

MINUTES

THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS, ON TUESDAY
4th MAY 2021, COMMENCING AT 11.15AM.

1 PRESENT

Arthur Thorpe (Chairperson), Jill Bennett, Helen Davies, Candy Hurren, Christine Robinson, Ricky Hebbard, Marcus Rodrigues, Herbert Johnson, Ann Thorpe (Hon Secretary).

2 IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Andrew Calvert, Graham McShane, Steve Robinson, Keith Jolley

3 APOLOGIES

Mayor Mary Knowles OAM, Grant Larkman, Allan Cameron

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 13th April, 2021** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.*

Candy Hurren / Christine Robinson

Carried Unanimously

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Midland Highway Safety Upgrade – Final Stage

Committee discussed the reply received from Jacobs following on from the presentation made to the group previously. One issue raised at this presentation, was the northern intersection

with the Midland Highway safety, particularly on foggy mornings. However it was advised that this is not part of the remit for this project, only the highway itself and safety fencing in the middle of the lanes and overtaking lanes were being looked at.

An alternative would be to lobby for any action or project funding, particularly with local politicians. There have been some changes made to the Mona Vale/Campbell Town section of the project and will include additional overtaking lanes. Public consultation with the community will be released during May and can be commented on, online. If possible, an invitation may be issued for Jacobs to come and present to committee/public. This would be held in the supper room at the Town Hall, as the Ross Reading Room would be too small to comply with the current COVID restrictions.

6.2 Memorandum of Understanding

Councillor Calvert advised this matter has been workshopped by Councillors and will be included in the Agenda for the next Council Meeting. Council Staff will then attend all LDC meetings and advise members on the actual wording to ensure consistency, compliance and understanding of the MoU. An opportunity to comment on the document will be given to all LDC's before this is made final.

6.3 Ross Pool

An Interim Report has been presented to NMC and they are awaiting the presentation of the final report.

6.4 Campbell Town Hospital Board

Chair attended the April meeting of the Hospital Board, and advised the following:-

- The old ambulance building is now in the process of being formally transferred to Hospital ownership.
- Work on the upgrade to the nurses' quarters hopefully to commence shortly. 5 ensuite rooms will be built, which will enable the recruitment of staff to Campbell Town much easier.
- Quotes for upgrade of security are being sought.
- The Hospital Board would like to hold a Public Community Meeting on health in the area and what the public would like to see available.

6.5 Road Marking On Bridge Street Outside Old School Oval

No further update regarding quotes for this matter.

6.6 White Traffic Dividing Lines North and South Entrances

No further update regarding quotes for this matter.

6.7 Rabbits

Council has advised that the official response from DPIPWE regarding the release of the Calicivirus in the Ross area, was that the Calicivirus will not be released, as environmental

conditions were not ideal.

6.8 Heritage Street Signs

Committee discussed the Heritage Street signs and Helen Davies has been in contact with Jonathan Galbraith (NMC) and although some corrections have been carried out, there are still more to be done. It was noted that some lower signs are being marked with mud and Helen has been cleaning them on her morning walks. Chair thanked Helen for all her efforts in regards to the signs.

6.9 Village Green

Residents have noted the vast amount of work being carried out on the Village Green, and look forward with much anticipation to the completed project.

6.10 Ross Bicentennial Celebrations

The Ross Bicentennial Organising Group held a very successful meeting on the 3rd May. Next activity is the Bushfest being held on 8th May at the Roseneath riverbank. The *“Dressing of the Trees”* will commence on 27th May and will last for 2 weeks.

Official Opening to mark the bicentenary of the naming of Ross, will be held at the Ross Town Hall on Wednesday, 2nd June. Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions, attendance will be by invitation only. The ceremony will be marked by the unveiling of a community quilt that tells the story of Ross, to be retained as a permanent record of this historic occasion.

6.11 Development Of Prioritised List Of Works And Services

A prioritised list of works and services for Financial Year 2021/2022 that could be considered for funding has been compiled and presented to Council.

Several members of the Committee met with Council’s Works Manager (Mr Leigh McCullagh) on Friday 23rd April to discuss this matter.

On site discussions determined that the location for the first footpath placement would be on the western side of Park Street between High and Bridge Streets. In addition, remedial works would be undertaken on the edges of the road at this location.

6.12 Speeding Vehicles On Roseneath Road Southern Bridge Approaches

Due to the concern expressed regarding the speed of vehicles when approaching and crossing the Ross Bridge via the Roseneath Road southern bridge approaches, State Growth were approached to allow the 50 kph sign to be moved 150 metres south, however this request was refused.

State Growth have agreed to a “50 kph Ahead” sign at the suggested location, to further remind motorists to slow down. Committee agreed that if this measure did not reduce the speed of vehicle approaching and crossing the bridge, then it may be necessary to consider reducing the speed limit within the Ross Township to 40kph.

6.13 Commandant's Stables

It was noted that the old stables near the Ross Bridge appear to be in need of maintenance work and as this building is under NMC ownership, the Chair has raised Customer Request number 44075 requesting attention to this matter.

7 NEW BUSINESS

A Thorpe – a request for a “Doggie Bag Dispenser” to be located in the Ross Bridge car park BBQ area, as it has been noted that a lot of unsightly dog faeces is found in this location. The Chair has raised Customer Request number 44677 requesting attention to this matter.

H Johnson – Although State Growth has been approached in the past to clean/clear the Macquarie River in the Ross area, no action has yet been forthcoming. In an endeavour to further this issue, is it possible for NMC to assist in either applying for funds through known avenues of grant funding, or through the Natural Resource Management organisation. Natural Resource Management (NRM) services are provided by Northern Midlands Council through a partnership with NRM North, the Regional NRM Organisation for Northern Tasmania. This partnership has provided a Natural Resource Management Facilitator that is based in Longford to assist the Community.

The Chair will also raise this issue and the problem concerning willows along the river, with members of the Elizabeth Macquarie Irrigation Trust at their next meeting.

The prospect of setting up a Community Garden in Ross was also raised and a number of locations were discussed.

R Hebbard – Would it be possible to set up the dog park in Ross with equipment for exercise of same, similar to that in the Longford area. A project such as this would depend on available funding. Chair also mentioned that when the dog park in Ross was established, Council indicated it would be fenced off and that this had not occurred.

With the wonderful success of the Picnic at Ross on the 2nd May, it was asked if it would be possible to charge an entry fee for cars participating in this type of event, as a means to assist in raising funds for the town's projects? Committee was advised that the Picnic at Ross wasn't an organised event, attendees just arrive. Perhaps a car club could be contacted to set up a more formal event?

C Hurren – a resident approached Candy, asking if the end of Church Street, near the Uniting Church could have more lighting, as it is quite dark. Discussions with RLDC and visitors feel it was not needed as lights are already in place at the Cenotaph and the Church.

H Davies – weeds at the table and chairs area at the top of the heritage walk steps need trimming. Also, tourists appear to be unable to find a path out of the Uniting Church grounds near the Heritage Walk. Candy to organise with the She Shed, a sign that advises “PATH THIS WAY”.

J Bennett – a huge number of leaves on footpaths, and with the recent shower of rain, it is quite dangerous. Chair to contact Works Manager as a matter of urgency (this has since been carried out)

G McShane – raised the issue of the tree trimming in Badajos Street. It is felt by a number of residents that the trees have not been trimmed, but “butchered”. Are the tree trimmers Arborists, or do they have any idea at all of what they are doing? Will the trees survive or will this set them back. No one disputes that the trees need trimming, but surely a more considered approach could be made.

Chair recalled that NMC had a “Risk And Management Tree Inspection Schedule” for Ross dating back some years, and asked Mr Johnson if he still had a copy. Mr Johnson indicated that he did and will provide same to the Chair. As a first step, the Chair will request Council to update the schedule, particularly in light of the condition of some trees after the perceived excessive trimming.

Some street lights appear to be hidden in the tree canopy and are also have different coloured bulbs which create difficulties with vision at night. Is it possible to have all bulbs the same (i.e. LED). Could this be a project for the Bicentenary? Councillor Calvert thought NMC had some input into street lighting.

Mr McShane thanked the Chair for his assistance in watering of the trees along the northern entrance to Ross. A roster for watering of gardens and paths was discussed and will be set up. Jill Bennett offered to speak to shop owners about turning on the watering system in Church Street, as grass is very dry.

8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

The Chair closed the meeting at 12.10 pm.

Next meeting – **Tuesday 1st June 2021 commencing 11.15am at the Ross Reading Room.**