

Minutes of the 2015 AGM held at the Wilderness Hotel

1. Welcome & Apologies

The Chairman, Neville Ewing, welcomed everyone at the meeting. The following people sent their apologies:

Jan Heyneke, Albert Hoffmann, Pascal Acquisto, Gillian Langeveld, Richard Shaw, Inez Jamieson, Paddy Bomford, Andrea Watkinson, Paddy Esselaar, Andy Pedrick, Phillip Parsons, Paul Nicholas, Mace Getz and Chris Mobsby.

2. Adoption of the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, and matters arising therefrom.

Recycling – this is now working properly as a new contractor has been employed.

The minutes were proposed by Hugo Leggatt and seconded by Pat Walsh.

3. Adoption of the minutes of any previous General Meetings, if any, and matters arising therefrom.

No general meetings were held during the year.

4. Chairman's Report

All members received a copy of the Chairman's report via e-mail.

Pieter Naude announced that this is the last report that he will be giving as he is stepping down from the WRRRA committee and as Chairman for personal health reasons.

He began by outlining the projects achieved by WRRRA in 2014 and said that this was achieved because of the co-operation between the various stakeholders and the committee.

- Tourism – this was the starting point for the WIP projects and to improve the village to attract visitors and provide residents with a clean and safe CBD.
- The monitors/ambassadors – they are the cornerstone to cleaning up the village. EPWP funds have assisted with the funding of the monitors. Local businesses

are now funding the monitors. WRRRA has the commercial rights to the wall (behind the Caltex garage) and these funds go toward the WIP.

- GIPTN – there was co-operation between the municipality, GIPTN and WRRRA in regard to the walkways and improvements in the village. This is a project initiated and paid for by the municipality, but WRRRA was given the opportunity to have input into the project. Phillip Parsons (previous vice-chairman) liaised closely with GIPTN in this regard. The bus service is expected to extend to Wilderness in August 2015.
- Parking – parking in the village has been extended to the SANParks parking area adjacent to the N2. It has been fenced off and lighting has been installed for security.
- Wilderness Heights – this is very complex and sensitive and there are a lot of political dynamics to take into account. Ronald Board is representing Wilderness Heights on the WRRRA committee. This area is on the agenda at provincial and municipal level, so we can expect answers and feedback in the near future.
- The most important questions to the committee of WRRRA: Are we relevant and are we making a difference? We have tried to implement the spirit of the constitution in all we have done.
- WIP project for 2015 – the upgrade of the police station on 1st avenue will be done this year. The projects in and around the CBD are now complete, so our attention will now be focused on other areas that need attention.
- Transnet – it has been difficult to get co-operation from them, but we now have a contact person in Port Elizabeth who has undertaken to visit Wilderness to see what needs to be done in regard to the cleanliness and maintenance of the railway reserve.
- Finances – Pieter Naude read through the financial report and explained where money had been spent.
- Tribute – Pieter Naude paid tribute to Bob McIntyre and Hugh Pharoah, who both passed away in 2014, for their contribution and years of dedication to Wilderness.

5. Treasurer's Report and adoption of the Audited Accounts.

Pieter Naude read through the financial statements.

Chris Frances asked for an explanation on the discrepancy on the financials between 2013 and 2014 as the no of members and the money collected does not tally. Niel Viljoen explained that this is because the year-end has been moved so the subscriptions collected rolled over to the following year and that historically,

subscriptions were recorded in the year in which they were received and not necessarily for the year to which they pertained.

Don Cameron questioned the amount of money spent on meetings. It was explained that the money was spent on monthly committee meetings, the twice yearly working breakfasts with the municipality as well as the yearly AGM meeting.

It was suggested by Peter Mundell that a member of the committee should not be the auditor as this would be a conflict of interests. It was agreed by majority vote that Ronald Board would be appointed the auditor.

The audited accounts for the 15 months to 31 December 2014 were unanimously approved.

6. Other business of which due notice has been given.

Graham Sell commended the committee on their co-operation with the municipality and the things that have been achieved and that the improvements in Wilderness have been to the benefit of all residents. However, he felt that the municipality should be confronted on issues that need to be addressed and that the WRRRA committee is not doing so.

The perception is that the WRRRA is becoming more of a business than representing the residents. There are issues that are not being addressed and there is a requirement to return to the traditional WRRRA activities. The projects should be handled one and a time and members' financial contributions should not automatically be used without consent. The business side of the WRRRA should be separated from the traditional issues.

Pieter replied by saying that the issues with the municipality have still been dealt with, but not on a more personal basis than in the past. The residents might therefore not be aware of the meetings and discussions being held to resolve issues. The WRRRA committee has tried to resolve issues that have been brought to their attention but WRRRA cannot fight individual battles on behalf of the residents with the municipality. WRRRA will always support residents and encourage residents to

copy the committee in on any correspondence with the municipality. If the resident cannot find a resolution, then the committee will try to assist.

7. Amendments to the Constitution.

The business of the Association shall be confined to the public affairs within the geographical area of **Wilderness, Wilderness Heights, Wilderness East, Kleinkrantz, Die Vleie, Langvlei and Langvlei Dunes.**

Don Cameron proposed that the geographical area should include all of Ward

There was no seconder, as it was decided that this is too wide an area.

The proposed amendment duly approved.

Graham Sell and Peter Mundell opposed the proposal to enable the WRRRA to register as a Not-For-Profit Organisation. It was agreed that this would not be continued with. Pieter Naude agreed that further investigation of the legalities be studied and an alternative be looked at.

All other proposed amendments were approved unanimously.

8. Ratification of Annual Subscription.

The R150 annual subscription was agreed to by the majority of members. The financial year will run from 1st January to 31st December of each year.

It was agreed that the AGM will be held in February of each year, although this would exclude most of the members who come to Wilderness in December for their holiday. This time of the year will be better for most of the permanent residents.

Claud Martin said that asking R150 per annum is not too much to ask and that the WRRRA committee should continue to take on the function to represent business and residents.

9. Election of Executive Committee.

The following committee members who were elected in 2013 will hold office until the next AGM:

Paul Nicholas, Niel Viljoen, Vanessa Hau-Yoon and George Markgraaff

The following committee members having served their 2 year term of office or were co-opted during the current year were re-elected: Neville Ewing, Ronald Board, Chris Boshoff, Ian van Rooyen and Donald Goldfain.

John Miller offered to take on the Services portfolio. This was accepted.

Sue Ledger offered to take on the Roads portfolio. This was accepted.

10.General

- It was asked if the Wilderness Improvement Program is viable. The answer is yes, as long as business continues to support and contribute.
- Leon van Wyk asked that when residents have queries or complaints they should communicate directly with the municipality. Marlene Viljoen who now works with Leon van Wyk, and lives in Wilderness can also be contacted. There is also a complaints Manager at the council who knows Wilderness.
- Valuations are again being looked at and the WRRRA will advise residents on procedures and relevant information when this becomes available.
- Service delivery outside of the CBD is being looked at and the budget will be allocated within the parameters of the needs of the various areas.
- As part of the GIPTN project, security cameras may be installed in the CBD.
- Sands Road is one of the areas that the municipality will be addressing.
- Don Cameron asked Leon van Wyk to ensure that one of the IDP budget meetings be held in Wilderness this year.
- Massimo Mariotti said that he has heard from visitors that they are impressed with Wilderness and that more people want to live in Wilderness because it is a wonderful place to be.
- Marie Callanan asked for follow up on erf 493 which is adjacent to the common and the SANParks area next to the lagoon. This area is used by vagrants and is a problem, especially for the residents in the immediate area. Neville Ewing said that this is an area that the WRRRA committee are dealing with and have approached the municipality to assist.

The meeting adjourned and Neville Ewing thanked everyone for attending.

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NEVILLE EWING