

NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AVOCA, ROYAL GEORGE & ROSSARDEN LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD AT THE AVOCA COMMUNITY CENTRE ON THURSDAY, 29 MAY 2014 COMMENCING AT 6.08PM

Noted:

That as there was no quorum, an informal meeting was held at which time the following notes were taken.

1 IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs C Freeman, Mrs H Reynolds, Cr Knowles, Mrs G Eacher – Executive Assistant

Guest: Constable P Littlejohn

2 APOLOGIES

Mr A Hicks, Mrs S Freeman, Mr T Gee

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Noted:

That as there was no quorum the minutes of the meeting of 27 March 2014 will be confirmed at the next meeting to be held on 31 July.

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

Noted that the last update from TasWater in relation to the Avoca water supply was received prior to the 27 March meeting, as follows:

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.

At the 27 March meeting, 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.

Council wrote to TasWater on 17 April, and TasWater has since requested contact details in order that the matter may be addressed directly with the affected party.

Action

Information re water supply and the Fingal water treatment plant to be sought. Awaiting further information from TasWater.

ii) Esk Highway – Roadworks/Safety

a) Road Safety – Esk Highway vicinity of Avoca

Noted at 31 January 2013 meeting that 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 sent to DIER on 19 July and September 2013.

A follow up letter was sent to DIER on 10 April 2014, a response to this enquiry was received and circulated.

Noted that the response did not give consideration to the section of road in question, matter to be followed up.

Action

Further information to be sought.

b) 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.

Council requested the survey from DIER who advised that the report referred to was an internal report. However, DIER advised that with regard to the Midland/Esk Highway intersection: the intersection upgrade forms part of the \$200M Nation Building programmed works to be undertaken in the period 2014-

2017. No formal plans are as yet available, but Council will be kept informed in relation to the upgrade.

Action

Committee to be advised re progress of the upgrade.

iii) Rossarden sculpture

Noted that the committee had previously 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; however, it was now understood that the tree may not be suitable for carving.

Requested that consideration be given to the use of the stump as a plinth on which a carving/statue of a miner could be installed.

Action

Matter to be investigated.

iv) 2014/15 Budget

The Committee to note that the following matters were included for consideration in the 2014/2015 budget deliberations:

- Acquisition of the 2 blocks at Rossarden (including block on which amenities are located)
- Upgrade of the toilet amenities at Rossarden, if necessary
- Reconstruction of section of Churchill Street, Avoca.

Attendees advised that the budget would be considered at the 23 June Council meeting.

Query made in relation to the omission from the budget deliberations that Royal George Road be slashed twice annually. Suggested individuals bring the matter to the attention of local Councillors.

Action

No further action.

v) Policing

Noted that Tasmania Police 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 witnesses were required to present to court.

Information re the laws governing the discharge of firearms to be provided to Council for inclusion in a future news item.

Action

Publication of news item re the laws governing the discharge of firearms, pending provision of information.

vi) Fire Brigade

Vehicle committed by Tasfire to the Rossarden Progress Association who has a sub-committee whose members are to be trained.

Matter progressing – training sessions planned. Group will fall under Avoca brigade.

Noted that the group needed to ascertain the locations of appropriate emergency response depots between Campbell Town and St Helens.

Action

No further action.

vii) No's 1 and 3 Schell Street, Rossarden

Noted that Council had contacted the owners of the property re the repair/maintenance thereof, in particular:

- 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

Committee to be kept informed.

viii) Nomenclature

Members referred to official mail received which had been addressed to St Pauls Place instead of St Pauls Street. Council have contacted the Nomenclature Board who have advised that neither St Pauls Place nor Street seem to have been officially named, the matter to be further investigated by Council and Nomenclature Board.

Noted, matter to be further investigated.

Action

Committee to be kept informed.

6 PENDING ITEMS

i) Rossarden – Walks and Attractions

The Committee have previously 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.

At 29 May meeting noted that Cr Knowles had been in contact with the State Government re this matter.

Action

On hold, pending funding opportunities.

7 CUSTOMER REQUESTS

The following requests have been issued – update to be provided:

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	Seats installed.
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 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.	Request for slashing of roadsides on Royal George Road 2x in the season to be considered during Budget 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 issued on 4 April allowing 14 days to comply.

8 ASSOCIATION REPORTS

i) AMIC Report

Noted

- AMIC benefitting from the services of a Centrelink volunteer for 10 to 15 hours per week;
- Council provided soil and grass to the area in the vicinity of trees;
- Historical plaques project was proceeding, with production of the plaques to be followed up.

Customer request to be issued for Council to consider provision of an upgraded computer and internet access to the Centre, and possibly provide online services to the public.

Action

Customer request to be issued.

9 NEW BUSINESS

i) Royal George Hall

In accordance with Council's decision at the 14 April Council meeting,

That Council

- i) undertake further consultation with the community*
- ii) seek alternative uses;*
- ii) undertake an audit of the assets and assess the cost of repair; and*
- iv) report to a future Council meeting.*

correspondence has been sent to residents of Royal George in relation to the lease of the Royal George Hall. An assessment of the hall and assets is yet to be undertaken. Following the collation of information a further report to Council will be tabled.

Information noted.

Action

No further action.

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

Briefing notes from Planning Department regarding the

- Interim Planning Scheme 2013
- The Greater Launceston Plan
- Powranna Road Rural Processing Centre; and
- Business Confidence in the Northern Midlands

were attached for discussion.

Action

Matter to be carried over to July meeting.

iii) Avenues of Honour – Natural Resource Management Special Committee

The Committee to consider the following request from the NRM Committee:

The Natural Resource Management Special Committee of Council is seeking expressions of interest from their sister Council committees to lend support in the form of joining up on a working group to advance the project proposal for Pioneer Avenues and War Memorial Avenues.

Last year the NRM Special Committee of Council came up with the idea of revisiting the Pioneers Memorial Avenue project but the War Memorial plantings also came up so we have a two pronged project that is seeking to rediscover and renew our Memorial Plantings for both lost soldiers and our colonial pioneers.

- *Firstly we are hoping to “rediscover” all known plantings (some of this work has already commenced) of both Pioneer and War Memorial plantings,*
- *get their health assessed and work with other major stakeholders (DIER, Councils, State Govt, Forestry etc)*
- *to improve the condition of existing plantings (arobrealist work if required and renew/replant lost plantings)*

Committee members to consider and contact Council’s NRM Officer, Monique Case, if they wish to participate in the project.

Action

Noted. No further action.

iv) Country Courier Article

Council is preparing an item for the Country Courier re the membership and achievements of each Committee. The membership to consider achievements to be included and consider the inclusion of membership details in the article.

Action

Matter to be carried over to July meeting.

v) Customer Requests

- Avoca Hall – request received for old floor timber from the hall.
- Avoca Hall – lights are working, however, appears to be issue with the plugs (heating) not being operable – may be related to the lifting of the floor boards.
- Rossarden – request that a water tap be installed in the park near the BBQ.
- Storys Creek Road – empty log trucks utilising and damaging unmade section of Storys Creek Road, Council may need to ascertain whether tonnage limit is being exceeded by the empty trucks.
- Rossarden - installation of a fire break around Rossarden, particularly on the N/NW side of the town beyond the rear boundary fences of properties.

10 CLOSURE & NEXT MEETING

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 7.12pm.

The next meeting to be held on Thursday, 31 July 2014 at the Avoca Community Centre commencing at 6.00pm.