

# ENDUMENI MUNICIPALITY

**Minutes of Ward 6 Ward Committee meeting held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, 64 Victoria Street, Dundee on Thursday, 11 October 2012 at 09:00**

## **Present:**

As per attached attendance register

## **1. Opening**

The Chairperson, Cllr. Ms T.I. Makaba, opened the meeting by welcoming everybody present and explained that we are all here to look for a solution.

## **2. Apologies**

Mr. J.B. Maltman

Mr. I. Grisdale

## **3. Watt Road**

Cllr Makaba reported that people were complaining about the trucks in Watt Road almost on a daily basis. There were various complaints ranging from the noise, dust, cracks to the walls of the houses and muddy road.

Mr W. Thole, representing Forbes Coal, stated that the solution is the alternative route, on the other side of the railway line.

Mr Thole explained that, although that land belongs to the municipality, there are issues that are causing a delay: 2 landowners but the discussions are far advanced with the private landowners.

There are also legal issues like environmental plans: the plans are also well advanced. There are also legislative requirements that take time to resolve.

Mr Thole stated that Forbes Coal is going to pay for the building of this road and it will not go through Forestdale.

Mr Thole requested the community not to close the road on 15 October 2012 as it will be very drastic and will not be in the interest of anybody. There will be consequences for that drastic action. He said that we are here to be pro-active and to assist the community.

A question was raised about the heaps of sand, what are they for? People in Forestdale have their houses covered in sand and it affects people. When it is watered it becomes pitch black and pollutes the area. It was stated that Forbes Coal does not have bursaries to assist the community or to employ the community.

Mr Thole explained that there are various programmes to assist the community. He said that they were promised MIG funding to tar the road but the Municipality could not get MIG funding.

Mr Frank Talbot reported that they employ a water cart solely for Watt road and if there is any problem, they try and solve it, it is an ongoing thing. He also talks with Mrs Chetty on a regular basis.

Cllr Makaba stated that it is not fair to use gravel, Forbes Coal need to put tar. She said that in Nyanyadu Forbes Coal provided a community garden and they need to provide employment for the community. Cllr Makaba asked what are the time-frames?

Mr Thole said that they cannot give an exact time-frame because they are working with various government departments and it takes time to get responses from government. He said that they have to register servitudes for portions of the land. He stated further that they are working with people that they have no control over: that is why it is estimated that the project will take from 18 to 36 months.

Mr Thole stated that they had a meeting with the municipality in order to get traffic cops deployed in Watt road. He said that disciplinary action will be taken on Forbes Coal drivers, internally, but the municipality must do traps on Watt road.

Mr Perumall explained that once the traffic officers are stationed there, the drivers behave like angels. The company must ensure that their drivers obey the traffic regulations. To try and shift the blame to the municipality does not help: the management of Forbes Coal must also change their attitude. The environmental impact assessment study should have been done before they started their operations.

Mr Thole stated that they cannot just build the road without following the legislation. He stressed that everybody needs to be part of the solution.

Mr Biyela enquired whether it was possible, whilst we are waiting for 2 to 3 years planning session, in the interim can we repair the road by re-tarring?

Mr. Frank Talbot stated that it will not be possible because the road was not designed for heavy traffic, it will break-up quickly and that will be prohibitively expensive. He said that they will have to look at Traffic Control.

Mr. Perumall reported that the municipality granted permission for these 20 years ago, the officials and the Councillors who granted it are no longer there: it is now difficult for both the community and the mining operation. As far as possible, the mining company must concede and try and work with the community. Whilst the coal dust and noise are the main issues, we must find an amicable solution and the community must tolerate the alternative route solution.

It was reported that when Forbes Coal trucks are filling in water there is no pressure and no water comes out and the community suffers.

Cllr. Makaba reported that when trucks are turning they leave a lot of water which courses mud. She wanted to know what Forbes Coal is going to do about it?

Mr Frank Talbot said that they needed to consult the principals and to think about further solutions.

The Department of Transport official suggested that it would have been more proper for the management of the mine to interact with the management of the municipality to look for possible technical solutions.

Mr. Thole stated that they have had a good relationship with the municipality and Anderson Vogt was consulted for the application of the MIG funding. He requested Mr. Frank Talbot to have spot checks on the drivers and to install tachometers although bad driving cannot be controlled 100% because of human nature. He said that they will meet with Mr. Maltman to see what can be done going forward.

It was suggested that speedhumps must be brought back to slowdown the trucks but there was also a noise risk when they are not loaded.

**4. Closure**

The Chairperson, Cllr. M. I. Makaba, thanked everybody for attending and declared the meeting closed at 10:45.

**CHAIRPERSON:** ..... **DATE:** .....