



AGENDA

Meeting: **Community Consultation Meeting**

Date: **Wednesday 4th July 2018**

Location: **Georgetown Community Hall**

Commencing: **9:00am**

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

10. ETHERIDGE SHIRE CENTENARY – MARCH 2018

- *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. CONSULTATION – CHANGES TO THE OPENING HOURS OF THE
GEORGETOWN SWIMMING POOL

13. GENERAL ISSUES FROM THE COMMUNITY

14. CLOSURE OF MEETING



MINUTES: Community Consultation Meeting Minutes
DATE: 4 July 2018
COMMENCING 9:00am
LOCATION: Georgetown Community Hall

The Mayor opened the meeting at 9:00am.

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 Warren Devlin
Cr Tony Gallagher
Cr Warren Bethel
Cr Will Attwood
Mr David Munro, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Miss Anna Christensen, Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer

Community Members: Total of 2 people attended from the Community

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

The Mayor presented Hannah Jenkins with her Australia Day Award – Junior Citizen of the Year.

CHARLESTON DAM

The Mayor updated attendees on the Charleston Dam project and in particular discussed the dam failure assessment that must take place before Council can continue to move forward with the project. The decision for Council is now to decide whether construction begins this year or next year.

Cr Bethel: Expressed that construction should wait until next year.
Cr Gallagher: Queried whether any works could begin this year – e.g. the recreation area
DM: Informed attendees that Council is awaiting its water licence and the complaints from concerned residents regarding the downstream flow into the Delaney.

GILBERT RIVER IRRIGATION SCHEME

The Mayor gave an update on the movements of the Gilbert River project and specifically mentioned that farmers on the Gilbert are currently actively dryland farming. The Mayor informed attendees that the MIP assessment has been complete and that the applications will be going to Ministers in the next couple of weeks.

The Mayor also discussed the concept of developing an industrial precinct and a cotton gin. The Mayor discussed Council's thoughts and ideas on this project. The Mayor also passed on the apologies from Ronny and Colleen Henry who hoped to attend the meeting.

Cr Bethel: Discussed his concerns over the cotton gin concept and furthermore expressed that he would rather support the grazing industry as it is the industry that has been here for many years. Cr Bethel discussed the idea of looking for a dam site at the precinct and using this to assist in building yards and installing wash down bays where the dam could supply water for the wash down bays. Cr Bethel mentioned that this would be in line with Council's biosecurity plan.

Mayor: Expressed his thoughts on ensuring Council does a thorough job on the precinct and the large amount of money that would be required to do so.

Cr Bethel: Discussed the location of Georgetown in relation to the market and expressed that he did not believe that Georgetown is in an ideal location for this purpose.

Mayor: Discussed the changing industry and the methods for graziers to feed cattle as being sorghum and grain etc.

Cr Gallagher: Suggested that Georgetown be used as a location for graziers to truck cattle and use as a location to weigh cattle and combine decks with one another to be sent away to meatworks etc.

GEOTOURISM

Mayor Devlin informed attendees that the television advertisements have begun to be played on Imparja and that the Unearth Etheridge campaign is moving forward.

Cr Bethel: Queried whether or not National Parks have opened up for camping.

DM: Discussed that a toilet block had been placed at Rungulla and more are to be installed at Undara.

The Mayor also discussed the push for road safety for travellers and the requirement to push for better quality in the road network. Mr Mayor also mentioned that Council is still working to get 4KZ up and running.

RM: Asked how long after the purchase of land the process would be to have radio up and running.

Cr Attwood: Responded that this process would not take long.

ROAD UPDATES

Forsyth to Georgetown Road

The Mayor discussed the remaining gravel on this road being just 7km. He also mentioned that there would probably be no further bitumen on this road for some time as per discussions with TMR.

Hann Highway

The Mayor informed attendees that work is happening on the first 2 projects and that a verbal offer has been mentioned on the next 2 projects. The Mayor also discussed the remaining gravel in the Shire as being just 21km in the Etheridge Shire.

RM: Asked what the link is to travel to Melbourne – what track is taken for the shortest route?

Cr Gallagher: Responded that it is the Muttaborra road and that there is work to be done on this road.

Cr Bethel: Discussed the aim of the Hann Highway is to get traffic off the Bruce Highway.

TIDS Funding

The Mayor discussed his proposal for the Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils to have money be able to be spent on State road.

Gulf Developmental Road

The Mayor informed attendees that LGAQ visited the Shire and informed Councillors of a 5 Million Dollar funding for the Western Road Upgrade. He also mentioned that it was unclear at this point where the money would be spent.

ETHERIDGE SHIRE CENTENARY AND GEORGETOWN 150 YEARS

The Mayor discussed the impending Etheridge Shire Centenary in 2019.

The Mayor also opened up the floor for ideas for the 150 year celebrations in 2020 of Georgetown.

RM: Suggested that a Committee be formed to begin work on these concepts and suggested that Cr Gallagher chair the Committees.

Cr Gallagher: Discussed Normanton's 150 years this year and suggested that like Normanton, a brick wall be done with family names on a brick.

DM: Suggested rather than a wall a pathway be done.

Cr Attwood: Suggested a report be done to Council regarding the celebrations and creating a committee.

GEORGETOWN POOL OPENING HOURS

Mr David Munro discussed that there will be new opening hours of the pool as Norm had applied for the local law to be amended regarding the opening hours.

GENERAL ISSUES FROM THE COMMUNITY

The Mayor invited community members to discuss any issues, concerns or ideas that they may have.

RM: Queried what was happening on the progress of the fitness centre.

Mayor: Awaiting further information on this project for moving forward.

RM: Queried the swipe card system.

Mayor: Discussed the probable legislation to come in future years and the requirement for a supervisor to be present at all times for use of Gym's.

Mayor: Discussed the recruitment of an Engineer but due to his personal circumstances he had to leave. The Mayor also mentioned the Hann Highway site Engineers recruitment – Chris Macdonald.

RM: Queried whether Council looked into getting community signs installed as discussed at previous meetings.

DM: Discussed that Council did apply for a grant but were unsuccessful.

Mayor: Asked whether we could apply for another grant and maybe get manual rather than electronic signs to lower the cost.

DM: Also discussed the requirement to request formal permission from Main Roads.

Cr Bethel: Discussed the concept of a movie theatre as he has previously discussed in the Terrestrial that advertises the Shire.

The Mayor discussed the Terrestrial upgrade.

RM: Queried what the upgrade is that is happening.

Mayor: Discussed Councils application for a 1 million dollar grant that advertises industries and history in the Centre.

TA: Queried how the Mount Surprise speed signs were funded and suggested having more installed in Georgetown.

Mayor: Discussed the Works 4 Queensland funding the signs and also the rumours surrounding a third Works 4 Queensland round.

TA: Brought up the issue of not good enough telephone coverage in Einasleigh.

Cr Attwood: Discussed the requirement to try and investigate getting a larger coverage area.

TA: Congratulated Council on installing flood cameras at the Gilbert River bridge but queried when community will be able to get the images.

Mayor: Approval has now been granted to display the images.

Cr Bethel: Discussed the phone tower that was installed at the Gilbert River Bridge and the issue of the height of the tower not being adequate if the river floods.

RM: Queried whether there had been any progress with aged care assistance.

Cr Attwood: Discussed the federal government announcement for more money and that Cootharinga will apply for this money. Cr Attwood also discussed Veronica Loudon's services being offered of mowing lawns etc. but that she does not get paid for travel so currently only servicing Forsayth and Georgetown.

Mayor: Discussed that statistics are what the State Government are looking for, a low population is not what they like. He also discussed that the Census is not an accurate reflection of the population as the tourists are not counted and the influx of people that comes in the tourist season.

Cr Gallagher: Discussed the need for a second Matron stationed in Georgetown.

Cr Attwood: Informed Council of the change in the Progress Association Committee – President – Tamsin Alderton, Secretary – Robyn Marlow and Treasurer – Vicky Harrison.

Cr Gallagher: Brought up the request for fencing of the playground at Heritage Park.

DM: Discussed the meeting with Timina occurring this week.

CONCLUSION

The Mayor closed the meeting at 11:00am.