

## MINUTES

THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE READING ROOM, ROSS,  
ON TUESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 2023, COMMENCING AT 11.15AM.

### 1 PRESENT

Arthur Thorpe (Chairperson), Christine Robinson, Jill Bennett, Sally Langridge, Marcus Rodrigues, Helen Davies, Julie Smith, Michael Smith, Ann Thorpe (Hon Secretary)

### 2 IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Alison Andrews AM, Councillor Richard Archer

### 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

*That the minutes of the meeting of the Ross Local District Committee held on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2023** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.*

***Amendment:*** Julie Smith requested a change to September Minutes – queried whether date and time for RLDC Meetings could be placed on Ross Neighbourhood News Facebook page, not Agenda and Minutes. September 2023 Minutes to be notated as requested.

***Sally Langridge / Christine Robinson***

## **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.

Chair discussed with Council's Engineer, and he advised Council has given TasRail everything they require, and are now awaiting the technical specifications required for the job to proceed.

Matter ongoing.

### **6.2 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.

Correspondence with TasRail indicate they, as the responsible entity, are unhappy with the placement of the crossing and it would be preferable to have it moved further south, not within the cutting. However, due to the changes in road level and land owned by private individuals, this is not suitable alternative. After discussion, it was agreed not to pursue the replacement of the chicane any further, at this time. However, remediation of the fill between the rail lines is required for public safety. Chair to advise Council's Engineer.

No further action at this time, remove from agenda.

### **6.3 Review Of Local District Committee Structure**

Council had agreed to extend the terms of appointments of all LDCs 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.

The Local District Committee Review Report was tabled at Council's September meeting, and has subsequently been provided to all Local District Committees and Forums and RLDC members were requested to read the report, and provide feedback at the October RLDC meeting.

Chair stated that the Council have had 5 months to compile the report, and that to expect the RLDC to examine the report and the proposed MOU in detail and report back to Council within 3 working days after the RLDC committee meeting, was unrealistic. In addition the Chair stated that he personally did not have the time available to collate, edit and present meaningful feedback within the time frame imposed by Council.

It was suggested that a Council resourced workshop be held for those committees that require assistance in this matter, so that guidance and help can be provided to (a) examine the report and the MOU in detail, and (b) make informed comments and suggestions on both documents, and the covering letter from Council dated 19.9.23, detailing mandatory requirements such as “Pecuniary Interest” and “Acknowledgement Of Country.”

The RLDC fully supports Council’s review of the LDCs, and expressed the opinion that there are some very good and worthwhile additions and changes suggested in the proposed MOU, for instance, the RLDC fully supports the suggestion that Local District Committees meet bi-monthly.

However there are some activities in the MOU that are listed as the LDC’s responsibility to perform, when it would appear that they are Council’s responsibility – registration and induction of committee members is one instance - and some confusing statements such as “Committees do not deal with complaints” contradicted by “Will direct any complaints received to Council.” These are just two examples of several items of concern that became apparent after a brief examination of the documents.

Chair then proposed a motion:

*That Council as soon as possible, provide and resource a workshop to be held in both Longford and Campbell Town for Local District Committee and Forum members to attend, for the purposes of considering Council’s report into the review of Local District Committees, and the proposed changes to the MOU under which they will operate. Council’s letter dated 19th September 2023 to the Chairs of Local District Committee/Forums, should also be included for discussion.*

*In the case of the Ross Local District Committee it is felt that a brief review at the monthly RLDC meeting is totally insufficient to review, comment on, and suggest additions, modifications or deletions to the draft MOU.*

***Jill Bennett / Marcus Rodrigues***

The committee members voted on this proposed motion and the vote was unanimous.

#### **6.4 Basketball Hoop, Backboard and Post**

Chair met with Council’s Works Manager on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September at the old Ross School Oval.

Following discussion, it was agreed with the suggestion put forward by the Works Manager, to place a basic post/backboard/hoop abutting the north east concrete pad was suitable. This work will need to be completed as soon as practicable, so as not to lose any further monies from the secretarial allowance. Committee were informed that apparently Council is currently applying for a grant to have a “proper” court built within the village, however the post, backboard and hoop could be relocated should any grant application be successful.

Matter ongoing.

## 6.5 Placing Of Mature Age Christmas Tree In The Ross Village Green

Chair met with Council's Works Manager on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September at the Ross Village Green. Council will support planting a Christmas tree in the area between the amenities building and the Band Rotunda.

Subsequent to the meeting and in further phone discussions in regards to the tree itself, enquiries made to Council's tree suppliers/nurserymen indicated that the proposed tree type - Blue Spruce/Blue Star - is not available in Tasmania as advanced nursery stock, and that the available specimens are only 1 metre to 1.5 metres high and are very slow growing. The tree height of available specimens would preclude the installation of lighting, due to such lighting being in close proximity to the ground and therefore being within the easy reach of vandals and inquisitive children.

An alternative would be to transplant a suitable already established tree from another location, and in discussions with Council's Works Manager, Mr Mark Hay from Allens Nursery has indicated he is willing to come to Ross and give his professional opinion as to the suitability for transplantation of any particular trees.

A Blue Spruce which will take some time to grow is probably preferable, but could another more advanced size transplanted tree of another type be used in the meantime, then when the spruce reaches a reasonable height, the transplanted tree could be removed? Committee must remain cognisant of the cost involved in relocating trees, and for this to be taken into account when making any decision.

Sally Langridge has identified two trees within the village that may be suitable for relocation, and Chair will contact Council's Works Manager and request Mark's attendance.

Matter ongoing.

## 7 NEW BUSINESS

*C Robinson*

- asked to propose a motion:

*The RLDC request the NMC provide clarification of regulations pertaining to portable/temporary structures placed on vacant blocks with the township and used as holiday accommodation with particular reference in heritage precincts.*

***Christine Robinson / Marcus Rodrigues***

The committee members voted on this proposed motion and the vote was carried 7 to 1.

*Ann Thorpe*

- Due to ongoing health issues, I have made the decision to cease volunteering to take the Minutes of RLDC meetings after the December meeting. Thank you everyone for your assistance and patience during my time as Honorary Secretary.

*Arthur Thorpe*

- Reminded everyone of the invite to the Christmas Party arranged by Council on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. RSVP by Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November please.

*Helen Davies*

- There are currently 4 vacant heritage buildings in Church Street. Are there any Council regulations relating to empty private heritage buildings deteriorating? There would appear to be no Council regulations, however Heritage Tasmania may be an alternative authority on this matter. Helen to contact Heritage Tasmania to follow up.

*Michael Smith*

- The walkway at the Ross Bridge where the stormwater exits is not draining away. The water appears stagnant and concrete is breaking up. Unfortunately this is not a Council matter as the bridge and surrounds are under the auspices of State Growth. Chair to contact Works Manager and ask for State Growth to be notified.

*Julie Smith*

- A number of larger vehicles have been turning into High Street from Church Street, thinking they can access the Sports Ground through this street. Could Council place a "No Through" sign to alert these vehicles? Chair will discuss with Council.
- Lights in The Village Green are on all night. Some residents have found this annoying. Council normally leave lights on in all public park areas as a counter measure against vandalism and undesirable criminal activity. Also, there is a public toilet which is open 24 hours and would be difficult to access if lights are turned off. As an alternative, could they be dulled down rather than be turned off. Chair will raise matter again with Council.

**8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE**

The Chair closed the meeting at 12:37 pm.

**Next meeting – Tuesday 7th November 2023 commencing 11.15am in the Ross Reading Room.**