



**MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the HERMANUS RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION held on zoom on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 at 17h30**

**1.WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Chairperson, Mr Brian Wridgway, welcomed all members.

In terms of the Constitution, the notice of the meeting and supporting documents had been e-mailed out to members in advance of the meeting. Members present on Zoom were 16 and 25 proxies were received. As the meeting was therefore quorate the Chairman declared the meeting open.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from the following HRA members as follows: Mr James Thom, Mr John Ross-Smith & Mrs Jenny Howard.

**2.APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM AGM ON MARCH 2021**

Minutes of the 2021 AGM were emailed to all members in advance of the meeting. The minutes were approved, proposed by Mrs Arlene Ross-Smith, and seconded by Mr Jan Cilliers.

**3.CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Mr Brian Wridgway**

3.1 Ward Committees

Overstrand is the first municipality to establish Ward Committees although there was some controversy regarding the new rules, which were approved by Council without consultation with the previous Ward Committees. HRA received the most votes of all the organizations and this was construed as on-going support for the work done by the HRA. There have been 2 meetings thus far with the next one on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

3.2Ferkloof Nature Reserve

No agreement yet on co management of the reserve. Since the report was written progress has been made with regards to a co-management agreement between the Hermanus Botanical Society and the Overstrand Municipality.

3.3Hermanus Bypass

The matter of the bypass will not appear on the IDP of either the municipality or the province. Dr Annelie Rabie, our local mayor, is awaiting written confirmation from the MEC that the EIA report will not be approved. The HRA EXCO was instrumental in fighting this cause to prevent the bypass from happening.

### 3.4 Grotto Beach Picnic Area

HRA has been pushing the municipality for a number of years regarding the renovations at the picnic site, and has been struggling to get a commitment from them. Eventually the berm has been tidied up on the seaward side and the front berm will hopefully be taken care of beginning in March 2022. Hopefully this will be a lesson to the current administration that dumping rubble on our beaches is not advisable.

### 3.5 Baboons

Regarding the management of baboons we refer you to Pat Redford of HBAG who has active Whatsapp and Facebook groups, which you can join. The current frustration regarding the Baboon Management program, is the financial assistance that was promised by the previous mayor and not forthcoming.

### 3.6 Social Cohesion

After the riots in 2018 a number of organizations got together to extend arms and hands. Since the municipal elections the mayor has engaged with people previously involved with the Schulphoek development. They have decided that only individuals from the wards that are affected are entitled to form a social compact to decide on what the Better Living Model will look like. Bob Stanway is concerned that Ward 6 is not included in the planning and that it could create big fallout. Chairman agreed to write to the mayor and ask clarification on the representation and give feedback in the quarterly report.

### 3.7 CBD Regeneration

HRA, especially Bob Stanway has been involved with the planning of the project and we are also hoping to be involved in the next phase namely the Taxi Rank and the town entrance in the near future. The High Street renovations have elicited much positive feedback from the public.

### 3.8 Membership

Membership which in the past has been as high as 1,000 has been dwindling for quite a few years now, and in the current year only 90 have renewed their membership. The EXCO will resend the invoices in March to remaining members. The future sustainability of the HRA depends on younger people joining the HRA as well as the EXCO. The alternative is to incorporate other organizations to have a wider geographic representation. The municipality needs a strong civil society lobby to monitor its performance and keep it "honest". There are 18 ratepayers' organizations in Overstrand and it was suggested to keep in touch with them on matters of mutual concern and have the collective voice heard. Pat Redford made a comment about the Onrus/Vermont Facebook page. Although there is enormous value in Facebook regarding local information, the more senior people reject it. A Whatsapp group is more useful in sending information. HRA should find someone to operate the Website.

### 3.9 EXCO

Brian has been asking members for the last 3 years to volunteer some support and time to serve on the committee but to no avail. Certain portfolios on the committee have been vacant for years now and it will be good to find other people with passion for the HRA. The Village news has given an undertaking to print newsworthy articles by the HRA.

Brian thanked Jan Cilliers, who is stepping down from the EXCO for his loyal contribution to the EXCO over many years, and will miss Jan's wise council and knowledge as well as his jovial cynicism.

### **4.FINANCIAL REPORT**

Copies of the financial reports for the year 2021 were circulated to members in advance. At year-end total funds amounted to R 147,000. The association's tax affairs are also up to date, and out tax exemption preserved.

Proposed: Bob Stanway

Seconded: Jan Cilliers

Michael thanked Brian for his commitment and hard work.

### **5.ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

No new nominations were received. Brian Wridgway, Michael Bourne, James Thom, Arlene Ross-Smith and Jenny Howard, having previously been nominated were duly elected unopposed.

### **6.DISCUSSION OF FURTHER ISSUES OF INTEREST & CONCERN TO RATEPAYERS**

6.1 Brian's tenure as chairman - After 3 ½ years Brian feels it may be time to elect a new person to the role. He would be prepared to continue for a while longer if new people with new ideas and fresh enthusiasm would volunteer to join the EXCO. We need to find somebody to take the organization to the next level. Brian Frost has ideas to get younger people involved and will meet with Brian in the near future for further discussion.

6.2 Bob Stanway brought up the complaints system at the municipality – this is a priority for the mayor.

6.3 Jerry van Niekerk thanked Brian and congratulate him – he would join the discussion to get younger people on board. He also wanted to know how the HRA would get involved with traffic calming. The mayor mentioned about 50,000 traffic violations that were issued in a 2month period in the Overstrand area which is a serious issue, as serious as the fact that law enforcement is not visible. People in town are ignoring traffic signs. Toni Frost suggested speed bumps but that does not happen without problems. Traffic calming in Ward 3 is on the Ward 3 priority list.

6.4 Jobre Stassen who is involved with the Cliff Path Action Group would like to appeal to the HRA to plead their cause with the authorities. Brian will meet with her.

6.5 Walter Mapham thanked Brian for a very inspirational meeting and would like to find out what the EXCO is all about and will arrange a meeting in the near future.

6.6 Ken Briggs also thinks it's a great idea to get different associations together to combine energies.

6.7 Jan Cilliers thanks Brian for his leadership and wish him well for the future.

**7.CLOSURE**

There being no further formal matters to discuss, the Chairman closed the proceedings at 19h00.

Minutes accepted

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Chairperson

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Date