



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 MARCH 20 AT 09h00

1. WELCOME

The Chairman, Lötter Wepener, welcomed all.

2. ATTENDANCE

2.1. **Present:** L. Wepener; S. Swanepoel; W. Grové; S. Bellingham; C. Krogscheepers; E. Lindström; B. Northrop; I. Smith; F. Venter; A. Vosloo.

2.2. **Apologies:** P. Mouton; A. Murray; R. Somers.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 7 January 2010 were taken as read and approved.

“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. CHAIR & LEGAL

4.1. Correspondence

4.1.1. Letter from L Hindle re additional rubbish bin was received. Corris will attend.

CORRIS

4.1.2. Thank you from Sheila Swanepoel for flowers received from the committee subsequent to her operation.

4.1.3. Review of letter previously sent to Ndlambe Municipal Manager:

This letter dealt mainly with infrastructural maintenance and service delivery. It was acknowledged as having been received, but so far there has been little response to the matters raised. Lötter to follow up re the following points:

LÖTTER

*Sewage – the plant appears to be operating but is far from satisfactory. Corris to speak to Mr Erasmus re progress and then Ndlambe will be approached.

*Sewage seepage on towpath – There is no evidence of this and can therefore be omitted from the redrafted letter.

*Flooding and storm water – Many drains are blocked.

*Manhole covers – There are still some damaged and/or missing; viz Park/Alexander; Salie; Slipway; Smuts/Wtt.

*Pot Holes and road signs – still many not yet attended to. Damage in front of 14 Ocean View drive is particularly bad.

*No more road signs or speed humps have been attended to.

*Upgrading of toilets – no progress.

*Slipway/Jetty/Car Park – No financial aid is forthcoming from Ndlambe. Anton said that Estuary Care is prepared to do something at the beach car park. Keith Wilmot will prepare a quote. There has been no further response from Neat paving regarding the slipway car park.

*Refuse bins – these have been attended to.

*Beach Car Park – this item to remain on the redrafted letter.

*Tennis Courts – there has been nothing further from Ndlambe.

*Labourers – no response from Ndlambe.

*Traffic control – no response from Ndlambe.

*Disaster management – no response from Ndlambe.

*Complaints against Ndlambe managers – no response.

*Garden refuse – we need to check Ndlambe's policy re pick up of garden refuse.

Conclusion – Lötter to redraft letter and send again.

- 4.1.4. Lease of municipal property – Ndlambe has refused our request to lease the property until they have audited all municipal properties. Lötter to stress the urgency in this matter as the property is becoming more dilapidated and vandalised as time goes by.
- 4.1.5. Letter from G Schmidt re boating control was noted.
- 4.1.6. Letter from S Pennington re beach grass was noted.
- 4.1.7. Letter from S Kotze re the monkey invasion – Anton to contact SanParks to see what can possibly be done. **ANTON**
- 4.1.8. Letter from C Lake re boat licences – there has been response from Ndlambe regarding our enquiry. Lötter to send another letter. **LÖTTER**
- 4.1.9. A letter re the necessity of tree trimming to be sent to Ndlambe. **LÖTTER**
- 4.2. **Database**
 - 4.2.1. Ian to supply email data base to Lötter. **IAN**
 - 4.2.2. Ian reported that the listed membership is down from 2009. Bill volunteered to call on as many local residents as possible in order to drum up more members. **BILL**

- 4.2.3. Wendy to stress membership subscriptions in the newsletter due to go out.
Non email addresses to receive a newsletter via post. **BILL/IAN/WENDY**

5. FINANCE

- 5.1. The Lutge refund has been settled.
- 5.2. Municipal house lease – see above.
- 5.3. Kiosk rental - A fee of R10/per month to be paid to Cas Vorster. Lötter to draw up a contract for Corris to give Cas. Fanie to pay R120 for the whole year. **LÖTTER /CORRIS/FANIE**
- 5.4. Passage money – no further progress. Lötter to follow up. According to the Ward Committee a letter is required from Richard Pote to the lawyers instructing them to make the funds available to BRRAG once transfer is through. **LÖTTER**
- 5.5. Grass donation from Estuary Care – the amount is unknown at this stage. More work is required to prevent the grass from growing back. Anton to liase with Andrew to see that the raking and spraying gets done. **ANTON/ANDREW**
- 5.6. Fanie stated that it had been difficult to ascertain what some of the donations had been intended for. He stressed that, in order to cover his predicted budget more funds were urgently needed. Anton suggested a general letter setting out the intended project, and a further appeal for funds. He would also approach Estuary Care for further funds.
- 5.7. The newsletter would stress the need for greater membership and donations.

- 5.8. It was decided that BRRAG would host an Auction and Cheese and Wine function the evening of the next AGM (December 28 2010). This to be publicised in the newsletter with a request for contributions. Corris to book the hall.

ANTON/CORRIS/WENDY

- 5.9. Fanie to speak with Oorlog Botha re his plan for a Beach Buggy Parade. **FANIE**

6. SAFETY & SECURITY

- 6.1. Ian had had a meeting with HI-Tec who had spelt out their difficulties with invoicing subscribers with the extra R10 fee. They had a proposal for a separate invoice that would be zero vat rated. The committee reluctantly agreed to this suggestion. Lötter to draft a new letter re ring fencing the funds generated from the R10 per month fee and forward it to Ian for handing to HiTec. **LOTTER / IAN**

- 6.2. It was brought to our attention that the bridge camera requires a light in order to function. Ian to enquire from Andrew whether this is possible from his property. **IAN / ANDREW**

- 6.3. It was noted that the community guards are not making much of an impact on crime prevention. Crime had escalated dramatically in the area – fortunately some arrests have been made.

- 6.4. Ian was thanked for all his work.

7. NEW DEVELOPMENTS & BUILDING REGULATIONS; POTABLE WATER

- 7.1. Bill noted that a draft report from SRK had outlined the Coastal Environmental Management Plan. It would be wise to scrutinise it further as it could impact at a later date as it talks about designated smaller plots in close proximity to Bushman's Village. Bill to respond noting that BRRAG has not been consulted in this matter.

BILL

- 7.2. Water – The severe drought combined with the age of equipment plus the reservoir debacle has resulted in major shortfalls, Ndlambe will have to approach central government for funds to upgrade. This will no doubt result in higher tariffs.
- 7.3. Erf 274 - The rezoning of this erf has been referred back to the Infrastructural Development Directorate.

A general discussion ensued re developments in general. Anton pointed out that developers were prepared to contribute to much needed infrastructure and that it was contra indicated to oppose all new developments. However, the majority were of the opinion that BRRAG opposed developments until such time as there was suitable infrastructure to cope with the greater demands. It was felt that Erf 274 needed to submit detailed infrastructural plans in order to go forward.

8. ROADS, VERGES, VACANT PLOTS, STREET SIGNS, PARKS, TRAFFIC

- 8.1. Corris reported that missing signs and man hole covers had been requested from Richard Pote.
- 8.2. There had been an enquiry re dog bylaws – these are not being enforced. Dogs are allowed on the main beach.

- 8.3. Traffic humps – as before. **LÖTTER** to follow up.
- 8.4. Traffic calming – no further progress. **LÖTTER** to follow up.
- 8.5. Dias Cross/Volo – Fanie has not responded re our enquiries. This now to be taken to the Municipal Manager. **CORRIS**
- 8.6. The beach refuse bin has been installed.
- 8.7. Park bench – thanks to Chris Grové for the repair.
- 8.8. The Ndlambe garden refuse removal policy needs to be established. **LÖTTER** to request it from the municipal manager.

Anton proposed a vote of thanks to Corris for all his hard work.

Corris suggested to move the river bench further back to protect it. Wendy to thank the Campbell family for restoring it in newsletter.

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

- 9.1. The bolt on the jetty has been fixed. Anton to speak with Chester Wilmot re protective siding. People are still mooring boats onto the jetty – a “No Mooring” sign is needed. **ANTON**
- 9.2. Estuary Care will attach stabilising poles to the jetty.
- 9.3. Estuary Care will repair the ski jetty before December. **ANTON**

- 9.4. It was noted that greater representation on Estuary Care was far more satisfactory. Anton and Corris to study/monitor the new by-laws (DEAT)
ANTON/CORRIS
- 9.5. The slipway toilet to be readied for the Easter weekend. **CORRIS**
- 9.6. The bridge concrete blocks are not suitable for use at a possible proposed jetty at the Sandbar. Arrangements must therefore be made to get them placed at the beach car park. Corrie Swanepoel will oversee – foundations will first need to be put down. **ANDREW/CORRIE**
- 9.7. The “No wake” signage to be altered to read “Safe Speed – beware swimmers”.
ANDREW
- 9.8. The residual grass and bags on the river beach need to be raked and removed prior to spraying. **ANDREW**
- 9.9. Car parks – Andrew to meet with Craig Mayberry regarding the car park repairs.
LÖTTER/ANDREW/CORRIE
- 9.10. Towpath seepage – It was noted that no seepage was visible for some time.
- 9.11. Honorary Marine Officers – Anton and Bill have completed a course but are still waiting for registration. It would appear that DEAT are more concerned with major transgressions (poaching) rather than minor offences. However, mussel beds, etc are becoming more and more damaged as a result of illegal practices and need to be policed more satisfactorily.

- 9.12. Water samples will be taken by Pierre Retief when necessary. As mentioned before the sewerage plant is currently working but there is no one to either monitor or supervise! A letter to go to Richard Pote regarding this requesting an updated report. **LÖTTER/ANDREW**
- 9.13. The gabion wall is deteriorating. ACWB need to repair the wire cages as soon as possible. **BILL** to speak to Dave Nicoll.

10. WEBSITE

This is currently being updated. The newsletter to go on as soon as it is completed.

11. NRF/DISASTER MANAGEMENT

- 11.1. Lötter met with Doug Walters who had attended a meeting with the special representative of the minister of local government in Cape Town – the report from which will soon be available. Sheila thanked Bill for representing her during her absence. NRF subscription needs to be paid. **FANIE**
- 11.2. Doug Walters also reported back that the meeting with municipal director Mali had been totally unproductive as she is extremely uncooperative.
- 11.3. Other matters discussed were the need to maintain plots clear of dead bush especially during this extreme drought period. **LÖTTER** to address letter to the municipal manager in this regard.
- 11.4. Boat licence revenue needs to be traced as to where it is being used. **LÖTTER**

- 11.5. Refuse sites are all illegal with Port Alfred being the only legal site. A Swedish company wishes to introduce refuse sorting in the Ndlambe area.

12. WARD COMMITTEE

There is a new councillor – Mr S. Fundi. Sheila thanked Bill once more for representing her during her absence.

13. ENVIRONMENT

- 13.1. Dave Chalmers had met with environmental officers regarding the removal of alien plants. Corris stressed that there was an extremely large number of alien plants that should be eradicated.
- 13.2. The boom gate has been damaged once more. Gerrie Seal to be asked to weld it.

CORRIS/ERNST

14. GENERAL

- 14.1. Trailer registration – The papers have been submitted. Corris to follow up. **CORRIS**
- 14.2. A sign is needed at Duwweltjie Plein to stop trailer parking thereat. Also yellow street lines marking the no parking areas are needed.
- 14.3. Visitors to the river beach have experienced cases of petty theft. More security is needed in the form of either a guard or secure lockers.
- 14.4. Latest information regarding the bridge is that completion date will be August 2010.

14.5. Old election posters to be removed by whoever feels so motivated!

14.6. The River workshop scheduled for March 22 to start at 8.30 in the town hall.

15. CLOSE

There being no further business the meeting ended at 12h00.

NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD AT 14 KROGSCHEEPERS STREET ON 5 JUNE 2010 AT
09H00

DATE.....

SIGNED.....