

Forth Community Representatives Committee

Minutes of the 89th meeting held at the Forth Community Hall

Thursday, 3 November 2022 – commencing at 4.03pm

1 PRESENT

Forth Community Representatives: Jessica Bennett, John French, Dianna Robb

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

2 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.

3 WELCOME/APOLOGIES

Apologies: Wendy Bennell

The General Manager chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

■ Jess Bennett moved, and John French seconded: "That the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday, 4 August 2022 be accepted as a true and correct record."

Carried

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

a **Coastal Shared Pathway – Turners Beach to Leith** (previous minute 4a)

Paul Breaden advised work has started on the eastern side. Western side is nearly completed with concrete path up to subdivision an addition to the original project. A seating area is currently being constructed. This has been a long process, but the bridge section is close to complete which will allow people to walk across the river, joining Leith and Turners Beach.

The pathway is nearly completed at the Sulphur Creek to Penguin project, once finished, works will begin on the Leith to Don section.

b Forth Pathway Connection (previous minute 5a)

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 (previous minute 5a)

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.

Concern was raised about the area requiring fencing for the upcoming Forth Pub 150 Years celebration.

Action: Allison to liaise with Forth Pub event manager to address risk.

d Traffic Review of Melrose Road to Turners Beach (previous minute 7b)

John French tabled the following questions:

Have the State Government, Department of State Growth (DSG) and Central Coast Council recently carried out a strategic and long-term review on major works and also major maintenance works for the road infrastructure and associated works on Forth Road, both east and west of Forth?

Considering predicted growth of the township, plus ordinary wear and tear on roads, updating of all matters to comply with current relevant regulations and codes. For example, road widths and shoulders, drainage, line of sight (property entrances), line marking and speed limits.

Paul Breaden advised Chinaman's bend north has been reviewed. Council sought black spot funding for the section north of Kindred Road but were unsuccessful.

General Manager informed the group that the Council undertook an audit of our major arterial roads and prioritised the areas to be addressed. Road surveys are done – items in the review were then listed to be addressed. Wilmot Road was an area that was identified and will be addressed as part of this process.

Paul advised Forth Hotel to the top of the hill upgrade – DSG have previously advised that it is not in its works program.

John commented that the line marking in the area has been upgraded poorly. Line of sight out of personal property is of concern. Vehicle entry on Melrose slip lane, speed limits, forth verge, road getting narrower, need to look at all

elements. Long term plan – 19 Years ago a touch up job was completed. John would like it flagged the need to start the process to obtain funding for the future of our main access road.

The General Manager advised Council has a 10 Year plan and will contact DSG to provide an update on DSG’s long term plan in the area.

e Armco Barrier (previous minute 7a)

Handrail fixed and cleaned, item complete and can be removed from agenda.

6 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1 Council Update

Flood Update – Rain began Wednesday afternoon triggering call out mode to remove trees off roads. Thursday morning water levels in Penguin rose, Forth had not risen, Leven was flooding at Loongana and Gunns Plains. Thursday afternoon saw the loss of the bridge at Loongana and landslides at Loongana and Leven Canyon region.

Forestry roads to Guilford into Tewksbury has provided access in and out of Loongana for the interim however has added significant extra km and travel time. Landslides have resulted in closure of Leven Canyon due to access. Completion still expected to be a few weeks away.

On the Thursday, all access points to Gunns Plains were cut off for a day. Wings Wildlife were impacted heavily. All roads now open but still a lot of work to repair. Evacuation Centre opened on the Thursday night due to concerns with Isandula Dam being close to breaking point. Evacuation centre had a family from Penguin, and around 15 people on the Thursday night from the Isandula dam evacuation zone. Community bus was used as option for those without transport to evacuate the area.

On Friday barriers went up in Forth but the expected levels didn’t eventuate. The retention work and releasing of dam levels prior to heavy rainfall was very effective.

At this stage clearing around the Forth Bridge is not happening as this would require closing the highway, using cranes or barge. Currently being monitored with the hope it will clear itself.

Heightened levels of anxiety were noted in the community regarding floods, particularly after 2016 and the mainland events. Every flood is different, and lots more debris was left in 2016. No properties affected this time, and damage was nowhere near the levels of 2016.

SES were at Forth the entire time, with sandbagging at fire station.

Infrastructure bill sitting around \$2m. Estimated CCC pays around 30%, based on determination of critical infrastructure.

Forth After School Care was closed as a precautionary measure.

b 2023 meeting dates

The group supported the proposed meeting dates.

c Forth Village Planning Information Session

An information session is to be held on 15 December at 3pm – 6pm. This is a drop-in session and we will provide an opportunity to learn more about the Heritage Study. The information will be available online, however anyone interested but unable to attend is encouraged to contact Council and arrange a time suitable to discuss.

Local area plan revision date – pathways priority. Government funding would be needed to allow this project to be considered in the short-term. There are not the resources at this stage to do concept plan. The Forth Pathway is sitting in the Council's long-term financial plans.

6.2 Community update

No update provided at this time.

6.3 Charter review and expressions of interest

Minor updates required for the Charter, including adding that term of membership is “while willing and remains eligible.” Only one representative is now required for Forth Valley Lions Club. Proxy clause to be added. Jess suggested if the sports precinct representative is not filled, it could be filled by an additional Community Representative.

ACTION: Alison to write to organisations listed in the Charter seeking nominations.

7 OTHER BUSINESS

Dianna Robb asked if the community can string lights on bridge for Christmas – Paul Braden advised it is a State Growth asset and that the Council is not responsible to approve the request.

Sandra thanked everyone for their contribution and support of the community and wished everyone a safe Christmas.

8 NEXT MEETING

The 90th meeting will be held on Thursday 2 February 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 4:59pm.