15am at the Ross Reading Room.