

# **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, 31 March 2016 commencing at 6.30pm**

## **1 IN ATTENDANCE**

Claudia Freeman (Chair), Shirley Freeman, Helen Reynolds, Jacinta Allen, Tony Gee, Susanne Jones, Cr Mary Knowles, Gail Eacher (Executive Assistant)

## **2 APOLOGIES**

Dalija Wells, Shirley Squires, Des Jennings (General Manager)

## **3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

### ***Helen Reynolds / Jacinta Allen***

That the minutes of the meeting of the Avoca, Royal George and Rossarden Local District Committee held on Thursday, 28 January 2016 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**

Update provided by TasWater:

- Tenders for the pipeline closed 30 March
- Contract to be awarded
- Hoped to commence works in May and complete contract by year end
- No further action to be taken in relation the short hose to be affixed to the tank at the fire station.

The committee were advised that a public meeting is being organised for 11 April at 6.30pm to discuss the pipeline and future planning for other rural users. Some invitations already extended to politicians, further invitations to be extended to TasWater, Tas Irrigation, Council and other interested parties.

### **ii) Rossarden issue - Vehicle wrecks**

Noted that vehicle wrecks at the back of Baker Street houses and on the nature strip on the street frontage in Baker Street, Rossarden continue to be an issue.

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

Information relating to the removal of vehicles has been provided to property owners by members of the Committee. Noted that some vehicles had been removed, however additional vehicles had also been parked.

Council has made contact with Crown Lands re this matter, who have advised that an inspection would be undertaken in the near future.

### **iii) 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.

Requested that a tree plan for Avoca be drawn up.

Extra-ordinary meeting re this matter held, members agreed to request Council to commence with the items listed relating to the main street, including these in the budget item request for 2016/17.

### **vi) Green Waste/Builders Rubble**

a) At September meeting 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 – matter included for consideration in the 2016/17 budget deliberations.

b) Committee noted that builder's rubble is not accepted at any waste transfer stations.

### **vii) Affordable Housing**

Recommendation of the Committee had been noted Council and would be investigate by council officers. The committee noted that were this to occur, it could lead to a boost in pupil numbers at the local school.

Committee advised that *Tasmania's Affordable Housing Strategy 2015-25 – Appropriateness of Supply* refers to appropriateness of supply as follows: *Affordable homes need to meet the housing needs of low income households. New supply needs to be located close to services and public transport and meet the health, safety and occupancy needs of households.*

An enquiry has been submitted to the Department of Health and Human Services, advising that residents have enquired about the possibility of affordable housing being developed in Avoca. Response awaited.

### **viii) RV Friendly Status**

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

Noted that an alternate site had been identified. However, should that site be developed overnight parking on the river bank would no longer be permitted, and that this may discourage stopping in Avoca. Need to consider whether to pursue the matter.

Noted that works associated with the preparation of a site would need to be considered in the 2016/17 municipal budget.

***Shirley Freeman / Helen Reynolds***

*That that the status quo remain with no further action to be taken. That no formal site be designated for overnight camping.*

*Carried unanimously*

## **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.

### **Action**

*Matter on hold.*

## **v) Sergeant Lewis McGee – Plinth at Ross – Anniversary of VC 04/10/2017**

Correspondence received from Dept of Premier and Cabinet noted. Ross Local District Committee considered correspondence on 2 February. Committee queried if 2 allocations of funds would be available for Sgt McGee given that he was born in the Ross/Campbell Town area and enlisted in Avoca. Matter to be considered further in conjunction with Ross LDC.

### **Action**

*Awaiting information from RSL.*

## **7 CUSTOMER REQUESTS**

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

Meeting Date	Customer Request	Detail	Status
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 to be made that the area be cleared of rubbish periodically as part of general maintenance.
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.	Further advice received from TasRail that the matter is to be addressed as a matter of urgency.
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.	Committee agreed, no further action to be taken by Council.
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 – on no through road section). Appears to be grey water with perhaps oil / paint content.	Drain cleared, EHO to be requested to undertake further investigation.
1/2016	Vehicle access to the St Pauls River at Royal George	Noted that there had previously been vehicle access to the St Pauls River at Royal George, which was now restricted by boulders. May be useful to provide access so that the Fire Service could access and residents would be able to access the water source for domestic use.	Considered safety issue. Boulders placed at request of local residents in order to restrict access. Requested that matter be further investigated in order that emergency services are able to access water.

Meeting Date	Customer Request	Detail	Status
1/2016	Boucher Park – Cenotaph Lighting	Cenotaph light out of order. Requested that the light at the cenotaph be repaired or preferably replaced with a light flush to the ground (which also provides lighting for the exercise equipment). Preferably prior to ANZAC day.	Repairs complete. Upgrade of lighting to be included in 2016/17 budget items.
1/2016	Roadworks in Avoca	Committee requested information in relation to road/infrastructure works currently being undertaken in Avoca.	Council not aware of roadworks.
1/2016	Boucher Park & St Pauls River recreation area	Requested that additional bins be provided for waste, as bins are oft overflowing.	Included in 2016/17 budget request.
1/2016	Animal carcasses on Council roads	Committee requested information in relation to the removal of animal carcasses (road kill) from Council roads	Included in 2016/17 budget request.
1/2016	Newspaper article re Animals on the road	Requested Council place an item in the local newspapers requesting road users to slow down and be aware of the wildlife on the roads.	Items listed in Country Courier and Examiner
1/2016	Signage - Animals on the road	Requested that signage be erected on State and Council roads warning road users to be aware of the wildlife on the roads.	Department of State Growth advised that they would not support installation of signage.
1/2016	Broom Plants & Pine tree on Road verge	Broom (and possibly pine tree sapling) growing on road verge between frontage of town hall and Esk Highway needs to be removed.	Completed.
3/2016	St Pauls River recreation area – guide posts	Guide posts need replacing – preferably with more substantial product.	
3/2016	Footpath reinstatement	Throughout Avoca, following works undertaken by TasWater the footpaths have not been reinstated.	
3/2016	Unsafe house/shed - asbestos	House and shed on corner of Falmouth and Arthur Streets still not repaired – loose asbestos still evident.	

## **8 ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

### **i) AMIC**

- AMIC now open most days. Closed Thursday and Sunday.
- Water system operational.
- Wifi progressing.
- Maintenance required: Roof leaks at Visitor’s Centre, birds in eaves and spraying of spiders in toilet amenities
- Request consideration of baby change facility in amenities
- Anzac Day march commencing at 10.45am
- Discussions held with Department of State Growth re fencing requirements of Boucher Park.

### **ii) Rossarden & Friends Kids Xmas Group**

- Party would have been held for 90 years in 2019.
- Due to tax issue, need to consider continuation after 2019.

### **iii) Rossarden – other issues**

- Noted that water race has been dry at times.
- Enquiries made with TasWater and advised that works have been undertaken on water race.

## **9 NEW BUSINESS**

### **i) 26 May Local District Committee meeting**

The Committee agreed to hold the next meeting and AGM on 30 June.

**ii) Attendance at meetings**

The Committee were requested to advise the secretary, prior to the meeting, if they are to be an apology.

**iii) General Enquiries**

- Royal George Hall – advised that lease relinquished to the department, contact details requested by committee.
- Roadside Spraying – enquiry made as to what spraying is undertaken by Council, i.e. weeds only, verges or road edges.

**iv) Farewell & Thanks to Mr Chellis**

***Tony Gee / Shirley Freeman***

*That the Committee acknowledge the service of Mr Chellis to the community and wish him well in his retirement.*

*Carried unanimously*

**10 CLOSURE & NEXT MEETING**

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 7.20pm.

The next meeting to be held on Thursday, 30 June 2016 at the Avoca Community Centre commencing at 6.00pm.