



BUSHMAN'S RIVER MOUTH / BOESMANSRIVIERMOND

Ratepayers' Organisation / Belastingbetalersorganisasie
(BRRAG)

P.O.Box / Posbus 90, Boesmansriviermond, 6190

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BUSHMAN'S RIVER MOUTH RATEPAYERS' ORGANISATION / BOESMANSRIVIERMONDBELASTINGBETALERS-ORGANISASIE, HELD ON DECEMBER 28, 2009 AT 9.00 AT THE TOWN HALL

1. WELCOME & ATTENDANCE:

As per attendance register. The Chairman welcomed all and the meeting was opened with a prayer led by Peter Bowen.

APOLOGIES:

J. Malan, K. Landman, J. Wright, P. Stucken, M. de Koning, G. v Zyl, D. Deacon

2. CONDOLENCES:

B. Malherbe, M McDonald

3. OPENING:

The Chairman pointed out that it was the end of tenure for some of the committee members and stressed that new members were required. He made a special welcome for the following people. R. Dumezweni (Ndlambe's Municipal Manager), Fanie Fouche(Nature Conservation), Doug Walters (KOSRA chair), Ted Gilfillan (Estuary Care), Howard Dredge(Ndlambe Financial Director), Richard Pote (Ndlambe Director/Services) and Nell Potgieter(consultant to Ndlambe).

“We make the difference / Ons maak die verskil”

Executive Committee: Lötter Wepener (Chairperson)(0825524714 / wepener@law.co.za), Sheila Swanepoel (Vice); Wendy Grove (Secretary); Fanie Venter (Treasurer); Stompie Bellingan; Corris Krogscheepers; Ernst Linström, Pieter Mouton, Andrew Murray, Ian Smith, Bill Northrop, Anton Vosloo.

Subcommittee members: Peter Bowen, Val Bowen, Dave Chalmers, John Charter, Dirk Meiring, Annabelle Northrop, Roy Somers

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

Minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read and passed.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

- 5.1. The Chairman stated that prior to his report he would deal with Item 8.3 on the Agenda – Current and future situation regarding the sewerage plant and pollution.
- 5.2. He introduced Richard Pote who explained that there was a national drive to maintain better levels of service and to this end Ndlambe had applied for a grant, the bulk of which would go towards improving the sewerage plant in Marselle. Nel Potgieter then went on to explain that while the plant was dysfunctional what was primarily needed was ongoing correct operation and maintenance. He assured the meeting that by next AGM things would have improved. Assurance was made that recent water tests indicated that the River water was not polluted.
- 5.3. The Chairman thanked both Richard and Nel for coming to the meeting.
- 5.4. The Chairman then presented his report – a copy of which is attached.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

- 6.1. The Financial Report was presented. A copy is attached.
- 6.2. Good news was that membership of BRRAG had doubled in the past year.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

- 7.1. The following committee members remained on the committee for another year: S. Swanepoel, P. Mouton, C. Krogscheepers, A. Murray. S. Bellingan, A. Vosloo.
- 7.2. It was proposed that the remaining committee members be re-elected and this was unanimously passed.
- 7.3. Further nominations were received and E. Linström was elected to the committee.
- 7.4. Sub-committee nominations were D. Meiring, R. Somers V. Bowen, A. Northrop. These nominations were all unanimously accepted.

- 7.5. John Charter suggested that a specific sub-committee be established to address the need to preserve the environment with regard to indigenous flora and fauna. John was elected to serve on the sub-committee.

8. GENERAL

- 8.1. Amendment of constitution to reflect the financial year as “the period from 1 December in any calendar year to 30 November of the following year”. This was carried by the members present.
- 8.2. River pathway to Sandbar. The decision to approach Estuary Care with the request to re-establish the pathway was passed. The Chairman urged members to become members of Estuary Care.
- 8.3. Sewerage – As above. Johann vd Walt thanked the committee for their efforts and suggested that a PPP be set up with Ndlambe as there were no doubt qualified and experienced engineers in the community who could be of great assistance
- 8.4. Red BRRAG stickers to indicate BRRAG membership and a Hi-Tec partnership, were made available.
- 8.5. “Passage” funds – will this eventually be available to BRRAG? This is unfortunately a long drawn out process as the land has yet to be transferred whereafter BRRAG can access the funds.
- 8.6. A question arose as to how the environmental levies, appearing on municipal accounts, are used. Howard Dredge explained that these funds are ring fenced specifically for the cleaning up of the environment. Homeowners in Marselle would not necessarily be levied if they fell below a certain income level but a subsidy is received.
- 8.7. There was a request for a 4 way stop at both the Bushmans and Kenton entrances with a 60km speed limit in between. This issue has been on BRRAG’s agenda for some time, but has to be approached via Provincial Roads Department. Assurance was given that BRRAG would once more attend to the request.
- 8.8. Concern was expressed re the proposed filling station at the entrance. BRRAG has already submitted their concerns re increased traffic and we will continue to be vigilant.

- 8.9. Concern was expressed re the recent land claims made in relation to land bordering on Bushman's River Village, including certain municipal land properties. It is being carefully studied by Ndlambe officials whilst certain members have employed a legal team to assist.
- 8.10. Queries re the proposed lease of the tennis courts were raised. BRRAG is still negotiating a satisfactory lease with Ndlambe as we cannot spend funds unless this is finalized. The municipal manager agreed that a lease was in the offing.
- 8.11. There was a request for speed humps to be constructed in Salie Street. The matter will be pursued by the committee.
- 8.12. There was a query as to why Riversbend has daily water cuts. As there was no one present to reply, BRRAG undertook to investigate and obtain answers.
- 8.13. The condition of the ski zone jetty was mentioned. Members were advised that Estuary Care has undertaken to get it resurrected.
- 8.14. Monkeys in the village were becoming a serious problem. Fanie Fouche advised that it is illegal to harm them as they are a protected species. Residents experiencing problems could contact Nature Conservation at 082 753 1716, but were warned that it is extremely difficult to trap these animals!
- 8.15. The high price of boat licences was raised. The Municipal Manager has already been approached regarding this, but to date no reply has been forthcoming. BRRAG will pursue the matter.
- 8.16. The new regulations regarding Skipper's licences were raised. At present Ndlambe is not in a position to police the river due to a lack of resources but greater control is foreseen in the future via SAP.
- 8.17. There was a query as to whether the sewage from the plant could not be turned into usable fertilizer for the immediate area. The suggestion was passed on to the Ndlambe consultant.
- 8.18. Concern was once again raised regarding the reckless and dangerous behaviour displayed by numerous boat owners. The situation was becoming serious and it is only

a matter of time before there is a serious accident. The Chairman was of the opinion that this is a matter for the SAPS and undertook to liaise with them.

- 8.19. There is a conservancy tank at Riversbend that constantly overflows. The chairman explained that this particular tank is on private property and that it is therefore a matter that the property owners should take up with the Municipality though BRRAG advised the municipality of the problem.
- 8.20. Concern was raised regarding the poor state of the Dias Cross monument. This is something that SanParks needs to attend to as it is within the park boundaries. The committee to follow up.
- 8.21. A request to re-surface the river car park was raised. This is something that is on BRRAG's agenda.
- 8.22. There was a request for a permanent road up to the skiing area. Ted Gilfillan of Estuary Care undertook to look into the matter.
- 8.23. The state of the beach car park was raised. It was felt that Ndlambe needs to approach the province for funding in order to repair this area.

9. CLOSURE

- 9.1. There being no further business the meeting ended at 10.45
- 9.2. The Chairman thanked all for coming, as well as Cas Vorster for the use of the hall. All present were invited to stay for tea and coffee and an informal talk with committee members.

SIGNED.....

DATE.....