

NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AVOCA, ROYAL GEORGE & ROSSARDEN LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD AT AVOCA COMMUNITY CENTRE ON THURSDAY 19 JULY 2012 COMMENCING AT 6.07PM

1 IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs H Reynolds (Deputy Chair), Ms C Grey, Ms M Hunt, Mr T Gee, Cr M Knowles, Mr A Wilson – General Manager, Mrs G Eacher – Executive Assistant (no quorum)

Visitor – Mrs V Burn

2 APOLOGIES

Mrs C Freeman, Mrs S Freeman, Mrs M Dennis

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Ms C Grey/Cr M Knowles

That the minutes of the meeting of the Avoca, Royal George and Rossarden Local District Committee held on Thursday, 24 May 2012 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

Carried

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*, 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.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to receive the information.

5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

i) Monitoring Water Quality St Pauls River

Mr Wilson advised that no problems had been reported and that, in the future, Council would advise the Committee if any issues were brought to the attention of Council.

Action

Council to provide updates to the Committee.

ii) Installation of Electrical Power Point in Barbecue Area

The matter of providing an electrical power point in the barbecue area had been further investigated, and was considered that such an installation would not be

appropriate. It should be noted that provision of a power point for general use is not provided in other barbecue shelters in Northern Midlands.

The meeting was advised that Mr Chellis had been unable to attend the meeting, however, hoped to attend the September meeting.

Discussion took place as to whether the installation of an electrical power point was warranted and noted potential problems therewith.

Action

The Committee RESOLVED to discuss the matter further at a future meeting attended by the Works & Infrastructure Manager.

iii) Activities for the Youth of Avoca

The following matters to be discussed:

- providing the youth in Avoca with appropriate activities
- introduction of a Scout group (to be assisted by the Campbell Town Scouts) and suitable venue
- upgrade of the playground facilities, including a skate park, at Boucher Park - noted that in order to establish a skate park funding would need to be sourced and the criteria for obtaining grants usually included input from the community; therefore fundraising initiatives would need to be undertaken.

Action

The Committee RESOLVED to hold the matter over, to be discussed at a future meeting.

iv) Road Closures/Improvements

At the 24 May meeting, the Committee raised concerns regarding the deterioration of the roads previously managed by Forestry Tasmania and Gunns. A request was made that Council consider liaising with Break O'Day Council in order to improve "forestry" roads so that tourist attractions can be accessed. Mention was made of a number of waterfalls in the area which were currently difficult to access from Avoca.

Customer request issued to investigate improvements to roads in order to gain access to tourist attractions such as waterfalls (in conjunction with Break O'Day Council where appropriate).

Action

The Committee RESOLVED to discuss the matter further at a future meeting attended by the Works & Infrastructure Manager.

v) Milford Bridge

The Committee raised concerns in relation to

a) the surface of the new bridge; and

Mr Chellis provided the following information in relation to the query re the bridge road surface:

The asphalt surface is the same as all other bridges in the municipality and the travel speed across the bridge should be slow.

b) load limit signage

Mr Galbraith provided the following information re load limit signage:

The Milford Bridge has been built to the MS1600 standard and certified by an engineer. This is the same standard that all other new bridges throughout the municipality are built to and also the standard used for building bridges on state Highways therefore a load limit is not required.

Action

The Committee RESOLVED to

- a) discuss the matter re the bridge road surface further at a future meeting attended by the Works & Infrastructure Manager.*
- b) note the information provided by Mr Galbraith.*

vi) Website

Input received from the Committee in relation to their requirements for the webpage, including provision for Royal George and Rossarden on the webpage.

In order to progress the matter the Committee to provide further information, including links to websites.

The committee provided information re website links.

Action

The Committee RESOLVED to request Council officers to proceed with the website and go on-line, with the inclusion of the information provided at the meeting. The Committee to provide further information at a later date.

vii) Weather protection at Barbecue Shelter

The Committee requested that the installation of shade cloth, together with a lattice support, be reconsidered for installation to protect the shelter from the prevailing weather, i.e. the St Pauls Place side, on either side of the entrance. Customer request issued.

Discussion took place as to the need for weather protection and possible use of alternative materials at the shelter.

Action

The Committee RESOLVED to discuss the matter further at a future meeting attended by the Works & Infrastructure Manager.

viii) Drainage/ Surface Water Issues

a) St Pauls Place, Avoca

The matter of water, possibly sewerage, rising to the surface in the vicinity of 9 St Pauls Place was again raised as the matter had not been resolved.

This matter has been referred to the Environmental Health Officer. Mrs Eacher

to provide an update, if available.

b) Churchill Street, Avoca

The Committee advised that water was still rising up through the surface of the road/verge and that grass was growing in the cracks and that the road had been resurfaced, without the necessary repair being made to the road surface prior to resurfacing.

Mr Chellis has advised that

this is caused from septic tank drainage from properties. The replacement of the kerb and gutter for the full length of the street and stormwater system is programmed for 2014- 2015 at a cost of \$100000.

Action

a) St Pauls Place, Avoca

Council's Environmental Health Officer to be requested to attend the site and discuss drainage issues and potential solutions with the owners of neighbouring properties.

b) Churchill Street, Avoca

The Committee noted the inclusion of the replacement of the kerb and gutter and stormwater system, for the entire length of Churchill Street, in the 2014-2015 works programme.

iv) Rossarden – Walks and Attractions

The Committee requested whether it would be possible to provide an access through private land to the Rossarden waterfall.

Ownership of the land in question to be established, Cr Knowles to provide an update in relation to this matter.

Action

Cr Knowles to investigate land ownership of the property identified with Council officers.

v) Voluntary Ambulance Service

An advertisement to be placed in the Country Courier, calling for volunteers for the Ambulance Service (Avoca).

Information to be obtained from Mrs Squires.

Action

Information re volunteers for the Ambulance Service (Avoca) to be obtained by Cr Knowles from the Ambulance Service and forwarded to Council for inclusion on the Council website and in the Country Courier.

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

i) Planning Applications

Nil to discuss.

7 NEW BUSINESS

i) Upcoming Roadworks on Esk Main Road in late 2012

The Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER) is undertaking design work for the reconstruction of a five kilometre section of Esk Main Road between Churchill Street and Leona Road, near Avoca.

The roadworks will improve safety by widening the road to provide two three metre lanes with one metre sealed shoulders to meet High Productivity Vehicle requirements. The works will also strengthen the road surface to improve ride quality and reduce future road maintenance costs between Avoca and Fingal. It will also involve curve widening and upgrading of the safety barriers, where required.

It is anticipated that construction will commence in late 2012 and extend for a period of five months, weather permitting. This project is funded by the State Government Community Roads Program.

A Flyer is attached for further information. Information is also available on the DIER website: www.dier.tas.gov.au or you can contact DIER's Project Manager Guna Ginneliya on (03) 6233 5298 or by email: guna.ginneliya@dier.tas.gov.au.

Action

Noted.

ii) Municipal Budget 2012/2013

The 2012/2013 Municipal Budget was adopted at a Special Council meeting held on 9 July 2012. The minute is attached for information.

The following works are included in the budget for the Avoca, Royal George and Rossarden area:

5.3.3 Community Amenities

<i>Building Improvement Program As per improvement program priority list</i>	<i>\$150,000</i>
<i>Upgrade buildings as follows:</i>	
AVOCA	
<i>Ash Centre Improvements</i>	<i>\$35,000</i>
<i>Public Toilets Septic Improvements</i>	<i>\$15,000</i>

5.1.2 Bridges

<i>Replace the following bridge no's.:</i>	
<i>Bridge 1009 – Royal George Road, Rockhouse Creek Replace deck</i>	<i>\$168,000</i>
<i>Bridge 2197 – Royal George Road, Stable Creek Timber to Concrete</i>	<i>\$68,000</i>

Action

The abovementioned works included in the budget for the Avoca, Royal George and

Rossarden area were noted. Cr Knowles noted further that an amount of \$2,375, had been set aside for the Rossarden Progress Association - Access Ramp to Museum.

iii) Absences without leave

Mrs Eacher reminded Committee members that should a committee member miss more than 3 consecutive meetings without seeking a leave of absence, that their membership would be terminated as per the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Action

No further action to be taken.

iv) Dumping of Waste at the Football Ground

The Committee noted that hard and green waste was being dumped in the vicinity of the football ground.

Action

Customer Request to be issued for the inclusion of this site in the programme for CCTV camera monitoring.

v) Anti-Social Behaviour (Fires)

The Committee noted that 8 fires had been set in the vicinity of the river bank and although accelerant had been used, the fires had failed to ignite. Concerns were raised for the safety of the town and those undertaking this activity.

Action

Council to notify Tas Police of this incident.

vi) Doggy Bag Dispenser and use of Boucher Park by dog owners

The committee discussed the relocation of the doggy bag dispenser from the riverbank to Boucher Park and that dog owners with dogs on lead be permitted to utilise Boucher Park for activities, however, the children's playground to remain "dog-free".

Action

The Committee RESOLVED

- a) to request Council officers to consider the relocation of the doggy bag dispenser from the riverbank to Boucher Park and that Boucher Park be declared a designated area for dogs on leash (the children's playground to remain "dog-free").*
- b) that Council, by way of the NMC column or advertisement in the Country Courier, remind residents that they are required to "clean up" after their dogs.*

vii) Tribute to Mr Barry Thomas

The Committee paid tribute to the late Mr Barry Thomas who was a resident of Royal

George and served as a member of the Committee for a number of years. It was mentioned that his contribution into all matters considered by the Committee was always valued and respected.

Action

No further action to be taken.

viii) Overhanging/Dead Trees

Noted that there were dead trees and overhanging bushes in Falmouth Street next to the Memorial Hall.

Action

Customer Request to be issued requesting Council to attend to the maintenance of the site.

ix) Orienteering Championships

Discussion took place in regard to the Orienteering Championships to be held in September at Royal George and the attendance of approximately 600 competitors. Cr Knowles advised that maps of the area would be handed out at the championships. Mr Wilson advised that arrangements had been made for the provision of wheelie bins; the committee requested that Council ensure that sufficient wheelie bins were provided and to consider the provision of recycle bins. Further, the committee queried whether Council could grade the road edges in order for busses to park safely.

Action

That the Works Department be requested to consider the provision of recycle bins in addition to the wheelie bins and the possible grading of road edges.

x) 'Nowhere roads'

The Committee noted the recent article in the June Northern Midlands News in regard to 'Nowhere Roads' and queried the source of the information which was published, which was incorrect. Mr Wilson advised that the Council meetings were attended by the press and that Council had no control over reporting by the press.

Action

No further action to be taken.

xi) Avoca Promotional Video

The committee viewed the recent promotional video on Avoca and surrounds and positive comments were received.

Action

No further action to be taken.

xii) Switch to Digital TV

The committee noted that applications for the **Household Assistance Scheme** were

due to close shortly and that letters had been sent out. It noted that the Household Assistance Scheme is a program run by the Australian government and provides assistance to older Australians, veterans and people with disabilities, or their carers, the scheme provides the following package free of charge to eligible persons:

- a high definition set-top box
- a demonstration of your new equipment and instructions on how to use it
- 12 months warranty, service and technical support.

The committee also referred to the **Satellite Subsidy Scheme** (SSS), this scheme provides a subsidy for eligible households to switch to satellite TV via the Viewer Access Satellite Television Service (VAST). The Government is funding VAST to service areas of remote Australia currently serviced by the Aurora satellite service (which currently only transmits four TV channels); areas previously serviced by self-help facilities; and to provide services to people living in any area where a good, reliable digital television signal cannot be provided terrestrially. It was noted that a household may be eligible for a subsidy if a household that relies on an analogue TV signal from a self-help transmission tower not going to be converted to digital TV. It was noted that information in regard to these schemes can be found at www.digitalready.gov.au/Households/government-assistance.aspx

Action

No further action to be taken.

8 CLOSURE & NEXT MEETING

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 7.10pm.

The next meeting to be held on Thursday, 20 September 2012 at the Avoca Community Centre commencing at 6.00pm.