

MINUTES

THE ROSS DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS, ON TUESDAY 6th AUGUST 2024, COMMENCING AT 11.30AM.

1 PRESENT

Debra Cadogan-Cowper, Helen Elizabeth Davies, John Wayne Barber, Julie Smith, Michael David Smith, Nigel Davies, Rodney Haigh, Sally Langridge

2 IN ATTENDANCE

Cr Richard Archer, Cr Alison Andrews, Deputy Mayor Janet Lambert, Vivien Tan – NMC Executive and Communications Officer, Lee Viney – NMC Executive Assistant.

3 APOLOGIES

nil

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

Moved: M Smith Seconded: H Davies Carried

*That the minutes of the meeting of the Ross Local District Committee held on **Tuesday 4 June 2024** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.*

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Closure Of High Street Pedestrian Rail Crossing

NMC has applied to TasRail for a license to build a new, legally compliant crossing. \$60,000 has been allocated in the 2023/2024 budget for the construction of this crossing. NMC Works Manager is still waiting for information from TasRail about the progress of this project. This item has been retained as 1st priority on the 2024/2025 RLDC Capital Budget Request List, with the suggestion that the previously allocated \$60,000 be carried forward to the 2024/2025 financial year.

The work will be starting in 2-3 months.

Discussion by committee & Councillors, noting that the budget items for 2024/2025 are still being discussed and not finalised.

Matter ongoing. Budget letters are not yet issued.

6.2 Basketball Hoop, Backboard and Post

The Ross ¼ basketball court is expected to cost \$36,550 – the Council was successful in obtaining grant funding of \$19,752 towards the project leaving a balance of \$16,798 for the community/Council to fund. The council has previously advised by email that the Ross basketball court will be built during the 2024/2025 financial year.

Matter ongoing. Suggested location is the flat spot on the other side of the playground next to the rodeo arena.

6.3 Exercise Equipment – Old School Oval

- Do we have any information on when the exercise equipment in the old school oval is being installed? The recent wind and rain have moved the witches' hats and concern is for safety. It was advised that NMC works crews are currently working in Evandale, and when completed, will move on to Ross.
- Officer notes 95% of work has been completed. New Grass has been laid.
- Thank you to Candy and Brian of the Ross Sports Club for their community involvement.

6.4 Wi-Fi Access at Ross Reading Rooms

- Conversation with Ben from Council re installing Wi-Fi in the Town Hall and the Ross Reading Rooms/Community Library. The council is currently conducting a cost/benefit study. The chair stated that Wi-Fi would benefit many users at the Council facilities, and if installed, would make locations such as the Reading Rooms a more attractive proposition to hire. The officer has put in a request to IT to investigate and report.

7 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Disabled Parking

- Council re additional disabled parking in closer proximity to the commercial area of Ross. Prospective sites adjacent to the red phone boxes may not be available if the electric vehicle charging stations go ahead at this location. If that is the case, then an alternative site would have to be identified.

7.2 Information Board – Ross directional signage

Moved J Smith

Seconded J Barber

carried

That it be recommended to Council that:

The Council consider funding a tourist/information directional sign board with design and consultation with the Committee.

Committee comments/ Background:

There is an outdated heritage highway sign with the map of Ross and tourist attractions, however this is on private property. The property owners were contacted by the committee to see if they would consider relocation of the noticeboard and sign. The request was denied.

A. Thorpe recommended a new information board be erected at the Village Green (where the government sign is) at the April 2024 Municipal Bus Tour and included this is the budget.

7.3 Pool sign

Works request for cleaning and maintenance of the Pool sign

7.4 Response to email regarding Grant/ Funding for the Library at the Ross meeting rooms

The Ross Community Library is in desperate need of some support and assistance to update and keep its moving forward as a viable service for the Village. I was told you may help with contributions in way of equipment new or second hand, funds to acquire new books or equipment like a printer or assist with attaining funding/grants to obtain these items, it would go a long way to help the library stay renewed, relevant, and engaging for our locals.

The books are now all well read by all our lenders, they are dated mostly from the late 90s, we desperately need new recent ones in various genres. The furnishings are also in need of replacement now, showing the age a lot of usage, new elements like comfortable seating, some floor cushions, and even some more book shelving would be wonderful.

Our children's section is almost non-existent, it does not cover the school-age children we have in Ross, it is definitely not drawing the children of any age to come and lend from the library.

A wonderful group of locals opened the library every Wednesday afternoon 2-4pm for many years only closing for the winter months. We have rejuvenated the library somewhat after a possum damaged a lot of books in 2022, it gained entry via the fireplace that we have since blocked up.

We have had and still are trying to sell off the older books and to date we have purchased a few hundred dollars' worth of books with the money raised but it only equates to a few dozen books.

We now open every Wednesday afternoon still but now on Saturday morning 10-12 and will do so through the winter months with a great bunch local on a roster to make this happen.

We have been given a good donation from the local Ross Community Sports Club that will get us quite a few more books, and we hope to renew the children's section completely.

Any assistance from our Council would be appreciated.

Longford Rotary will be donating 3 boxes of books and jigsaw puzzles and will keep an eye out for appropriate cushions by 10 August 2024. Officer is investigating opportunities for funding.

7.5 Festival of Small Halls

M Smith noted that Ross was interested to be as host of the upcoming Festival of Small Halls Tasmania tour 2025.

Officer notes that Grant funding opens in September 2024 for events and encourages the Committee to apply for Council support. (\$1650 available.) Fiona Dewar is the Officer in charge of Tourism and Events.

7.6 Garbage Bin doors open and unsightly

Suggested that the new committee invite Works Manager Leigh McCullagh to the next Ross District Committee meeting to introduce themselves.

Chair to invite Leigh to the next meeting October 1st 2024

Action: Chair to email Leigh and invite him to attend the next meeting.

7.7 Signage on the Village Green to indicate off lead dog exercise area

Committee members requested map for the dog yard so that tourists and locals will know the location of the off-lead dog park and avoid using the Village Green.

Action: Committee to submit Works request to Council.

7.8 Budget 2024-2025 response from Council

Letter is expected to be sent out in the coming weeks addressing the Committee Budget requests. Secretary to monitor

7.9 Volunteer Handbook

J Barber noted that the Volunteer handbook is not on the website and wanted a copy.

The officer has passed a printed copy to the Committee Member after the meeting.

7.10 The Ross Town Hall

Blinds are broken and two heaters are not functioning.

Action: Committee to submit Works order from Ross District Committee

7.11 Gorse the Church

The Church has changed hands, and it is unsure who the new owners are.

Action: Works request to help find new owners and ask them to take steps to remove the Gorse

7.12 The entrance to the big main gate of the church has come off the hinges due to a car accident.

The driver responsible will pay repairs of damages done to the Sandstone posts

7.13 Removal of Shipping Container at Bakery 31 on Main Street.

Committee would like to ask Council to assist in removing the shipping container which is in a heritage zone and very visible. It is on a sold block and no longer being used.

[Officer to investigate.](#)

7.14 EV Station in Ross

3 Places were identified.

[Officer to monitor for response to the location of the EV station.](#)

7.15 District Committee Dinner - November 21st, 2024

- Southern District Committees - Campbell Town and Ross District Committees
- The Ross Hotel
- 35 Church Street, Ross.
- 6pm

7.16 Christmas Trees for Village Green

New Tr5ees were to be planted at the Village Green

Slow growing and fast growing.

[Action: Committee to check with Leigh for the tree planting date.](#)

7.17 Streetlight not working 36 Church Street

[Action: Works Request for Council to help fix the streetlight which is still not working.](#)

7.18 Welcome to new Committee and Thank you for the outgoing committee members

Dep Mayor Janet Lambert thanked the old committee members for their dedication and welcomed the new committee.

8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

The Chair closed the meeting at 12:18pm

Next meeting – Tuesday October 1st, 2024, commencing 11.15am in the Ross Reading Room.