

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Wilderness  
Ratepayers & Residents Association Held on Monday 19th December  
2011 at 18h00  
at the Wilderness Beach Hotel**

1. **Welcome & Apologies:**The Chairman welcomed the 90 members present, including committee members and past Chairmen Bob McIntyre and Pat Walsh. Apologies from Annette & Nigel Stafford-Pearce, Maureen Mansfield, Don Cameron, Thornton & Avril Booth, Ruud Niese, Carla Molier, Ann & Paddy Bomford, Susanne Smit, Clive Else, Geoff Pallister, Anita Page, Chris Burlock, Estelle le Roux, Ted Schmidt, Desire Zwahlen, Pieter Jansen, Warren Bird, Alfred Kopp & Peter Woodliffe were recorded. Graham Sell then introduced the committee members with their respective portfolios, followed by the introduction of our Ward Councillor, Leon van Wyk.
2. **Adoption of the Minutes:** Adoption of the Minutes of the AGM held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2010 was proposed by Pieter Naudé and seconded by Pat Walsh.
3. **Matters Arising Therefrom:** No matters arising.
4. **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman's Report was taken as read, and there were no questions from the floor relating to the report.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** Pierre Bovet reported that the Association is in a healthy financial situation, as per the audited financial statement attached. The auditor's fee of R600 was again donated to the SPCA on behalf of Ronnie Board. Thanks are once more due to Bertram Dumbleton of the Fairy Knowe Hotel for allowing us the use of the hotel facilities for committee meetings.
6. **Ratification of the Annual Subscription:** Approval to retain the annual subscription at R100 was proposed by Pierre Bovet and seconded by Eckhard Muller.
7. **Election of the Executive Committee:** Sue and Richard Ledger and Pierre Bovet are retiring from the committee. Retiring by rotation but offering themselves for re-election are Hugh Pharoah, Pieter Naudé, John Callanan and Sylvia Sell, although Sylvia will step down as secretary. Graham Sell, Pearce Johnston, Inez Jamieson and Neville Ewing continue as members for a further year. Niel Viljoen, Vanessa Hau-Yoon, Philip Parsons & Paul Nicholas have been nominated as committee members. There being no further nominations, and in terms of clause 11a of the Constitution, the Chairman declared the committee duly elected, as proposed by Hugo Leggatt and seconded by Brian Musto.
8. **Other Matters:** No notice has been received relating to other matters.
9. **General:**

The Chairman invited Cllr. Leon van Wyk to address the meeting. Cllr. Van Wyk said there is much poverty in **Ward 4** which covers a very large area. Someone from Touwsrante has been appointed to co-ordinate poverty issues. In the first month of his appointment, the co-ordinator received 250 issues to deal with. The 3000 km of **gravel roads** are Eden's responsibility. However, they have a limited budget which can only handle 80 km. Municipal offices are under stress throughout the country. However, as chairman of the finance committee, Cllr. Van Wyk is doing a total review of the **George budget**. A pamphlet addressed to visitors by the mayor and a bumper sticker have been produced as a way of growing tourism and industry in George. Graham Sell felt that George has far better services than Wilderness, which is the Cinderella of the municipality, comparing George's superior **roads** to the disgraceful condition of roads in Wilderness as an example.

Joan Musto raised the issues of the **underpass walkway** over the railway line to the beach

which is a mess, **rubbish** dumped in that vicinity, and lack of a demarcated area specifically for **swimming**. She asked whether the area in front of the lifesavers could be reserved for swimming and be banned to fishermen. Bob McIntyre felt the entire village is dirty and a mess. Litter lies around for weeks and he requested the reintroduction of **street cleaning teams** supported by an extended public works programme. The Chairman responded that the introduction of a **Wilderness Improvement Programme** upon completion of the property revaluations will hopefully give us some budget for such initiatives. Mr. Hofmeyer queried the future of the **railway line** and **De Oude Karos Hotel**. Hans Bekker was concerned over the drop of the water level in the mouth of the **Touw River**, and was invited to look at **Sanparks Management Plan** on the internet. Pieter Naudé said Sanparks will only open the mouth when the water interferes with property. Concern was also expressed by Donald Delson over the shocking condition of the **Saarsveld Road**. Cllr. Van Wyk replied that the road is due to be repaired when disaster money arrives from the Province towards the end of March. Sue Ledger had phoned Eden in this connection and was told that the work has been put out to tender. Nan Nieber felt it was unfair on visitors that all the **restaurants** in Wilderness closed on Christmas Day. The Chairman explained it was a question of security. Roy Trembath felt the lack of **parking** since the expansion of Milkwood Village and the proliferation of **flags and banners** was detrimental to the village. Graham Sell felt the municipality should expropriate the vacant land behind the mini-market to develop a **taxi rank, public toilets and parking facilities**. Jan Moerdyk raised the issue of the dangerous **Serpentine/N2/Caltex crossing**, and Peter Mundell drew the meeting's attention to the new "**Turn-it-around**" **crime website**, which the Chairman undertook to put in the next newsletter. The perceived lack of a walking area on the beach for **dogs** was raised, and mention was made of the area between the east bank of the Touw River to Flat Rock being allowed for this purpose. The need for dog owners to pick up dog mess was emphasized. Chris Mercer reported a proliferation of litter and broken bottles at **Kleinkrantz Beach** and this issue is to be taken up with Sanparks. Annie Eccles added that the litter around the **bottle bank** behind the mini-market is very bad. Joan Musto suggested we adopt the **slogan** "Don't Mess with Wilderness" to encourage people to keep the place clean, and Hazel Burford added that it is up to everyone to look after the cleanliness of their own roads.

**10. Close:** Pieter Naudé expressed thanks to the Chairman and the outgoing secretary for their roles. Graham Sell then closed the meeting by thanking members for their attendance and emphasizing the importance of their support, which is vital to enable WRRRA to act as a handbrake on municipal decisions which might be detrimental to Wilderness. He undertook that the committee will do its best to ensure that residents voices continue to be heard in the challenging year ahead.

Chairman  
21/12/2011