

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AVOCA, ROYAL GEORGE & ROSSARDEN LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD AT AVOCA COMMUNITY CENTRE ON THURSDAY, 31 JANUARY 2013, COMMENCING AT 6.05PM

1 IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs C Freeman (Chair), Mrs H Reynolds (Deputy Chair), Ms M Hunt, Mr T Gee, Mrs M Dennis, Cr M Knowles, Mrs G Eacher – Executive Assistant

Guest: Mrs V Burn

2 APOLOGIES

Ms C Grey, Mr A Hicks, Mrs S Freeman

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Ms Hunt/Mrs Reynolds

That the minutes of the meeting of the Avoca, Royal George and Rossarden Local District Committee held on Thursday, 22 November 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.

No interest was declared.

5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

i) Monitoring Water Quality / Water Consumption

Representatives from Ben Lomond Water (BLW) attended the November 2012 meeting and distributed information sheets on test results, Australian Drinking Water Guidelines and a BLW fact sheet.

Prior to the meeting Ben Lomond Water provided the following information:

- The do-not-consume notice remains in place;
- Testing of the St Paul's river has not detected any metals of significance;
- The road to the pump station has been washed away and repairs are being priced and then they will look to repair the pump.
- BLW will look to hold a community meeting in the not too distant future.

Action

Mrs Eacher to contact BLW and request that the planned community meeting be held as soon as possible.

ii) Weather protection at Barbecue Shelter

Following discussions with the Works & Infrastructure Manager held on site, 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).

The meeting was advised that the planned works had been delayed and were expected to commence shortly and that plans to replace the area map and perspex were being progressed.

Action

Committee to be kept informed on progress.

iii) Rossarden – Walks and Attractions

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

Cr Knowles to advise the exact location of the “access” point and distances in order that a letter can be written to Crown Lands, by the General Manager, requesting the provision of access to the waterfall.

Action

Cr Knowles to provide further information to Mrs Eacher in order for correspondence to be forwarded to Crown Lands by the General Manager.

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

The meeting noted that good use was being made of the recently installed doggy bag dispenser and it was noted that regular supply checks were undertaken by Ray Webb.

In addition the Committee welcomed the installation of the new style waste bins.

Action

No further action.

v) 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).

It was noted that the matter had been considered at the December traffic committee meeting and DIER is to investigate, the item will be retained on the agenda of the traffic committee until finalised.

Action

Committee to be kept informed on progress.

vi) Fire Brigade

At the 22 November 2012 meeting, the committee queried the status of the Rossarden Fire Brigade, as they had not appeared to be active recently. Tasmania Police agreed to advise the Committee re the status of the fire brigade.

Action

Tasmania Police to provide an update at the March meeting.

vii) Septic Tank – Boucher Park

As previously reported, members reported that bad smells continued to emanate from the septic tank servicing the amenity at Boucher Park. Members requested that Council's Works & Infrastructure Manager meet with representatives of the Avoca Museum and Information Centre to discuss this issue further and to discuss possible solutions thereto; however, in the interim they requested that the septic tanks be pumped out.

Action

Mrs Eacher to request the septic tanks be pumped out.

viii) 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.

A Customer Request was issued and the debris has been removed.

Action

No further action to be taken. Matter finalised.

ix) 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.

The above matters have not been pursued to date.

Members noted that an outdoor gym had been installed at Campbell Town and that it was well used. They requested that the possible installation of an outdoor gym at Avoca be investigated, with the likely location for such an installation being Boucher

Park.

Action

Cr Knowles and Mrs Eacher to discuss with Ms Green.

6 PENDING ITEMS

i) Road Closures/Improvements

At the 24 May 2012 meeting the deterioration of the roads previously managed by Forestry Tasmania and Gunns was discussed. Council requested to consider liaising with Break O'Day Council in order to improve "forestry" roads so that tourist attractions, such as waterfalls, can be accessed.

It was agreed that requests for the improvement of "forestry" roads and signage to attractions would be placed on hold pending finalisation of responsibility for the roads.

Action

On hold, pending finalisation of responsibility for the roads.

iii) 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. Inspection was undertaken by Council's EHO on 21 November who noted no visible signs of water at the time of the inspection; the source of the water previously visible during winter was therefore unknown and evidence of soil excavation on the site. He noted that Council had no record of any drainage or pipework passing through the property.

Action

Matter on hold pending further information.

7 NEW BUSINESS

i) Membership/AGM

It was noted that the AGM of the Committee will be held on 21 March and that nominations for membership for 2013 to 2015 had been advertised, closing on 6 March 2013.

Action

No further action.

ii) Targa Tasmania 2013

On 10 January 2013 Letters outlining Octagon's plans for Targa were mailed to members for comment by 18 January. No responses were received. Members queried the benefits to the community.

Action

Further information to be provided.

iii) Future Ownership of the old Avoca School Site

The following letter was sent to the Property Coordinator, Department of Education, in relation to the future ownership of the old Avoca School Site:

In regard to the above matter, please advise the current position in regard to consideration being given to transferring ownership of the above property to Council.

As you are aware, Council entered into a lease for a term of 5 years as from 1 July 2010.

The site has the Avoca Museum & Visitor Information Centre (former Avoca Primary School) located thereon and also the public toilet block.

It was noted that an email had been received noting that a recommendation was made to the Minister, to date no response had been received.

Action

Committee to be kept informed on progress.

iv) New Bridges

The Committee pointed out that in regard to the newly installed bridge at Stable Creek

- the bridge was considerably narrower than the newly installed Milford bridge;
- the bridge was too narrow for wide farm machinery to be taken across.
- that the new guard rail was not able to be removed if the load was too wide, whereas the old guard rail was removable;
- there was no place to turn around if the load was too wide;

The Committee was advised that the bridge width was equal to that of the old bridge, Mrs Eacher to make enquiries regarding the reasons for the bridge specifications.

Action

Mrs Eacher to investigate further.

v) Fire Emergency – Safe Area/Refuge

Following the recent bushfires, the Committee raised concerns in relation to the limited knowledge in relation to safe areas/ refuges for the community to access in an emergency. It was noted that an emergency meeting point is not necessarily a designated fire safe area. Suggested that TFS attend a future meeting and a trial run be conducted.

Action

Information to be provided to the Committee in relation to refuges / safe area.

vi) Policing

It was noted that

- hooning had taken place on Storys Creek Road alongside the park at the

riverbank in Avoca.

- a number of cars still appeared to be speeding through Avoca;
- members informed the meeting that they had been advised that a number of incidents of dangerous driving had been encountered, i.e. overtaking on blind bends, overtaking in the face of oncoming traffic, etc. and that such incidents were being reported to Police.

Action

To be discussed at 21 March meeting.

v) Dumping of Rubbish

A fridge on Rossarden Road and cement sheeting at the sports ground in Avoca.

Action

Customer Request to be issued.

vii) Roadworks Esk Highway

- a) The Committee discussed the specifications of the new section of road being built by DIER between Avoca and Leona Road and that it was being widened, however, it was believed that the wider road did not meet the DIER specifications for a 100km/h road.
- b) Concern was raised in regard to the section of road (approx. 1km from town for 1km in the vicinity of the Benham property) as it was believed to constitute a danger as the road was raised from the natural ground level to alleviate water damage to the road surface and the shoulders fell away sharply.

Action

- a) *Mrs Eacher to obtain information from Council's Engineer re this matter.*
- b) *Customer Request to be issued for the matter to be considered by the Traffic Committee.*

viii) Fox Taskforce / Feral Cats

The Committee enquired as to the incorporation of the feral cats programme into the Fox Taskforce and requested that information on the progress of this matter be pursued.

Action

Further information to be requested.

ix) AMIC Report

The meeting was advised that

- the Avoca Museum and Information Centre had been granted funding for the installation of 12 plaques (similar to those at St Andrews) to be installed to mark historic buildings and sites of historic significances. AMIC, Council and residents to work together to identify suitable sites and to garner information. Proposed that 1 plaque detailing location/site map of other plaques be

- installed;
- a scrapbooking workshop (23/2) and basket weaving workshop would be held; and
- the markets were to be held on the 2nd Sunday of the month (previously held on the Saturday).

Action

No further action.

x) Rossarden Museum Report

The meeting was advised that

- the Council funded disabled access ramp to the museum had been installed;
- the bush nursing exhibit would be on display until mid-year; and
- a grant had been received for a new display cabinet.

Action

No further action.

xi) Science and Education Grants

The meeting was advised that application was being made for a Science and Education Grant to hold an Astronomy Night at Avoca, details to be forwarded to Council so that Council can provide a letter of support.

Action

Letter of support to be provided by Council when information/request received.

xii) General Matters

- a) Planning Scheme was discussed.
- b) Advised that new residents received a copy of a New Residents Kit, which was also available on the website.

Action

No further action.

8 CLOSURE & NEXT MEETING

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 7.12pm.

The next meeting to be held on Thursday, 21 March 2013 at the Avoca Community Centre commencing at 6.00pm.