

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AVOCA/ROYAL GEORGE & ROSSARDEN LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD AT AVOCA COMMUNITY CENTRE ON THURSDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2011 COMMENCING AT 6.00PM**

**1. ATTENDANCE**

Mr L Harwood – Acting Chairperson & Secretary, Mr A Wilson – General Manager, Mrs G Eacher – Council’s Executive Assistant, Cr M Knowles, Mrs M Dennis, Mr T Gee-until 7.05pm, Mr A Hicks, Ms C Grey, Mrs S Freeman

**2. APOLOGIES**

Mrs C Freeman, Ms M Hunt, Mrs V Burns, Mrs S Squires & Mrs H Reynolds.

**3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Ms Grey, Cr Knowles

That the minutes of the Avoca/Royal George and Rossarden Local District Committee Meeting held on Thursday 30 June 2011 be confirmed as a true 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.

It was **RESOLVED** that the information be received

## 5 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

### i. **Overnight Camping Area at Avoca**

Mr Harwood provided information about issues associated with overnight camping. He indicated the general matter of free overnight camping was still under review by various authorities and therefore the use of the agreed area at Avoca could still be some time away.

It was **RESOLVED** that the information be received.

### ii) **Monitoring Water Quality St Pauls River—Royal George**

A letter which was recently circulated to residents of Royal George by Dr Chrissie Picken-Deputy Director of Public Health was tabled. The contents read as follows:-

*As mentioned at the community meeting in February 2011, we will shortly be testing how recent efforts on the tailings site have impacted on water quality in St Pauls River.*

*This monitoring work may take a few months, as part of the ongoing environmental program. Officers from both state and local governments are likely to be in Royal George from early September 2011. They will collect samples from four rainwater tanks (tested previously) to check that dust from the mine tailings site has not contaminated the stored water.*

#### **Public Health Reminders**

*Water from St Pauls River remains unsafe to drink. Please continue to use the water from the communal tank for all your drinking and cooking purposes.*

*It is safe for you or your children to use the river water for showering or bathing, although:*

- *make sure any cuts are covered with band-aids or bandages*
- *watch young children when bathing to make sure they don't drink the water.*

#### **Remediation work**

*As you are aware, Mineral Resources Tasmania (MRT) has carried out more remediation work to prevent large volumes of water running off the mine tailings site into St Pauls River.*

- *Rock walls were installed in drainage gullies to catch water-borne tailings.*
- *Lime was again spread over the tailings, as it has been for the past three years. This helps reduce acidity and makes metals less soluble.*

*Applying lime is a gradual process that will neutralise contaminants and prepare the tailings for vegetation.*

*• Fertiliser was again spread to help plant and tree growth, and native seed has been sown on about two hectares. Vegetation will stabilise the tailings site. To help establish plants and trees, vehicle access onto the tailings has been blocked and a plot has been fenced off to assess the impact of wildlife.*

*Additionally, the Northern Midlands Council has diverted water runoff from Williams Road away from the tailings site. More drainage improvements are planned for the coming summer, as well as continued lime, fertiliser and vegetation work.*

*As always, we will keep you updated. If you would like to discuss this letter, please phone the Public and Environmental Health Service on 18800 671 738 (free call) or email [public.health@dhhs.tas.gov.au](mailto:public.health@dhhs.tas.gov.au)*

Mr Gee suggested that the trenches at the site needed to be filled in with top soil available from nearby roadsides. He indicated that he would be prepared to meet with Government officials and Council Environmental Health officer-Mr Chris Wicks to further discuss his ideas.—Mr Harwood to organise.

It was **RESOLVED** that the information be received.

### **iii) Flood Warning Advice**

Council's General Manager, Mr Adam Wilson outlined role of the Bureau of Meteorology in provided flood warning advice.

Concern was raised about the need to ensure that DIER promptly erect advance "flood warning signs" on roads during periods of high rainfall as this measure would aid motorists and reduce the risk of a major accident.

Mr Hicks-owner of the Avoca General Store and member of the Avoca, Royal George & Rossarden Local District Committee—(Ph No 0409214491) mentioned that during flood periods he was frequently contacted by members of the public to provide an update about emergency flood situations in the Avoca and surrounding areas. He offered to be a primary contact during such times but needed to be included on the "Bureau Contact List" when weather warnings are issued. Mr Harwood to liaise with Mr Chris McGeorge from the Bureau of Meteorology.

## **6 GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **i) 2012 Australia Day Celebrations**

Mr Harwood referred to the 2012 Northern Midlands Council Australia Day Celebrations and put forward a proposal that the event be held at Avoca.

It was suggested that the event be held in conjunction with the official opening of the Avoca Museum & Visitor information Centre.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept an offer to hold the 2012 Northern Midlands Council Australia Day Celebration at Avoca.

### **ii) Avoca Museum & Information Centre**

Cr Knowles advised that that a working bee was being planned to be held at the Centre – tasks will include sanding and painting. Carpet and blinds had been ordered and a quote for various plumbing works was being sought.

### **iii) Planning Issue**

The following application has been received by Council:-

Site	Proposal
36-38 Falmouth Street	House Extensions

It was **RESOLVED** that no concerns be raised in relation to this proposal.

### **iv) Intra-Town Trail/Bikeway Study**

A copy of the study was tabled at the meeting.  
It was suggested that the trail include the rail platform area with the creation of a loop.

## **7 OTHER BUSINESS**

### **i) Customer Request Forms Issued**

Request	Complete
Damage to bridge pavement at Glen Ayr	Matter rectified

Growth of vegetation on sealed pavement in Church St	Road pavement inspected prior to the meeting by General Manager and referred to Works Manager
Clean up of vegetation of flood vegetation—opposite the former recreation ground	Clean-up undertaken
Overhanging blackberry vines in Church St	Further details to be obtained as problem not identified
Demolition of old toilet block at Rossarden	Structure on private land—Council unable to take any action at this stage.

## **8 OTHER BUSINESS**

### **i) Drainage-- Outside Billy Bag Shop**

Matter to be referred to Mr Chellis-Council's Works & Infrastructure Manager.

### **ii) Replacement of Milford Bridge**

Information about the replacement of the Milford Bridge was outlined to the Committee by Mr Harwood

It was mentioned that subject to suitable weather conditions, the Contractor would be on-site from the 9 January to 10 February 2012 and that it was expected that Royal George Road (between Royal George & Avoca would be closed for a period up to 7 days during the period 31 January to 7 February 2012

Concern was raised by Mr Gee in regard to the suggested road closure dates particularly with crops such as poppies being harvested in the area.

### **iii) Works Issues**

Appreciation expressed to Council for:-

Provision of a sign showing "Avoca Memorial Hall

General tidy up in the Rossarden Village

Assistance provided by Council staff during recent floods

Stormwater pipes over drive ways at 2, 4 & 6 Nevin St are inadequate

## **9 CLOSURE**

The Acting Chairman closed the meeting at 7.15pm.

Next meeting to be held on Thursday 24 November 2011 commencing at 6.00pm.