

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AVOCA, ROYAL GEORGE & ROSSARDEN LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD AT AVOCA COMMUNITY CENTRE ON THURSDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2012, COMMENCING AT 6.08PM

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 Freeman, Cr M Knowles, Mr A Wilson - General Manager, Mrs G Eacher – Executive Assistant

Guests:

Inspector John Ward and Senior Sergeant Chris Parr – Tasmania Police

Mr Glen Rowlands, Executive Manager Regional Service Delivery and Ms Sophie Murphy, Customer Service & Communications Manager – Ben Lomond Water (to 6.25pm)

2 APOLOGIES

Mrs S Squires

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Mr T Gee/Mrs H Reynolds

That the minutes of the meeting of the Avoca, Royal George and Rossarden Local District Committee held on Thursday, 20 September 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.

No interest was declared.

5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

i) Monitoring Water Quality / Water Consumption

Representatives from Ben Lomond Water (BLW) attended the meeting and distributed information sheets on test results, Australian Drinking Water Guidelines and a BLW fact sheet.

The representatives advised:

- That water was not suitable for consumption due to the presence of cadmium and lead;
- That BLW were liaising with the Department of Public Health (DPH) and conducting water testing, including on Aberfoyle Creek, Storys Creek and the South Esk River;
- Investigations were being undertaken in relation to the feasibility of a water treatment plant;
- Maintenance on the pump station on the St Paul's River, as well as testing/analysis, was currently being undertaken with a view to getting the pump station back in service;
- A "Do Not Consume Alert" would remain in place until such time as resolution was reached;
- BLW stated that advice had been received from the DPH that minimal risk was involved with consuming produce which had been watered using the contaminated water as absorption was mainly through the root system, the outer leaves of leafy greens should be discarded and that vegetables should be thoroughly washed in fresh water;
- Other testing was also being undertaken, including at Conara and Epping Forest where metals were present but considerably diluted; and
- BLW were able to investigate the source of the contaminants, but had no power to act as power to act falls within the ambit of the State Government.

It was noted that

- Residents would need to undertake their own investigations into the use of online water filters;
- The tank at Royal George is owned by the State Government; however, Council supplies water to the tank via tanker delivery from Longford.
- The St Paul's River was very low and was subject to Algae Bloom and being stagnant; and
- The best means for BLW to communicate with residents was the provision of flyers for distribution.

It was noted that residents of Avoca had previously received the following notice re the consumption of water:

Water from all Council water taps at Avoca is not to be consumed.

Reminder - Ben Lomond Water has issued the following Public Notice, it is noted that a community consultation session was held on Friday, 9 November:

THIS IS TO ADVISE THAT THE WATER SUPPLY TO YOUR PROPERTY IS NOT TO BE CONSUMED

Customers are advised the water supply to Avoca has been deemed unsuitable for drinking following the detection on more than one occasion of Cadmium and Lead.

The levels detected in recent samples slightly exceeded the Australian Drinking

Water Guideline value. Boiling of water does not remove the Cadmium or Lead.

Following advice from Ben Lomond Water, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has agreed to the placement of a do-not-consume notice on the supply.

Ben Lomond Water is committed to the health and wellbeing of our customers and the community. A temporary water supply has been established at the local hall while we undertake community consultation to determine a longer term solution.

Ben Lomond Water has a routine testing program of its water supply schemes. This includes testing for pesticides and a range of other chemicals and compounds.

This program and DHHS sampling identified the low levels of Cadmium and Lead at Avoca.

For further information please contact 13 MYWATER (13 6992).

The General Manager thanked the Ben Lomond Water representatives for attending the meeting.

The BLW representatives vacated the meeting at 6.25pm.

In regard to the information provided by Ben Lomond Water, the committee recommended that consideration should be given to the extraction of potable water from above the Merrywood Bridge on the St Paul's River for supply to Avoca.

Action

BLW to continue to keep residents informed re progress towards resolution of the water issues.

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

ii) Activities for the Youth of Avoca

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.

No further information was provided on the above matters.

It was noted that there was a good turnout of youth, of all ages, at the holiday workshop held recently.

Action

Matter pending.

iii) Website

The Committee was advised that Council officers had completed work on the Avoca

website www.avocatasmania.com

It was noted that input was required from the Committee in relation to their requirements for the ongoing maintenance of the webpage and that the Committee would be required to provide information to Council to upload and for removal (a week's notice would be preferable).

It was noted that no Justice of the Peace details are provided on the Department of Justice's website; however, contact details for Justices of the Peace can be obtained by telephoning the Legal Aid Commission on 1300 366 611.

Action

No further action.

iv) 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 September 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.

Mr Wilson advised that the planned works have been programmed for the end of January.

Action

Committee to be kept informed on progress.

v) Drainage/ Surface Water Issues - 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.

The meeting was advised that the matter had been referred to and investigated by Council's Environmental Health Officer. The EHO advised that site had been inspected on 21 November and that there were no visible signs of water at the time of the inspection; the source of the water previously visible during winter was therefore unknown and that there was evidence of soil excavation on the site. He noted that Council has no record of any drainage or pipework passing through the property.

Action

Matter on hold pending further information.

vi) 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 by the General Manager.

vii) 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, should the need arise.

Action

Matter resolved. No further action to be taken.

viii) 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. Customer Request issued for periodic clean up of the site.

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

It was noted that the issue was ongoing and that the Works Supervisor would arrange for periodic checks to be undertaken of the site.

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

Matter finalised – Works Supervisor to undertake periodic checks.

ix) 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.

Inspector John Ward and Senior Sergeant Chris Parr of Tasmania Police attended the meeting and provided information in relation to a number of queries and Inspector Ward reiterated that issues needed to be reported in order for them to be investigated. He advised that non-emergency matters should be reported on

telephone no. 131 444.

Action

No further action. Issues to be directed to Tasmania Police as they arise.

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

It was noted that another doggy bag dispenser had been installed in front of Boucher Park. Council Officer's advised that people should not be encouraged into the park area itself with their dogs, as it is too close to the children's playground.

The meeting noted that good use was being made of the new doggy bag dispenser which had been installed. It was agreed that a regime for the refilling of the dispenser needed to be introduced.

Action

Arrangements for regular checks to be made of stock of doggy bags in the dispenser.

xi) 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 at the September meeting.

The matter was investigated and the meeting was advised that the Milford dam did not require a planning permit under the Planning Scheme (exempt under section 60A of *Land Use Planning & Approvals Act 1993*). The dam was assessed and passed by Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water & Environment, under Section 149 of the *Water Management Act 1999*. Council officers had contacted DPIPWE re this issue and been advised that on completion of the project, should a problem arise, the matter should be brought to the attention of DPIPWE who would be take it up with the landowners.

Action

No further action to be taken.

xii) 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 (the area known locally as Red Hill's Crossing).

The meeting was advised that Council Officers had sent an email to DIER and that the matter had been listed for consideration at the next traffic committee meeting in early December.

Tasmania Police advised that they would undertake enquiries re the erection of signage at the location.

Action

Pending response from Traffic Committee.

xiii) Security Lights – Epping Forest

At the September meeting, the Committee discussed the possible hazard caused by the orientation of the security lights toward traffic on the Midland Highway.

The meeting was advised that the matter had been brought to the attention of the operator who had agreed to review the lighting and make the necessary adjustments if necessary.

Action

No further action to be taken.

xiv) Noise complaints

It was noted 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.

Tasmania Police advised that there were mechanisms under which they could act in relation to noise complaints, and that noise issues should be reported to Tasmania Police on telephone no. 131 444.

Action

No further action. Issues to be directed to Tasmania Police as they arise.

6 PENDING ITEMS

i) Road Closures/Improvements

At the 24 May 2012 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.

7 NEW BUSINESS

i) Roadworks Esk Highway

The meeting was advised that DIER roadworks on the Esk Highway were due to commence on 3 December 2012 and continue through to May 2013, weather permitting. It was noted that preparation works had already commenced.

Action

No further action to be taken.

ii) 2013 Calendar – Committee Meeting Dates

The Committee noted the dates for the future monthly meetings of the Local District Committee for 2013. The meetings to be held on the last Thursday of the month (except March 2013) at 6pm, as follows:

- 31 January
- 21 March* (3rd Thursday)
- 30 May
- 25 July
- 26 September
- 28 November

Action

No further action to be taken.

iii) Special Pensioner Refuse Collection 4 December 2012

The Committee noted that a special refuse collection for Avoca and Rossarden townships would be held on Tuesday, 4 December 2012, which would be available for pensioners only, the following should be noted:

- to assist in the removal of surplus items, such as old electrical appliances and damaged furniture etc.
- pensioners would need to contact the Special Refuse Collection Officer on (03) 6397 7303 to register for a collection;
- that items for collection were required to be placed on the footpath on Monday evening without obstructing foot traffic
- all items for collection must not be more than 1 cubic metre in total, individual items not to exceed 20 kilograms in weight and loose items required to be contained in garbage bags or bundled and tied
- items such as tyres, green / garden waste, broken glass, refrigerators, medical waste, chemicals or trade waste would not be collected.

The meeting was advised that notices had been forwarded to both Avoca and Rossarden post offices for distribution. It was noted that if the special collection is to be included in the Rossarden Echo in future, notice of collection would be required in accordance with publishing dates.

Action

Council officers to be advised of requirements for future distribution of notices.

iv) Greater Esk Tourism

The Committee was advised that the Northern Midlands Council, in collaboration with Break O'Day Council, had requisitioned the production of a promotional film for the Greater Esk Tourism Association on Avoca and Fingal Valley; and that the primary function of the videos was to promote tourism and that only limited history references would be included.

Action

No further action to be taken.

iv) Fire Brigade

The committee queried the status of the Rossarden Fire Brigade, as they had not attended the recent house fire at Rossarden.

Tasmania Police agreed to contact Tasfire to ascertain the status of the fire brigade.

Action

Tasmania Police to advise.

v) Septic Tank – Boucher Park

Members reported that bad smells continued to emanate from the septic tank servicing the amenity at Boucher Park and queried whether works were to be undertaken.

Council's officers to investigate.

Action

Matter to be referred to Council's Works Supervisor.

vi) Roadworks Debris on Royal George Road

Members reported that roadworks debris (pipes, old culvert, concrete, etc.) had in the past been deposited on the roadside on Royal George Road and this debris was deemed to create issues for Council's slashing contractor and should be removed.

Action

Customer Request to be issued.

8 CLOSURE & NEXT MEETING

The Chairperson thanked Tasmania Police for attending the meeting, the Officer's noted the dates of future meetings and agreed to attend meetings when circumstances permitted.

The Chair closed the meeting at 7.30pm and advised that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 31 January 2013 at the Avoca Community Centre commencing at 6.00pm.