

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of the Bushmans River Mouth Ratepayers Association held at 8.00 on January 9th 2009 at the Municipal Offices

Present: Bill Northrop, Charles Sprong, Wendy Grové, Ian Smith, Andrew Murray, Anton Vosloo, Oorlog Botha, Sheila Swanepoel, Lötter Wepener, Piet Mouton, Duncan MacTaggart

Apologies: Eric Smith

Welcome: Bill welcomed all to this follow up meeting subsequent to the recent AGM. Purpose mainly to nominate office bearers and delegate portfolios to committee members.

As there are no previous minutes the meeting proceeded.

1. Nomination of Office Bearers:

Chair: Lötter proposed by Sheila, seconded by Ian.

Vice Chair: Sheila proposed by Ian, seconded by Bill

Treasurer: Eric Smith was proposed in his absence (he subsequently agreed to this nomination)

Secretary: Wendy is prepared to continue, but will be assisted by Annabel Northrop and Sharon Smith for the periods that she is away.

2. Portfolios:

Note: NRF: Lötter is prepared to be available for as many of these meetings as possible, if committee meetings could be dovetailed to fit in the same time period. In his absence other committee members would need to attend NRF meetings. As KOSRA would also be represented at NRF, our Association could also stay abreast by communicating with them.

There was discussion regarding the possible proposed "amalgamation" with KOSRA, but the general feeling was that Bushmans needed to retain its autonomy.

Anton suggested that both Associations be represented at either Association's committee meetings (as observers) thus maintaining a good working relationship between the two groups.

Lötter to try and speak with Doug Watson regarding the above as soon as possible.

***New Developments and building regulations:** Bill will handle this portfolio, but all members asked to keep a watchful eye on both the village and newspaper advertisements.

*** Estuary Care:** Andrew Murray and Bill Northrop

***Roads, Verges, Vacant Plots, Street Signs:** Oorlog Botha. Committee members to contact him should they see anything that falls under this portfolio.

***Town hygiene and Sewerage:** Anton Vosloo assisted by Lötter Wepener

***Website:** Ian Smith

***NRF:** Lötter Wepener assisted by Sheila Swanepoel and Bill Northrop

Ward 3: Sheila Swanepoel to represent BRMRPA. Bill undertook to write the letter confirming this appointment to Cllr Maria Mike

***Newsletter:** Wendy assisted by Annabel Northrop

***Police Forum:** Ian Smith

***Disaster Management :**This to be decided on once any possible future plans are more defined.

***Riversbend:** Duncan MacTaggart to report all issues affecting this section of the community

3.Projects: Lötter related the history of an incident that had occurred up in Gauteng regarding sewerage and pollution where the local municipality had fallen short on service delivery. Local residents had finally obtained a court order and the problem was subsequently resolved. The point being that even though residents had to fight for their rights, what they did gain was respect and a municipality that realised that they could not continue to disregard ratepayers' rights. However, this type of "follow through" requires money and the suggestion put to the committee is that we register as a NGO and in particular a NPO, thus enabling us to raise funds other than membership fees. If this can be achieved, positive results could follow.

Proposal: Lötter proposed that BRMRPA register as an NPO – seconded by Sheila. Piet added that he could call on an attorney who would be prepared to work on a contingency basis.

The three areas of concern are: The Bulk Storage Tank; Dias Grande and the Public toilets at the Caravan Park. It would be necessary to obtain witnesses to pollution from any of these sites before we could proceed legally. The most obvious site is at the Sandbar.

There were questions regarding possible costs involved. Lötter estimated this at approximately R10 000 - R20 000 – using a pro-bono lawyer would keep down costs. However, if our case was successful the bulk of the costs would be refundable. He was

confident that if homeowners could see the Association was determined to follow through with this project, donations would not be hard to find.

Andrew suggested informing Estuary Care regarding this proposal as they have expertise worth sharing.

Regarding funds available Lötter suggested we continue to investigate the "Passage" sale in order to establish as to whether the Association is still entitled to a claim on the proceeds of that sale.

The general consensus was that this was a project well worth investigating as we needed to establish more credibility when dealing with Ndlambe.

4. General:

*Ian commented on the fact that nominations at the AGM had not been conducted in the proper manner and that this should be corrected in future.

*Lötter suggested dates for the following meetings in order that he may arrange to be present: February 7th at 9am; April 9th at 9am.
Both of the above meetings to be held at 14 Krogscheepers Street.
March meeting date to be decided on at the February meeting.

*Lötter also added that non-permanent residents should be allowed to be included as committee members despite how the Constitution reads! If they are prepared to make a contribution the association should welcome them! An amendment to the constitution will be suggested in due course.

*Charles to supply Lötter with a list of all paid up members.

*Re Treasurer: Once it is established that Eric is prepared to act as Treasurer, the Postal Address on the membership form needs to be changed.

Charles ended the meeting by expressing his thanks for the new enthusiasm shown by the incoming committee. He felt however, that he personally now needed to let someone else take over the money reins. He was thanked for the many years he had worked on the committee as Treasurer.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.30am

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