

**NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AVOCA, ROYAL GEORGE & ROSSARDEN LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD AT AVOCA COMMUNITY CENTRE ON THURSDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2013 COMMENCING AT 6.05PM**

**1 IN ATTENDANCE**

Mrs C Freeman, Mrs H Reynolds, Mrs S Squires, Cr Knowles, Miss M Bricknell – Acting General Manager, Mrs G Eacher – Executive Assistant

**2 APOLOGIES**

Mr A Gee, Mrs S Freeman

**3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

***Mrs H Reynolds/C Freeman***

*That the minutes of the meeting of the Avoca, Royal George and Rossarden Local District Committee held on Thursday, 26 September 2013, 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**

The Committee noted that an enquiry had been received relating to speed signage, as follows:

*That the speed signs coming into Avoca from the 4 different directions are not uniform –*

- *Each direction of Esk highway is 50kmh*
- *From Royal Georg is 50kmh*
- *From Rossarden is 60kmh*

*Do these need to be uniform? Please consider and advise.*

The matter was referred to Council's Engineering Officer who has advised:

*The section of road from Story's Creek is a 60km zone, the signage is correct.*

*The statewide default urban speed limit is 50, this means that every time you enter a new road the speed limit is 50 unless otherwise signed. So when you turn from Story's Ck Rd onto Esk Highway, the speed limit is the default (i.e. 50) because there are no signs saying otherwise.*

Council's Mr Galbraith has advised that he would make arrangements for signage to be installed on Story's Creek Road, just before Esk Main Road.

#### **Action**

*Speed signage to be installed on Story's Creek Road, just before Esk Main Road.*

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

TasWater sent an update to residents on 20 September 2013 advising that delays had been experienced due to bore drilling equipment failure, that alternative means of water supply were still being investigated and that a decision was expected to be made by early November 2013, the Committee were advised that no update had been received from TasWater by Council.

It was noted that

- issues were being experienced with the flow of water from the tank as it appears that a fitting has been removed;
- a shelter is required at the water tank as, in inclement weather, one is exposed to the elements when collecting water;
- suggested that small tanks be provided to individual households; and

#### **Action**

*Council to liaise with TasWater re future water supply; and issue a customer request to investigate issues raised.*

### **iii) Fire Brigade**

The Committee were advised that Tasfire has committed a vehicle to the Rossarden Progress Association who has a sub-committee whose members are to be trained. The Committee are investigating/ negotiating with Tasfire their responsibility with regard to insurance, registration, fuel, etc in order to assess the viability of the service.

The Committee noted that Rossarden was recognised as a priority area by Tasfire.

#### **Action**

*The Committee to be kept informed.*

### **iv) Esk Highway - Roadworks**

Noted at 31 January 2013 meeting a letter had been forwarded to DIER re 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 and a further enquiry had been emailed to DIER on 19 July.

At the September meeting it was noted that a planning permit for minor works related to the installation of temporary traffic diversions during construction to replace the

bridges Esk Main Road at Blanchards Creek Bridge and Stynes Creek Bridge had been received; and that the General Manager had written to DIER requesting information regarding planned roadworks for the Esk Highway.

The Committee noted that no response had been received to correspondence sent.

### **Signage**

The Committee noted that three signs were in place advising of the narrow bridge between Conara intersection and the railway bridge which all face in one direction, however, no signs were installed to warn road users in the opposite direction.

### **Action**

*Request to be issued to Traffic Management Committee requesting that signage matter be investigated.*

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

Introduced the kerbside waste collection service for Avoca and Royal George townships and WTS on restricted supervised hours with gate charges on 6 August.

At the 25 July meeting the Committee recommended to Council, that Council open the WTS on a Saturday and also a weekday, as the changed opening hours affected businesses. The recommendation was considered by Council at the 19 August meeting, at which time the following was the decision of Council:

- ii) investigate the Waste Transfer Station at Avoca opening on an additional day (weekday) and that a report back be provided to the Avoca, Royal George & Rossarden Local District Committee and Council.*

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to retain the current hours and, if necessary, reconsider during budget deliberations.

### **Action**

*No further action.*

### **vi) Activities for the Youth of Avoca**

Previously discussion relating to the upgrade of the playground facilities, including a skate park, and Outdoor gym was placed on hold pending the upgrade of Boucher Park.

Noted that an outdoor gym facility was to be installed, funding options being investigated.

Council's Youth Development Officer, in conjunction with the PCYC, held a youth and family fun day / barbecue at the Avoca Hall on Wednesday, 2 October.

Noted that PCYC plan to regularly hold youth activity days in Avoca.

The Committee noted that only a small number of youths and a larger number of young children are currently resident in Avoca; therefore may be prudent to provide regular activities for younger children and on an ad hoc basis for youth.

### **Action**

*Council's Youth Development Officer to be consulted.*

## **vii) Rates**

In relation to rates paid, attendees at the 25 July 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.

Miss Bricknell advised that the need for expenditure is prioritised and that funds were expended where they were most needed. She referred to a number of projects that had recently been undertaken in the area.

### **Action**

*No further action.*

## **viii) Communications Tower**

The Committee noted that a new communications tower had been erected north east of Avoca and requested that Council officer's investigate.

### **Action**

*Mrs Reynolds to provide additional information as to the location of the tower.*

## **ix) 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.

Noted that Council is in receipt of the title.

### **Action**

*No further action.*

## **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.

Toilets currently being cleaned, however, require some maintenance if open to the public.

### **Action**

*Cleaner to be contacted and assessment of required works to be undertaken.*

## **xi) Rossarden sculpture**

The committee requested that the large tree at Rossarden, in the vicinity of the Museum in Schell Street, to be pruned in a manner that would permit the tree to be utilised for a wood carving/ sculpture in the future.

Prior to funding being sought, Council to write to Mr Eddie Freeman advising location

of tree and requesting a quote to carve.

Noted:

- possible consideration as 2014/2015 budget item.
- permits would be required should the project proceed.

**Action**

*Mr Freeman be requested to provide quote.*

## **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 investigate further options.*

### **ii) 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), 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 ...*

The Committee agreed to place the matter on hold pending funding opportunities.

**Action**

*On hold, pending funding opportunities.*

## **7 CUSTOMER REQUESTS**

The following requests were made

### **i) Rubbish Bin – vicinity of Boucher Park**

Rubbish bin to be placed on the western side of Boucher Park, near the school bus shelter, preferably a green one similar to the others at the park. Bin to be installed near the bus shelter – included on Council's list of bins for installation, however it will be some time before it is installed as a concrete base is required.

**Action**

*Installation to be undertaken when time permits.*

**ii) Table & Chair Setting at Boucher Park**

A table and chair setting, similar to those in the front of the park, to be placed in front of the established tree that is within the area planted with the new trees at the back of the museum. The setting will most likely need to be placed on a cement slab. Customer request issued. Noted to be included in annual order for tables and chairs

**Action**

*Include in future works.*

**iii) Road Maintenance**

- Noted that maintenance issue evident on Rossarden Road, gravel in gutter and water leaking onto the road, considered to be an issue in winter when ice forms.
- Grading required Royal George Road to St Pauls Dome Road (at Glen Ayre & Homewood)

**Action**

*Maintenance Issue: Cr Knowles to provide exact location (asset number) on Rossarden Road in order that drainage issue can be investigated and attended to.*

*Grading: matter to be investigated.*

**iv) Slashing**

Royal George Road does not appear to have been completed.

**Action**

*Matter to be investigated.*

**v) Fire Hazard**

Crown Land property alongside 35-37 St Pauls Street, through to Falmouth Street overgrown requires slashing.

**Action**

*Hazard to be investigated.*

**vi) Unsafe Building – 16 Arthur Street**

The Committee noted that the shed at 16 Arthur Street was in a poor state of repair and that roof sheets were loose and that there was a possibility of asbestos present at the building. Noted that the building is in close proximity to the Ash Centre, which houses a Childcare Centre.

**Action**

*Matter to be investigated.*

**vii) Drainage Issue – northern end of Arthur Street**

The Committee noted that at the bottom end of Arthur Street (northern end), where the road comes to an end, is overgrown with grass and vegetation which does not allow the water from the road to drain, the water therefore runs down the road and

collects where the road terminates. A drain is required to be installed below the last driveways. It is required that a drain is installed whilst being mindful of the pre-existing walking track in order that the walking track can be reinstated in the future. Cr Knowles noted that Greater Esk Tourism has plans to refurbish the train station platform and the walkway would provide access to the platform.

### **Action**

*Matter to be investigated.*

## **8 ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

### **i) AMIC Report**

- Noted that the septic tank had been repaired.
- Sprinklers to be purchased and pipes to gardens and trees from runoff still to be installed, Mrs O'Connor and Council's Engineering Officer to discuss further.
- Works in garden undertaken – including arch installation and plantings; and Working B to be held on Saturday 30 November.
- Tree plantings undertaken in order to facilitate mowing.
- Exhibitions planned, including: Dirt Road Photo exhibition, Costa Norda & Mask exhibition
- The Committee noted that AMIC also needed to boost their volunteer numbers.

## **9 NEW BUSINESS**

### **i) 2014 Meeting Dates**

The Committee noted the following dates for the 2014 monthly meetings of the Committee. The meetings to be held on the last Thursday of the month at 6.00pm, as follows:

- 30 January
- 27 March
- 29 May
- 31 July
- 25 September
- 27 November

### **ii) Christmas Social Function**

The Committee noted that a Christmas Social Function would be held at the Campbell Town Hotel at 5.30pm on Tuesday, 10 December (following the Campbell Town District Forum meeting). Council Officer's advised of attendees.

### **iii) Absences without leave**

Mrs Eacher reminded Committee members that should a committee member miss more than 3 consecutive meetings without seeking a leave of absence, that membership would be terminated as per the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding.

**iv) Annual Report 2012/2013 & Priority Project listing**

Miss Bricknell tabled copies of the Annual Report 2012/2013 and the Priority Project listing to be circulated to candidates contesting the seat of Lyons in the 2014 state elections.

**10 CLOSURE & NEXT MEETING**

Miss Bricknell thanked the Committee for their contribution and wished all a Merry Christmas.

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 7.20pm.

The next meeting to be held on Thursday, 30 January 2014 at the Avoca Community Centre commencing at 6.00pm.