BUSHMAN'S RIVER MOUTH / BOESMANSRIVIERMOND

Ratepayers' Organisation / Belastingbetalersorganisasie (BRRAG)
NPO REGISTRATION NUMBER: 096-336-NPO / PBO 930042487

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Bushman's River Mouth Ratepayers' Organisation Meeting held on Wednesday, 27 December 2024 at 17:00 at Boesmansriviermond Town Hall

"LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS"
FORMER MINISTER FOR COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS, SICELO SHICEKA

1. Welcome

The chair, Lötter Wepener, welcomed the members present. He also welcomed Captain Tommie Parkinson who joined the meeting for a short address. Also present were: Estuary Care chair, Chester Wilmot.

Sarel Cilliers opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Attendance register and apologies

In attendance: as per attendance register.
Apologies were received from Justin Wilmot, Chair Kenton Boesmans Chamber of Business and Tourism, Charles Sprong; Martin & Debbie Smith; Lex Mitchell, Sonja du Toit, Cheryl Scholtz, Dries Olivier, Juanita van Zyl, Jan Marais, N Joubert, J Nepgen, A Todd, Pennington, Du Plessis, L Reynolds

3. Confirmation of previous minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 27 December 2023 approved and the chairperson be authorised to sign them.

4 Chairman's report

The chairman reported as follows:

In the Meantime

Meanwhile, flowers still bloom.
The moon rises, and the sun.
Babies smile and somewhere,
Against all the odds,
Two people are falling in love.
Strangers share cigarettes and jokes.
Light plays on the surface of water.
Grace occurs on unlikely streets
And we hold each other fast
Against entropy, the fires and the flood.
Life leans towards living
And, while death claims all things at the end,
There were such precious times between,
In which everything was radiant
And we loved, again, this world.

I am pleased to present the Chairperson's Report for 2024 on behalf of the Boesmansriviermond Ratepayers' Organisation. We are here today for a brief overview of the activities of BRRAG during 2024 and to give a glimpse of what we hope to achieve during 2025. Our agenda advises of our business for today, but we are happy to furnish information about anything relating to our activities. Your support for our activities is the most important facet of our involvement in community affairs.

2024 has been a year of growth and progress for our association. We have continued to work tirelessly towards representing the interests of the ratepayers of Boesmans and fostering a sense of community engagement. We have actively advocated for the interests of ratepayers at various levels of government and the local authority. Our representatives have attended community forums, council meetings, and other relevant events to voice concerns, propose solutions, and ensure that the needs of our community are taken into consideration in decision-making processes. We saw our committee members continuing with a number of projects in the interests of residents, homeowners, and all holidaymakers. We are aware that there is a school of thought that many of the matters attended to by BRRAG fall within the domain of the municipality, but as we should now all be aware, we cannot wait for that overburdened institution for full service delivery. If we do not act, much of the maintenance will not be attended to at all. We do often liaise with municipal officials to secure as much service delivery as we can, but the remainder of the general attention to

our Village falls squarely on the shoulders of BRRAG. We do so because we believe that our investments are worthy of protection and the upkeep of the area is therefore of primary concern to us all. We support the view that we need to work together with Ndlambe and other organisations in our area to resolve critical issues.

Our annual December security guard project commenced, and members once again ensured that we could implement the additional security measures. Since the project commenced, we have not had any crime related incidents of which I am aware. The local Nightwatch team was kept busy throughout the year. Our sincere thanks must go to the dedication of Ferenc Toth and the Nightwatch team for their vigilance throughout the year. Their continued endeavours have contributed to our area having the lowest crime rate in the Eastern Cape. Contributions towards the Nightwatch team are ringfenced and utilised for their purposes only for items such as torches, radios and licences, bulletproof vests, cell phones and petrol. This year NW was able to purchase a drone that can operate at night. It has proven to be a great investment. There is also the camera fund, chaired by Ferenc. Cameras are installed in strategic places and assist with monitoring the security situation. The Nightwatch team works closely with the SAPS and HiTec, both who deliver an outstanding service to our community and to whom we extend our gratitude.

Our holiday River beach service is in full swing, and you will have noticed our employees at work. The river beach and ablution facilities are maintained and kept in a sanitary state. The kiosk at the slipway is a wonderful addition. The Daily Shop has also shown a wonderful transformation. Please support our local entrepreneurs.

Our assistants are employed throughout the year to deal with many issues, including the inspection and service of the security fence surrounding the old Village, which on its own is a mammoth task, and many other maintenance jobs. We have a hat to pass around to collect a bonus for our employees. But you can also pay any amount into our bank account with the usual reference but changed to Staff.xxxStreet.Name. BRRAG owns its own machinery and equipment, and we maintain most of the open areas: these include the entrance road, the tennis court area, the cemetery, beaches, and several other parks and open spaces. The general maintenance and painting of road markings and signs are all attended to and this year, again, overseen by Robert Schroeder. We are indebted to him for his fantastic dedication and the time spent in our Village as our staff manager.

As for Riversbend, we have a very dedicated member there: Dalien Pachonick. Dalien works tirelessly to engage the municipal officials for assistance and then, as a last resort, gets on with the job herself. The general appearance of Riversbend has much improved over the

last year because of the efforts of Dalien. Thank you for your dedication. Thanks, are also due to Kevin Bates who assisted Dalien with tasks. We are also fortunate that Rowene Johnston-Bowker is on the committee and assists with some secretarial work, the library and looks after the well-being of many.

Our tennis court lease has been renewed until 2032. Please use the honesty box when using the courts. We spent a lot of money on the painting and maintenance of the courts and will be doing upgrades during 2025. Unfortunately, some users ignore the honesty box and do not pay court fees. We have asked a nearby resident to cast an eye over matters there and may introduce new measures to ensure users contribute to the maintenance of the courts.

If I mention the funding of BRRAG too often, please be patient with me as, besides the time, work and efforts of committee members, money is after all the oil of our wheels. We have a few members who generously support us during the year, and we thank you for your assistance, which makes it possible for us to actively do what is required in our area. We supplement the membership fees in all sorts of ways: special braais and outings, craft markets and raffles and the 100 club. Please join our 100 club – particulars are available on our website. A special word of thanks goes to Peter Campbell, Walter Biggs and Wendy and Saul Braun for special financial assistance.

The lease of the town hall was again the biggest event of the past year. Additional approvements have been affected. Every committee member assisted in some or other way and we thank each one of them for the spontaneous efforts to upgrade the hall. I must mention our vice, Jacques de Wit, who took charge of the project and ensured valuable assistance from many contractors. See the recognition on the roll of honour. Our thanks to the Dirk and Barbara Meiring for some yesteryear photographs and Anton Maclean for a painting of the building as well as a model of the Volo which we hope to retrieve from its current display in Kenton.

The next big issue was the was the attention to the storm damage. Again, Jacques oversaw various projects, and we were able to do most of the repairs just before the holiday season commenced. Our sincere thanks to Duard Scholtz who spent many hours and a huge effort to get the beach wall rebuilt, amongst other things. But being a committee member does not mean that we only mow the grassed areas. There are meetings to attend: not only do we have monthly committee meetings, but we are also represented on the Municipal Ward Committee where the basic input into municipal affairs is given. Our thanks to Sue Muirhead for attending to this and her tireless work for our craft markets, serving on Estuary Care, the4 Chamber of Business and acting as our relationship manager. We also attend

meetings of the Ndlambe Ratepayer's Forum, which consists of all but one of the ratepayers' associations in Ndlambe, and we liaise with the municipal manager and other officials to promote our interests. Much of this is done by our vice Jacques. Our liaison with the municipal officials and other officials has had mixed successes. Some issues we raised were attended to, with some we did get some assistance, but many are not responded to. We, nevertheless, do have a good working relationship with the officials and will take up outstanding issues in the new year.

Water remains a scarce commodity but after some breakdowns during the year, we will see a shortage due to under production. Our thanks go to Willie Enright for all his expert input into both the water and sanitation issues that are dealt with. We urge all residents to use water sparingly as our plant is the source of water for many areas in Ndlambe. Again, Jacques serves on the technical task team (with Chester Wilmot) that works with Ndlambe and the Department of Water Affairs to secure improved water supply. We are hopeful that the tedious efforts will come to fruition during 2025 and that the water production will be moved from Amatola to another service provider.

Our roads are deteriorating at a fast rate. The sanitation system of our area requires urgent attention. Working within the local government system is a major challenge – but we are assisting and advising as best we can. Unfortunately, the reality is that the infrastructure has deteriorated over the years and the cost of maintenance and repairs have escalated beyond what the Municipality can afford.

The Kenton dune issues are now well known - steps are required to prevent the dune that is developing east of the river mouth and causing the houses in that area are swamped by sand. The practical and sensible answer is to remove the vegetation that allows the dune to accumulate and to allow the sand to follow its age-old established path through the Dry Bones Valley. But you may have heard of the unsound idea of an association called the Kenton Sand Dune and Nature Association, that is calling for the sand to be carted by truck through Kenton town to Middle Beach. This certainly displays the utmost illogical reasoning. An action group consisting of BRRAG, KOSRA, Chamber of Business and Tourism and Estuary Care was initially at the forefront of this battle, but it has now been taken over by Estuary Care with the support of the other organisations and local residents of Kenton. It seems that legal action will be unavoidable.

Please support Estuary Care, the organisation that ensures that our estuary is being looked after. The link to their website is on our own website.

We collaborate also with The Kenton – Boesmans Chamber of Business and Tourism and support it and they us, wherever we can. The Chamber plays a huge role in our community.

We are also pleased to have a wonderful working relationship with Round Table, who also support us and our efforts here in Boesmans.

Finances: You will note that all expenses are virtually all related to the maintenance work that we do and that we had a small profit during 2024. Much of these funds will go to improvement of infrastructure. Our financial records are up-to-date, and we have managed our resources judiciously to support the various initiatives and activities undertaken for the benefit of the community. BRRAG has seen a steady increase in membership over the past year, indicating a growing awareness and interest in the issues that impact on our community. We have actively engaged with our members through regular meetings, newsletters, and social media platforms to ensure transparent communication.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the members of BRRAG, our dedicated volunteers, and the community at large. Your support, involvement, and commitment have been instrumental in our achievements. Thank you all for your interest and assistance in running this ratepayers' organisation successfully this past year. Save for donors, who assisted financially, we say thanks to: Barbara Meiring (translations), Andrew Murray (trailer insurance), Jurgen Potgieter (website hosting), Patrick Miller (maintenance & tennis courts), Vossie Vosloo, Cas Castelyn for assistance with general matters and refuse removal, Andrew Wessels our bookkeeper, Robert Schroeder rendering general assistance and staff record keeping. Gibbon Schickerling has developed our Facebook page which now has close to seven hundred followers and acting as webmaster. Sarel Marais is our treasurer and in charge of the 100 club and we thank him for ensuring that our UIF returns are on time and for liaising with our bookkeeper. Sue and friends established our library at the town hall – it was a huge job for we owe her our gratitude. Thank you to Errol Nightingale for the first donation of shelves and books in memory of Anne. Thank you to Tom Skinner for assisting us to have a direct line to Eskom. We extend a special thanks to community members who assisted with the upgrading of the slipway ablutions: Konrad von Hagen, Martin Cloete, Vorster Venter, Oskar de Witt, Paul Retief, Elandre van Jaarsveld, Andrew Weber, Dickie Rautenbach, John Campbell, Johan Raubenheimer, Brent Tucker and Elwin Wait.

The caravan park tender has not yet been awarded and we are cautiously optimistic that the matter may become resolved early next year. Robert and his team that includes Wanda Nezar are keenly awaiting the next chapter.

If you need to know more about BRRAG – just Google BRRAG, it comes up first. We have a WhatsApp group for members: if you want to join, please send an email with the heading WhatsApp and your cell number. Through this group you can stay informed about Boesmansriviermond activities. We recently posted a notice by Ndlambe regarding illegal buoys in the river. This is a sensitive matter for some boaters and Estuary Care is in discussion with Ndlambe about the future control of buoys. We should know the outcome thereof in the early part of 2025.

We hope to keep our service to our community up and in line with our motto: “we make the difference”. Indeed, we are committed to do that. And a huge thank you goes to the committee members. I am happy to announce that all our committee members are available for re-election. However, we do have space on our sub-committees if anyone is desirous of assisting us.

And so, we are ending 2024 positively and I thank you for attending our AGM.

I wish you all a happy festive season and a wonderful 2025.

Lötter Wepener
(Chairman)
27 December 2024

The chairman’s report was unanimously approved.

6. Financial report

The financial report was tabled. The meeting approved the financial statements. Members were urged to support the Organisation by way of voluntary contributions and for specific projects and to join the 100 Club.

7. Election of office bearers

The following committee members were nominated and re-elected: Lötter Wepener, Dalien Pachonick, Ference Toth, Jacques de Wit, Sarel Marais, Gibbon Schickerling, Robert Schroeder, Sue Muirhead, Rowene Johnston-Bowker, Willie Enright and Duard Scholtz. There being no further nominations, members were invited to make themselves available for co-option onto the committee.

9. **General**

Captain Parkinson addressed the meeting and confirmed the low crime rate for our area and gave a short overview of SAPS activities. He thanked HiTec and the Nightwatch group for their excellent assistance.

Donations for a Christmas gift to our staff members were received.

It was prosed that the committee should investigate dredging of the River as was done some years ago,

The chairman thanked all members for attending and wished all a good and prosperous new year.

The meeting closed at 18h00

Dated 27 December 2025

Chairperson