

AVOCA, ROYAL GEORGE & ROSSARDEN LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of the Avoca, Royal George & Rossarden Local District Committee held at the Avoca Community Centre on Thursday, 29 January 2015 commencing at 6.10pm

1 IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs C Freeman, Mrs H Reynolds, Mr T Gee, Ms J Allen, Mrs D Wells, Mrs G Eacher – Executive Assistant

2 APOLOGIES

Mrs S Freeman, Mrs S Squires, Mr A Hicks, Cr Knowles, Mr D Jennings

3 BEREAVEMENT

Mr Gee expressed regret on the passing of Mr Anthony Freeman and provided some insight into the loss of Mr Freeman to the local community.

Mr T Gee/Mrs H Reynolds

That the Committee hold a minute of silence on the loss to the family and community on the passing of Mr Tony Freeman.

Carried unanimously

4 CONFIRMATION OF PRIOR MINUTES

Mrs H Reynolds/Ms J Allen

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

Carried unanimously

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 at the November meeting:

- 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.
A Response provided by DPIPWE re the monitoring process and provided to the Committee.
- b. Requested that a shelter be provided at the water tanks to offer protection to users filling water containers.
TasWater advised that the provision of a shelter is not one which had been considered as the water tanks had been provided as a temporary solution to the water issue.
- c. Requested that a tap extension (hose) be provided to make it easier to fill containers. Noted that an extension had been installed, but following its installation the hose had been vandalised.
- 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. Noted that maintenance works were to be undertaken on the water tank.

The committee advised that residents of Avoca had received correspondence from TasWater, which had referenced a *Do Not Consume Water Advisory for Pioneer*, subsequently a retraction was received which cited the information as being relevant to Avoca. In early January a further letter was received *Do Not Consume Water Advisory for Avoca*. Both letters advised that *“TasWater is working closely with the Department of Health and Human Services to identify conditions that will enable the ‘Do not consume’ advice to be lifted. To correct the problem TasWater has commenced a project to replace this service (rainwater tanks). ...”*

Action

Committee to provide copies of the letters and matter to be investigated.

ii) Esk Highway:

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:

“...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...”

Cr Knowles addressed a further enquiry to Mr Chellis who advised as follows:

...there is 6 metres of seal with generally one metre of shoulder. The road reservation is not of sufficient width to allow for the verge gradient to be more gradual. The road appears to be satisfactory ... I believe State Growth would not consider piping the open drain or acquiring property to provide for an open drain on the other side of the existing fence as high priority given the other road concerns they have. In addition to that drivers are required to drive on the sealed carriageway and road authorities should not have to be responsible should someone drive off the road into a drain.

The Committee raised concerns relating to the signage being insufficient during reconstruction of the road, and in particular warnings relating to the gravelled sections.

b) 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).

The Committee noted that State Growth had advised that the “*area is being widened and new marking will be undertaken when complete*”.

c) 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.

Matter referred to State Growth who had advised as follows:

- Pine trees on the embankment on the northern side of the western entrance to Avoca - *State Growth will investigate and report back*
- Tree growth encroaching onto the road: in the vicinity of Llewellyn - *area is being widened and new marking will be undertaken when complete.*
- Tree growth encroaching onto the road: Story’s Creek Road onto Esk Highway - *State Growth will investigate and report back.*

Action

- a) *Roadworks/Safety - vicinity of Avoca
Traffic Management Committee to be advised.*
- c) *Verge maintenance*

Committee to be kept informed.

iii) Rossarden sculpture

Tree outside the museum in Rossarden - design concepts for the carving to be considered and the Local District Committee to include their proposal in the 2015/16 budget requests.

Action

Committee members to progress.

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.

Noted that speeding on Falmouth Street (the Esk Highway), especially heavy vehicles, remained an issue.

Action

Matter to be reported.

v) Rossarden issues

Matters raised at 29 November meeting

a) 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.

The committee noted that the matter had been addressed with property owners and the clean-up was progressing.

b) Vehicle wrecks

20 plus wrecked vehicles at the back of Baker Street houses and on the nature strip on the street frontage in Baker Street.

The committee noted that no action can be taken in relation to vehicles on private property, however, Council would investigate options to have other vehicles removed.

Committee to advise location of vehicles in order to determine whether any action can be taken.

c) Broom

Working bee held to start dealing with the 'broom' weed issues.

Quotes being sourced to eradicate broom (NRM Officer / Cr Knowles).

Action

b) *Vehicle wrecks*

Committee to advise location of vehicles in order to determine whether any action can be taken.

vi) Membership & AGM

Noted that the term of membership expires in March 2015; and that advertising for nominations for membership had commenced and would be accepted until 28 February 2015.

AGM to be held 26 March 2015.

vii) Noise issues

Noted that an item on the regulations relating to the use of lawnmowers, chainsaws, etc had been published in the Country Courier, 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

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.

Response awaited from NBN Co.

Action

Committee to be kept informed.

ix) 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 circulated, suggestions to be considered and prioritised at future meetings.

Requested that Council assist the Committee in the preparation of a notice to the community advising of the formulation of a 10 year plan and a questionnaire be attached. Responses could then be collated by the Committee.

Action

Matter to be progressed.

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

iii) 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.

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. | Council continuing to take action/investigate. |
| 28/08/14 | Avoca / Rossarden | List of meeting dates to be placed at the Post Offices at Avoca and Rossarden. | Updated notices provided. |
| 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 | Information provided to Committee re wifi connection. |
| 11/2014 | Storys Creek Road at River | High embankment (on river side) used as 4WD track, becoming eroded – barrier requires to be extended. | In progress – guide posts to be installed. |
| 11/2014 | Garden fences | Request for information on permitted heights for garden fences. | Side fences max 2.1m, frontage 1.8m – if 50% transparent. Permitted height of solid fence? |
| 11/2014 | "Street" furniture | Furniture at river reserve needs attention/ | Seats listed for repair. Additional |

| Meeting Date | Customer Request | Detail | Status |
|--------------|--|---|---|
| | at river reserve | replacement; possibly install additional free standing seats. | seating required to be included in 10 year plan. |
| 11/2014 | "Street" furniture - Avoca | Request to install free standing seats/ benches within the township of Avoca. | Additional seating required to be included in 10 year plan. |
| 11/2014 | Street Trees | Previously street trees removed, request that street trees be planted within the township of Avoca. | To be included in 10 year plan. |
| 11/2014 | Cat Management | Request that Council investigate a cat management program, including feral cats. | No funds for implementation. Awaiting outcome of State Government review. |
| 11/2014 | Avoca Hall | Hall requires painting – especially the stage. | Included in 2015/16 budget. Requested that neutral tones be utilised. |
| 1/2015 | Avoca Hall | a) Drain smells when used on a regular basis. b) Leak from male toilets | |
| 1/2015 | Trees overhanging/ encroaching onto footpath | Trees overhanging/ encroaching onto footpath at the frontage of the Fire Station. | |
| 1/2015 | Logs trapped under bridge over St Paul's River | Trees stuck/washed against bridge over St Pauls River, concerns may eventuate in a log jam. | |

9 ASSOCIATION REPORTS

No Association reports were received.

10 CLOSURE & NEXT MEETING

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 7.15pm.

The next meeting to be held on Thursday, 26 March 2015 at the Avoca Community Centre commencing at 6.00pm.