



AGENDA

Meeting: **Community Consultation Meeting**

Date: **Wednesday 1st of August 2018**

Location: **Georgetown Community Hall**

Commencing: **10:30am**

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING
2. WELCOME TO COUNTRY
3. APOLOGIES
4. CHARLESTON DAM
5. GILBERT RIVER IRRIGATION SCHEME
6. PROPOSED INDUSTRIAL PRECINCT AND COTTON GIN
7. GEOTOURISM
8. ROAD UPDATES
 - *GEORGETOWN TO FORSAYTH ROAD*
 - *HANN HIGHWAY*
 - *GREGORY DEVELOPMENT ROAD*
 - *GULF DEVELOPMENT ROAD*

9. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION – WHAT’S CONVENIENT FOR YOU?

- CONSULTATION MEETING TIMES, DATES AND LOCATIONS

10. ETHERIDGE SHIRE CENTENARY – MARCH 2019

- *QUEENSLAND STATE ARCHIVES INDICATES THE NAME EINASLEIGH SHIRE COUNCIL WAS CHANGED TO ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL ON 15 MARCH 1919.*

11. GEORGETOWN 150 YEAR CELEBRATIONS IN 2020

12. GENERAL ISSUES FROM THE COMMUNITY

13. CLOSURE OF MEETING



MINUTES: Community Consultation Meeting Minutes
DATE: 1st of August 2018
COMMENCING 10:30am
LOCATION: Georgetown Community Hall

The Deputy Mayor opened the meeting at 10:30am.

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

We respectfully acknowledge the Ewamian People - the traditional custodians of this land where we meet for the Community Consultation meeting. We pay our respects to the Ewamian People, especially the Elders, past and present and acknowledge their traditional customs and laws and recognize their continuing connection to this Country.

We look forward to a long and continuing relationship with the Ewamian People and value any opportunities in strengthening relationships and partnerships through collaboration by respecting their Country.

ATTENDANCE

Mayor Cr Warren Devlin
Cr Tony Gallagher
Cr Will Attwood
Mr Norm Garsden, Chief Executive Officer
Miss Anna Christensen, Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer

Community Members: Total of 2 people attended from the Community

APOLOGIES

Cr Warren Bethel
Cr Troy Barnes
Mr David Munro, Acting Chief Executive Officer

CHARLESTON DAM

The Deputy Mayor updated attendees on the Charleston Dam project and in particular discussed that Council is moving forward with the project despite some delays due to changes in designs to adhere to guidelines. The Deputy Mayor discussed Council's aim to complete construction in 2019.

PR: Queried what the final cost of the dam including the pipeline was,
WA: The Dam will cost 10 million dollars plus some money to be taken from reserves.
PR: Asked whether there had been any changes on supply of water to Einasleigh from Kidston Dam.
WA: Responded that there was not but if required a request would be put in to access it.
NG: Mentioned that water release from the Dam was identified in the DNRME management plan.
PR: Asked what was happening in regards to management of the Einasleigh town common.
WA: Discussed that Council had called for tenders as per the agreement that tenders would be called after 5 years after looking into old agreements and resolutions.

PR: Discussed that she believed that the Einasleigh Sport and Recreation Club had the lease not the Einasleigh Rodeo.

GILBERT RIVER IRRIGATION SCHEME AND INDUSTRIAL PRECINCT

The Deputy Mayor gave an update on the movements of the Gilbert River project and informed attendees that Council was awaiting a response from the MIPP application submitted. The Deputy Mayor discussed that if the application is approved it will fund a business case for the project.

PR: Queried Council's stance on the project.

WA: Informed that Council is supporting the project and that after an answer is received on the MIPP application they would move on from there.

PR: Suggested that it really depends on support from those living on the Gilbert.

TG: Discussed that there are farmers already cropping and that there is interest from others to look into the option of share farming.

PR: Queried what the final outcome was of this application – is there a dam?

WA: Discussed that there is 2 possible locations identified for dam sites and that once a dam is built then there would be many individual streams created to give access to water for properties.

TG: Discussed the benefits to the entire shire of growing the economy and population.

The Deputy Mayor discussed the industrial precinct west of Georgetown and the concept of having a cotton gin. The Deputy Mayor specifically mentioned how having this located just outside town means growing the population of residents living in town and attending the school.

PR: Mentioned that there has been no benefit from the Kidston Solar Farm.

WA: Discussed that Powerlink met with Council and their intention to build a line and that they are looking to establish a camp for workers (possibility of Oasis Roadhouse).

WA: Discussed the following conditions mentioned to Powerlink:

1. Use of local contractors.
2. Roads are to be left in the condition of when they begin to be used.
3. Biosecurity measures put in place.
4. Rubbish is to be taken away.

The Deputy Mayor went on to discuss that as per new laws, Council is still legally allowed to have rubbish pits but there are other Councils that cannot.

PR: Queried whether any bitumen had been put down by Genex?

WA: No – but it is in the contract and it will be completed.

GEOTOURISM

The Deputy Mayor discussed Councils push for tourism bodies to come and visit the Etheridge Shire and see firsthand the geological features to be found.

ROAD UPDATES

PR: Queried whether there would be a grade of the Ortona Road.

WA: Discussed that Council is waiting for funding and that it seems to be that it is always received towards the end of the year.

BK: Requested whether this can wait until after the wet as when it is graded at the end of the year it returns to original condition just as quickly. Also mentioned if Council could not grade the road for the Oak Park Races in order to get attendees to complain about the condition of the road to Main Roads. This way there is a large amount of people complaining rather than just the usual shire residents.

BK: Also requested that a give way sign be re-installed at the intersection (The Lynd/Mt Garnet/Charters Towers).

Georgetown to Forsayth Road

The Deputy Mayor informed attendees that there is only 7km of gravel remaining as well as the discussions with Main Roads that Council will not be allowed to use TIDS funding on this road again (state road).

Strathmore Road

The Deputy Mayor informed attendees that Council is requesting that the Strathmore Road be declared a 'large road' and that a small strip will be sealed with funding.

Einasleigh to Oasis

Attendees queried whether Council is intending to undertake any works on the Einasleigh to the Oasis Road. The Deputy Mayor discussed that Council constantly lobbies for works to be completed on this road but unfortunately the two figures that are looked at are;

1. Deaths on the road.
2. Usage of the road.

Hann Highway

BK: Queried the completion of work on the Hann Highway.

WA: Discussed that the work is being allocated in 4km-5km contracts. Council currently has 2 contracts of 4km and after the wet season Council is hoping to receive another 2 contracts.

TG: Mentioned that after work is eventually completed with the money allocated there will still be some gravel.

BK: Asked whether more public toilets/bins can be put in to lower the rubbish being left at the Roadhouse or thrown on the road.

WA: Responded that he believed under fatigue management there should be a rest stop every 200km. He asked where a possible location could be.

BK: Thought that around the location of the roadhouse as the roadhouse shouldn't be responsible for being a public toilet and rubbish stop.

The Mayor attended the meeting at approx. 11:30am.

WD: Discussed that rest stops are funded by the federal government.

WA: Mentioned they are then maintained by main roads.

GENERAL ISSUES FROM THE COMMUNITY

BK: Asked whether a phone tower could be installed at Einasleigh for safety reasons.

WA: Discussed the funding of the Gilbert River tower under the blackspot program but the coverage is for only about 5km radius.

WD: Discussed Einasleigh as being next as a priority for phone service. The Mayor also discussed the Hann Highway site's technology purchased that allows internet access and a main phone line.

TG: Discussed that Council lobbies Telstra for improved phone service.

FUTURE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETINGS

The Councillors and attendees discussed the possible change of times to encourage more attendance at the meetings.

BK and PR both suggested that evening meetings would be better in order for men to attend off stations. 7pm was suggested.

The Mayor responded that this may be too late as it is dangerous driving for residents at this time of night.

PR: Suggested that a 'Fari day' (fruit and vege deliverer) may be a good day to catch women from the area.

It was decided that council would try for 4pm on a Fari day (occurs every second Tuesday) at the meetings for next year.

BK: Asked whether feedback sheets could be done up to give to tourists to report on the roads.

WD: Stated that a large amount of signatures would be required to make a difference.

TG: Suggested that Council look at the timings of the grading of roads.

WD: Discussed the constant lobbying to try and get more money for roads in the Shire.

BK: Mentioned that roads are the base for all business in the Shire. If a cotton gin is to be erected then we will need better roads for these trucks.

TG: Queried how the closure of the Shield Creek Road was going.

BK: Discussed that there are still some people trying to use the road as it is still located on some maps.

WD: Mentioned that there are road closed signs and this is as much as Council can do at this point.

CONCLUSION

The Mayor closed the meeting at 12:25pm.