

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AVOCA, ROYAL GEORGE & ROSSARDEN LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD AT AVOCA COMMUNITY CENTRE ON THURSDAY, 21 MARCH 2013 COMMENCING AT 6.15PM**

**1 IN ATTENDANCE**

Mrs C Freeman, Mrs S Freeman, Mrs H Reynolds, Mr A Hicks, Mr T Gee, Mrs M Dennis, Cr M Knowles, Mrs G Eacher – Executive Assistant

Guests: Mrs V Burn and Constable Nolan (Tasmania Police)

**2 APOLOGIES**

Mrs S Squires, Mrs A Gee

**3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

***Cr M Knowles/Mrs H Reynolds***

*That the minutes of the meeting of the Avoca, Royal George and Rossarden Local District Committee held on Thursday, 31 January 2013, subject to the following Inclusion:*

*7 NEW BUSINESS*

*iv) New Bridges – Stable Creek*

*In the view of the Committee:*

- it did not seem logical, economically, to widen the long Milford Bridge and to maintain the even greater width of the School Creek Bridge; only to install a narrower bridge at Stable Creek, the smallest bridge of the three; and*
- that an opportunity for uniformity had been lost.*

*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:

- has an interest; or
- 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) Policing**

At the 31 January meeting it was noted that

- hooning had taken place on Storys Creek Road alongside the park at the riverbank in Avoca.
- a number of vehicles 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.

Constable Nolan attended the meeting and issues relating to speeding, theft, hooning and illegal dumping were discussed. Constable Nolan advised that the telephone number to utilise in the event of non-life threatening situations was 131 444.

#### **Action**

*No further action.*

*Constable Nolan left the meeting.*

### **ii) Monitoring Water Quality / Water Consumption**

It was noted that representatives from Ben Lomond Water (BLW) had attended the November 2012 meeting and distributed information sheets on test results, Australian Drinking Water Guidelines and a BLW fact sheet.

Prior to the 31 January meeting Ben Lomond Water had 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.

It was noted that Ben Lomond Water had called a public meeting on 25 February, which a number of residents had attended at which time water issues had been discussed.

The meeting noted that Ben Lomond Water would correspond with residents shortly to advise the outcome of the survey; however, indications were that the majority of respondents preferred the option of the continued use of the South Esk river water supply with the back-up water tank located at the hall.

#### **Action**

*No further action.*

### **iii) 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 noted that materials had been ordered and works were scheduled to commence during April.

**Action**

*Committee to be kept informed of progress.*

**iv) Rossarden – Walks and Attractions**

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

It was noted that information had been provided to Council re the location and that the request to Crown Lands to provide access to the waterfall was being progressed.

**Action**

*The committee to be kept informed.*

**v) 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.

The meeting noted that the Regional Volunteer Chief had advised that there were not enough able bodied persons available at Rossarden and Story's Creek to field a volunteer team, therefore, under the regulations which govern Volunteer Fire Services, approval could not be provided to house a fire truck and associated equipment in an area without a trained team immediately available to utilise such equipment. He had indicated that it was an ongoing project to find volunteers in the area, and that Rossarden and Story's Creek are serviced by Volunteers from Fingal and Avoca.

The committee were of the view that there were volunteers available, however, no training had been provided, and that, failing the housing of a fire truck at Rossarden, perhaps a mobile water tanker with fire fighting apparatus could be provided.

**Action**

*Letter to be written to TFS requesting further information.*

**vi) Septic Tank – Boucher Park**

Members reported to the 31 January meeting that bad smells continued to emanate from the septic tank servicing the amenity at Boucher Park; and requested that Council's Works & Infrastructure Manager meet with representatives of the Avoca Museum and Information Centre to discuss this issue further and possible solutions thereto; and that the septic tanks be pumped out.

In regard to these issues, Mr Chellis forwarded the following request to Council's Environmental Health Officer on 5 February:

*Waste water has come to the top of the ground and John Dennis has turned the drainage pipes over to the other area. I suspect it may now be over loaded with the extra usage from the tourist centre (Old School). Council has an allocation of*

*funds in the budget to make improvements. Would you please give Gavin some guidance on the best solution e.g. treatment and seek a price off the contractor?*

The septic tank was pumped out on 6 February.

Cr Knowles advised that AMIC members had attended a meeting together with Council's Plumbing inspector and plumbing contractor and that the provision of an aerated waste water treatment system (AWTS), including AWTS tank and absorption trench was being pursued.

#### **Action**

*Committee to be kept informed on progress.*

#### **vii) 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.

At the January 2013 meeting, 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.

Ms Green has sought and provided the following information in relation to outdoor gym equipment and installation:

*...the best situation is to have 3 items where each item has more than one user at a time. What I have suggested below is 3 items for 7 people at a time.*

*I have attached prices and pictures to assist.*

*I recommend the waist twister for \$976 plus GST because it is a movable item of good value and also encourages social interaction. The double sit up at \$934 plus GST is also a good interaction item which concentrates on tummy muscles. The pull down challenger is popular as an upper body item and costs \$1 607 plus GST. The total cost for these 3 items would come to \$3 517 plus GST. Freight from Melbourne would be \$800 plus GST. Installation costs for these items would total \$900 but this could easily be done by others. Then if you wanted rubber undersurfacing in a 6 metre diameter circle to fit these items, the cost could be around \$6 000 plus GST depending on the colour used.*

*So in the above scenario the total cost would be \$11 217 plus GST.*

It should be noted that the rubber undersurfacing is very expensive – it could be pinebarked instead and save a considerable amount of the \$6,000.

### **Action**

- i) *Cr Knowles to discuss grant options with Ms Green; and*
- ii) *Application to be made to Council for Special Assistance Grant.*

### **viii) 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.

The meeting noted that road closures would be in place in the Rossarden area on 18 April between 7.20am and 11.50am. Members were concerned in relation to the inconvenience to the general public.

### **Action**

*A Customer Request to be issued requesting that, in the future, public consultation be held regarding the holding of Targa and resultant road closure prior to any approvals being granted by Council.*

### **ix) 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.

The meeting noted that no further advices from the Department of Education had been received.

### **Action**

*The committee to be kept informed.*

### **x) New Bridges**

At the January 2013 meeting discussion took place re the newly installed bridge at Stable Creek, at which time the following matters arose:

- 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;

In the view of the Committee:

- it did not seem logical, economically, to widen the long Milford Bridge and to maintain the even greater width of the School Creek Bridge; only to install a narrower bridge at Stable Creek, the smallest bridge of the three; and
- that an opportunity for uniformity had been lost.

Mr Chellis has provided the following information:

*The process we follow when fully constructing new or upgrading bridges in the municipality are as follows.*

*DUAL LANE BRIDGES Generally bridges that have to be totally replaced including the construction of new concrete abutments are replaced with a 6.4 metre wide (between kerbs) two lane bridge to allow for passing on the bridge .*

*SINGLE LANE BRIDGES .The replacement of the timber deck on the existing concrete abutments with a pre cast concrete deck is an acceptable and cost effective method of replacing single span bridge decks , however , the road should have a low volume of traffic and good site distance at the bridge is also required.*

*The widening of the bridge generally requires new concrete abutments to be constructed and either road closure or the construction of a bypass which is at times difficult, also adding a significant cost to the project. An example of that is as follows. The total cost of the two lane bridge at Royal George township was approximately \$190000. The single lane one recently completed by Council employees using the existing concrete abutments cost about \$30000 and a further \$30000 if the guard rail is extended and BCTAs are installed.*

*The width of the new precast single lane concrete deck is generally similar to the timber deck that is removed, therefore the width may vary from one bridge to another. The minimum width required for a single lane bridge to meet the standard is 4.2 metres between kerbs and the bridge in question is 4.380 between kerbs.*

*I have had a discussion with Mr Gee who appeared to be satisfied with the reasoning and he also advised that the bridge is wide enough for his header.*

Mr Galbraith provided the following information:

- 1. The standard width for a single lane bridge is 4.2m. The Stable Creek bridge is wider than the standard.*
- 2. According to AS 5124 only a single lane bridge is required on a low volume traffic road such as Royal George Rd.*
- 3. The Stable Creek bridge was replaced by Council. Council replaced the deck but not the abutments under the bridge. It would not have been possible to construct a double lane bridge without replacing the abutments. If a double lane bridge was constructed we would have engaged a contractor to construct new abutments and this would have cost at least three times the amount of money.*
- 4. Council replace between two and four bridges every year and these are always placed on existing abutments at approximately the same width as the previous bridge. Council replaces between two and four timber bridge decks every year with concrete decks.*

5. Millford Bridge (mentioned by the committee) is also a single lane bridge, it was constructed slightly wider than the new bridge at Stable Creek for safety reasons because there is a curve in the bridge, single lane bridges in other locations are not constructed to that width.

6. The new double lane bridge over School Creek (also mentioned by the committee) was constructed by a contractor and cost in excess of \$170,000.

7. ... the guardrail on the previous bridge could not be removed to allow heavy vehicles to cross. So the new guardrail has been installed in exactly the same way as the previous guardrail.

#### **Action**

*No further action.*

#### **xi) Fire Emergency – Safe Area/Refuge**

At the 31 January meeting, 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.

The meeting noted that information was provided to all members with the January minutes.

#### **Action**

*No further action.*

#### **xii) Dumping of Rubbish**

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

The Works & Infrastructure Department has advised that their contractor drove the entire length of road on 5 February, but could not locate the fridge referred to, further investigation was undertaken by staff members on 12 February and no fridge was located.

The Committee noted that a customer request had been issued following the 31 January meeting and that appropriate action had been taken.

#### **Action**

*No further action.*

#### **xiii) Roadworks Esk Highway**

At the 31 January meeting:

- 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.

Mrs Eacher advised that Council did not expect the speed limit on the section of road

to be reduced to 80kmh.

- 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.

Council's Engineer forwarded a letter to DIER re the raised level of the road, a response has as yet not been received.

#### **Action**

- a) *Matter complete.*  
b) *The committee to be kept informed.*

#### **xiv) 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.

The meeting noted the following information provided by the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment:

*The Fox Free Taskforce changed into an eradication program (the Fox Eradication Program or FEP) in 2006. In July 2012 the FEP was combined with other elements of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment to create the Invasive Species Branch. This Branch is responsible for 'terrestrial vertebrate invasive animals' (e.g. foxes, cats, Indian mynas, rabbits) and weeds. The Branch is made up of two main Sections: a Response Coordination Section responsible for new and emerging invasive species that involves running eradication projects and incursion responses and a Management Section responsible for working with land owners and managers dealing with established species.*

*As part of this, the Cat Management Act 2009 was commenced on 1 July 2012. Details on the Act and what it enables land owners and managers to do to control cats are available at <http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/SSKA-8TV2RP?open>.*

*Game and similar species (e.g. deer, ducks etc) remain the responsibility of the Wildlife Management Branch. Freshwater fish (e.g. Gambusia) remain the responsibility of the Inland Fisheries Service and marine pests remain with the Water and Marine Resources Division. Invertebrates (e.g. European wasps) and agricultural pests (e.g. sulphur crested cockatoos) remain the responsibility of the Biosecurity and Product Integrity Division. These are all parts of DPIPWE.*

*More information is available at [www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/invasivespecies](http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/invasivespecies) and information is regularly updated on the Branch's activities and invasive species issues on the Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Tasmanian-Invasive-Species/>*

#### **Action**

*No further action.*

#### **xv) AMIC Report**

Cr Knowles advised that

- workshops had been held,



- fundraising had been undertaken to assist an African community,
- funding had been received for the refurbishment of the Cenotaph,
- ANZAC day
  - this year an ANZAC day service was to be held,
  - followed by a community lunch,
  - AMIC and the Rossarden museums would be open,
  - a local private garden would be open to the public,
  - a request had been made to the Longford RSL for a representative to attend,
  - wreaths would be provided and speakers were being organised, and
  - it was estimated that an ANZAC day service had last been held in Avoca prior to 1990.

#### **xvi) Rossarden Museum Report**

Mrs Dennis advised that the museum had been invited to be part of a Heritage exhibition to be run in Hobart for the next 2 months and that the football pennants would be on display.

#### **xvii) Science and Education Grants**

No further information was forthcoming in relation to the information provided at the 30 January meeting regarding an application which 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.

#### **xviii) 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.

DIER have indicated to Tasmania Police that the problem was being addressed with current roadwork plans, however, it is noted that signs have not been installed.

Council has also corresponded with DIER and advised of the concerns raised.

#### **Action**

*On hold pending further information from Traffic Committee.*

## **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) Condolences**

The committee expressed condolences at the passing of Mr Bevan Pyke and expressed their appreciation for the excellent service which he had provided to the community.

### **ii) Waste Transfer Station**

The Committee noted that problems had been experienced recently at the waste transfer station and that the operator had closed the facility early on a number of occasions due to bins being full. It was noted that Council’s Engineering Officer had been advised of these issues and was investigating.

In addition the committee sought clarification as to the future operations of the waste transfer station and whether the site had been, or would be, contracted out. The committee expressed the opinion that they would prefer a local person be employed to operate the site as they believed that many of the issues which arose resulted from the operator not being familiar with the community.

#### **Action**

*Clarification to be sought.*

### **iii) Avoca Memorial Hall**

- a) It was noted that on at least two occasions recently dead possums had been found at the Hall and that a “bad” smell was evident in the kitchen; it was considered that there was a possibility of further dead possum/s in the ceiling or perhaps that other problems relating to drainage had arisen.
- b) That the hall floor required attention, however, previous advice received

indicated that, should the floor require replacement, timber would not be utilised and a concrete floor would be installed. The committee sought clarification re this matter.

#### **Action**

*Customer Requests to be issued to:*

- a) *investigate the source of the smells and to take measures to prevent possums from entering the hall and/or ceiling space.*
- b) *investigate the possible replacement of the hall floor and what materials would be used should that eventuate.*

#### **iv) Boucher Park**

The Committee requested that the provision of additional taps at Boucher Park be investigated.

#### **Action**

*Information to be sought as to the feasibility of this request.*

#### **v) Spraying of Roadside Weeds**

The Committee noted that some spraying had been undertaken, however, spraying had terminated at Milford Bridge and queried whether the contract included all of Council's roads, including the section beyond Milford Bridge.

#### **Action**

*Clarification to be sought.*

#### **vi) Old Toilets on Private Land at Rossarden**

The Committee queried the status of the old park toilets on private land which had previously been maintained by Council and requested that Council erect a sign at the toilets directing the public to utilise the Council facilities.

#### **Action**

*Matter to be investigated.*

#### **vi) Ramp at Rossarden Museum**

The Committee thanked Council for the ramp which had been installed at the Rossarden museum.

### **8 CLOSURE & NEXT MEETING**

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 7.30pm.

The next meeting to be held on Thursday, 30 May 2013 at the Avoca Community Centre commencing at 6.00pm.