

MINUTES

THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS, ON TUESDAY
5th SEPTEMBER 2023, COMMENCING AT 11.10AM.

1 PRESENT

Arthur Thorpe (Chairperson), Christine Robinson, Julie Smith, Michael Smith, Sally Langridge, Helen Davies, Ann Thorpe (Hon Secretary).

2 IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Alison Andrews, Councillor Richard Archer, Paul Eyre, Herbert Johnson.

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 1st August, 2023** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.*

Christine Robinson / Michael Smith

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Closure Of High Street Pedestrian Rail Crossing

NMC has agreed to apply 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.

No further update at this time - matter ongoing.

6.2 Maintenance Of Ross Footpaths

Several gravel footpaths around Ross need remediation; photos have been sent to Council, and Customer Request 78015 has been raised.

Attendees discussed and agreed that the path from the Town Hall to the Female Factory is the most important one and should be repaired as a matter of priority.

Committee noted that the priority footpath has had edging repaired and some flattening of the gravel had been done. Not totally repaired, but passable. Chair to meet with Works Manager to discuss repairs to other footpaths.

Matter ongoing.

6.3 Pedestrian Railway Crossing Chicane Portugal Street

Pedestrian Railway crossing at Portugal St, appears to have one complete chicane barrier removed and not replaced when recent maintenance work was completed on the eastern (cemetery) side of the rail line

This matter raised with NMC a number of times, and Jonathon Galbraith (NMC Engineer) has been in touch with TasRail on several occasions. To date, TasRail has not yet responded to Council's request for the chicane to be reinstated.

Notice was taken of the crossing as a train passed over. Very loose material between the rails and is considered a safety hazard. Chair to discuss with NMC, but is ultimately TasRail's responsibility, not Councils.

Matter ongoing.

6.4 Review Of Local District Committee Structure

Council has agreed to extend the terms of appointments of all LDC's and Forums until December 2023, while the Local District Committee structure review is being undertaken. The review will examine the LDC's role and function, membership, meeting times, funding and communication with the local community.

Councillor Archer advised that NMC Councillors had received information/details regarding the review for discussion at a Councillor Workshop. Councillor Archer asked if the RLDC had been contacted for input, as this was his impression. Chair advised that there have been no

requests of the committee to provide input for this report, the only request was sometime back in relation to the revision of the MoU. Councillors Andrews and Archer to go back to council and follow up. A report is apparently being provided to the September Council meeting, which will then be forwarded to the LDC's and Forums for input.

Matter ongoing.

6.5 Partial Renaming Of Portugal Street

Council has been contacted by the relevant State Government Department, in relation to streets that are not continuous but divided by sections of unmade road.

The Government now requires these types of streets to be renamed, and the first street requiring re-naming in Ross is Portugal Street.

Portugal Street runs eastward from the bottom of the heritage walk steps, past the Female Factory, up the hill to the old burial ground, and then down the hill to the gates of the old Ross Tip, where it continues on to intersect with Nivelles Street on the Village's eastern boundary.

It is suggested that the portion of the road from the intersection of Portugal and Beaufront Road (C305) to Nivelles Street be renamed, while retaining the name Portugal Street for the section from the bottom of the heritage walk steps to Beaufront Road.

Council has asked the RLDC in consultation with the community, to come up with 5 possible names which Council will consider in addition to any other suggestions, and then choose appropriate names to be forwarded to the Place Names Advisory Panel for their approval.

Names suggested so far by members of the public include:-

- Herbert Street, Colbeck Street, Multiyalakina Street.

Committee discussed. Consensus of the committee is Herbert Street as the preferred name. This was decided as Daniel Herbert was an influential figure in relation to the Ross Bridge, and his grave and memorial are very close to the edge of the unmade portion of Portugal Street that passes by the old Ross Burial Ground.

Chair to advise NMC of the RLDC's preference.

6.6 Basketball Hoop, Backboard And Post

The above was the first item on the RLDC prioritised list submitted to Council for consideration for possible funding in Council's 2023/2024 Capital Works Budget.

Council declined to fund this project in the 2023/2024 financial year which has been estimated at \$20,526 for a 7M X 5M concrete basketball court, complete with line marking and a hoop, backboard and post. An approach to the Ross Community Sports Club regarding possible co-funding with the RLDC of the project was also unsuccessful.

RLDC to consider the following three scenarios (and any other suggestions) in an effort to progress this matter further:-

1. Resubmit the basketball court project in next year's 2024/2025 capital budget request list.
2. Investigate the possible conversion of the very rarely used cricket nets in the old Ross School Oval - there are already alternative cricket nets available at the Ross Community Sports Ground where the cricket wicket is situated.
3. Seek other external sources of funding with the assistance of Lorraine Green from the NMC.

Committee to discuss and determine whether to postpone this project until next financial year, seek external funding, or to provide just the hoop, backboard and post cemented into existing concrete in the old school oval cricket nets, which would be subject to lodgement of a development application and approval by Council.

As this item was chosen as the first priority by the RLDC for submission to the NMC 2023/2024 Capital Budget considerations, it was felt it was still important. Discussion centred around the existing concrete pads (5m x 3m) at the old school grounds, which it was agreed were used previously for cricket wickets. Could \$1,000 from Secretarial Allowance funds be used to purchase a pole, backing board and hoop for installation at one of these concrete pads, just to enable users to shoot hoops? NMC could still investigate further funding avenues to build a quarter sized court at the Ross Community Sports Ground. The pole etc., could then be removed and relocated to the new court if this eventuates. Chair was concerned that if we don't spend the allocation of monies soon, then there is the possibility we may lose them again.

Everyone in agreeance to put aside \$1,000 and the balance of the money towards the Christmas Tree, bearing in mind that both projects are subject to Council approval as suitable items for the expenditure of the Secretarial Allowance.

Chair to discuss with Council's Works Manager to progress this project further, and to ascertain whether a DA is required.

6.7 Completed Items

The following are items recently completed by Council around the Ross Village.

1. The intersection road markings have been reinstated on those roads that Council recently resealed.
2. The sandbags and plastic sheeting put in place by the SES as flood mitigation, have now been removed from around the base of the Caravan Park accommodation building.
3. The bare patches around the bollards on the approaches to the Ross Bridge have been top dressed with soil and reseeded.
4. The sandstone wall fronting the Caravan Park on Bridge Street has been repaired and repointed.

5. The two dangerous Elm trees on Church Street have now been removed and replaced with advanced nursery stock.
6. The dog trough in the Ross Recreation Ground has been reinstalled.
7. The garden boxes and beds in Church Street have been fertilised.
8. Damaged bollards have been replaced outside the Catholic Church and the Ross Village Bakery. More repairs to be discussed with Councils Works Manager.

6.8 Placing Of Mature Age Christmas Tree In The Ross Village Green

The above item was the third priority on the RLDC prioritised list submitted to Council for consideration for possible funding in Council's 2023/2024 Capital Works Budget, however Council declined to fund this item.

This item could be funded from Council's Secretarial Allowance to the RLDC, subject to Council approval, and the Ross Community Sports Club has also mentioned that they may be prepared to contribute towards the cost of this item.

Committee viewed the recommendations submitted from Ross Arborist, Fiona Doe which are included below.

The options were a Blue Spruce or a Blue Cedar. After discussion, it was decided the Blue Spruce would be preferable and the size purchased would depend on the cost. Lighting would be a terrific addition if funds are available.

Chair to discuss this project with Councils Works Manager.

75 LITRE
CONTAINER

\$ 325 -

200 LITRE
CONTAINER

\$ 795 - \$ 1000



50-75 FT
TALL

10-20 FT
WIDE

AT MATURIT

BLUE STAR
OR
FAT ALBERT

Blue Spruce PICEA PUNGENS



40-60 FT
TALL

30-40 FT
WIDE

AT MATURITY

Blue Atlantic Glauca Cedar

BOTH SUIT THIS AREA

7 **NEW BUSINESS**

7.1 **Round Table**

Arthur Thorpe

- Email received from Angela Hein, Council's Facilities Officer, regarding old items in storage at Town Hall. Committee discussed the moving of tables/chairs on trolleys, etc., and the OH&S factors regarding this idea. Large table trolleys also can't be wheeled through narrow doorways, and there is the issue of the weight of the trolley plus items on it. The triangle tables are a nuisance but the market group use them (we think). The old Bar is to go, but please keep the piano and have it moved to the right hand side of the stage where it was always stored. Sally/Herbert said the piano has been there a long time, probably more than 80 years. Chair to contact Angela in more detail with the RLDC's input.
- Incidence of vandalism at 40 Bridge Street with smashed windows. It was suggested the NMC be advised of the condition of the yard as it presents a fire risk, and perhaps the Police should be notified of the vandalism as well.

Christine Robinson

- Quite a number of residents have commented negatively about the new building in the block of land next to the Ross Bridge. Does it have a DA? Residents should contact the NMC Planning Department directly if they have concerns, as planning matters are not within the remit of the RLDC.

Helen Davies

- Infestation of gorse on embankment near the heritage steps. Appears to have been sprayed but is coming back. Chair to follow up.
- Planting has been redone at the bridge and mulched. Thank you NMC.
- A couple of the heaters in the Town Hall are not working. Chair to raise CR when Helen comes back with pictures.

Michael Smith

- Rubbish and overgrown shrubs in front of the Telstra Building in High Street. Very untidy and neglected. Chair to raise with NMC and ask them to contact Telstra to request a clean-up.
- Also, TasWater Pumping Station on the way to the bridge carpark; could we ask NMC to contact TasWater to do something to "pretty" it up, maybe a mural, as it's an unattractive utilitarian device. Chair to raise concerns with the NMC, but pointed out that both of these installations were neither the property of, or the responsibility of the NMC.

Julie Smith

- Ross Running Festival happening soon, but how and when are residents who are likely impacted by road closures, to be notified? Chair to contact Fiona Dewar to request information and notification.
- Regarding removal of signs allowing dogs to roam in the Sports Ground, could these be left up to allow dogs to move freely around the grounds? Discussion held regarding legal ramifications of dogs injuring people; Council has provided an off lead dog exercise area, and is now not prepared to allow dogs to roam at will within the Ross Recreation Ground due to the risk to public safety, particularly in relation to dogs roaming freely within 10 metres of the children's playground which is illegal. The old signs will be

removed and replaced with new signs when a new Animal Control Officer is hired. Councillor Archer mentioned that with certain dog incidents in the news, he feels this should be happening sooner rather than later.

- Could the possibility of a more visible Noticeboard in the village be raised with NMC (perhaps in the Village Green). Discussion mentioned privately owned noticeboards currently at the Newsagency and also the Post Office. Need to check if NMC are still forwarding Minutes and Agenda to the PO for public perusal. Further discussion held regarding placing Agenda and Minutes on the local Ross Neighbourhood News Facebook page, however as all correspondence to and from NMC is required through the General Manager, unsure how this would fit legally. Chair to contact Lorraine Wyatt and seek clarification. New residents may not be aware of the committee meetings or documents. Minutes are already available online at Northern Midlands Council Website and attached to Council Business Papers for public perusal, and the RLDC meetings are held at the same time on the first Tuesday of every month.

Herbert Johnson

- Gravel stored near the quarry carpark; this item was raised some time ago, and resolution was mentioned at the last meeting. Council are aware of the gravel and will be using this at Ross and Campbell Town in the near future for road maintenance.
- Disability Parking in the village; this issue has already been raised with NMC and the Works Manager has advised that council is working towards providing an additional car parking space in Ross.
- Front fences in heritage area; what are the planning regulations? Councillor Archer advised this matter was beyond the remit of the RLDC and should be taken up directly with the NMC Planning Department. Following a short discussion, Mr Johnson made an offensive remark directed at the attending Councillors, to which the Chair called point of order and advised that no further questions would be accepted from Mr Johnson.

Paul Eyre

- Mentioned campers at the sports ground commented on how great the dog park was. They felt it would be a good addition if some equipment for the dogs could be included. Chair will raise matter with Councils Works Manager, but there may not be any funds available to provide any equipment during the current financial year.
- Discussion some time ago regarding clean-up of the river, as some landowners own land to the middle of the river, should they be involved? Chair suggested that any properties of concern should be brought to the attention of the appropriate Council Officer.

8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

The Chair closed the meeting at 12:28 pm.

Next meeting – Tuesday 3rd October 2023 commencing 11.15am in the Ross Reading Room.