

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS ON WEDNESDAY, 2 AUGUST 2017 COMMENCING AT 3:00PM

1 PRESENT

Mrs Christine Robinson (Chairperson), Mrs Debra Cadogan-Cowper, Mrs Helen Davies, Mr Arthur Thorpe, Mr Tony Thorogood, Mr Keith Draper, Mr Tim Johnson, Mr Allan Cameron,

2 IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Leigh McCullagh (Works Manager), Councillor Andrew Calvert, Constable Paul Littlejohn (Tasmania Police), Mr Herbert Johnson (Guest)

3 APOLOGIES

Mrs Amanda Bond (Regulatory & Community Services Manager), Mrs Jill Bennett, Mrs Candyce Hurren

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

Mr Keith Draper/Mr Arthur Thorpe

That the minutes of the meeting of the Ross Local District Committee held on Wednesday, 5 July 2017 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Ross Village Green

Council awaiting advice regarding Building Better Regions Funding application. Plans for development are progressing.

6.2 Sergeant Lewis McGee Commemoration

Update to be provided by Mrs Robinson and feedback regarding draft style to be provided.

Corrected copy of the draft pamphlet sent back to the graphic artists.

The Ross Local District Committee requests that the Northern Midlands Council ask the graphic artists to provide a digital copy of the finished pamphlet to the Ross Local District Committee for future possible use.

6.3 Motions to Council

6.3.1 Motion (17/02/2015): *The Ross Local District Committee request the Northern Midlands Council to have all cats registered is being investigated by Council officers.*

Update:

Council officers are reviewing the Cat Management Plan released by the State Government and will progress actions from that as required. This motion will now be removed from the Agenda and the committee will be advised of further development arising out of the Cat Management Plan.

6.3.2 Motion (02/12/2015): *That Council pay for an acoustics engineer to assess the Ross Town Hall.*

Update:

Order placed for acoustics.

Mr Keith Draper advised that the Northern Midlands Council have indicated that they will meet the full costs of the Town Hall acoustics upgrade.

6.3.3 Motion (01/03/2017): *The Ross Local District Committee request the Northern Midlands Council to consider fortnightly collection of green waste bins in 2017/2018 budget.*

Update:

Report to be presented to Council.

6.4 Heritage Street and Directional Signs

Feedback provided to Council's Engineering Officer. It is noted the original design as submitted by the committee (with the rounded edge) has been approved by Council's Heritage

Advisor. As such, slight amendments based on committee feedback have been made, but ensuring the sign remains in keeping with approval provided by Heritage Advisor. Quote has been sought.

6.5 Tasmania Police

Constable Littlejohn invited to attend the next meeting of the Ross Local District Committee.

Ross Local District Committee Members expressed their concerns to Constable Littlejohn regarding the vehicle “hooning” that is occurring in Ross.

Constable Littlejohn advised that unless a “hooning” incident is witnessed by a member of Tasmania Police, no further action can be taken in regards to such incidents, unless a member of the public is prepared to lay an official complaint.

In general conversation the following were noted;

Large area to be covered by single Police Officer

Ross is one of the better behaved communities in Tasmania

In some instances of livestock theft, Police are experiencing difficulties identifying stolen livestock due to a lack of animal ear marking

Phone 131444 for non-life threatening events, 000 for life threatening emergencies

Single Officer response is not permitted at certain times, or for certain types of incidents, therefore delays may occur until a second Officer arrives.

Issues occurring at Tombs Lake with up to 30 cars passing the boom gate on one particular occasion, and remaining on the site overnight. Difficult to take appropriate action due to the lack of clarification as to who actually owns the land in question.

Meeting to be held Thursday 10th August 2017, between Tasmania Police and relevant parties, in an effort to clarify land ownership and resolve certain issues.

The Ross Local District Committee asks that the Northern Midlands Council advise them of the outcome of this meeting.

6.6 Bus Shelter

Budget allocation for one bus shelter in Ross. Council Works Manager and Building & Maintenance Supervisor investigating installation in Church Street.

The Ross Local District Committee met with the Council Works Manager on site after the meeting concluded, and agreed on a suitable position for the bus shelter.

7 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Weeds

The State Government has provided more money for the appointment of Weeds Officers. Nothing more definite is known at this stage.

Unightly Box Thorn growing on nature strip near the intersection of the Northern Entrance (Chiswick Road) and the Midland Highway.

The Ross Local District Committee requests, that if possible, a Council Backhoe be used to remove it.

7.2 Rabbits

Concerns expressed about the recent release of the Calicivirus in Ross.

It would appear that the virus has had little effect on the Rabbit population west of the railway line.

Could the Council please confirm that the Calicivirus recently released was of the latest strain available, and also advise when a more effective baiting program could be carried out again in Ross, with particular emphasis being placed on locations west of the railway line.

7.3 Fire hazard

Concerns expressed regarding a possible fire hazard existing on a block of land west of the Macquarie River, situated from the Ross Bridge to opposite High Street.

This land needs maintaining to control vegetation growth as it poses an unacceptable fire risk to Ross, particularly given that the land is situated to the west of the town and continually exposed to the prevailing North-Westerly wind.

It is not entirely clear who actually owns the land, however the Ross Local District Committee requests that the Northern Midlands Council look into the matter on behalf of Ross residents and advise back in due course.

8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

The Chair closed the meeting at 4.15 pm.

Next meeting to be held **6 September 2017 at 3:00pm.**