



BUSHMAN'S RIVER MOUTH / BOESMANSRIVIERMOND

Ratepayers' Organisation / Belastingbetalersorganisasie
(BRRAG)

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MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE BUSHMAN'S RIVER MOUTH RATEPAYERS' ORGANISATION HELD AT 14 KROGSCHEEPERS STREET, BRM ON APRIL 9, 2009 AT 9.00

1. WELCOME

Chairman Lötter Wepener welcomed all and gave special thanks to Ward 3. Cllr. Maria Mike for taking the time to attend.

2. ATTENDANCE

- 2.1. L. Wepener, S. Swanepoel, F. Venter, W. Grové, C. Botha, C. Krogscheepers, P. Mouton, B. Northrop, I. Smith, A. Vosloo
- 2.2. **Apologies:** A. Murray with D. MacTaggart not present.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - FEB 7 AND MARCH 7 2009

These had been posted on the website and mailed to committee members. Proposed as read and adopted.

4. CHAIR & LEGAL

- 4.1. The by-laws were eventually received from Ndlambe. Pieter Mouton was given a copy of all the by-laws (2006); he is to finalise a legal opinion regarding the proposed water tariffs. **PIETER**
- 4.2. Registration as an NGO to be done after the April 11 meeting. **LÖTTER**

“We make the difference / Ons maak die verskil”

Committee: Lötter Wepener (Chairperson), Sheila Swanepoel (Vice Chairperson), Fanie Venter (Treasurer), Wendy Grove (Secretary), Christo Botha, Corris Krogscheepers, Duncan MacTaggart, Pieter Mouton, Andrew Murray, Ian Smith, Bill Northrop, Anton Vosloo,

- 4.3. **Constitutional amendments.** Lötter explained that the new proposed constitution would widen the membership base to include all residents, holidaymakers and businesses. Oorlog enquired re the eligibility of Marselle and Klipfontein – the proposed constitution was area bound and excluded those areas and it was felt that these communities already had their own community structures and that BRRAG should remain as is at present. Applications could always be considered in the future.
- 4.4. **Sewage.** There has not been any progress since the last meeting. Richard Pote has had 2 engineers investigate the problem. **IAN** to liase with Dave Nicoll and Dennis Laubscher in order to obtain water tests this coming week. After that the matter can be taken further. **IAN/LÖTTER**
- 4.5. Cllr. Mike informed that Ndlambe has appointed an engineer to investigate the problems. After they furnish a report to council a decision will be taken on how to then proceed.
- 4.6. **Correspondence.** There had been many emails congratulating BRRAG on their efforts.
- 4.6.1. Letters from Dennis Laubscher and Brenda Brown regarding the construction of humps in certain roads were tabled. The requests are to be forwarded to Ndlambe. **LÖTTER**
- 4.7. **Coastal Management Act.** Sheila to read and ascertain if there is anything in it that may assist BRRAG. **SHEILA**
- 4.8. **Newsletter.** Next newsletter to follow in the next month. **LÖTTER/WENDY**

5. **FINANCE**

- 5.1. Subscriptions have been steadily flowing in as a result of the membership drive. A number of new members have joined the Organisation.
- 5.2. **Budget.** The budget target has yet to be met and further donations are necessary. Lötter stressed the need to grow the membership base as much as possible in order to

alleviate the need to fundraise by other means. At this point Oorlog presented details of expenses with regard to maintenance of public places, pointing out that the current work situation was unsatisfactory. He proposed that the committee considers contracting a garden service (quote attached) as this could be more cost effective and realise better results in the long term.

5.3. **Fundraising.** Committee needs to come up with innovative ideas! **ALL**

5.4. **Sale of boat licences.** Anton suggested investigating the possibility of BRRAG selling boat licences.

6. **SAFETY& SECURITY**

6.1. **Reservists.** There has not been a Community Police Forum meeting for some time as Capt. Slabbert used to coordinate them and he has been seconded to Port Alfred. With it being a voluntary outfit not many reservists have come forward and there are only 11 in the whole area.

6.2. **Honorary Marine Officers.** This had been investigated and it was found to be of no benefit to the ratepayers as it concentrated on out to sea matters.

7. **NEW DEVELOPMENTS & BUILDING REGULATIONS**

Bill being absent at this stage, the item was held over for the next meeting.

8. **ROADS, VERGES, VACANT PLOTS, SIGNS, TRAFFIC**

8.1. **Refuse Bins.** There was much discussion re the promise of refuse bins via communication with Richard Pote. This to be followed up with Sizwe Mvelwena.

8.2. **Manhole Covers.** There has been no improvement since December. Corris explained that Richard Pote indicated that he is waiting for repair materials and a quotation.

8.3. **Potholes.** Having been advised by Ndlambe that “Potholes happen”, there has been further deterioration. Corris suggested that we request permission to supervise repair work. It was further suggested that we consult with Corrie Swanepoel to

obtain correct specifications for repairs and then submit these to Ndlambe.
CORRIS/ LÖTTER

- 8.4. **Missing Road Signs.** Some of the signage has been replaced. Committee to collate a list of those still missing and submit them to Richard Pote
ALL/CORRIS/OORLOG
- 8.5. **Towpath.** The barrier has been vandalised once more. The only effective barrier is a boom. Corris to submit a more effective suggestion for the committee to consider
CORRIS
- 8.6. **Road painting.** Some progress being made. Slipway yellow lines and signage still needed. Matter to be followed up.
- 8.7. **Slipway & Jetty.** The jetty is sinking – there has been little assistance from Estuary Care who appears to concentrate on needs to the east of Bushman’s River. Bill to follow up wherever possible to ascertain who and what can be done to repair the situation. Cllr Mike said that she could present a repair quote to Ndlambe with it being defined as a “tourism” project. Anton advised that it was an Estuary Care project and that he will take it up and see to it that the repairs are done. **ANTON/BILL/CORRIS**
- 8.8. The state of the toilets was also brought up – Corris to approach Fred Lutge for a quotation as this could also fall under the “tourism” umbrella and handed to Cllr Mike.
CORRIS
- 8.9. The caravan park toilets appear to be under repair. Ian to investigate. **IAN**
- 8.10. **Employment contract.** Not relevant at present
- 8.11. **Assistance from Gerhard Seal.** Noted with thanks that he is available to assist Organisation with welding work.
- 8.12. **Traffic Calming Circles.** Noted that it is not possible to construct circles due to the fact that space constraints preclude them being viable.
- 8.13. **Traffic humps in River Road.** There were further requests re traffic humps – one in Salie Street and also on the corner of River and Piers. These to be put into a letter and

taken to Ward meeting. **SHEILA/LÖTTER** Councillor Mike undertook to follow up the River Road humps which were promised but not constructed. **Councillor MIKE**

9. **RIVER, ESTUARY CARE, DEAT, BEACHES, HEALTH, SEWAGE, HYGIENE, REFUSE**

- 9.1. **Seepage on Towpath.** This is a problem that should be attended to by the relevant homeowners. Once it is established who the affected owners are this matter should be addressed by Ndlambe. A list to be forwarded to Siswe **OORLOG/ LÖTTER**
- 9.2. **Erf 1024.** Ian described the situation where a bulk sewage tank is lying under a residential erf. BRRAG has no authority to intervene in his matter and the owner must contact Ndlambe who will have to instruct the developers to move it. Ian, Lötter and Pieter to discuss and advise the owner of her rights. **LÖTTER/ PIETER /IAN**
- 9.3. **Public toilets.** Cllr Mike will attempt to have these repairs budgeted for under “tourism” – she will need the quotations and motivation. Quotations to be obtained. **CORRIS**
- 9.4. **Parking Area, Trees.** Lötter extended a heartfelt “thank you” to both Corris and Oorlog for all their hard work in clearing the growth from the parking lot and elsewhere. Fully endorsed by all other members.
- 9.5. **Cement bags.** There has been a request to remove the old cement bags along the river beach. Estuary Care is of the opinion that they still serve a purpose. It was still felt that the damaged ones were a hazard and this should be addressed. Bill to enquire further from Estuary Care. **BILL/ VOSSIE**
- 9.6. **Jetty at Riversbend.** To discuss with Ndlambe officials
- 9.7. **Theft of the Volo.** Corris reported that the salvaged pieces are in storage. Fanie Fouche has applied for permission to remove as much as possible. This to then be placed at a suitable position once it has been conserved. In the meantime Corris appealed to all walkers to be on the alert for vandals attempting to remove items from the beach. **CORRIS**
- 9.8. **Restricting Boat Engine Size.** There is no legislation to enforce this.

- 9.9. **No power boats towards mouth during season.** This is unenforceable as boats need to make use of what little channel remains in order to move up the river. There are also boat owners crossing to the other side of the mouth. There was discussion re the “no wake zone”. It was felt that it should be limited to the swimming area. Anton to speak with KOSRA and Estuary Care re this suggestion. **ANTON**
- 9.10. **Bushman’s Estuary Concerns Re Silting.** The committee takes note of Dennis Laubscher’s report, but are not in a position to act on it.

10. WEBSITE

- 10.1. After the special General Meeting on Saturday Ian will change the constitution and add any other articles of interest.
- 10.2. Letterheads, etc to be changed, remove notice of General Meeting.
- 10.3. Try and solicit more advertisers and open a page for advertisers.
- 10.4. Ian reported that he had paid for the website for the following year – as a donation – with many thanks from the committee.
- 10.5. Anton requested that the website be added to the letterhead. **LÖTTER**

11. NRF & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

- 11.1. There have been three meetings of late including one with Ndlambe’s mayor. Various collective issues were discussed.
- 11.2. The new valuation roll is due to be published on April 9, 2009.

12. WARD COMMITTEE

- 12.1. Sheila presented the Ward 3 Committee report. Pieter’s report on water tariffs will be directed to the Ward Committee and NRF.
- 12.2. The BRRAG “wish list” is on the agenda and the following items have also been added:

12.2.1 A request for a moratorium on development in Bushman's River Mouth area until such time that sewage and infrastructure is able to cope and functioning effectively.

12.2.2 More honey suckers

12.2.3 A full status report on the Glen Melville project re future water supplies.

12.3 Cllr. Mike said that these items would be on the next ward committee agenda.

13 **GENERAL**

13.2 **Office.** Corris reported that he has made no progress in obtaining access to an office in the municipal buildings. Lötter to investigate the possibility of BRRAG leasing the town hall – he is attempting to obtain the documentation regarding the lease of building.

LÖTTER

13.3 Mrs Barnard re Volo funds – Corris to approach her once more. **CORRIS**

13.4 **Control.** The need to have some form of visible policing during school holidays was stressed. Cllr Mike said that they do deploy officers but there were not sufficient enough for someone to be present every day. Lötter to discuss this problem with Sizwe. **LÖTTER**

13.5 **Bridge Affairs**

13.5.1 The committee endorsed the suggestion that speed cameras be placed on the bridge.

13.5.2 The committee endorsed the request for truck slipways.

13.5.3 Andrew reported that BRRAG has been offered use of the concrete barriers no longer in use on the bridge. Corris to liase with Andrew to have them placed down at the beach parking lot.

13.5.4 Completion of the Bushman's River Bridge is estimated at August 2009. Completion of the Kariega Bridge is estimated at June 2010

13.6 **Fire Hydrants.** Bill still working on this project as a full list is required of all hydrants.
BILL

- 13.7 Anton brought up the subject re extending the slipway parking lot and including the access to the tow path in order to establish a one way circular route down to the slipway. Decided to approach the municipality with the motivation behind such a suggestion. **ANTON**
- 13.8 Corris had spoken with Richard re resurfacing the parking lot.
- 13.9 Ian questioned the rationale behind the Ndlambe senior officials being on leave during the busiest times of the year. Cllr Mike explained that they are entitled to their leave even though it might be an inconvenient time for others.
- 13.10 Lötter put forward the proposal that the committee agrees to contracting the garden service for a probationary period of 6 months. The committee to also agreed to the purchasing of a trailer (R4000) to assist with the removal of garden refuse, etc.
- 13.11 Note was also made of the fact that Ndlambe would not agree to any outsourcing of work and that the cost of such a service would have to be borne by BRRAG. Nevertheless, Corris the quote will be submitted to Richard Pote. **OORLOG**
- 13.12 Lötter thanked Director Sizwe Mvulelwa and health inspector Nombulelo Booyesen from Ndlambe for taking the time to attend the meeting. He referred to the “wish list” that BRRAG had submitted to Ndlambe via R. Pote, F. Fouche and H. Dredge. Lötter also referred to last year’s list which was submitted to the Ward 3 Committee to be included in the budget and that not one single item had been included in that budget.
- 13.13 He appealed to Sizwe to assist the ratepayers in making sure that future communications with Ndlambe were directed to the correct departments. Cllr Mike explained that submitting the list via the Ward Committee was the correct procedure
- 13.14 **Slipway at Riversbend.** Siswe advised that the slipway request was listed in the draft budget (March 31 2009) as one of the programmes. There are altogether 8 items listed – the slipway being one of the items. However the proposed budget may need to be revised and that would necessitate some of the items being removed – therefore, the slipway request is not a guaranteed project at this stage.
- 13.15 **Sewage Plant.** The condition of the existing sewage plant was brought up. Sizwe indicated that this did not fall under his department and advised us to consult with the

director: infrastructure on this matter. Councillor Mike was requested to facilitate a meeting between Lötter and the Director, Xolani Msiza during the next few days.

- 13.16 **River Road Seepage.** The seepage along the towpath has been an ongoing problem. Sizwe said that they had consulted with the Dept of Water Affairs re this problem – without much response. Ndlambe is concerned about the problem – water has been tested on request. The Director of Infrastructure would be the authority who would deal with the problem. Health Inspectors should approach the relevant homeowners in order to deal with the complaint insofar as pollution is concerned – and BRRAG would then receive a progress report.
- 13.17 **Flooding/Stormwater in Village.** New developments are exacerbating the problem. Sizwe advised that BRRAG contact the Director of Infrastructure.
- 13.18 **Pot Holes.** Problems are to be addressed to the Director of Infrastructure.
- 13.19 **Road Signage.** Supply Sizwe with a list of required signage – this to include a list of signage regarding River signage. ALL members to supply **CORRIS** with information.
- 13.20 **Manhole Covers.** Address problem to Director of Infrastructure.
- 13.21 **Public Toilets.** Sizwe acknowledged that there was some funding available and that he would see what could be done to repair the existing 4 public toilets. Lötter stressed the need for the toilet at the Caravan Park to be attended to as soon as possible as this was the only facility available for all workers, etc who worked in the village on a daily basis.
- 13.22 **River Signage.** Should be addressed to both Estuary Care and Sizwe.
- 13.23 **Rubbish Bin Proposal.** Sizwe to deal with this proposal. The bins will be erected by Ndlambe – he stressed that coordination was necessary re the placing of the bins in order that the pickup crew would be aware just where the bins had been placed. Lötter to supply Sizwe with a list of bin placements.
- 13.24 **Beach Access Area/Parking Lot.** The stones in this area need to be cleaned up and the car park separated from the beach and a boom replaced to prevent cars from illegally driving onto the beach. Sizwe agreed to look into this matter.

13.25 **Wooden Steps Down To River.** Richard Pote undertook to firm these steps.

13.26 **Maintenance of Public Places.** There was discussion re the ongoing maintenance of public places. Sizwe explained that they had always used seasonal labour but that this was not an ongoing exercise. He stated that council would not approve outsourcing services just for Bushman's River as this was not cost effective.

13.27 **Tennis Courts.** Lötter said that these were deteriorating and that it was not in BRRAG's interest to lease them from Ndlambe unless a long term lease was made available. Cllr Mike said that this was an item that could fall under "Tourism" and that she would consult with Director Mali in order that a decision could be made re leasing the tennis courts to BRRAG on more favourable terms.

13.28 Members of the committee stressed that there was an absence of control over holiday periods and that some form of authority has become necessary. Sizwe was requested to consider to supply the services of a peace officer that can exercise some control over vehicles and other by-laws over holiday periods.

13.29 Sizwe stated that this meeting had been a most constructive starting point – and that he would no doubt be judged by what he could achieve concerning the above.

13.30 Lötter thanked the officials for coming and for the constructive manner in which the meeting had been held.

14 **CLOSE**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 13.00

Next meeting to e held on Monday, June 15 at 9.00 at 14 Krogscheepers Street.

SIGNED.....

DATE.....