

Minutes of the Wilderness Ratepayers and Residents Association's Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 21 February 2018 at the Wilderness Resort Hotel and Spa at 18:00.

1. Welcome and Apologies.

The chairman welcomed all present and noted the following apologies: Andy and Shirley Pedrick, Candice Hobday, Dirk Ackerman, Erna van Wijk, James and Trish Gordon Lennox, Lynne and Bob Davidson, Niel Viljoen, Patrick Walsh, Philippe and Trudy Bovay, Peter and Thelma Mundell, Heather Church (SPCA), Sandra Taljaard (SANParks), Jacques Pratt (Wild News), Jerry Eccles, Paul Sieben, Marjorie Raubenheimer, Doug Wilcox, Steve Cox, Robin Emslie.

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

Adoption of the minutes was proposed by Ronnie Board with Frances Feig as seconder and the minutes were unanimously approved. There were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman, Donald Goldfain stated that there are currently three vacant portfolios on the Executive Committee – Service Liaison, Environmental and Business and Tourism and advised that he would cover these in more detail during the course of the meeting. He then presented a summary of WRRRA activities from the more detailed written Chairman's Report that was circulated with the Notice of Meeting.

Roads, Doug Wilcox

Donald advised that after many years with limited road building activity 2017 had been a busy year and that Doug had done a superb job in keeping people up to date throughout the period. He stated that the upgrading of Heights Rd and Seven Passes Rd had not been an easy project with full road closures necessary because the narrow roads necessitated stop-goes and one-way routes along Whites Road. We now have a much-improved Heights Road and while Seven Passes is also an improvement we do have sections where budget constraints have left an unsatisfactory road surface caused by project delays due to objections but this is being addressed and hopefully will be rectified. For 2018 there are a number of challenges including the refurbishment of the Hoekwil road which will be completed in 2019 and supporting the Rondevlei community in their actions to achieve a road upgrade. The N2 upgrade will probably start in the middle of the year but this will stretch over 42 months, so completion will be towards the end of

2021. Fortunately, the road is wide enough to support single lane bi-directional traffic while the upgrades are undertaken so NO STOP-GOES, we hope.

Treasury and WIP, Neville Ewing

Donald went through the Receipts and Payments for the WRRRA and WIP for 2017. The WRRRA had a surplus of R14,000 and this is invested, attracting interest and kept in reserve for big projects. The WIP had a deficit of R22,000 which was mainly due to a shortfall in funding for the parking area behind the minimarket and the expenditure on gardening during the year. For 2018 there is a drive to get local businesses more involved in funding the parking area and it is anticipated that gardening expenditure will reduce year on year.

On a positive note Donald highlighted the income from wall advertising as well as the success of the WRRRA Talk Evenings and other events including the Woofathon and CPR training.

Gardens and Maintenance, Cornell Barnardt

The WRRRA at Work activities led by Cornell Barnardt have been very successful in the development and maintenance of gardens and keeping Wilderness clean and there was a round of applause for Cornell for the fantastic job he does.

Sadly the number of EPWP workers has now dwindled to one and there are issues with finding replacements who want to work and are prepared to be directed in their work.

The Village Monitors continue to do an excellent job and can be identified by their uniforms. There continues to be some informal car guards operating in the village but they cannot be stopped and in the season, they do provide a reasonable service with some being employed by local businesses.

Development diligence, John Miller

This title of this portfolio has been changed from 'building' in order to better reflect its focus on overseeing all the plans that come through from the municipality where there are deviations and / or relaxations being asked for and we then provide a well-considered commentary to the municipality as appropriate.

There is likely to be further development in the village with the sale of the Caltex garage and building complex for a second time as well as

development of the parking area behind mini market which will compound the parking problems in the village. There is also ongoing investigation into what is going on with Erf 329. The approach the WRRRA takes to these matters is a proactive one.

Public talks, John Miller

There were several talks during 2017 and these were well attended by up to 200 people each time. John's work in finding educational and engaging speakers was applauded.

Communications, Chris Burlock

Donald reported that we are likely to be changing our approach to communications over the next few years, aiming to keep up with advancements in technology, for example greater use of WhatsApp groups which has become a very effective communication mechanism. He said that from monitoring it was clear that some people are not reading the email communication that is sent out and he encouraged people to read the emails and also the newsletter. He commented that Facebook is also becoming a more popular way to communicate.

The WRRRA Website has tons of information on it and is quite busy, with 2000 – 2500 hits per month and Doug was thanked for his work on this as was Chris for the amazing job she does with the newsletter.

Environmental, vacant position

We are looking for an environmentally conscious person who would like to get involved to take on this portfolio and Donald encouraged people to volunteer.

He advised that the Wilderness dog initiative is being rolled out to other parts of the Western Cape as a model and commented on the success of the fishing line and Take 5 initiatives. The Take 5 initiative will be an ongoing project for Wilderness and the whole Garden Route.

Other initiatives included Cornell and his team cleaning Wilderness Heights which was a huge achievement and the work done to get an enclosure for rubbish which the municipality has agreed to and will roll out as a trial. The beach clean-up was also successful and will be repeated and members were also encouraged to thank Roxi for her efforts with the signs and flyers distributed about the danger of fireworks which achieved an excellent result.

Safety and security, Ian Willis

Donald advised that Ian had taken over this portfolio during the year, replacing Ian van Rooyen who had held the position for approximately 5 years and who was thanked for his contribution as was the former secretary, Vanessa Hau-Yoon who had a similar length of service with the committee.

Donald commended W/O Bennie Boshoff and his team for the fantastic job they were doing and encouraged members to get involved by attending the police forum meetings and joining a WhatsApp security groups. He reiterated that everyone is responsible for their own security and that they should make good use of appropriate security systems.

Membership, Dee Marcus

Dee was commended for the work she had done in updating the membership database. In doing so, there are a number of 'phantom' Erf numbers which need to be linked to members as well payments of the membership subscription that have been made without reference to the member's name or property. Donald asked members to contact Dee if they felt they fell in either of these categories so that the issues can be resolved.

Donald also asked members to let Dee know if they are not getting emails from the WRRRA. If at any stage an email bounces back e.g. because a mailbox is full, Mail Chimp automatically throws the email address out of the system and it is difficult to reinstate.

We are looking to discontinue the SMS system next year as it is costly and WhatsApp is free so that is likely to be the way we will be going.

We need new members to join us so that we can continue to be successful. It was noted that Rondevlei, Hoekwil and Langvlei Dunes are now part of our group. Members were encouraged to renew if they have not already done so and to encourage their friends and neighbours to join.

FMU, Jerry Eccles and Steve Cox

Fire is a huge risk and people need to get involved. Members were encouraged to send WRRRA an email so that we can put them in touch with Jerry / Steve. The focus is on fire risks and prevention and regular information and tips are provided in the newsletter.

Donald thanked all the committee members for their contribution.

Donald was thanked by the members and he then thanked the members and his wife.

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

The Financial Statements were unanimously adopted.

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

None Received

6. Amendments to the Constitution.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE WRRRA CONSTITUTION – AGM 2018

Proposal 1 Background:

The accounting requirements for not-for-profit associations have changed significantly over the past two decades but the Association's Constitution has not been amended to reflect this. Typically, such organisations are no longer required to have a registered and practising auditor to audit the financial statements. This has been replaced with a "financial review" of the accounts and accounting systems by an independent suitably qualified person. The Association is operating on this basis and the Constitution should reflect this.

Rule 5.2 (e)

Items to appear on the Agenda of Annual General Meeting

Treasurer's Annual report and adoption of the (Audited) **reviewed** Accounts.

Rule 13 (c)

Appoint (an auditor) **a suitably qualified person to review the Financial Statements.**

Rule 5.3.4 (g)

Books of Account:

Proper books of account shall at all times be kept by the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall ensure that the said books are (audited) **reviewed** and that the Financial Statements are prepared in time for circulations with the Notice of the Annual General Meeting.

Proposal 1 was voted on and carried with a handful of objections

Proposal 2 Background:

With the advent of electronic banking, it is no longer practical to conduct the Association's financial affairs using cheques etc. The Association has been using electronic banking facilities for many years but the Constitution does not reflect this.

Rule 13 (b)

Powers of the Executive Committee

(Open a bank or building society account in the name of the Association, and draw, accept, endorse cheques, Bills of Exchange, Promissory Notes in connection with the business of the Association. All such instruments shall be signed by any two of the following: the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.)

Open current or savings/investment accounts with any registered

bank. Operate the Association's accounts using electronic banking facilities. All transactions shall be conducted by the Treasurer and notified to the Chairman and any other person as directed by the Executive Committee. In the event that the Treasurer is not available for any reason, the Chairman shall have the authority to conduct banking transactions and these shall be notified to the Treasurer and any other person as directed by the Executive Committee.

Proposal 2 was carried with no objections

7. Ratification of Annual Subscription.

In order to avoid introducing substantial increases after a few years of no increases, the Committee proposes that the Annual Subscription be increased annually by a small amount and therefore proposed that the Annual Subscription for 2018 be set at R170.

This proposal was carried with no objections.

8. Election of Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee comprises 12 members. During the year, casual vacancies are filled by co-opting members willing to take on the various portfolios.

- Three portfolios are currently open :
 - Services portfolio has become vacant as Jerry Eccles has moved his area of focus to the FMU. One person has come forward for this - Shiralee Moore. Donald asked for any other volunteers, none forthcoming therefore Shiralee will take over the Services portfolio.
 - Re-Max will be making other positive contributions to the WRRRA. Donald commented that he believed that this was a significant change in the modus operandi of the WRRRA and encouraged other businesses to also become involved with the WRRRA.
 - Environmental portfolio: Monica du Toit resigned during her term – hopefully someone will volunteer for this.
 - Business/Tourism Liaison: this needs to be filled, ideally from the local business community.

The following members who were elected in 2017 hold office until the next AGM: Jackie Berry, Donald Goldfain, Dee Marcus and Ian Willis.

- The following committee members retire at this meeting either because they have served their 2 year term of office or were co-

opted during the current year and offer themselves for re-election: Chris Burlock, Cornell Barnardt, Neville Ewing, John Miller and Doug Wilcox.

- All were unanimously re-elected.
- It was noted that Jerry Eccles and Steve Cox have been co-opted to work with WRRRA on the vitally important new WFMU initiative.

9. General.

The serious sewage problem in Freesia Lane was noted and Donald advised that the WRRRA is working with the municipality and others to address this issue.

Donald confirmed that it is not permitted for motorized gliders/ aircraft to land on the green and asked for members to report incidents if they see them. The area may be used for emergency landings only for both paragliders and motorised paragliders.

The next public talk will take place on 27 March the topic being "Will food become as scarce as water?" The presenter works for Woolworths.

One item was raised from the floor in relation to drivers behaving like maniacs on Waterside Rd. Neville commented that this has been recognized as a problem, that speed bumps had been considered but there were some issues with this but it can be raised again. The member was directed to the Traffic Department of the Municipality and advised to get a reference number and if the concern is not resolved to contact the WRRRA and we will support.

It was confirmed that this is the normal process that all members should follow when dealing with the municipality.

The meeting was closed at 19:12

Signed

Chairman

Date.....