

## MINUTES

### THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS, ON TUESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER 2021, COMMENCING AT 11.15AM.

#### 1 PRESENT

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

#### 2 IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Janet Lambert, Councillor Andrew Calvert, Wendy Dyer, Rick Mansfield, David Gatenby, Keith Jolly.

#### 3 APOLOGIES

Marcus Rodrigues, Jill Bennett, Paul Eyre.

#### 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 5th October, 2021** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.*

*Christine Robinson / Candy Hurren*

## 6 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

### 6.1 **Ross Pool**

Council at its 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 meeting passed the following resolution:-

MINUTE NO. 21/402

#### DECISION

Cr Davis /Deputy Mayor Goss

That Council:

- a) notes this report;
- b) completes a full risk assessment of the Ross Pool prior to the opening of the pool for the 2021/2022 season, and remedies access and trip hazards prior to opening;
- c) complete annual risk assessment of the Ross Pool prior to the opening of the pool.

Carried

*Voting for the Motion:*

Mayor Knowles, Deputy Mayor Goss, Cr Adams, Cr Davis, Cr Brooks, Cr Lambert and Cr Polley

*Voting Against the Motion:*

Cr Goninon

Chair asked if the Ross Pool risk assessment had been completed, and if so, what was the outcome? Councillor Lambert advised there were no further updates at this time.

A representative from the pool volunteer working group raised concerns at the complete lack of communication between NMC and the Ross Community Sports Club (RCSC), regarding the pool maintenance / opening. This was apparent in that a volunteer carried out a physically demanding maintenance task (scrubbing the interior of the pool) that took quite some time, only to be told the pool was to be relined and it had been a waste of time and effort. If the RCSC had been advised regarding relining the interior of the pool, the task wouldn't have been commenced.

Councillors advised that Cressy was to be relined first and then Ross, but dates are dependent on the weather.

A local resident had shown interest in joining as a lifeguard and the RCSC has offered to fund the training required for this person. A representative from RCSC had endeavoured to contact a senior NMC staff member a number of times to progress this matter, however no follow up calls have been received. Councillor Lambert suggested an email rather than a phone call may be more appropriate and that Samantha Dillon is the contact person for all human resources queries.

Chair to contact Works Manager regarding the outcome of the Ross Pool risk assessment, and the timetable for installing the pool liner.

### 6.2 **Campbell Town Hospital Board**

Mr David Gatenby, Chair of the Campbell Town Hospital Board, addressed the meeting.

David advised that the Board was currently updating the Constitution as it had previously been ratified in 2011.

Campbell Town Hospital has 26 beds, 20 residential and 6 acute. As we are all aware, there has been a change in the Doctor's systems, which had had teething problems. Those with any issues should pass these on the Hospital Board who can take them back to the practice. Also, efforts are being made to have another Doctor attend the practice. The area covered by Campbell Town practice is enormous, much larger than Longford or Perth.

Staffing is always an issue, however now that the Doctor/Nurses accommodation has been upgraded to self-contained units, it will hopefully attract more staff. Growth in local area is booming. The Anglican Church is hoping to build 26 houses in Campbell Town, and currently the hospital is not big enough and won't be big enough when new residential buildings are completed.

New block of land has been purchased near the hospital for future use by Tasmanian Health Service (was the old Ambulance Station). A Dementia Unit attached to the hospital would be marvellous to service locals and to allow for families to be close. The Health Service is aware of the needs of our community and LGH are always happy to send patients back to Campbell Town.

Upgrade of our services and planning by THS Manager, Fiona Young is to be finalised in the next couple of months. We need to be more proactive to obtain all that we require. Any ideas or information you want to go through to the board, contact Arthur Thorpe.

There are 63 people employed, there is the Hospital Board and the Hospital Auxiliary and 30 volunteers. The volunteers are a great benefit to the community. Volunteers always needed to spread the load. There is a Newsletter available from the Post Office.

The Holman Clinic car was purchased specifically for cancer clinic patients. Money currently available for its upkeep. The Hospital Board will approve the purchase of a new one when kms reaches certain limit.

There are 3 new flag poles being erected and this is thanks to a very generous benefactor who has paid for this to be carried out. It is a government ruling that 3 flags are always flown.

Councillor Lambert asked if there was a breakdown of numbers between locals and out of town employees – not that David was aware of.

The Lions Club Perth sell Christmas Cakes locally each year, the Campbell Town Hospital Auxiliary received a very generous donation from the Lions last year. Cakes are now available for purchase costing 1kg \$13, and 1.5kgs \$17.00.

The Chair made mention of David Gatenby receiving the NMC Citizen of the Year Award at the 2021 Australia Day services, and mentioned all the work he carries out for the community.

### **6.3 Village Green**

Work is ongoing, no date for the opening ceremony has yet been advised.

Councillor Lambert feels it could be the end of November and there will definitely be a formal opening.

#### **6.4 Ross Bicentennial Celebrations**

*Dec, Bicentennial Cricket match (5<sup>th</sup> Dec), New Year's Eve on The Village Green.*

#### **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 October 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 29<sup>th</sup> October and NRM North is the responsible authority. These grants may be of some help with the issues at hand. Chair has ascertained that grants from NRM North are only available to land owners, and are mainly intended to assist farmers.

Chair to contact NMC regarding this matter.

#### **6.6 Condition Of Trees in Ross**

Council's Works Manager, Mr Leigh McCullagh, has advised that the Victorian tree inspection company ENSPEC have booked to be in Tasmania 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021 to conduct their inspection of the trees in Ross.

ENSPEC is a specialist tree inspection consulting group who do not undertake any physical remediation of trees themselves. ENSPEC are utilised by many Tasmanian Councils and are recognised specialists in regards to elm leaf beetle disease.

#### **6.7 Badajos Street Rail Crossing**

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 apologised for not sending TasRail funding information earlier, but has only just received it and will forward on ASAP.

Chair explained it may be difficult to widen the rail crossing because of the major rework needed in relocating a set of actively used railway points. Discussion ensued as to whether widening was needed on one side or both sides of the railway crossing. Chair to discuss with NMC re the possibility of applying for Tasrail funding for this project, once funding criteria and availability is determined.

## 6.8 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, however, there has been a delay in completion of works, as the need to make this caravan disability accessible, is taking longer than expected. Project still not completed, but will be monitored.

## 6.9 \$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

- Oven / Defibrillator for the sports club. *Discussion: hold off on this as Candy Hurren has applied for a community grant to cover the cost of the defibrillator and the oven may be included in the upgrade to the sports ground.*
- 2 interpretative historical boards/signs on the heritage walk. *Discussion: In relation to the signs/village map, these would have to be designed and then approved by NMC, a development application would have to be lodged and available for public comment. Heritage Tasmania would also have to approve sign design, size and intended locations. This lengthy process may not be possible to finalise before 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 however there is nothing to stop any planning being commenced.*
- Old, out of date village map currently is located on private land and a new one could be put on the village green to update locals and visitors alike. *Discussion: Sign would be subject to the same approval process as above.*
- Seat to be situated behind the Cenotaph to allow for elderly people to sit, particularly during ceremonies. The Mens Shed could perhaps make the seat. It was also mentioned that the Works Manager may have a spare one at the depot. Chair to contact Mr McCullough to ascertain availability.

Committee to reconsider at the December RLDC meeting, bearing in mind allowance must be used by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

## 6.10 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 previously. Chair raised Customer request number 51961 in relation to this matter. No further action.

## 6.11 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.

Councils Works Manager, Mr Leigh McCullagh has advised that the roof pipes and drains may not be the problem, and that water running down the street and along the foot of the building

may be the cause. A water cart will be used to observe water flows and determine what if any remedial action is required.

This item ongoing, as it has been too wet to complete testing. Once testing has been completed and any necessary action has been completed, consideration can be given to possible remediation of damaged sandstone footings.

#### **6.12 Taswater Sampling Box High Street**

A resident drew attention to a bright blue water sampling box installed by Taswater in High Street, stating that it really detracts from the heritage village streetscape. This infrastructure is not within Council's jurisdiction, and the matter may be best handled by High Street residents taking it up directly with Taswater.

Christine Robinson to contact and advise resident.

No further action.

#### **6.13 Remarking Of White Lines at Church Street Intersections**

The white traffic give way road markings at the intersections of Church and Bridge Streets, Church and High Streets, Church and Badajos Streets and Church Street and The Boulevards are badly scuffed, and in some cases obliterated. Customer requests 52425 and 53045 have been raised requesting line remarking to be carried out when the line marking contractors are next in the Ross area.

Committee noted information.

#### **6.14 Mice Infestation In Town Hall Supper Room**

An infestation of mice is evident in the Ross Town Hall Kitchen. Customer request 51958 has been raised requesting Council to please block the entry point of the mice into the cupboards and place the Town Hall kitchen on a regular pest inspection and baiting program.

It was advised that the NMC cleaner has since cleaned everything and hopefully baiting and repair of the ingress points has been carried out.

Further inspection necessary to determine if the problem has been overcome.

#### **6.15 Condition Of Church Street Tables And Benches**

Unfortunately a bunch of incontinent seagulls have made a real mess of the table and benches nearest the cannon. In addition the tables and benches along the length of Church Street Ross could do with a clean in preparedness for the warmer weather, and hopefully the return of more tourists. Customer request 53043 has been raised requesting Council to please carry out the cleaning.

No further action.

## 6.16 Provision Of Truck Bays/Facilities On Tasmanian Highways

Jacobs Consulting acting as consultants to State Growth, have confirmed that the Mona Vale to Epping Forest reconstruction of the Midland Highway will not have dedicated truck bays.

Future provision of truck bays and facilities along Tasmanian Highways will be a matter for future projects, subject as always, to available funds.

Several Caltas/Ampol/Bennett's 24 hour diesel refuelling locations complete with toilet facilities are already in place on several Tasmanian highways, e.g., Campbell Town. These facilities are accessible via a Caltas/Ampol/Bennett's fuel card.

Other locations such as Bennett's Kempton, are open 24/7 and provide free toilet facilities for all road users.

Provision of these types of facilities is not within Council's jurisdiction.

No further action.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

### 7.1 Council's Capital Works Budget 2021/2022

Council has released the Ross Capital Works Budget for financial year 2021/2022.

Committee discussed. Roof Replacement for drill hall – painting and carpet in Town Hall - Ross Recreation Ground playing surface maintenance - Church Street nature strip sprinkler system improvements – completion of Village Green. Budget not yet distributed to the RLDC, as Chair is clarifying the funding for another footpath with Maree Bricknell.

Mr Mansfield queried drainage in Bond Street and stated that they have been flooded badly, particularly this year. Was this on a wish list or otherwise. Chair advised that this issue is part of a Council wide Urban Stormwater System Flood and Risk Assessment, and that any remediation considered necessary may possibly be carried out once all towns had been surveyed, and the final Risk Assessment report has been published and reviewed.

NMC has asked if anyone has historical photos of flooding, or recordings or observations of flood levels, could they please provide these to Council.

Chair has offered to scan photographs of flooding and send to NMC.

### 7.2 Round Table Discussion

*Arthur Thorpe* : Wished to pay tribute to Geoffrey Cadogan-Cowper for all he did for the local Ross community. Geoff as Chair of the RLDC, was instrumental in lobbying for the provision of the Water Treatment Station in Campbell Town and the provision of the pipeline down to Ross supplying fresh treated water. Geoff's involvement in many other groups, committees and organisations were mentioned. Geoff will be sorely missed. A Sympathy card from the RLDC has been sent to Debra.

Christmas Dinner – Chair asked if all had received their invitations.

*Herbert Johnson* : Concern regarding herbicide spraying at the Recreation Ground and spraying of hydro poles etc in town. Why is such a large area sprayed and killed? Also, when is gorse and noxious weeds around Ross Streets to be sprayed? Who controls Crown Land as grass very high particularly around the old quarry site, is it State Growth? Chair to check with Works Manager regarding these items.

*Councillor Lambert* : Lucie Copas-Fowler is leaving NMC, perhaps a formal note from RLDC would be appropriate. Chair to organise.

*Helen Davies* : More QR Code check-ins needed in the Town Hall; short by at least 2. Chair to check. Also noted flood damage at the bottom of the heritage steps hill to the cattle gate, and has offered to refill it. Raised thistle issue at the Church with contact person, however they advised there were no funds available to fix problem. It was noticed on a walk however, that someone has already picked the thistles out.

Wooden traffic bollard near South Church St viewing point rotten and fallen out. Chair to raise Customer Request. New bollards are mentioned in the Capital budget paper, but unsure if these have been approved for funding in the current financial year. Chair to clarify with NMC.

Helen also mentioned the recent book launch held in Ross and brought along the book. The author/publisher printed 200 books in keeping with the bicentenary theme. Excellent function for Ross.

*Michael Smith* : Water leak just outside hotel. Chair to ascertain who is responsible and contact accordingly.

## **8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE**

The Chair closed the meeting at 12:20 pm.

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