

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AVOCA, ROYAL GEORGE & ROSSARDEN LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD AT AVOCA COMMUNITY CENTRE ON THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2013 COMMENCING AT 6.05PM**

**1 IN ATTENDANCE**

Mrs C Freeman, Mr A Gee, Mrs M Dennis, Mrs S Squires, Mrs H Reynolds, Mrs S Freeman, Cr M Knowles, Mr Adam Wilson – General Manager, Mrs G Eacher – Executive Assistant

Guests: Constable P Littlejohn, Mrs V Burn, Mr R O'Connor and Mr S Nicholson

**2 APOLOGIES**

Mr A Hicks, Ms M Hunt

**3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

***Mrs M Dennis/Mr A Gee***

*That the minutes of the meeting of the Avoca, Royal George and Rossarden Local District Committee held on Thursday, 30 May 2013, subject to an amendment to attendees, 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) Policing**

Constable Littlejohn of Tasmania Police, appointed as liaison officer to the communities of Avoca, Royal George and Rossarden, introduced himself and provided some detail of his background in policing.

He acknowledged that recent reports had been received with regard to the theft of diesel and vandalism, however, confirmed that statistically there was a reduction in crime rates; and reiterated that matters of concern were not always reported to Police when they occurred and, if reported at a later time were extremely difficult to investigate.

Constable Littlejohn outlined the use of AVL system used by Tas Police.

#### **Action**

*Constable Littlejohn to be provided with the meeting schedule for the Avoca, Royal George and Rossarden Local District Committee.*

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

TasWater provided correspondence on the proposed actions to be taken in regard to the Avoca water supply, which had been mailed to residents.

Information provided was as follows:

...

- *A water treatment plant at Avoca sourcing water from the South Esk River at the existing intake, or from a new intake and pump station upstream of the junction of Storeys Creek and the South Esk River – estimated cost - \$3.0 million*
- *A pipeline to supply treated water from the planned water treatment plant at Fingal – estimated cost - \$2.5 million*
- *A bore water source with disinfection only, if the bore water quality and yield is satisfactory – estimated cost - \$0.4 million*

*A desktop study identified several bore locations in the area and as you can appreciate, given the above costs, the bore water source is the initial preferred option. A number of test bores have been drilled and results to date in terms of water quality and yield are promising. Further testing is in progress and provided the results are satisfactory, a production bore will be pursued with connection to the existing reticulation system. I will provide a further update by the end of August 2013.*

*In the meantime please be advised the health alert remains in place and the water supply to Avoca is not to be consumed due to the detection of Lead and Cadmium levels which has exceeded the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines lifetime exposure levels. ...*

#### **Action**

*The committee to be kept informed.*

#### **iii) Weather protection at Barbecue Shelter**

Works & Infrastructure Department have advised that this project has been completed.

The Committee advised that they were happy with the upgrade.

#### **Action**

*Matter finalised.*

#### **iv) Fire Brigade**

At the 22 November 2012 meeting, the committee queried the status of the Rossarden Fire Brigade. The committee were of the view that there were volunteers available, however, failing the housing of a fire truck at Rossarden, a mobile water tanker with fire fighting apparatus would enable action to be taken in the event of a

fire.

At the 30 May meeting it was noted that

- a) Council had written to TFS on 26 March, with no response received to date.
- b) TFS have offered a trailer or tanker to the Rossarden Progress Association. Matter to be further investigated by the Association re insurance, etc.

The meeting noted that, to date, no response to Council's 26 March letter had been received.

Mrs Dennis advised that the matter was progressing and it was hoped that the matter would be finalised by the end of July.

#### **Action**

*The committee to be kept informed.*

#### **v) Septic Tank – Boucher Park**

Advice received that the project had been completed and that provision had been made for the installation of the irrigation system once the upgrade of Boucher Park was complete.

#### **Action**

*Matter finalised.*

#### **vi) Esk Highway**

##### **a) Signage**

The matter of installing 'Slippery When Wet' signage on the Esk Highway, from the railway overpass for a distance of approx. 1.5km's toward the Midland Highway intersection, in the area known locally as Red Hill's Crossing, was considered at the December Traffic Committee meeting. In April DIER advised that arrangements were underway to have the signage installed on both approaches.

The Traffic Committee to retain item on their agenda until signs installed.

The meeting noted that some signage had been installed but further signage was still required to be installed.

#### **Action**

*The committee to be kept informed.*

##### **b) Roadworks**

At the 31 January meeting it was noted that Council's Engineer had forwarded a letter to DIER in regard to concerns raised that the section of road (approx. 1km from town for 1km in the vicinity of the Benham property) 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. Noted that no response had been received in regard to this enquiry; the meeting noted that a further enquiry had been emailed to DIER on 19 July.

Information was provided that DIER planned to upgrade the bridge over Steyns Creek (aka Rosies Creek). The meeting discussed the possible need for the upgrade of the Esk Highway at Milford which may be subject to flooding.

**Action**

*Council officers to contact DIER to enquire re planned works for Esk Highway.*

**c) Railway Bridge at Red Hill**

At the 30 May meeting the committee requested Council to urge DIER to widen the railway bridge at Red Hill Crossing as it was perceived to be dangerously narrow. Matter referred to the Traffic Committee for consideration. An enquiry had been issued, to which DIER had provided the following response:

*DIER acknowledges that the road formation narrows at the rail overpass in question. However, widening the bridge would be very expensive and DIER has no immediate plans for such a project. The trafficable width is still suitable to allow two way traffic flow, whilst width markers and narrow bridge warning signs have been installed to advise drivers that the road formation narrows.*

The meeting noted the correspondence received from DIER.

**Action**

*Matter finalised.*

**d) Issues relating to roadmarkings**

At the 30 May meeting the committee requested that enquiries be made re visibility of roadmarkings and road reflectors in foggy/wet conditions and possible additions/ alternatives. Matter referred to the Traffic Committee for consideration. An enquiry had been issued, to which DIER had provided the following response:

*All roads are provided with Raised Reflective Pavement Markers (RRPMs) on centreline markings, with some higher category roads also receiving them on edge lines. RRPMs help provide night time delineation in wet weather and foggy conditions. DIER has standard spacing's for RRPMs, with a greater standard for those areas identified as being prone to foggy conditions. These areas have a closer spacing between RRPMs to provide greater visibility in fog.*

The meeting noted the correspondence received from DIER.

Discussion relating to the dangers for road users on the section of road at the intersection of the Esk and Midland Highway including to Conara; and the added risks with the increase in traffic especially due to increased mining operations in the area. The committee requested that a reduction in the speed limit to say 80kmh be investigated and the possible reconfiguration of the intersection.

**Action**

*Matter to be referred to the Traffic Management Committee.*

**e) Reduction in Rural Road Default Speed Limits**

At the 30 May meeting the committee considered the possible reduction of the speed limit of the Esk Highway to 90kmh in line with the Road Safety Advisory Council's planned *Reduction in Rural Road Default Speed Limits*.

Council has noted the comments of the committee, i.e. that they do not support a reduction in the speed limit on the Esk Highway. Council is pursuing.

The meeting noted that the matter is being pursued by Council's Traffic Engineer and meetings are scheduled to be held with the appropriate authorities

**Action**

*The committee to be kept informed.*

**vii) Waste Transfer Station and Avoca/Royal George Waste Collection Service**

As part of the 2013/14 budget Council implemented a new kerbside waste collection service for Avoca and Royal George townships (to commence 6 August), i.e. fortnightly collection plus WTS on restricted supervised hours with gate charges. No change was made to the Rossarden service. It should be noted that the service is to be provided to properties within residential areas only.

The Committee noted that information had been received with regard to the change in the WTS service and kerbside collection, however, requested that the information be provided to all residents (town and rural).

It was noted that a user pay system had been introduced and therefore no rate had been raised for rural properties for waste, however, it was possible for a kerbside waste collection service to be requested.

The meeting requested that the WTS not only open on a Saturday, but also a weekday. The changed opening hours affected businesses, i.e overtime to transport waste to the WTS on Saturdays.

***Mr Gee/Mrs Squires***

*That the Committee consider the loss of the weekday service at the Avoca WTS to be wrong and that a weekday service be provided.*

*Carried*

**Action**

*Issues associated with the new kerbside collection service and changes to the WTS opening hours to be investigated.*

**viii) Avoca Memorial Hall**

**a) Possums**

At the 30 May meeting it was noted that issues relating to possums entering the roof space and kitchen, had been addressed, however, should further issues arise, the hall committee to contact Council's Works & Infrastructure Manager or Works Supervisor direct.

**b) Hall floor**

At the 21 March meeting it was noted that the hall floor required attention. The committee sought clarification as to materials to be utilised to undertake repairs. At the 30 Meeting it was noted that it was currently unclear as to the extent of the required works and an assessment would be undertaken once works commenced.

No further issues were noted in relation to the hall. Noted that should issues arise the hall committee should contact Council's Works & Infrastructure Manager or Works Supervisor direct

**Action**

*Matter finalised.*

**ix) Boucher Park**

**a) Amenities block**

Repairs to the hand dryer completed.

**Action**

*Matter Complete, no further action.*

**b) Park upgrade**

Noted that an allocation to the Avoca Museum Committee of \$750, subject to the committee committing to an annual maintenance amount for the landscaping of \$200, had been approved by Council during budget deliberations, and works had commenced.

Noted that AMIC to consider the matter of the annual maintenance contribution at their next meeting.

**Action**

*Matter Complete, no further action.*

**c) Activities for the Youth of Avoca**

Previously, the upgrade of the playground facilities, including a skate park, and Outdoor gym were considered and placed on hold pending the upgrade of Boucher Park.

Cr Knowles advised that an outdoor gym facility was being considered in conjunction with the upgrade of Boucher Park and funding options were being investigated.

**Action**

*Cr Knowles to pursue equipment and funding options.*

**x) Old Toilets on Private Land at Rossarden**

At the 21 March meeting the Committee queried the status of the old toilets on private land which had previously been maintained by Council, with Progress

Association were available for public use during opening hours.

The meeting noted that public facilities were only available for use during the opening hours of the Museum.

Matter to be placed on hold pending further investigation by Council Officers.

#### **Action**

*Matter pending, subject to investigation by Council Officers.*

#### **xi) Road Closures/Improvements**

At previous meetings the deterioration of those roads previously managed by Forestry Tasmania and Gunns had been noted and discussed. The Committee requested Council consider liaising with Break O'Day Council in order to improve "forestry" roads so that tourist attractions, such as waterfalls, could be accessed. This matter was placed on hold due to road ownership issues.

It was noted that at the 24 June 2013 Council Meeting (min. ref. 151/13 - attached), Council considered this matter as part of the Tasmanian Forests Intergovernmental Agreement - \$100 Million Economic Diversification Funding, the following was the decision of Council at this time:

*That Council send a letter of support in principle to the Break O'Day Council for the upgrading of gravel forestry roads to waterfalls project as tabled at the meeting, and ...*

Cr Knowles to hold discussions with Council officers regarding the roads of particular interest in order that the ownership of roads can be investigated further.

#### **Action**

*Cr Knowles to provide details to Council officers.*

#### **xii) Royal George Hall**

Council's Property Sub Committee requested that the Local District Committee consider and provide input in relation to the future of the property.

The matter of continued use of this property was discussed, ascertained that usage was minimal (used twice in approx. 3 years).

The committee requested Council consult with the residents of Royal George in this regard.

#### **Action**

*Council's property sub committee to be advised.*

#### **xiii) Rossarden sculpture**

The committee requested that the large tree at Rossarden be pruned, however, any pruning should be done in a manner that would permit the tree to be utilised for a wood carving/ sculpture in the future.

Matter to be investigated for possible consideration as a future budget item. Noted that permits would be required should the project proceed.

Mrs Dennis to be noted as the liaison for the project.

#### **Action**

*Council officers to be advised.*

#### **xiv) Milford Dam**

At the 30 May meeting a request was made for Council to write to the appropriate authority regarding the installation of screening trees between the dam and the Esk Highway in order to minimise any impact the reflection from the water may have on road users.

Noted that this matter had been investigated previously and the following information provided to the 22 November 2012 meeting.

*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 take it up with the landowners.*

The committee again expressed their concern relating to this matter and requested that screening in close proximity to the Esk Highway be investigated.

#### **Action**

*Council officers to investigate the potential for the provision of screening in close proximity to the Esk Highway.*

#### **xv) Coach Road**

At the 30 May meeting members advised that the Break O'Day Council had graded the road to the Council boundary and enquired when it was expected that the Northern Midlands Council section of the road would be graded.

The meeting noted that the road was graded on an "as required" basis and that grading had been undertaken on 27 June.

#### **Action**

*Matter finalised.*

### **6 PENDING ITEMS**

#### **i) Rossarden – Walks and Attractions**

The Committee requested that access be provided through private land to the Rossarden waterfall. GPS coordinates for the waterfall and access have been



established by Council's Engineering Assistant.

**Action**

*Matter pending, Cr Knowles to explore further options.*

**ii) Future Ownership of the old Avoca School Site**

At 30 May meeting it was noted that a minute had been prepared by the Education Department seeking ministerial approval to transfer the property to Council. Transfer is awaited.

**Action**

*Matter pending response from Education Department.*

**7 ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

**i) AMIC Report**

Cr Knowles reported

- A family history day had been held and that another was planned for 2014;
- Funding of \$2,800 had been received for display boards and cabinets;
- 2 exhibitions were planned,
  - BARK and
  - A workshop on principals and elements of design to be followed by a month long exhibition;
- A bus tour to attractions to be held for Volunteers;
- Volunteer registration forms are to be completed.

**ii) Rossarden Museum Report**

Mrs Dennis advised that the Bush Nurse exhibit had closed and been dismantled and that additions to exhibits jumpers, pennant, etc had been received.

**8 NEW BUSINESS**

**i) Rates**

In relation to rates paid, attendees at the meeting requested further information in regard to services provided by Council to the communities in the Avoca, Royal George and Rossarden area. The consensus was that the communities were not being adequately serviced.

**Action**

*Council's Corporate Services Manager to attend a future meeting of the Committee.*

**ii) Traffic, Signage & Road Marking Issues**

It was noted that:

- a) Visibility at the corner of Blenheim and Falmouth streets had been reduced as a result of a fence being erected;

- b) Street sign at the corner of Nevin and Lee streets in Rossarden required repair; and
- c) Road markings at the entrance to Benham (from Royal George road) required attention.

### **Action**

*Customer requests to be issued:*

- a) *to Traffic Committee to assess b)&c) to Works & Infrastructure Department to undertake maintenance and consider road markings.*

## **9 CLOSURE & NEXT MEETING**

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 7.35pm.

The next meeting to be held on Thursday, 26 September 2013 at the Avoca Community Centre commencing at 6.00pm.