

NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AVOCA, ROYAL GEORGE & ROSSARDEN LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD AT THE AVOCA TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY, 27 MARCH 2014 COMMENCING AT 6.20PM

1 IN ATTENDANCE

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

Guest: Mrs J Gee

2 APOLOGIES

Mr A Hicks

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

H Reynolds/M Knowles

That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Avoca, Royal George and Rossarden Local District Committee held on Thursday, 30 January 2014, 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.

5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

i) Monitoring Water Quality / Water Consumption

The Committee noted that an update from TasWater in relation to the Avoca water supply had been received. The following information was noted:

That following investigations TasWater are now pursuing their preferred option, which is the construction of a pipeline connecting Avoca to the water treatment plant currently under construction in Fingal. Further information on the project will be provided on the project as it is available. In response to feedback from the community an additional water supply tank has been placed at the Fire Station in Avoca.

The Communications and Community Liaison Manager has advised that should special circumstances exist and assistance accessing the current water supply is

required TasWater should be contacted.

The public health alert remains in place and the water supply to Avoca is not to be consumed due to detection of lead and cadmium which exceed the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines lifetime exposure levels.

The membership noted that due to the quality of water being inadequate, a pensioner was currently either required to travel to Launceston or Campbell Town every second day to access Dialysis treatment. Further that if a sufficient quantity of clean water and a water storage facility was made available at the pensioners premises in Avoca, Dialysis could be undertaken at home.

The membership considered the cost of travel and inconvenience to be an unacceptable and avoidable cost to the pensioner and requested Council to correspond with TasWater in order to investigate the possibility of assisting the pensioner.

Action

Council to write to TasWater seeking assistance for the pensioner.

ii) Esk Highway – Roadworks/Safety

Signage

The Committee noted:

- that a sign had been incorrectly placed advising of the narrow bridge, after the bridge, between Conara intersection; no signs were installed to warn road users in the opposite direction.
- DIER maintenance staff had been advised, and would rectify in due course.

Road Safety – Esk Highway

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.

Road Safety – Midland/Esk Highway Intersection

At the January meeting, 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.

Mrs S Freeman to establish survey report details in order that the matter be investigated.

Action

- a) Committee to be kept informed.*
- b) Follow up to September 2013 letter to be sent.*

c) Mrs S Freeman to establish survey report details, matter to be considered further.

iii) Communications Tower

Information circulated relating to planning requirements for the installation of communications towers.

Action

No further action.

iv) Old Toilets on Private Land at Rossarden

At the January meeting, the matter of acquiring the 2 properties on which the toilet block and barbecue are located was discussed and supported by the committee.

Noted that acquisition of the blocks would be considered by Council.

Action

Committee to be kept informed.

v) 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.
- possible consideration as 2014/2015 budget item.
- permits would be required should the project proceed.
- Once quote received, include in 2014/2015 budget deliberations and seek grant funding.

No response received to date.

Action

The Chair to follow up with Mr Freeman.

vi) 2014/15 Budget

At the January meeting members were advised that matters for consideration in the 2014/15 budget deliberations would need to be considered at the March meeting.

Matters to be included for consideration:

- Acquisition of the 2 blocks at Rossarden (including block on which amenities are located)
- Upgrade of the toilet amenities at Rossarden, if necessary
- Slashing of roadsides on Royal George Road 2x in the season.
- Reconstruction of section of Churchill Street, Avoca.
- Eddie Freeman carving at Rossarden – include in 2014/2015 budget deliberations and seek grant funding.

Action

Matters to be considered during budget deliberations.

vii) Policing

At the January meeting 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.

The Committee referred to

- issues of unauthorised spotlighting on private property; and
- police presence on Royal George Road.

Action

No further action.

viii) 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.

Ragwort and Californian Stinkweed identified, NRM Officer working together with stakeholders to identify and map weeds to be incorporated in the LIST weed mapping layer; Landholders pursuing further eradication through State Government channels.

List of environmental weeds (declared and non-declared) to be provided to members.

Action

List of environmental weeds (declared and non-declared) to be provided to members.

ix) Noise Pollution

At the January meeting the Committee requested Council to include in its news items a reminder regarding the regulation relating to noise. Noted that an item on Noise Pollution was included in the Council page in the March 2014 Country Courier.

Action

No further action.

x) 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.

Noted that Tasfire are awaiting a copy of the Rossarden Progress Associations 2013 audited financial statements.

Action

Rossarden Progress Association to forward audited financial statements to Tasfire.

6 PENDING ITEMS

i) Rossarden – Walks and Attractions

The Committee requested that access be provided through Crown 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.

7 CUSTOMER REQUESTS

The following requests have been issued:

Meeting Date	Customer Request	Detail	Status
30/01/14	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	
30/01/14	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	Request for slashing of roadsides on Royal George Road 2x in the season to be considered during Budget

Meeting Date	Customer Request	Detail	Status
		that there was considerable new growth. Requested that slashing twice per year be considered as it was believed to be hazardous to road users/property owners due to fire hazard and the presence of animals was able to be obscured by the long grass.	deliberations.
30/01/14	Unsafe Building –Arthur/ Falmouth Street	Evident that the shed at 22 Falmouth Street (on 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.	Emergency Order in process of being issued.

8 ASSOCIATION REPORTS

i) AMIC Report

- Possible that AMIC will benefit from the services of a volunteer for 10 to 15 hours per week, subject to Centrelink approval.
- “Every Dirt Road” photographic exhibition currently on display – donated to community by photographer, managed by Break O’Day Council.
- ANZAC day service to be held.
- RSL supportive of WW1 plaques project.

9 NEW BUSINESS

i) No’s 1 and 3 Schell Street, Rossarden

The Committee requested that Council write to the owners of the properties and request them to undertake repairs/maintenance to properties:

- the septic tank cover broken (Museum – 1 Schell Street)
- loose corrugated iron roof sheets, repairs and general maintenance to house, garage and garden (3 Schell Street).

Action

Ownership of the properties to be established and if appropriate letters sent requesting maintenance be undertaken.

ii) Boucher Park

Noted the following:

- gym equipment installed,
- tables/chairs to be installed near bus shelter/gym equipment and near trees;
- negotiating for new fence at rear of tree plantation, considering “people poles” fence (painted palings, representing people)

Action

No further action.

iii) Nomenclature

Members referred to official mail received which had been addressed to St Pauls Place instead of St Pauls Street as previously known.

Correct nomenclature to be established.

Action

Matter to be investigated.

iv) Targa

The committee were advised that Rossarden Road and Storys Creek Road would be closed for Targa on 8th May 2014, for not more than 4½ hours; and that event organisers had indicated that they would encourage participants to support local business enterprises. The Committee queried the value of funds/in-kind contributions made by Council toward the event and were advised that no contribution was made.

The Committee agreed to reconsider/evaluate their support for the event, in terms of value to the community, after the current year's event.

v) Other matters discussed

- ***Mine Rehabilitation, Royal George*** - Members reported that the area was encouraging.
- ***Rossarden Water Supply*** – TasWater had quickly attended to the recent issues experienced in relation to water supply.

10 CLOSURE & NEXT MEETING

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 7.20pm.

The next meeting to be held on Thursday, 29 May 2014 at the Avoca Community Centre commencing at 6.00pm.