

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Wilderness Ratepayers & Residents Association Held on Monday 20th December 2010 at the Wilderness Resort Hotel at 18h00

1. **Welcome & Apologies:**The Chairman welcomed the 75 members present, including committee members and past Chairmen Bob McIntyre and PPat Walsh.The Chairman informed the meeting that next year will be the 40th anniversary of WRRRA, which would not have been possible but for the efforts and achievements of past Chairmen.Apologies were received from Al Colesky, Annette Stafford-Pearce, Maureen Mansfield, Don Cameron, Thornton Booth, Jeff Bolus, André Knoetze, Anni & Jeremy Eccles, Nicci Booth, Graham & Yvonne Rowley, Dick Smit, Ruud Niese, Carla Molier,Ann & Paddy Bomford, Liz Howard & Mrs. B.S. de Villiers.
2. **Adoption of the Minutes:**Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on Thursday 17th December 2009 was proposed by Hugo Leggatt and seconded by Eckhard Muller.
3. **Matters Arising Therefrom:**No matters arising.
4. **Chairman's Report:**The Chairman's Report was taken as read after Graham Sell corrected the wording for speed limit signage under Traffic, Roads & Pavements from "Kingfisher Close" to "Hoekwil Road".He then introduced the committee members, who briefly described the highlights of their respective portfolios.Thanks were extended to Imel Rautenbach of Office Reliance for his assistance and guidance in the maintenance and upkeep of WRRRA's website; and to Judy Chilton for her assistance with Minutes of Meetings, enabling the secretary to expedite the distribution of newsletters and press releases.Co-opted member, Colleen Simons, who represents the Wilderness Community Forum, said it was a privilege to share the WRRRA platform in order to represent the Kleinkrantz and Wilderness Heights communities.She felt it has been a great learning curve.She felt it is important to understand the dynamics surrounding the issues that affect the communities and the impact thereof.
5. **Matters Arising from the Chairman's Report:**As an addendum to the Safety & Security Portfolio, the Chairman reminded those present of the total ban on fireworks.He also requested residents not to give money to the beggars and self-appointed car guards in the village, as such monies were more often than not abused, leading to drunken or threatening behaviour.Graham Sell also took the opportunity to emphasize that the municipal budget is illegal, as revenues have not been correctly projected and therefore the income will not be sufficient.WRRRA has been in contact with National Treasury in this regard and also the disgraceful application of emergency water tariffs.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Pierre Bovet reported that the auditor's fee of R500 was again donated to the SPCA by Ronnie Board.Thanks are due to Bertram Dumbleton of the Fairy Knowe Hotel for allowing us the use of the hotel facilities for committee meetings; and to the Wilderness Resort Hotel for sponsoring the AGM.The R11,000 paid for legal fees relating to our objection to matters pertaining to erf.141, was a substantial reduction of the original charge, thanks to Graham Sell.The R13,994 cost of producing the Welcome to Wilderness brochure had also been reduced by R8000 in sponsorships.Last year's increase in subs to R100 assisted us in continuing to be a thorn in the flesh of the municipality.Residents were invited to add donations to the kitty started by The Association towards a retirement gift for Johan Boshoff, manager of the Wilderness Waterworks and of the overall maintenance of our area.
7. **Ratification of the Annual Subscription:**Approval to retain the annual subscription at R100 was proposed by Case Rijdsdijk and seconded by Leon van Wyk.
8. **Ratification of Proposed Change to the Constitution:**The Chairman explained that this proposed addition to the Constitution is to give WRRRA the ability to take a legal route with the Municipality.There is no additional risk to members, other than their subscriptions.The

- motion was carried by the majority of the people present, with only 2 votes against.
9. **Election of the Executive Committee:** Al Colesky and Peter Woodliffe are retiring from the committee. Sylvia Sell, Pierre Bovet, Hugh Pharoah, Pieter Naudé and John Callanan continue as members for a further year. Retiring by rotation but offering themselves for re-election are Pearce Johnston, Graham Sell, Vicky Nel, Inez Jamieson and Richard Ledger. Neville Ewing of Lake Road has been nominated as a committee member by Peter Woodliffe, and seconded by Peter Eckford. Graham Sell invited Mr. Ewing to come forward and introduce himself, which he did, saying his special interest is the Choo Tjoe. There being no further nominations, and in terms of clause 11a of the Constitution, the Chairman declared the committee duly elected.
 10. **Other Matters:** No notice has been received relating to other matters.
 11. **General: Councillor Kruger** addressed the meeting saying that the municipality cannot borrow any more money, and do not have funds for any capital projects. Next year Uniondale will become part of the George municipality, and we will then have to find salaries for 49 councillors. Cllr. Kruger stated that Wilderness is fortunate to have a very strong Ratepayers Association which has the courage to take on politicians and officials, who have learnt to respect WRRRA. Eckhardt Muller said the back road from **Swartvlei to Wilderness** is in a dreadful condition. WRRRA needs to approach Eden on this matter. Juanita Wilmans stated that there is an empty garage near the common used by **vagrants** and that vagrants also stay in the abandoned house at Dolphin Point, and asked that something be done about this. Bob McIntyre complained about **litter** and about not being able to get through to the **emergency services** number. Graham Sell reported that the Safety & Security department has been dysfunctional due to the suspension of two officials. Mr Faizel Mohammed raised the question of next year's **local government elections** and expressed the view that we should encourage members to vote only for one of the two main parties, to avoid repetition of the present situation where the council is at the mercy of 3 councillors from a minority party. The Chairman responded that the Association must remain apolitical, although he felt that while there is insufficient time to organise anything before the coming election, there may be a future need to propose fielding independent candidates. In the meantime, he felt that the newly formed Affiliation of (6) Ratepayer Associations will give us strength to address issues across the board in George. Mr Jan Stouthamer, a new resident of **Wilderness East**, felt that because of the narrow winding streets in this suburb, the **speed limit** should be reduced to 30kmh. Lexie Comay wanted to know if anything was being done about the grass at the **lagoon mouth** and why the mouth had been opened early, as the lagoon is running very slowly. Bob McIntyre wanted to know if there was a published protocol that dictated when the mouth is opened, and whether Sanparks had actually followed procedure. Inez Jamieson and Pieter Naudé responded that Jill Gordon had followed the correct protocol, but that Sanparks are still working towards a new management plan. Pieter Naudé thanked the Chairman for his leadership, prior to the close of the meeting at 19h35,