

AVOCA, ROYAL GEORGE & ROSSARDEN LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Avoca, Royal George & Rossarden Local District Committee held at the Avoca Community Centre on Thursday, 26 March 2015 commencing at 6.14pm.

1 IN ATTENDANCE

Shirley Freeman, Helen Reynolds, Jacinta Allen, Dalija Wells, Claudia Freeman, Shirley Squires, Gail Eacher (Executive Assistant)

Guests: Leonie Downie, Terry Jacobson, Michael Rundell, Gary Cobb

2 APOLOGIES

Tony Gee, Cr Mary Knowles, Des Jennings (General Manager)

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Jacinta Allen / Dalija Wells

That the minutes of the meeting of the Avoca, Royal George and Rossarden Local District Committee held on Thursday, 29 January 2015 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

Noted that

- Construction of a water pipeline to provide treated water to Avoca had been approved and envisaged that construction works would take 12 months to complete.
- TasWater had written to Avoca residents providing information relative to the project.
- Advised that TasWater had not yet made contact with the dialysis patient re the provision of water / tanks to the dialysis patient.

A number of queries were raised by guests and the committee in relation to:

- Contamination of the water which is currently provided by TasWater,

- Current costs incurred for water consumption;
- Provision of shelter at the water tanks to offer protection to users filling water containers;
- The provision of a further tap extension (hose) to make it easier to fill containers and reduce wastage;
- Future cost of treated water, relative to availability and usage thereof.

The Committee requested that TasWater hold a public meeting at Avoca and provide an update to residents and address queries in relation to the provision of services in the townships of Avoca and Rossarden. Alternately, if TasWater is unable to hold a public meeting, that representatives from TasWater attend the next meeting of the Committee to address issues.

Action

Council to contact TasWater and request they hold a public meeting; and confirm that TasWater has the correct contact details for the dialysis patient.

ii) Esk Highway – Verge maintenance

Following matter referred to State Growth awaiting finalisation:

- 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: Story's Creek Road onto Esk Highway - State Growth will investigate and report back.

Noted that a meeting is being arranged with State Growth to consider these matters.

Additional matter raised:

- The rail crossing at the western approach to Avoca is off-camber and misaligned – requested that the appropriate authorities address the matter.

Action

Matter of overgrown trees to be addressed with State Growth.

Rail crossing matter to be addressed with appropriate authority.

iii) Rossarden sculpture

Sculpture of the tree outside the museum at Rossarden to be included in the proposal in the 2015/16 budget deliberations. Designs to be considered, possibly mining themed. Eddie Freeman to provide design concepts if budget allocated.

Action

For consideration in 2015/16 budget deliberations.

iv) Policing

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

Noted that the information is awaited.

Tas Police advised that speeding on Falmouth Street (the Esk Highway), especially heavy vehicles, remained an issue. Tas Police advised that there are a lot of patrols through Avoca at various times and that the information would be relayed to

patrolling police. The committee requested that additional traffic control measures be considered.

Action

Tas Police to be advised.

v) Rossarden issues

a. 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.

in order to determine whether any action can be taken information re location of vehicles to be advised.

b. Broom

The following information was noted:

Council have submitted an application to Green Army Round 3 to have a Green Army Team work on controlling broom in the township of Rossarden for an entire project term of 26 weeks.

Round 4 of Green Army applications is expected to open in July/August.

These control works are targeted at Crown & Council Land in conjunction with awareness campaign consisting at this stage of a mail-out to all local residents to raise awareness regarding local works and education regarding landholder control obligations and factsheet.

This application has been developed to support Rossarden Progress Association/Landcare group on-ground efforts and with their support. It was co-written by Council's NRM Facilitator and Kiowa Fenner of DPIPWE Biosecurity – Invasive Species Branch and submitted with approval of the GM. With consultation with Council works dept and Service Provide ManPower Employment services. Update to be provided by Cr Knowles.

Action

a. Vehicle wrecks – information awaited.

b. No further action.

vi) NBN

Previously the Committee raised concerns in relation to anecdotal information provided indicated that, once the NBN was installed and telephone connections were via the NBN, telephone connections would fail in the event of a power failure. This was recognised as an issue, 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.

NBN Co provided the following response in relation to the query:

Fixed Wireless service is a stand-alone service, which means that you can have your internet coming through our Fixed Wireless service and continue having your landline coming through your copper. Unlike Fixed Line (fibre) the copper will not be disconnected post installation of the NBN, however some Service Providers do offer both voice and broadband over their Fixed Wireless network.

Action

No further action.

vii) 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.

A notice to the community advising of the formulation of a 10 year plan was provided to Committee members, with responses to be collated.

Responses provided to be collated and considered at the May committee meeting.

Action

Responses to be collated and discussed at May meeting.

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 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.

7 CUSTOMER REQUESTS

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

Meeting Date	Customer Request	Detail	Status
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. Matter to be progressed if funding available.
11/2014	Storys Creek Road at River "Street" furniture at river reserve	High embankment (on river side) used as 4WD track, becoming eroded – barrier requires to be extended. Furniture at river reserve needs attention/ replacement; possibly install additional free standing seats.	Residents to report incidence direct to Tas Police. Also included in list of maintenance items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• guide posts to be installed; and• seats listed for repair/ replacement - older seating to be relocated from township and replaced.
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	Garden fences	Request for information on permitted heights for garden fences.	Side fences max 2.1m, frontage 1.8m – if 30% transparent. solid fence – 1.2m.
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	Complete.
1/2015	Trees overhanging/ encroaching onto footpath	Trees overhanging/ encroaching onto footpath at the frontage of the Fire Station.	Compliance issue – notice to be issued.

Meeting Date	Customer Request	Detail	Status
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.	Matter being pursued.
3/2015	Tap at Boucher Park	Tap at Boucher Park needs attention – water sprays when the tap is switched on.	
3/2015	Footpath – St Pauls Street	Footpath in front of fire station needs upgrade - cracking	
3/2015	Disposal of rubbish at football field and river	Rubbish is being dumped at football field alongside river, needs to be removed.	
3/2015	Boucher Park – ground surface	Uneven ground behind cenotaph in vicinity of bbq – holes/uneven ground is a hazard	
3/2015	Biocycle at Boucher Park	Recycling of water through biocycle appears not to be working.	
3/2015	Rossarden Road upgrade	Rossarden Road needs upgrade – from Bona Vista cnr to old tip & beyond – corrugated with a few potholes	
3/2015	Ash Centre – entrance hall floor	First few floor boards at entrance to Ash Centre are 'soft' – require attention/ repair/ replacement.	

8 ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Nil to report.

9 NEW BUSINESS

i) Cemetery volunteers

The Committee was requested to advise the community of call for volunteers to map cemeteries. Notice to be placed at the Avoca Post Office.

CLOSURE & NEXT MEETING

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 7.40pm.

The next meeting to be held on Thursday, 28 May 2015 at the Avoca Community Centre commencing at 6.00pm.