

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AVOCA, ROYAL GEORGE & ROSSARDEN LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD AT THE AVOCA COMMUNITY CENTRE ON THURSDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 2014 COMMENCING AT 6.00PM

1 IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs C Freeman, Mrs S Freeman, Mrs H Reynolds, Mr T Gee, Ms J Allen, Mrs D Wells, Cr Knowles, Mr D Jennings – General Manager, Mrs G Eacher – Executive Assistant

2 APOLOGIES

Mrs S Squires

3 CONFIRMATION OF PRIOR MINUTES

Mrs S Freeman/ Mrs H Reynolds

That the notes of the meeting of the Avoca, Royal George and Rossarden Local District Committee held on Thursday, 27 March 2014 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

Carried

Cr M Knowles/Mrs H Reynolds

That the notes of the meeting of the Avoca, Royal George and Rossarden Local District Committee held on Thursday, 29 May 2014 be received.

Carried

Mrs H Reynolds/ Cr M Knowles

That the notes of the meeting of the Avoca, Royal George and Rossarden Local District Committee held on Thursday, 28 August 2014 be received.

Carried

4 COMMITTEE MEETING: 25 SEPTEMBER 2014

The Committee noted that as there was no quorum, the scheduled the meeting of the Avoca, Royal George and Rossarden Local District Committee to be held on Thursday, 25 September 2014 was not held.

5 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.

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

i) Monitoring Water Quality / Water Consumption

Noted that

- TasWater has previously advised that its preferred option for provision of water is via 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.
- Noted also that TasWater had advised
...the board has approved a business case and more work is being undertaken by the capital works committee. Our Community Engagement Manager is meeting with the Project Manager on Monday to discuss progress regarding the community. ...
- Consultation in relation to the provision of water / tanks to the dialysis patient is progressing.

Further matters raised by the Committee:

- a. Concerns re the low level of water in the St Pauls River and the hardships likely to be faced by domestic and agricultural users of this water source in the summer months. The Committee expressed the need for the water authority to monitor water levels and demands on supply in relation to irrigation.
- b. Requested that a shelter be provided at the water tanks to offer protection to users filling water containers.
- c. Requested that a tap extension (hose) be provided to make it easier to fill containers.
- d. Noted that water pressure of the tank at the fire station was very low. Requested that water levels in the tank be maintained in order to facilitate adequate water pressure.

Action

Council to make enquiries in relation to the matters raised.

ii) Esk Highway:

The Committee noted the detail of the following email received from State Growth in relation to the Esk Highway issues raised:

The aim of the Esk Main Road Shoulder Sealing project is to provide a consistent road standard between Conara and Avoca with the provision of sealed shoulders to enable edge lines to be installed. This type of road treatment is very effective in reducing off-road crashes and this mass action approach is considered the best way to address the reported crash history.

It is noted that for 4.4 kilometres west of Avoca sealed shoulders and edge lines already exist, albeit the existing sealed shoulders are narrow. During the scoping phase it was noted that there had been no reported crashes over the last ten years on the section of road adjacent to the Benham property; however a number of crashes had occurred on the curve immediately to the east of the level railway crossing. The majority of these crashes occurred when the road surface was wet, and since resealing of this section in 2012, no crash has occurred at this location.

In addition to the planned shoulder works, warning signage on the tightest curves between Conara and Avoca will be reviewed, including the possible installation of more Chevron Alignment Markers to assist delineating the curves.

a) Roadworks/Safety - 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, with a number of follow up letters forwarded to DIER/State Growth between July 2013 and November 2014.

Response received from State Growth on 27 November 2014 above refers.

b) Upcoming Shoulder Sealing Works

The Committee noted the details of correspondence received from the Department of State Growth in relation to shoulder sealing works along Esk Main Road, to the west of Avoca starting from Blanchards Creek Culvert to Stynes Creek Bridge. The road works being a continuation of the shoulder sealing from the Midland Highway junction up to Blanchards Creek, which was undertaken in the 2012/13 construction season.

c) Line Markings: vicinity Milford Dam

The Committee raised concerns relating to inappropriate line markings in the vicinity of Milford Dam; appears that line markings provide for overtaking where the sight distance is inadequate due to the undulating nature of the road (appears that vehicles are unable to be seen in the dip in the road, however, line markings on the approach to the dip provide for overtaking).

d) Verge maintenance

The committee raised the following issues in relation to the growth/encroachment of trees on the road verge:

- Pine trees on the embankment on the northern side of the western entrance to Avoca;
- Trees encroaching onto the road:
 - in the vicinity of Llewellyn;
 - Story's Creek Road onto Esk Highway.

Noted that State Growth was in the process of slashing the road verges and that works had already been undertaken on the Esk Highway in the Break O'Day Council area.

Action

- *State Growth to be requested to assess line marking and verge maintenance concerns.*
- *Cr Knowles to follow up with State Growth in relation to trees at Llewellyn.*

iii) Rossarden sculpture

Noted that that the tree outside the museum in Rossarden had been felled and that the Progress Association had expressed the wish that that the stump be used as a plinth on which a carving/statue of a miner could be installed.

Action

Design concepts for the carving to be considered and the Local District Committee to include their proposal in the 2015/16 budget requests.

iv) Policing

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

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

Information not provided to date.

Action

No action.

v) 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 (property next door to the Museum – 1 Schell Street)
- loose corrugated iron roof sheets, repairs and general maintenance to house, garage and garden (3 Schell Street).

Department of Education property – maintenance of the property pursued with Department, who advised have advised that the properties are the subject of long term lease agreements with Tas Fire Services and the Rossarden Progress Association and, in terms of the lease agreements, the lessees are responsible for the maintenance of the properties.

Action

No further action.

vi) Nomenclature

The Nomenclature Board advised previously that neither St Pauls Place nor Street were officially named. Council requested that official naming of the streets be progressed; advice now received that the road names had been assigned under Section 20E and were deemed to be official, the naming to be included for the December Nomenclature Board meeting for noting only.

Action

No further action.

vii) Country Courier Article

Council to prepare items 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.

Agreed that a photo of the membership be taken at the AGM in March 2015 for the Country Courier article.

Action

On hold to March 2015.

7 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 on hold. 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.

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.

At 29 May meeting noted that Cr Knowles had been in contact with the State Government re this matter and, at 28 August 2014 meeting, the Committee were advised by Cr Knowles that at the recent meeting with the Premier at Council's Chambers, the matter had been discussed.

Action

Placed on hold pending funding opportunities/ ownership issues

8 CUSTOMER REQUESTS

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

Meeting Date	Customer Request	Detail	Status
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.	Repairs completed October 2014. Further query raised re the broken asbestos wall – matter to be investigated.

Meeting Date	Customer Request	Detail	Status
29/05/14	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	Complete.
29/05/14	Rossarden	request that a water tap be installed in the park near the BBQ.	Complete.
28/08/14	Royal George	Vehicle with Victorian licence plates entered property, occupant of vehicle had made claim that he was working for Council.	Council contractor undertaking asset evaluation. Complete.
28/08/14	Avoca / Rossarden	List of meeting dates to be placed at the Post Offices at Avoca and Rossarden.	Notices provided. To be updated in January 2015.
28/08/14	Rossarden	Remains of 2 houses at Rossarden which had been burned down, request that Council follow up with property owners and pursue the removal of the houses and the tidy up of the property.	Council monitoring. Complete.
09/2014	Felling of large tree at Rossarden museum	Felling of large tree at Rossarden museum/Rossarden sculpture Noted that due to the danger posed by the tree, the Progress Association had agreed that the tree to be cut down and that the use of the stump as a plinth on which a carving/statue of a miner could be installed to be investigated.	Tree felled October. Complete.
09/2014	Computer and internet access	Avoca Museum & Information Centre - Council to consider provision of an upgraded computer and internet access to the Centre, and possibly provide online services to the public	Provision of internet access to be pursued.
11/2014	Avoca Hall	Hall requires painting – especially the stage.	
11/2014	Storys Creek Road at River	High embankment (on river side) used as 4WD track, becoming eroded – barrier requires to be extended.	
11/2014	Garden fences	Request for information on permitted heights for garden fences.	
11/2014	“Street” furniture at river reserve	Furniture at river reserve needs attention/replacement; possibly install additional free standing seats.	
11/2014	“Street” furniture - Avoca	Request to install free standing seats/benches within the township of Avoca.	
11/2014	Street Trees	Previously street trees removed, request that street trees be planted within the township of Avoca.	
11/2014	Cat Management	Request that Council investigate a cat management program, including feral cats.	

9 ASSOCIATION REPORTS

i) AMIC Report

The following report was provided by Cr Knowles for AMIC

- The AMIC Committee appreciate the work Council have been doing in preparation to installing the Historic Plaques and the new piece of gym equipment.
- The 'Feel Good' Workshop went very well.
- AMIC's application to ANZA funding for small plaques commemorating each soldier who was born at Avoca and enlisted in the First World War; they are to go in front of each new tree at the back of the park.
- Justin and Mary attended a 'Social Media for Small Museums' workshop - very useful for when the Council organise for AMIC to come on-line. We are going to start a facebook page, Twitter account and a website.
- Plaques installed – some issues with colour and spelling errors.
- Tree plaques - difficulties encountered with research of enlisted soldiers, as place of enlistment recorded not place of residence, not all trees allocated as yet. Erection of plaques still to be determined.
- Hosting Tasmanian Women in Agriculture luncheon on 29 November.

ii) Rossarden issues

The following information/report was provided by Cr Knowles:

- e. Thanks to Council for the work undertaken to fell the tree next to the Rossarden Museum
- f. The Rossarden Fire Brigade had another training session on 22 September, now almost completed their training. Further training to be held on 3 December.
- g. Working bee held to start dealing with the 'broom' weed issues.
- h. House ruins
 - Two burnt out houses in Rossarden in Walter Street and Coronation Street
 - The demolished house ruins is in Schell St and needs cleaning up so a request for Council to issue a "Please clean up" request to each owner.
- i. 20 plus wrecked vehicles at the back of Baker Street houses and on the nature strip on the street frontage in Baker Street. Council Tip contractor has agreed he can remove at a cost.

Action

- c. *Quotes being sourced to eradicate broom (NRM Officer / Cr Knowles).*
- d. *Noted that Council is continuing to liaise with property owners re the issues raised.*
- e. *Noted that no action can be taken in relation to vehicles on private property. Council to investigate options to have other vehicles removed.*

10 NEW BUSINESS

i) 2015 Meeting Calendar

The Committee noted the following dates for the 2015 monthly meetings of the Committee. The meetings to be held on the last Thursday of alternate months at 6.00pm, as follows:

- 29 January
- 26 March
- 28 May
- 30 July
- 24 September
- 26 November

ii) Christmas Social Function

The Committee noted that a Christmas Social Function would be held at 6.00pm on 9 December 2014 at the Bowls Club in Campbell Town.

iii) Appointment of Council Representatives to Special Committees, Advisory Committees & Outside Bodies

The Committee noted the following appointments made to special committees within the Avoca, Royal George & Rossarden area at the 10 November Council meeting:

Name of Outside Body or Special Committee of Council (Section 24 Local Government Act 1993)	Name of Council Representative
Avoca, Royal George & Rossarden Local District Committee	Cr Knowles
Avoca Community Centre & Memorial Hall Management Committee	Cr Knowles
Avoca Museum & Tourist Centre	Cr Knowles

iv) Gap Analysis: Northern Midlands Interim Planning Scheme 2013

The Committee noted the content of the *Gap Analysis: Northern Midlands Interim Planning Scheme 2013* report, relative to the Avoca, Royal George & Rossarden area, which was tabled at the 13 October Council meeting.

v) Membership

Noted that the term of membership expires in March 2015. Nominations for membership to be advertised in January/February 2015.

vi) Noise issues

Noted that with the onset of summer, lawnmowers, chainsaws, etc were being utilised contrary to regulations, the regulations being as follows:

The Regulations include the following permissible times for using various types of machinery on residential premises, including residential construction sites:

Lawnmowers and other power garden maintenance equipment –

Monday to Friday: 7am to 8pm

Saturday: 9am to 8pm

Sunday and Public Holidays: 10am to 8pm

Chainsaws (Note: May be used for domestic garden maintenance on only one day in any 7 consecutive days)

Monday to Friday: 7am to 6pm
Saturday: 9am to 6pm
Sunday and Public Holidays: 10am to 6pm

Action

Regulations to be published in Country Courier.

vii) Slashing Royal George Road

The Committee congratulated Council on a job well done in relation to slashing on Royal George Road, and pointed out the inadequacies of the slashing program on Royal George Road in the 2013/14 season.

viii) NBN

Anecdotal information provided that, once the NBN is installed and telephone connections are via the NBN, telephone connections will fail in the event of a power failure.

The Committee raised concerns as many areas rely on the “landline systems” as mobile coverage is limited in the area, and the effect that such a failure would have on alert systems.

Action

Committee members attending to progress.

ix) Fire Awareness

Suggested that at the next fire meeting the matter of fire safety, including fuel and hazard reduction, and fire plans to be raised as well as the possibility of the production of information flyers for distribution.

Action

Committee members attending to progress.

x) 10 Year Plan

Council’s General Manager suggested that the committee consider formulating a 10 Year Plan for the future of the town. Maps of the towns to be circulated with suggestions to be considered and prioritised at future meetings.

Action

Committee to consider improvements to be included in the 10 year plan.

11 CLOSURE & NEXT MEETING

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 7.25pm.

The next meeting to be held on Thursday, 29 January 2015 at the Avoca Community Centre commencing at 6.00pm.