

# Forth Community Representatives Committee

Minutes of the 90<sup>th</sup> meeting held at the Forth Community Hall

Thursday, 2 February 2023 – commencing at 4.00 pm

## PRESENT

**Forth Community Representatives:** Jessica Bennett, John French, Wendy Bennell  
Peter Miller

**Central Coast Council:** Sandra Ayton (General Manager)  
Paul Breaden (Director Infrastructure Services)  
Daryl Connelly (Director Community Services)  
Allison Kable (Community Development Officer)

**Minutes taken by:** Allison Kable

## 1 ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

*The Council acknowledges and pays respect to the traditional owners of lutruwita (Tasmania), the palawa/pakana people. We acknowledge the Punnilerpanner tribe of this Northern Country, and in doing so, we celebrate one of the world's oldest continuous cultures.*

## 2 WELCOME/APOLOGIES

**Apologies:** Dianna Robb, Neil Armstrong

The General Manager chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone.

## 3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

■ Jess Bennett moved, and John French seconded: “That the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday, 2 November 2022 be accepted as a true and correct record.”

**Carried**

## 4 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

### a Coastal Shared Pathway – Turners Beach to Leith

Paul Breaden gave an update on the Leith to Turners Beach Pathway which is now progressing well. Wendy Bennell commended the railway bridge design and how it captures the history of the area. Neil Armstrong also emailed to acknowledge the successful outcome of the Forth River rail crossing.

The Penguin to Sulphur Creek section is complete. The Turners Beach path plan has now been approved and is ready to obtain funding to complete the various stages.

**b Forth Pathway Connection**

Remaining on agenda – due to current request for pathways within Forth area – no funding currently available – included within the Long Term Financial Plan as a strategic item.

**c Eastern Fence along River Reserve**

The extension of the fence to be listed for consideration in the future – no budget this year as all available funds has been allocated to flood damage.

The area had temporary fence barriers installed for the 150-year celebration event at the Forth Pub.

**5 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**5.1 Council Update**

No update provided at this time.

**5.2 Community update**

No update provided at this time.

**6 OTHER BUSINESS**

Peter Miller stated he was pleased to finally see the Department of State Growth had fixed the bridge, however the overflow bridge there is a rung missing.

*Action:* Paul Breaden will arrange for it to be repaired

Peter Miller asked can we look at installing an ARMCO barrier near the Welcome to Central Coast sign. Paul Breaden advised this area was not Council managed, and State Growth have previously been asked to consider the area under the black spot program. Council will add the area into our upcoming audit to flag with Department of State Growth again. This item to remain on the agenda for future updates.

Peter Miller advised that the grass on George Street opposite the reservoir is 1m high and needs addressing. Paul advised there is a mowing schedule. The General Manager encouraged the use of logging concerns via the service request on the Council website. The community members expressed frustration with the system and concerns raised regarding lack of response to phone calls and emails. General Manager has asked for date and times this has occurred so that it can be followed up.

Wendy Bennell asked for an update on the heritage planning discussion held in Forth in December. Daryl Connelly provided an update and advised it was well attended and the planning team were pleased to see the community interest in making time to find out about the study. Learnings from the Forth meeting, will see the presentation start time advertised for those interested and drop in talk to the

planning team for the remainder of the session, for the Ulverstone and Penguin meetings. Wendy mentioned there were 2 or 3 things she was surprised were not captured in the heritage study from the Forth area.

**Action:** Wendy Bennell to email the details to Daryl Connelly to follow up.

Wendy Bennell advised that the Forth History group put a PowerPoint presentation together including voice over for 150 Years Forth Pub celebration.

General Manager asked the group to consider whether there is still a current need for this group. The group originally started as Forth felt they weren't being heard or what was happening. Is the structure and format of the group still relevant or are there other more effective ways to address the Forth area. Further comments were made as follows:

- Wendy Bennell – believes we need something different to get to more people. More people live here and may work in different places, new to the area and are not part of the community groups. General Manager advised Councillors and Council Senior Management are now hosting community cuppa sessions once a year in each area. Riana is the first one followed by Howth/Heybridge. Rotating times between mornings and evenings.
- Jessica Bennett – expressed the value of more voices in the room to capture a broader range of resident concerns and ideas.
- John French – suggested opportunity to meet with works supervisors – not directors – on site at areas to address concerns would be beneficial to achieve outcomes. Discussion around do we need this committee to address the operational concerns for the community. Council staff happy to meet onsite to address concerns as raised.
- Jessica Bennell asked what Council sees as the purpose of this group, if it is about operational or strategic. General Manager advised that operational matters can be dealt with through using the Council's request system or phoning the Council. When addressing the strategic vision it needs the wider community to have more input. Council working groups have been effective to get plans established, for example the strategic work undertaken recently at Turners Beach. The General Manager asked all members to consider this matter and it will be added as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Daryl Connelly asked for feedback from the Forth Pub 150 year event. Group members advised from their discussions with others it was a positive for the community to celebrate the pub and its place in Forth. Music finished at 11 pm which was appreciated by those living nearby. The road closure did not seem to be an issue either.

Paul updated that the upgrade to the Bass Highway is about to begin with State Growth implementing adjustments to the current intersection, widening the lane from Devonport and providing a longer merging lane. The same for Short Street Leith. Subtle change but will improve visibility and reduce risk.

**8 NEXT MEETING**

The 91<sup>st</sup> meeting will be held on Thursday 4 May 2023 at the Forth Community Hall commencing at 4.00pm.

**9 MEETING CLOSED**

As there was no other business to discuss the meeting closed at 5:08pm.