

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, 24 September 2015 commencing at 6.00pm

1 IN ATTENDANCE

Claudia Freeman (Chair), Jacinta Allen, Dalija Wells, Tony Gee, Gary Cobb, Shirley Squires, Helen Reynolds, Cr Mary Knowles, Des Jennings (General Manager), Gail Eacher (Executive Assistant)

Guest: Suzanne Jones

2 APOLOGIES

Shirley Freeman

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Dalija Wells / Gary Cobb

That the minutes of the meeting of the Avoca, Royal George and Rossarden Local District Committee held on Thursday, 6 August 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

Previously 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.
- In late 2014 early 2015 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.

At the March meeting, 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.

Council officers continue to liaise with TasWater in regard to

- The information day to be held (TasWater have advised that this arrangement is on hold pending completion of the functional design of the water pipeline from Fingal to Avoca and that during the design phase they will finalise the pipeline route and engage with the community and, in particular, those landowners along the pipeline route)
- The dialysis patient.

Following the August meeting, TasWater were advised of the following:

- A substantial water leak on Falmouth Street, just east of the intersection with Arthur Street - Complete.
- The need for the provision of a further tap extension (hose) to the tank at the Fire Station to make it easier to fill containers and reduce wastage – TasWater advised that they have provided hoses previously which have been removed.
- Queried what action TasWater could take to ensure that new residents were informed of the water issues currently experienced in Avoca. – TasWater advised that their 56ZQ (lands titles certificate) process has been expanded so that when the conveyancing process is undertaken, water quality is featured on the 56ZQ issued by TasWater.

At the September meeting it was noted:

- The committee advised that a hose had not been previously affixed to the tank at the fire station and requested that one be provided.
- Requested that the shade cloth on the shelter provided be replaced with an impervious material to provide shelter from rain and wind.

Action

Liaise with TasWater re the hose and shelter.

ii) Esk Highway – Verge maintenance

Referred to State Growth (DSG) that the rail crossing at the western approach to Avoca is off-camber and misaligned – requested that the appropriate authorities address the matter.

DSG have advised the site has been inspected and the situation investigated, and advise as follows:

- *Application of normal camber at this site has not been possible due to the need to cater for a level crossing in hilly topography.*
- *The Level crossing site coincides with bends in the horizontal and vertical alignment of the Esk Main Road.*
- *Because of the road alignment and level crossing, approaching traffic is provided advance curve warning signage, rail crossing warning signage, chevron alignment markers and 65km/hr advisory speed plates on both approaches to warn drivers to slow and negotiate the hazards ahead.*
- *In effect the winding road alignment and warning signage combine to create a lower speed environment in the vicinity of the level crossing which serves to lessen the impact of the undesirable camber.*
- *The crash history at the site indicates that the signage provisions have been effective. There has only been one crash recorded at the site over the last 5 years. The crash that did occur in 2010 involved property damage only in wet road conditions.*
- *Accordingly the Department of State Growth considers that the level crossing is operating satisfactorily. The Department has limited resources for upgrading road alignments and this site would be expensive to improve and not compete well with other candidates so no work is planned to target this site.*

Action

Matter complete.

iii) Rossarden issue - 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 members previously advised of a costing for removal of vehicles that had been provided by a contractor – Council to be provided with said information. Following receipt of the information Council will investigate further and correspond with property/vehicle owners to offer assistance with coordinating removal of the vehicles.

The committee noted that removal of vehicles from private property would be at the discretion of property owners.

Action

Costing for removal of vehicles to be provided.

Council to investigate further and correspond with property/vehicle owners.

iv) 10 Year Plan

At the August meeting the 10 year plan list together with minor amendments was adopted. The list has been considered by Council officers and proposed actions listed. List appended to the minutes for further discussion and prioritisation at the November meeting.

Action

List to be prioritised at November meeting.

v) Bridge Construction

At the August meeting, the Committee were advised that when the previous bridge was constructed in 1974, an opalised log had been buried at the approach to the bridge and requested that consideration be given to this when excavation works are undertaken.

Noted that Council officers had consulted with the construction engineers and further information in relation to the location of the logs was sought. Information provided by the committee to be forwarded to the contractors.

Action

Council officers to forward information provided by the Committee to the contractors.

vi) RV Friendly Status

The Committee requested that Council pursue RV Friendly status for Avoca.

Previous sites identified reassessed and agreed that a more appropriate site be sought by council officers for consideration by the committee. Noted that works associated with the preparation of a site would need to be considered in the 2016/17 municipal budget.

Action

Alternate sites to be identified by Council officers.

vii) Newspaper Article

The Committee noted that Council officers would commence with placing articles in the Northern Midlands News page of the Tuesday Examiner, advising communities of the membership of the committees and the role of the committee within the community.

viii) 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.

Speeding on Falmouth Street (the Esk Highway), especially heavy vehicles, remained an issue. Tas Police have advised previously that there are a number of patrols through Avoca at various times and that the information had been relayed to patrolling police.

Speeding through Avoca remains an issue, especially heavy vehicles frequently and most of the time in the early mornings. Tas Police have filed a report and advised that they will approach operators in the district in relation to the community's concerns.

Requested that Council officers to liaise with DSG to install vehicle counters in Falmouth Street to ascertain the number and nature of vehicles speeding and the volume of traffic.

Action

Requested that Council officers liaise with DSG to gain permission to install vehicle counters at Avoca.

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.

Noted that Cr Knowles is working with NRM Officer, Monique Case, and Gary Cobb to progress this matter.

Action

Matter on hold.

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) Rossarden sculpture

Designs to be considered, possibly mining themed. Eddie Freeman to provide design concepts.

Awaiting design concept of "miner" from Eddie Freeman.

7 CUSTOMER REQUESTS

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

Meeting Date	Customer Request	Detail	Status
8/2015	Rossarden Museum	Back ramp entrance to Rossarden Museum becomes slippery when wet/icy, request installation of some measure to prevent slipping (e.g. chicken mesh) and installation of advisory signage.	Works complete.
8/2015	Disposal of rubbish at football field and river	Rubbish is being dumped at football field between railway line and river on river's edge, needs to be removed. (Request resubmitted).	Indicated that CR complete, however, garden waste, vinyl etc. still not removed.
8/2015	Boucher Park BBQ	Polycarbon cladding on BBQ vandalised and repaired, however, repairs are not satisfactory as sharp edges – polycarbon requires replacing.	Made safe until time permits to replace cladding. Requested that the polycarbon be replaced and that an alternate material not be utilised.
8/2015	Road Sign – Storys Creek Road	The Committee noted that a road sign was lying on the grass on Storys Creek Road in close proximity to Avoca.	TasRail notified.
8/2015	Road Sign – St Paul's Cabin Sign	The Committee noted that a large lump of concrete was left at the base of the tourist sign when it was erected, and requested the removal thereof.	Concrete removed 19/8.
8/2015	Tree stumps – Storys Creek Road	Requested that the stumps that were left behind when the trees were felled be removed.	Not considered urgent. Tree stump near Telstra cables will be removed when time permits.
8/2015	Rossarden museum	Debris from tree felled to be removed.	Completed 31/8
9/2015	Speed Signage – Rossarden entrance	That a speed reduction sign be installed before the sharp bend at the entrance to Rossarden (approx 1km from the bridge on the Avoca/Rossarden approach (sign installed on the opposite side of the road facing other direction, may have been installed on the wrong side).	
9/2015	Ruins at Walter Street Rossarden	House in Walter Street burned down some time ago. Council to please pursue clean up of the property.	
9/2015	Barbecues at St Pauls River Recreation area	Requested that the old barbecues at St Paul's river be removed and that an adequate fire pit be installed.	
9/2015	Directional sign – dog exercise area	Requested that a sign be installed at Boucher Park directing dog owners to the St Pauls River recreation area to exercise dogs.	
9/2015	Doggy Bag Dispensers	Requested that an alternative design doggy bag dispenser be sourced and utilised as some difficulties are encountered in accessing the bags if the bags are not protruding from the dispenser.	
9/2015	Open Drain on Falmouth Street Avoca – environmental concerns	Noted that there is a stench emanating from the open drain on the lower side of Falmouth Street (opposite the junction of Churchill St). Appears to be grey water with perhaps oil / paint content.	

8 ASSOCIATION REPORTS

i) AMIC

- Spring Festival very successful – photographs to be placed on Avoca webpage and Cr Knowles' contact details to be provided to Examiner correspondent.
- The Spring Festival committee were congratulated on an excellent event.
- The Spring Festival Committee thanked Council for their assistance with signage for the event.

ii) Rossarden & Friends Kids Xmas Group

- Outing to tailrace and aquatic centre to be held on 3/10, some funds provided by Council.
- 60's night hosted by the Group was successful and enjoyed by all whom attended.

9 NEW BUSINESS

i) Garage Sale Trail

Flyer to be made available at the post office re Garage Sale Trail to be held on 24/10.

ii) Mental Health Week

Community barbeque to be held on 5/10 at Campbell Town Football ground, flyer to be made available at the post office.

iii) RAW – Psychs on Bikes event

Free health checks (mental health focus) to be held at Longford RSL on 16/10, flyer to be made available at the post office.

iv) Defibrillator

Noted that Angie Gee had submitted funding application for the purchase of a defibrillator.

v) Don McShane

The committee recognised the contribution of Mr McShane to the Fingal Valley community and requested that a letter be written on behalf of the Committee to Mrs McShane acknowledging this service.

vi) Green Waste

Suggested that Council make provision for a once per month free green waste day at the tip as this may alleviate the need for Council to clean up green waste which has been illegally dumped.

vii) Footpath Program

The committee requested that details of Council's footpath programme be circulated to the membership.

viii) Gym Equipment at Avoca

The Committee noted that a visitor had written to Council re their recent visit:

We stopped at the little townships along the way, including Avoca and Fingal, to look about and we were very impressed by the community park at ... Avoca. There was a hall, clean toilets, a grove of trees planted recently in honour of WWI servicemen and a small collection of really interesting and colourful exercise "machines". We spent quite a while trying them out. There was also a display about nurses/midwives of the area. ...

...I was especially interested as I have seen equipment like this in various places...

ix) Affordable Housing

The committee discussed the benefits of the introduction of affordable housing to small rural communities.

Tony Gee/Helen Reynolds

That Council pursue the provision of affordable housing in small communities such as Avoca and Royal George.

Carried

10 CLOSURE & NEXT MEETING

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 7.25pm.

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