

**NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AVOCA, ROYAL GEORGE & ROSSARDEN LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD AT THE AVOCA TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY, 30 JANUARY 2014 COMMENCING AT 6.10PM**

**1 IN ATTENDANCE**

Mrs C Freeman, Mrs H Reynolds, Mrs S Freeman, Mr T Gee, Constable P Littlejohn, Cr Knowles, Mrs G Eacher – Executive Assistant

**2 APOLOGIES**

Mr A Hicks, Mrs V Burn

**3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

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

*That the minutes of the meeting of the Avoca, Royal George and Rossarden Local District Committee held on Thursday, 28 November 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) Speed Signage**

The Committee noted that speed signage had been installed on 13 January 2014.

**Action**

*Matter concluded.*

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

The Committee noted that

- a) in response to Council's enquiry as to the status of water supply investigation at Avoca, Taswater had advised as follows:
  - *A traditional water bore has been trialled near the existing chlorinator. A*

yield and water quality sampling regime was implemented and unfortunately the results showed sufficient yield but very high fluoride levels. As such the traditional bore on its own is not a practical solution. Ultimately it is not a cost effective solution to treat.

- We are currently trialling river bank filtration bores on the South Esk River. Yield and water quality sampling commences later this week. We hope to know results within a couple of weeks.
- If the river bank filtration solution is not viable then a pipeline from Fingal is probably the next preferred solution.

b) Detail of the issues relating to the water tank supply at the Avoca town hall had been forwarded to TasWater, as follows:

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

c) A complaint had been received re Rossarden water and the following letter had been forwarded to Taswater on 10 December:

**ROSSARDEN DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY**

*At the last Council Meeting on 9th December 2013, concern was expressed at the discolouration of the water supply to the township of Rossarden, which is believed may be due to a lack of tail-race maintenance for the supply.*

*This is considered a health risk for residents in the area and Council seek your urgent attention to the water supply for the town.*

The committee noted that the matter had been attended to by TasWater and correspondence had been received by Council detailing action taken.

**Action**

*Council to liaise with TasWater re progress on future water supply investigations and issues to be addressed with tank water supply.*

**iii) 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.

Noted that the former General Manager had written to DIER in September 2013 requesting information regarding planned roadworks for the Esk Highway and that no response had been received to date.

**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. Matter referred to Traffic Management Committee.

**Action**

*Committee to be advised of progress.*

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

Noted that funding had been received for an outdoor gym facility with 2 pieces of equipment to be installed.

**Action**

*Matter concluded.*

**v) Communications Tower**

Committee members noted that information had been received that the erection of the communications towers had been undertaken by Aurora. Information to be sought relating to planning requirements for the installation of communications towers.

**Action**

*Information to be sought re planning requirements for the installation of communications towers.*

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

The matter of acquiring the 2 properties on which the toilet block and barbecue are located was discussed and the committee were in favour of acquiring the two properties.

The meeting noted that currently Council's public facilities were only available for use during the opening hours of the Museum and the privately owned toilets were currently being cleaned, however, required some maintenance; improvements to be considered in the 2014/2015 budget.

**Action**

*Acquisition of the 2 properties to be pursued by Council and upgrade of the toilet facility to be considered in the 2014/15 budget.*

**vii) Rossarden sculpture**

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

Noted

- that prior to funding being sought, Council had written to Mr Eddie Freeman in early December advising location of tree and requesting a quote to undertake carving of the sculpture – Committee advised that no response to the letter had been received as yet.
- possible consideration as 2014/2015 budget item.
- permits would be required should the project proceed.

**Action**

*Once quote received, include in 2014/2015 budget deliberations and seek grant funding.*

## **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.

Noted that following the 24 June 2013 Council Meeting

Council had sent a letter to the Break O'Day Council providing in principle support for the upgrading of gravel forestry roads to waterfalls project as tabled at that meeting.

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

#### **Action**

*On hold, pending funding opportunities.*

### **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.

Noted that:

- Three persons had committed to taking responsibility for the vehicle and "gear".
- Rossarden was recognised as a priority area by Tasfire.

#### **Action**

*The Committee to be kept informed.*

## **7 CUSTOMER REQUESTS**

The following requests have been issued:

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

Rubbish bin to be placed on the western side of Boucher Park – bin installed 13/01/2014.

**Action**

*No further action*

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

Bench seat/s to be installed in front of the established tree that is within the area planted with the new trees at the back of the museum. Possibly a table and chair setting to be installed at a later date.

**Action**

*Installation awaited.*

**iii) Road Maintenance**

The meeting noted that maintenance had been undertaken

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

Cr Knowles to advise exact location (asset number) of periodical drainage issue which occurs on Rossarden Road to facilitate further investigation and possible remedial measures.

**Action**

*Cr Knowles to provide information to Council's Works Department.*

**iv) Slashing**

The Committee noted that slashing on Royal George Road may have been completed, however, it had been slashed on the road side but not to the fence and that there was considerable new growth. Requested that slashing twice per year be considered as it was believed to be hazardous to road users as the presence of animals was able to be obscured by the long grass.

**Action**

*Matter to be investigated.*

**v) Fire Hazard**

Crown Land property alongside 35-37 St Pauls Street, through to Falmouth Street overgrown requires slashing. Noted that the slashing of the property was included in Crown Lands' works programme and would be undertaken annually as time permitted.

**Action**

*No further action*

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

Evident 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. Building is in close proximity to the Ash Centre, which houses a Childcare Centre.

Planning has inspected, no action to be taken by Planning, however, matter to be further investigated by Environmental Health Officer.

**Action**

*Matter to be investigated.*

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

Customer Request issued relating to collection of water at the bottom end of Arthur Street (northern end), where overgrown with grass and vegetation prevents water from the road to drain and consequently collects where the road terminates. Matter addressed 11/12/2013.

**Action**

*Matter concluded.*

**8 ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

**i) AMIC Report**

Noted that

- Council approved 14 plaques for town walk and location of plaques agreed.
- The tree grove at Boucher Park to be regrassed in next 12 months, other plantings and improvements to continue in the interim.
- Funding being sought for plaques commemorating those who served in WW1, to be erected in front of the tree grove.
- Anzac service to be held in Avoca.
- Memorial poppies being crocheted, volunteers sought to crochet.

**9 NEW BUSINESS**

**i) Northern Midlands Council Strategic Plan 2007-2017 – Structure Planning & Sustainability Items**

Committee members requested to consider the memo from the Senior Planner and forward any queries to be addressed.

Noted that the committee would like to encourage industry & commerce and keep the school open.

**ii) 2014/15 Budget**

Members were advised that matters for consideration in the 2014/15 budget deliberations would need to be considered at the next meeting.

Matters to be included for consideration:

- Acquisition of the 2 properties at Rossarden
- Upgrade of the toilet amenities at Rossarden
- Carved sculpture at Rossarden.
- Slashing of roadsides 2x in the season.
- Reconstruction of section of Churchill Street, Avoca.

### **iii) Policing**

Constable Littlejohn noted that issues in the area were being addressed and encouraged the community to speak up regarding criminal and anti-social behaviour, he advised that this could also be done anonymously, however, in order to prosecute they required witnesses to present to court.

He noted that reports of firearms being discharged in the vicinity of Avoca had been received and that the community should familiarise themselves with the law in regard to the discharge of firearms relative to a residence. Constable Littlejohn to provide information to Council's Executive Assistant for inclusion in a future news item.

### **iv) Weeds**

The Committee noted that the presence of Californian Stinkweed, Cotton Thistle and Ragwort had been reported. Paterson's Curse had also been identified in Falmouth Street in Avoca.

#### **Action**

*NRM Officer to be advised re Paterson's Curse.*

### **v) Noise Pollution**

Council to include in its news items a reminder regarding the regulation relating to noise.

#### **Action**

*Matter to included in future news item.*

### **v) Road Safety – Midland/Esk Highway Intersection**

The Committee discussed the perceived dangers of the Midland/Esk Highway intersection and advised that it was understood that a survey had been conducted which identified the dangers of the intersection.

## **10 CLOSURE & NEXT MEETING**

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 7.15pm.

The next meeting to be held on Thursday, 27 March at the Avoca Community Centre commencing at 6.00pm.