

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AVOCA, ROYAL GEORGE & ROSSARDEN LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD AT AVOCA COMMUNITY CENTRE ON THURSDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2012 COMMENCING AT 6.10PM

1 IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs C Freeman (Chair), Mrs H Reynolds (Deputy Chair), Ms C Grey, Ms M Hunt, Mr T Gee, Mrs M Dennis, Mr A Hicks, Mrs S Squires, Cr M Knowles, Mr W Chellis – Works & Infrastructure Manager, Mrs G Eacher – Executive Assistant

2 APOLOGIES

Mrs S Freeman,

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Mr T Gee/Mrs M Dennis

That the minutes of the meeting of the Avoca, Royal George and Rossarden Local District Committee held on Thursday, 19 July 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.

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.

The information was received.

5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

i) 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 it was considered that such an installation would not be appropriate.

Following discussion, the Committee RESOLVED that the Avoca Museum and Information Centre would provide electricity for functions, etc.

Action

No further action - the matter has been finalised.

ii) Activities for the Youth of Avoca

It was noted that a children's workshop had been held with 35 attendees and that a Children's Christmas event was being planned.

The following matters to be considered at a future meeting of the Committee:

- 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. Funding for such a proposal should be discussed with Ms Green; costs for a skate park are estimated to be in excess of \$65,000.

Action

Provision of youth activities to be investigated in the future.

iii) 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.

Following discussion, it was agreed that requests for the improvement of "forestry" roads and signage to attractions would be placed on hold pending finalisation of responsibility of the Gunns/Forestry roads.

Action

On hold, pending finalisation of responsibility of the Gunns/Forestry roads

iv) Milford Bridge

At the July meeting the Committee raised concerns in relation to the surface of the bridge, at which time Mr Chellis advised that the asphalt surface was the same as all other bridges in the municipality and the travel speed across the bridge should be slow.

The matter was discussed and the Committee noted the advice of the Works & Infrastructure Manager.

Action

No further action, matter finalised.

v) Website

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

The Committee was advised that Council officers had been requested to proceed with the website development and that further information was required for inclusion on the site.

The Committee requested that Council investigate the inclusion of Justice's of the Peace on Council's website.

Action

Mrs Eacher to investigate the inclusion of Justice's of the Peace on Council's website.

vi) Weather protection at Barbecue Shelter

The Committee discussed previously the installation of shade cloth and lattice support to the barbecue shelter, to protect the shelter from the prevailing weather, i.e. the St Pauls Place side, on either side of the entrance, for which a customer request was issued.

Discussions with the Works & Infrastructure Manager were held on site prior to the meeting and it was agreed that colourbond screening be erected on the roadside orientation and to half of the face of the shelter, to allow for wheelchair access.

Action

Mr Chellis to progress the improvements as agreed.

vii) Drainage/ Surface Water Issues

a) St Pauls Place, Avoca

It was noted that the matter of water, possibly sewerage, rising to the ground surface in the vicinity of 9 St Pauls Place remains unresolved.

Mrs Eacher advised the Committee that the matter has been referred to the Environmental Health Officer, who has advised that investigations are ongoing.

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.

c) Boucher Park, Avoca

Funds had been allocated in the 2012/2013 municipal budget for repairs to the sewerage system at Boucher Park. Mr Chellis advised that the repairs required appeared to be minor and that there were two systems in operation at Boucher Park which needed to be alternated.

Action

- a) *St Pauls Place, Avoca - Investigations ongoing.*
- b) *Churchill Street, Avoca - matter is considered finalised pending planned works in 2014-2015.*
- c) *No further action.*

viii) Rossarden – Walks and Attractions

The Committee requested that access be provided through private land to the Rossarden waterfall.

Cr Knowles advised that, upon investigation it appeared that the land may be the responsibility of Crown Lands. Cr Knowles described the location of the current access and will advise the exact location of the “access” point and distances in order that a letter can be written to Crown Lands requesting access to the waterfall be provided.

Action

Cr Knowles to provide further information in order for correspondence to be forwarded to Crown Lands.

ix) Voluntary Ambulance Service

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.

No further information provided.

Action

x) Upcoming Roadworks on Esk Main Road in late 2012

Mrs Eacher advised that DIER had advised that in regard to the reconstruction of a five kilometre section of Esk Main Road between Churchill Street and Leona Road, near Avoca, that tenders had closed on 12/9, it was expected that the contract would be awarded during November and works would commence in December (weather permitting).

Action

Matter finalised, no further action.

xi) Dumping of Waste

a) *Football Ground*

The Committee noted that hard and green waste was being dumped in the vicinity of the football ground and that it was possible that some asbestos had been dumped. The Committee requested that Council clean-up the location periodically.

The Committee agreed that the CCTV camera was not required at this location.

b) Roadsides

The Committee discussed the disposal of rubbish on the roadsides and requested that an item be published in the Country Courier. The “Adopt A Highway” campaign was also mentioned as a possible way forward.

Action

- a) *Football Ground – Customer Request to be issued for periodic clean up of the site.*

xii) Anti-Social Behaviour (Fires & other matters)

At the July meeting it was noted that fires had been set in the vicinity of the river bank. Concerns were raised for the safety of the town and those undertaking such activities.

Following the July meeting further matters relating to safety were addressed with the Community and Tasmania Police. Mrs Eacher advised that Mr Wilson and Mrs Eacher had met with Tasmania Police on 1 August at which time Tas Police were invited to attend meetings of the Committee.

The Committee commented that although Police drove through Avoca regularly, there was still little Police presence in Avoca.

Action

No further action.

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

At the July meeting, 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”, customer requests were issued requesting these changes.

The matter was discussed further and it was noted that an article was included in the Northern Midland News on 1 August reminding dog owners of their responsibilities.

Action

Doggy Bag dispenser to be erected at Boucher Park.

Matter re dog owners with dogs on lead be permitted to utilise Boucher Park for activities, with the children’s playground to remain “dog-free”, to be discussed further.

xiv) Orienteering Championships

The Committee was advised of the following:

- arrangements had been made for the provision of bins,
- water testing had been undertaken,
- AMIC brochures printed, and
- display of the Northern Midlands Council banner at the event.

Action

No further action required.

6 PENDING ITEMS

i) Monitoring Water Quality St Pauls River

No complaints received and no recent testing had been undertaken in the July/August period.

Action

The Committee to be advised if any issues were brought to the attention of Council.

7 NEW BUSINESS

i) Bridges

a) School Creek at Royal George

The Committee discussed the works regarding the replacement (with concrete) of a bridge over School Creek, Royal George.

The committee noted that

- a commencement date for the works was still being finalised, but that it was likely to be end September or the first week of October;
- a bypass was to be constructed so that the road would remain open at all times;
- the travelling public were requested to proceed through the site with caution and obey any instructions given to them by workers on site;
- the duration of works was expected to be 6 – 8 weeks.

b) Stable Creek Bridge

Works on Stable Creek bridge were discussed, it was noted that

- these bridge works would be undertaken in the new year;
- residents would be letter box dropped;
- appropriate signage would be erected; and
- bridge replacement was expected to take approximately 4 hours.

Action

No further action.

ii) Milford Dam

The screening, from the Esk Highway, of Milford Dam by way of plantings to minimise any reflections emanating from the dam was discussed.

Action

Plans for screening plantings to be investigated.

iii) Esk Highway - Signage

The Committee requested Council liaise with DIER regarding the installation of warning signage (in both directions) of the slippery conditions which occur on the Esk Highway, from the railway overpass for a distance of approx. 1.5km's toward the Midland Highway intersection in the vicinity of the recent road fatality.

Action

Council Officers be requested to include the matter in the Agenda of the Traffic Committee.

iv) Security Lights – Epping Forest

The Committee discussed the possible hazard caused by the orientation of the security lights toward traffic on the Midland Highway.

Action

Mr Chellis to discuss the matter with the business owners.

v) General Matters

The following matters were noted:

- that flyers had been erected advertising the Mental Health Day (Trivia Day and BBQ) to be held at Campbell Town on Tuesday, 9 October.
- that Council has no jurisdiction in relation to the matter of noisy behaviour of residents and that the matter, dependant on the circumstances, was the responsibility of the landlord or the Police.
- Avoca Museum and Information Centre
 - Cenotaph had been cleaned up
 - AMIC working with the RSL to host an ANZAC day service in 2013.

8 CLOSURE & NEXT MEETING

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 7.00pm.

The next meeting to be held on Thursday, 22 November 2012 at the Avoca Community Centre commencing at 6.00pm.