

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, 6 August 2015 commencing at 6.00pm

1 IN ATTENDANCE

Shirley Freeman (Acting Chair), Jacinta Allen, Dalija Wells, Tony Gee, Gary Cobb, Cr Mary Knowles, Gail Eacher (Executive Assistant)

Guest: Angie Gee

2 APOLOGIES

Claudia Freeman, Shirley Squires, Helen Reynolds, Cr Dick Adams, 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, 26 March 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.
- 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.

At that time 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.

Members noted

- that Council officers had contacted TasWater, who had advised that consideration was being given to dates for an information day to be held pending completion of the functional design for the water pipeline from Fingal to Avoca.
- dialogue was continuing between TasWater and the dialysis patient, with TasWater awaiting further information.

Further it was reported that there was a substantial water leak on Falmouth Street, just east of the intersection with Arthur Street – matter to be reported to TasWater.

The committee again reiterated 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.

Noted that new residents were not aware of water issues, possible solutions to be investigated.

Action

TasWater to be advised of water leak and need for the provision of a hose extension to the tap on the water tank at the fire station.

Notification to new residents re water issues to be investigated.

ii) Esk Highway – Verge maintenance

Matters referred to State Growth now finalised:

- 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.

Matters referred to State Growth awaiting finalisation:

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

iii) Rossarden sculpture

Previously advised that 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.

Tree felled, debris still to be removed.

Action

CR – removal of felled tree.

iv) 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.

To determine whether any action can be taken information re location of vehicles to be advised – information awaited.

Action

Matter to be investigated.

v) 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 collated for discussion.

The Committee RESOLVED to adopt the 10 year plan list together with minor amendments; and requested that the list be considered by Council officers.

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.

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.

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. Noted that speeding through Avoca remains an issue, especially heavy vehicles frequently and most oft in the early mornings.

Action

Matter to be referred to Tas Police.

7 CUSTOMER REQUESTS

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

Meeting Date	Customer Request	Detail	Status
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 incidents direct to Tas Police. Repairs completed.
11/2014	Cat Management	Request that Council investigate a cat management program, including feral cats.	See DPIPWE website www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/invasivespecies
11/2014	Avoca Hall	Hall requires painting – especially the stage.	Included in 2015/16 budget. Requested that neutral tones be utilised. To be noted that all halls are painted <i>hog's bristle</i> – same as Epping Forest hall.
3/2015	Tap at Boucher Park	Tap at Boucher Park needs attention – water sprays when the tap is switched on.	Complete 27/4
3/2015	Footpath – St Pauls Street	Footpath in front of fire station needs upgrade - cracking	Completed 19/5
3/2015	Disposal of rubbish at football field and river	Rubbish is being dumped at football field alongside river, needs to be removed.	Complete 6/5.
3/2015	Boucher Park – ground surface	Uneven ground behind cenotaph in vicinity of bbq – holes/uneven ground is a hazard	Complete 29/4.
3/2015	Biocycle at Boucher Park	Recycling of water through biocycle appears not to be working.	Complete 27/4.
3/2015	Rossarden Road upgrade	Rossarden Road needs upgrade – from Bona Vista cnr to old tip & beyond – corrugated with a few potholes	Graded. Complete.
3/2015	Ash Centre – entrance hall floor	First few floor boards at entrance to Ash Centre are 'soft' – require attention/ repair/ replacement.	Completed 7/5.
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.	
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).	

Meeting Date	Customer Request	Detail	Status
8/2015	Boucher Park BBQ	Polycarbon cladding on BBQ vandalised and repaired, however, repairs are not satisfactory as sharp edges – polycarbon requires replacing.	
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.	
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.	
8/2015	Tree stumps – Boucher Park	Requested that the stumps that were left behind when the trees were felled be removed.	

8 ASSOCIATION REPORTS

i) AMIC

- Curator workshops underway
- Spring Festival 19/9 – thanks to council for assistance with erection of signage & insurances verified.

ii) Rossarden & Friends Kids Xmas Group

- 60's Dinner to be held 29/8

9 NEW BUSINESS

i) Memorandum of Understanding

A report was tabled at the 18 May Council Meeting in relation to the standardisation of the MOU's for local district committees. The report and revised standard MOU adopted by Council are attached for information.

It should be noted that with the adoption of the new MOU, the terms of office of members of all committees will expire in June 2016 with the AGM's to be held in July 2016. AGM's will be held bi-annually thereafter. Nominations for membership to all committees will be advertised in May 2016.

It is recommended that the Committee formally adopt the new MOU.

Tony Gee / Dalija Wells

That the Committee

- 1. adopt the attached Memorandum of Understanding;*
- 2. authorise the Chair to sign the Memorandum of Understanding*
- 3. note that*
 - i) the next Annual General Meeting of the Committee will be held in July 2016; and*
 - ii) the current term of membership of members will expire after ratification of the new membership at the Council Meeting in June/July 2016.*

Carried

ii) Information items – 18 May Council Meeting

Members noted the following information reports were tabled at the 18 May Council Meeting:

- 22 Cat Management
- 24 Overhanging Trees
- 27 Tyre Storage & Recycling

- 28 Conara Public Toilets

iii) Petition - Pedestrian Footbridge Across St Pauls River at Avoca

The members noted that a petition coordinated by Dalija Wells was tabled at the 22 June Council Meeting in relation to the above matter. Following discussion Mrs Wells agreed to pursue.

iv) Mobile Black Spot Programme

The Committee noted that the Federal Government recently announced the locations to receive funding under round 1 of the Mobile Black Spot Programme. Round 1 will deliver 499 new and upgraded mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia – 429 Telstra base stations and 70 Vodafone base stations. Minister Turnbull's press release announcing the locations to benefit is attached.

Of the 499 new and upgraded mobile base stations 31 will be in Tasmania.

The Department of Communications website <https://www.communications.gov.au/what-we-do/phone/mobile-services-and-coverage/mobile-black-spot-programme> includes further information and location maps.

A further \$60 million has been committed by the Government for [Round 2 of the Programme](#), with funding to be available over two years from 1 July 2016. Round 2 of the Programme is expected to operate under similar guidelines as the first round of the Programme. The Government will review the results of Round 1 to determine if there should be any changes. Round 2 of the Programme will offer further opportunities to meet unmet demand and provide coverage to more locations around regional and remote Australia. The competitive selection process for the second round of funding is expected to commence in 2016, after allowing time for further locations to be nominated by members of the public. The locations to be funded under Round 2 are expected to be announced by the end of 2016.

v) Swimming Holes

The Committee noted that Council is seeking information re the utilisation of Recreational Waters, accessed by Crown or Council land.

Noted that

- Avoca - Swimming currently takes place in the South Esk River at Avoca, accessed from the public open space on Storys Creek Road.
- Royal George – previously recreational swimming in St Paul's River however access was blocked and track rendered unusable.

vi) Green Army Funding

The Committee noted that funding for eradication of broom not received, application to be submitted next round.

vii) Defibrillator

Mrs Gee advised that she was in the process of preparing a submission to the Tas Community Fund for funding to purchase a defibrillator for the Avoca community which if successful would be housed at the General Store; and St John's Ambulance would provided training on the defibrillator.

viii) RV Friendly Status

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

Action

To be investigated

ix) Bridge Construction

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 that when excavation works are undertaken this should be considered.

Action

To be investigated

x) Royal George Road

The Committee thanked Council for the works undertaken on Royal George Road, including the removal of the wattle trees along the fenceline.

CLOSURE & NEXT MEETING

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 7.25pm.

The next meeting to be held on Thursday, 24 September 2015 at the Avoca Community Centre commencing at 6.00pm.